

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 2023

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Kim Fletcher, Civil Attorney Blake Hall, Treasurer J'lene Cherry, Assessor Carol Blanchard, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle

Commissioner Scott Kamachi led the pledge.
Commissioner Blair Dance offered the prayer.

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

Treasurer J'lene Cherry reported her office is moving forward with taxes. She has about 10,000 reminder notices to send out. Her office has pushed hard to get 2019's collected, all are collected but 2, but they are deceased so these will likely go up for tax deed sale. She plans on attending the Spring Elected Officials Training Meeting tomorrow in Idaho Falls, and the meetings next week with the State Tax Commission as well.

Assessor Carol Blanchard reported her office is busy. This is the final week to finalize assessments. She has hired Tyler Fowler in her office as a new appraiser and we are very excited to have him. She will also be at the Elected Officials Training Meetings tomorrow in Idaho falls. She is in discussions for a title fee exchange in the DMV and hopes to present it to the commissioners soon. Our fee is currently \$3, but we are entertaining an increase to \$6. It would take effect on July 1st, but we don't have to make a change if we don't want to. However, the change is needed in our county. All of the counties surrounding us are making a change to their fee.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle reported we have 20 inmates onsite and 4 offsite. Since April we have logged 11,463 activities. We took 143 calls via 911. We checked 110 doors. We served 109 papers. We checked the schools 31 times. We made 718 traffic stops. We opened 269 investigative reports with 37 arrests. We issued 140 citations and investigated 10 traffic accidents. Ada County has been phenomenal to work with, they are being very good to us, and the prosecution has been doing very well with their case. We had a very large cocaine seizure last week. He is unable to speak very publicly about the case, however, he feels it was very successful and is proud of the officers who put in the work to make this happen.

Clerk Abbie Mace reported today is the first day for early voting for the next 2 weeks in the Clerk's office. Her office has been busy preparing for the election. She has also been busy working on the budget. Tomorrow she will be teaching the budget portion of the Training Meetings in Idaho Falls and discussing the new legislation that has changed. Budget and Levy training will be on the 9th of May. She visited with Darin Burrell about his budget, he would like to see an increase in some of the fees for Juvenile Probation. If we increase fees we will need to put out a public notice because they are more than a 5% increase and we can do these and the DMV title increase at the same time. Bart Quayle asked to add a fee for finger printing at the Sheriff's Office as well, because we have so many requests and we are one of the few that don't currently have one. Clerk Mace will ask the other departments if there are any other fee increases we may need to add to a public notice.

Friday, we met with our administrative judge and trial court administrator for the budget for coming year, and how the courts are working. They are making changes to Odyssey and are switching to the cloud and requiring her clerks to have state email addresses. Her clerks are upset about this because they are county employees, but the state wants complete control of everything that has to do with courts. We appreciate all the work Ada County is doing to make this process with the Daybell trial as painless as possible. She received a phone call from Theresa Perkins from the DOE and they may have \$600,000 to \$900,000 available to help with our sewer projects. She connected Ms. Perkins with Brandon Harris.

Commissioner Blair Dance reported in their RACE meeting this week it was revealed the Narcan won't be available except through our EMS and First Responders. In our Weed Control and Invasive Species Units, we are combining our 2 weed management cooperative areas into one area called the Headwaters Cooperative Weed Management Area to streamline everything and make functionality more efficient. Under our RC&D Resource Conservation District projects, everything that was submitted was fully funded. They ended up moving their cloud seeding into some storms with ideal conditions past the 15th of April and took the opportunity to use those storms in their favor. He and Commissioner Kamachi reported to the Republican Central Committee and gave a shout out to our Road and Bridge crews for the work they did with our roads this winter.

Commissioner Rick Hill reported the jail is progressing much better thanks to the weather finally improving. We met with the architect, Larry Smith, on Wednesday and expressed our concerns about the number of change orders, and that we felt he should be responsible for those. He said he would review them and get back to us about them. Commissioner Hill feels Mr. Smith may not have been that involved with them to begin with, so he hopes we will get a good result. The builders are several months behind because of the weather delays but are hoping to be able to make some of that time up. The annex building roof has finally dried so the 2nd drain can be installed and the leaks repaired this week. The snowmobile committee finished grooming the trails this week. The Fair Board is preparing for the fair on August 8th-12th. The golf board met this last week and hopes the course will be open this week.

Commissioner Scott Kamachi stated he is proud of our staff and reported this to the Republican Central Committee. He also complimented our Road and Bridge crew and the Sheriff's Department for their hard work on the roads this winter. The Eastern Idaho Solid Waste District is getting their meeting ready for May 4th to show their progress. DEQ, EPA and USDA will be present to answer any questions as well. The Capital Crimes Defense Fund is on hold until the Commission has their meeting in Moscow and then they will address certain issues. Lori Daybell's case is no longer classified as a capital crime, so the bills from this case will no longer be funded and we will have to figure out other options to pay those bills. 5C is in the middle of changing some personnel due to health restrictions and requirements. The UVBOC meeting, he talked to Chase Hendricks and informed him of our nominee and he is trying to set up a meeting. Commissioner Kamachi will be attending the training meetings in Idaho Falls tomorrow as well.

Assessor Carol Blanchard RE: Board of Equalization Exempt Roll Only - action item
Commissioner Kamachi opened the Board of Equalization for the Exempt Roll for May 1, 2023 at 9:44 a.m.

Ms. Blanchard reviewed the Exempt Properties Roll for 2023.

Commissioner Kamachi closed the Board of Equalization at 10:04 a.m.

J'lene Cherry RE: Credit Card Policy - action item

Ms. Cherry stated to the best of her knowledge there has never been a written policy since she has been here. She adapted the policy from Bonneville County to fit Fremont County but added a statement that the cardholder cannot connect the card to any mobile payment app such as Apple Pay or Google Pay. She sent this to Civil Attorney Blake Hall to review as well. Once this is approved, she will send it to all of the department heads and all of those who currently hold a county credit card.

Mr. Hall reviewed this about a week ago, and stated it is important for the county to have a written policy. We had one in practice but it wasn't being followed consistently.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to adopt the Fremont County Credit Card Policy and Procedure as presented.

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

Commissioner Blair Dance RE: Executive Session IC 74-206(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 10:33 a.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 10:55 a.m.

Rick Miller & Taci Stoddard Altus (ECIPDA) RE: Introductions and update

Mr. Miller introduced Taci Stoddard, she has recently joined their team. He was here recently and presented a project proposal for our Sewer. They've had some change in staff, and stated they would be happy to update their proposal for our Sewer with their newer staff involvement if we would like them to.

Ms. Stoddard stated she has some experience and is excited to work with cities and counties again.

Mr. Miller discussed the ARPA funding for our other sewer projects. The projects are still being reviewed, but one of our other projects was looking good for receiving funds. He is hoping we will know by the end of May. USDA funding is also available if we need to match funds.

GIS Greg Newkirk RE: Thistle Family Farms, Div. No. 2 - action item; Welling Subdivision on IP Bills Island, 3rd Amended Plat - action item

Mr. Newkirk presented application #23-011 for Thistle Family Farms, Div. No. 2 along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve application #23-011 for Thistle Family Farms, Div. No. 2 - short plat, being a replat of lot 2 of the Cox Subdivision for Thistle Family Farms LLC, along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Newkirk presented application #21-057 for **Welling Subdivision on IP Bills Island, 3rd Amended Plat** along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve application #21-057 by James Nadauld for the minor plat amendment for a boundary line adjustment between lots 14 and 15 of Welling Subdivision on IP Bills Island, 3rd Amended Plat along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

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

4H Director Dana Miller RE: Open Budget - action item

Ms. Miller requested opening the budget to correct the wage for her summer help to a G2S1 and add the extra \$1000 we received from our CHC Grant. This was approved in December, it was just entered incorrectly.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to open the budget to receive the extra \$1000 from the University of Idaho and adjust the step and grade to a Grade 2 Step 1 in the County Agent's budget for the FY2023.

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

Ms. Miller discussed parking their new trailer in the parking lot. The tables and chairs in the conference room belong to 4H, so she would like to keep them in the trailer for their use during the summer. This will create a problem for people that need to use the conference room and need to use them. The county will probably need to purchase tables and chairs to leave in the conference rooms. She also has possession of the State Shooting Sports trailer and would like to park it at the weed shed rather than at home.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Department Report - action item

Mr. Cluff discussed building permit numbers for the first three months of 2023 compared to 2022. January 2022 had 23 total with 7 houses. In 2023 we had 25 total with 11 houses. February 2022 we had 36 total with 17 houses. In 2023 we had 17 total with 5 houses. And in March 2022 we had 62 total with 24 houses, and in 2023 we had 27 total and 9 were houses. Trend-wise, we aren't far off from where we have been in past years, but we are still under where we have been recently. We had a very long, cold winter this year, so another month will tell whether or not we will stay below trend. He feels a 6.5% interest rate will take some out of the building but there are still a lot of very large houses still being built, so it is hard to say what will happen.

There is starting to be some friction over the use of the large meeting room in the annex. Now that 4H is starting back up and using the room more, other groups are frustrated because they also need to use it, and they are having issues with double booking. Commissioner Hill stated Housley's should be installing the new drain this week so that will help free up the smaller meeting room and help with the double booking issue.

Mr. Cluff has picked carpet for the large meeting room, it will take several days to install it. They have blocked off the week after the election for the installation. The offices and possibly the hallway will hopefully be recarpeted shortly after.

Clerk Mace asked about purchasing tables and chairs for the conference room.

Mr. Cluff stated he will have to figure out where to work it into his budget if he can. Insurance is paying for part of the carpeting, he is paying for the rest. He will have to see if there is anything left over for anything for the conference room.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the claims for May 1, 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 April 17, 2023 as amended.

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

Clerk Mace discussed the FY2024 Indigent Defense Application. We have to apply for this annually from the state for \$25,000 as a base, plus an additional \$10,000 to help with our caseloads. This will be changing for FY2025 when the state will be taking over the Indigent program, so this should be the last year we should have to do this application.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to approve the FY2024 Indigent Defense Financial Assistance Compliance Proposal and Application Pursuant to Idaho Code 19-862A.

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

Commissioner Hill discussed Change order #018 for the Jail Expansion. The weather conditions have delayed the construction of the building. There there will still be a \$28,000 weather contingency still left in the budget, and some savings to help offset the cost of the delays, but it will still cost about \$66,000.00. The architect will also be looking at this change order to consider reimbursing the county for these funds.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve change order #018 for weather protection for Big D Construction in the amount of \$66,487.48

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

Commissioner Dance's term has reached its limit on the Eastern Idaho Public Health Department Board, and the Commissioners were asked to nominate a board member to represent Fremont County, or to reinstate Commissioner Dance to serve another term.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to nominate Commissioner Dance to be on the Eastern Idaho Public Health Board to represent Fremont County.

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

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 pm.

Commissioner Dance 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: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk