

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2023

Present for the meeting was: Commissioners Blair Dance, Scott Kamachi, and Rick Hill

Also attended by: Deputy Clerk Kim Fletcher and Civil Attorney Blake Hall

Commissioner Dance called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Commissioners RE: Swearing in Elected Officials and Deputies - action item

Newly Elected Officials and Elected Officials were sworn in, along with their staff.

Commissioners RE: Choosing of Chairman & Vice-Chair - action item; Assignment of Committees & Boards - action item

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to nominate himself as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

Chairman Kamachi made a motion to assign Commissioner Dance as Vice-Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners based on his experience.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed the various committees and boards that need attending to and made new assignments.

Commissioner Kamachi will serve on the Eastern Idaho Solid Waste District Committee, the 5 County Board, the Magistrate Commission, the Capital Crimes Defense Fund Commission, and the Upper Valley Board of Community Guardians.

Commissioner Dance will serve on the Governor's EMS Task Force, the Eastern Idaho Public Health Committee, RACE, ECHO, ECIPDA, RC&D Cloud Seeding, the Weed Group, and as the liaison with ITD for the Ashton to 87 and Chester to Ashton projects.

Commissioner Hill will serve on the Fair Board, the Golf Board, the RAC, the Snowmobile Advisory Board, and handle Buildings and Property because of prior building experience.

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry RE: Tax Cancellations - action item; Credit Card Request for Search and Rescue - action item

Ms. Cherry presented the tax cancellations for the month of December 2022 in the amount of \$50,988.06.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the tax cancellations for the month of December 2022 in the amount of \$50,988.06.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Cherry discussed a request from Search and Rescue for 2 credit cards. They held a new election and Justin Liebert, who always had a card in the past, will be returning it, but the Sheriff's office has requested new cards for Ryan Hathaway and Nick Hubbard.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to issue the 2 credit cards as requested by our Treasurer.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Rick Miller Altura RE: Introduction and Update

Mr. Miller discussed having done a DBA change about 9 months ago. They are still legally East Central Idaho Planning and Development Association, but they changed their DBA to Altura Community Development and Business Financing to help define what they do on a daily basis. Other than their DBA and some staffing and leadership changes, the business really hasn't changed. They are an economic development district, and are a private, non-profit company. They work with state and federal agencies to help find funds to help do infrastructure projects. They also have the community development and small business side where they work with private investors to develop communities.

Commissioner Dance stated one of the things he's always been impressed by is their SBA loan portfolio, which is very high quality with very few delinquencies.

Mr. Miller stated for a program that is considered high risk, they have done a good job at keeping rates low, so delinquencies have been able to be minimal.

Commissioner Dance asked Mr. Miller to explain the job creation part of the business, and how ECIPDA is the only district in the state, the rest of Idaho is known as "balance of State".

Mr. Miller explained the job training program within ECIPDA that facilitates employees continuing their education and training as they work. A lot of their projects create jobs as well. They often wonder if the program will continue to be funded, but there are enough people interested in it, it continues to keep moving forward.

Commissioner Kamachi stated its good to see their organization grow and advance, because it is so well known, and is needed.

Juvenile Probation Supervisor Darin Burrell RE: Quarterly Report

Mr. Burrell reported we're seeing a lot of mental health issues we're working with in the families. In the last few years there has been a lot more stress due to the pandemic and societal issues and media and other things, but we're getting better at using tools and research about brain development to help treat them. As a system we're getting better at recognizing issues.

Commissioner Kamachi asked if the advance in diagnostics is making the job more effective.

The cases we get now have some significant needs and require a lot of work and intervention, and we're granted access to a lot of different services. The county pays up front for all of these services, but the state reimburses us 100%. If they are on our case load, there isn't a financial reason for a child or family to not follow through with

treatment, because we can take care of it. Our goal is to give them a dose of probation and treatment now, make sure they follow through with their education and hopefully prevent them from ending up in the adult system later.

Commissioner Dance commented the RACE program monitors those juveniles by name and has many partners including the schools, law enforcement, Health and Welfare, the Prosecutors Office, Elected Officials, Eastern Idaho Public Health, and the Child Advocacy Center. The meetings are protected, and even though names are used, all information from the meetings are confidential. The whole project is about creating better citizens in the future that won't need our services. He feels it is very mindful and heartwarming to see so much care and concern given towards all of these individuals on such a personal basis.

Mr. Burrell credits that to the partners they have in the schools and everyone that comes to the meetings. There are reasons behind the behaviors and often people know why the behaviors are happening and are able to discuss it and come up with a solution to help.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Federal Aid Rural Application Resolution - action item; Federal Aid Bridge Application Resolution - action item

Mr. Harris presented a resolution for the Federal Aid Rural Application for Highway 33 to the Wilford Church. He would like to do the whole road, but they have put a cap on how much he can apply for, and how much he can do, so he is applying for \$2.6M. Our portion would be \$190,840.00 in match.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 for Teton Highway Improvements in the total amount of \$190,840.00 for our match, and to sign the application when it is presented.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Harris presented a resolution for the Federal Aid Bridge Application. The bridge on the Teton Highway also needs to be replaced and will be included in this project. The total cost estimated for the project is \$5.2M, but our match will be \$381,680.00.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05 for the Teton River South Fork Bridge Replacement Project in the total amount of \$381,680.00 for our match, and to sign the application when it is presented.

Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

District Ranger Bill Davis RE: District Update

Mr. Davis reported he issued a 1-year permit for the snow coach, so it will only be valid for the end of this season. It seems to be going pretty well. He is permitted to go on the Mesa Falls byway, to Big Springs from the parking lot at the warming shelter on the south road so he's not going through Island Park, and Warm River Hatchery to Warm River Springs. Mr. Davis is going to do another scoping process this summer, but he would like to issue him a long-term permit but limit him to those specific trails. There is still concern about him being on the trails at all. He may add routes from Cave Falls and Squirrel Meadows Cabin, but there are still things to consider.

Commissioner Dance asked about their permitting system.

Mr. Davis explained the short-term permits are incremented into 200, 400, and 600 service days. Mr. Layshock was issued a permit for 200 service days but it is for the entire season. They may issue him another 200 days if he needs them, but it will still only apply to this season.

Commissioner Dance asked about his scoping.

Mr. Davis stated his last scoping only brought in about 15 comments with the majority in support of the snow coach, a few felt it shouldn't be permitted at all, and a few dictated the permit should include safety items that are already included in the permit.

Commissioner Dance stated the biggest issue is the conflict between the county and state statutes and forest service regulations with the definitions between what is and is not allowed on the snowmobile trails.

Mr. Davis stated some of the comments he has received were from state representatives, who won't get involved in the conflict and are in support of new recreational opportunities. He is also surprised by how many positive responses he has had from people in Island Park. He feels recreation is always evolving and we may need to evolve with it.

He discussed the RAC Committee and their responsibilities for the benefit of Commissioner Hill.

He reported the forest service is still struggling to fill positions. The Centennial Fire Crew stationed in Island Park that goes on fires all over the country is understaffed this year. It doesn't impact us in Island Park, but it could impact how we might be able to help on a national scale. He feels part of the problem is our wages don't compete really well.

They are still working on getting the trail grooming agreement put together between the County and IDPR. He thought this had already been done, but there are 5 agreements for snowmobile grooming, the language is being rewritten so they will all match. IDPR also wants to sign all 5 at the same time rather than one at a time. Hopefully this afternoon there will be an update.

The Fire Management Officer, Jeff Hill, would like to have a meeting with the Commissioners and Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Richey in May before fire season. We will get time set aside on a future agenda.

Whitebark Pine has been officially listed on the endangered species listing as of December 2022. Mr. Davis doesn't know yet what that will do to our forest, but access shouldn't be restricted. Fire will be a concern, and there will have to be some mitigation when cutting is concerned. Access shouldn't be restricted.

Treasurer J'lene Cherry RE: Hardship Exemption - action item

Ms. Cherry discussed hardship exemption application 2023-2. This gentleman was here last August asking for forgiveness as well for his 2021 taxes. We probably should have done it different and asked for 2 years. He is going to be signed up for circuit breaker for 2023, but he still has taxes for 2022 and is asking for forgiveness for those taxes in the amount of \$382.96, and hopefully won't have this problem again. He's on disability and

has had help in the past, but unfortunately doesn't have that help anymore. She is confident he will qualify for circuit breaker.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to forgive the 2022 taxes for Hardship Exemption Application 2023-2 in the amount of \$382.96.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Executive Session IC 74-206(1)(a)

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general; at 1:26 p.m. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Kamachi voting "Aye" and Commissioner Dance voting "Aye". Commissioner Hill voting "Aye". Commissioner Kamachi declared the meeting open at 1:56 p.m.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Appoint P&Z Members - action item; Department Report

Commissioner Dance made a motion to appoint Reeca Marotz to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term of 3 years

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners RE: Change Orders 11 and 12 for Jail Expansion - action item

Commissioners discussed Change orders 11 and 12 for the jail expansion. Order 11 is a contract for a time extension, and Order 12 is for costs associated with the city inspection requirement.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve Change Order #011 for the time extension on the project for 35 days due to weather delays.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept Change Order #012 in relation to costs associated with the City inspection requirement change requests.

Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the claims for January 9, 2023 as presented.

Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the minutes from January 3, 2022 as amended.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Darren Parker discussed the addition of a drain on the roof of the Annex Building at the suggestion of the roofing company because of the low spot on the roof. It hasn't been an issue for years, but in the last couple of weeks, the heavy snow and ice has caused several leaks throughout the building. They estimate the cost of installation will be about \$3000.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the request for the drain with the approximate value of \$3000 contingent upon inspection of Commissioner Dance and Commissioner Hill.

Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 pm. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned.

L. Scott Kamachi, Chairman
Fremont County Commissioner

Attest: _____
Kimberly Fletcher, Deputy Clerk