

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2023

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

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

Commissioner Dance said the prayer.
Commissioner Hill led the pledge.

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

Treasurer J'lene Cherry RE: Tax Cancellations - action item

Ms. Cherry presented the tax cancellations for the month of January 2023 in the amount of \$907.93, which consisted mostly of a hardship that was approved in January, along with some late charges.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the tax cancellations for the month of January 2023 in the amount of \$907.93. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

IT Manager Josh Warnke RE: Department Report; Website Demo; .Gov Domain - action item

Mr. Warnke reported we've recently performed our server upgrade without any interruptions. We do need to do some operating system upgrades soon in addition to doing sequel database software server updates. His department will be helping the Sheriff's office with some system upgrades to their fingerprint machine and other items. Road and Bridge has asked for some road cameras to help check roads, so they have been testing some packages and hope to build them ourselves to save money. We need to replace some of our networks soon. The brand he would like to use is not available currently because of Covid shortages, so he is looking for other options. CAI is getting rid of the property system within 5 years, so we have time to find another option. He's looking into Augmentin, which is still a part of Harris, but they can't guarantee anything will transfer well even though both programs are run through the same company. Tyler is also an option, but is expensive. CAI is looking at the option of rewriting the Alabama software to work with Idaho rules, but it will be 3 to 4 years before it will be up and running. They would migrate financial, payroll, recording, imaging.

Mr. Warnke demonstrated our new website with Civic Plus. He and Chad will be having a 3-day training course for the departments to learn how to use the content management portion of the site so each department will be able to maintain and update their own pages. The new website is expected to go live in about mid-March.

Mr. Warnke discussed how the government is pushing everyone to get a .gov domain. We don't have to activate it right away but we can get approval to reserve the fremontid.gov domain and migrate to it later.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve getting the .gov domain for Fremont County. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Kamachi RE: Appointment to the Upper Valley Board of Community Guardians - action item

Commissioner Kamachi stated he has found a volunteer for the Upper Valley Board of Community Guardians. Her name is Angie Young. He has contacted the leadership already and it was recommended he submit her name to our Commissioners for approval as well.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to appoint Angie Young to the Upper Valley Board of Community Guardians. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Assessor Carol Blanchard RE Executive Session IC74-206(1)(b) - action item

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(b) **To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student;** at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Hill 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 10:09 a.m.

Sheriff Len Humphries RE: DIGB 6 Regional Communications - action item

Sheriff Humphries presented a statewide resolution for coordination of emergency communication services. It is a request for the Commissioners to designate someone to represent Fremont County in the DIGB 6. He is one representative and he represents with the Sheriffs, Jordon Stoddard was our other representative, but since he is no longer a Commissioner, his position on the DIGB 6 needs to be filled.

Commissioners Kamachi and Dance both volunteered their service.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to nominate himself for the position and approve Resolution 2023-06. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Pacific Source Travis Argyle RE: Medical Insurance Review - action item

Mr. Argyle discussed our County medical insurance. We need to renew in about 3 months, so he wanted to review our last year. The last year has gone really well until December, one claimant is nearing \$2M. We have what is called a "pooling point" built into our health plan, which could help us when it comes time for renewal because of this large claim. He feels we should be able to bounce back from this because we are still 3 months away from renewal, and our renewal will be favorable.

Clerk Mace asked about the Dental Insurance.

Mr. Argyle stated our Dental is running really well.

Clerk Mace stated another area we usually run high on our exposure is with prescriptions.

Carter Harrison and Katherine Hitch RE: DC Update from Congressmen - action item

Mr. Harrison and Ms. Hitch came representing Congressman Simpson's and Senator Crapo's offices, respectively. They cover 9 counties in Idaho and offer constituent services in the state, including passport information, information about the flags flown over the Capitol buildings, and arranging tours in Washington DC. They can also help write support letters for grant applications, and finding out information about grants and funding for counties.

Clerk Mace asked if they could look into the situation with the ARPA grants for our sewer projects and why the rules for those funds have suddenly been changed. We were approved for our Last Chance Sewer Treatment Plant and were told to go through Judicial Confirmation for the rest of the funding for the other projects, which we did. However, it seems DEQ is trying to change some of the rules for the distribution of the ARPA funds, and they are not updating anyone about the situation.

Mr. Harrison and Ms. Hitch stated they will both look into what is happening with the ARPA funds for our sewer projects.

Ms. Hitch asked if any grant opportunities have been found to help with the Daybell case.

Clerk Mace stated we haven't been able to find very much financial help. The Capital Crimes Defense Fund has a small amount we are able to pull from, but that is about the limit of help we have been able to find. Madison and Fremont Counties are paying for this trial together, and it will be expensive. So far, we have expended \$1.3M. Some has been reimbursed, but not all of it can be. There are other small counties struggling with big capital crime cases they can't afford in the state.

Civil Attorney Blake Hall stated if Congressman Simpson has it earmarked to help small counties with big cases and we wouldn't turn down the help.

Mr. Harrison stated these earmarked projects are heavily regulated, but can be looked into to see if they can find any financial help for our county.

Ms. Hitch asked about the Ambulance Levy that didn't pass in November, and if we have a plan to handle this.

Clerk Mace stated the Commissioners approved and passed a resolution for a 2-year supplemental levy of \$400,000 we'll put up for election in May. Commissioner Dance is also working with the Governor on his EMS Task Force to try to find permanent funding for Ambulance Districts. We received very little of the EMS ARPA funds.

Clerk Mace stated fully funding PILT and SRS is always helpful, however it would be nice if PILT was funded on acreage rather than population.

Payroll Clerk TaGenn Armstrong : Timesheets - action item

Commissioners reviewed the timesheets.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the claims for February 13, 2023 as presented. Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2023 as amended. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve Idaho Liquor Catering Permit #1070 for Spurs & Spokes Saloon to be used February 16, 2023 for the period of 1 night at The Branch Line event for the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Clerk Mace discussed a request from Jim Archibald, who is working a case for us as a Public Defender, for a county credit card. She has discussed the request with Treasurer Cherry, and Civil Attorney Blake Hall. Neither recommended granting the request because he isn't a county employee, and suggested looking into other options for him.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to deny a credit card for Mr. Archibald and seek other avenues for restitution. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed the Opioid Settlement allocation funds that were approved last year. Clerk Mace stated we received documentation from a couple of other companies, and when it was set up originally, we deferred our contribution to the Public Health District. She recommends diverting the additional settlement to the Public Health District. There are strings attached to the funds as to how the money can be spent, and she feels Public Health already has things in place to allow them to spend the money appropriately.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to give the additional Opioid Settlement Allocation Funds to the Public Health District. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hill discussed repairing the ceiling joists at the Annex Building. When the demo crew came into the building and tore the sheet rock down in Tamra's room, they discovered some of the ceiling joints need to be repaired. The insurance will not cover it because it wasn't part of the water damage. Belfor can repair the joists, but it will cost about \$1000 total.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve Belfor restoration to repair the ceiling joists in the Annex Building. Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Clerk Mace presented Resolution 2023-07 authorizing the Ambulance District a temporary two-year override election for \$400,000 per year.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the Ambulance District Temporary 2-year Override Resolution 2023-07. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed surplusting the old Senior Citizen bus. There are so many issues with the vehicle, and there are a lot of parts we can't get any more to try to repair it, which was why they pushed so hard to upgrade to the new bus. It is no longer needed or worth keeping.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to surplus the old Senior Citizens Bus. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance discussed the damaged roof at the Ashton Senior Citizen Center. The roof was shoveled but not by our contractor. Instead it was done by the work camp. However, there is an issue with their sewer that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Kamachi directed Commissioner Dance to have the sewer issues at the Ashton Senior Citizen Center addressed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

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

L. Scott Kamachi, Chairman
Fremont County Commissioner

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk