

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2023

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, and Deputy Clerk Kim Fletcher

Commissioner Kamachi led the pledge.
Commissioner Hill offered the prayer.

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

Director James Corbett RE: Public Health Budget Presentation - action item

Mr. Corbett reviewed the Public Health Budget for FY2024. Operating costs have gone up 26%, but these costs include the Opioid Settlement Funds which are being used in communities to help fight against the opioid and fentanyl epidemic. They also had a 4% raise for all of their employees, and employee benefits went up as well. They aren't asking an increase from the county contribution to their budget this year. They had a decrease in fee revenue, mostly due to Covid-19 vaccine administration and a decrease in construction and the need for septic permits.

They have had a 14% increase in subgrant funding this year. Commissioner Dance commented the board is making a concerted effort to increase the amount of subgrants this year compared to the last 2 years at least.

Mr. Corbett confirmed that as they are building out the community impact measurements and gather more understanding about the initiatives they are taking, they are able to seek out grants that will make the best contributions to the community.

Commissioner Kamachi commended Mr. Corbett for the work they are doing at East Idaho Public Health, achieving over a 50% funding ratio with their subgrants.

Commissioner Dance stated Director James Corbett is keeping the Department Heads accountable for their funds and knowing what funds are available. He is attempting to do some streamlining and make things efficient and with less cost. There has been a concerted effort to protect those funds they are being given to provide the services that are required.

Mr. Corbett discussed how the county contribution numbers are affected according to census numbers. Teton county was affected the most this year.

He discussed changes to their Board of Health. Chairman Dance was reappointed to the Board for another term. Commissioner John Walker was nominated by Bonneville County to take over for Commissioner Bryan Reed starting July 1st, 2023.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to authorize Commissioner Dance to vote on his behalf with the Idaho Public Health Committee for budget purposes. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Juvenile Probation Director Darin Burrell RE: MOU for CBAS - action item; Quarterly Update; Travel Approval - action item

Mr. Burrell presented the annual Memorandum of Agreement for the CBAS and SUDS programs for our Juvenile Probation program. This enables us to access funding from the state for mental health, sexual offender programs, wrap around and other things. We pay for these costs up front as a county, but the state 100% reimburses us.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement to support the Community Based Alternative Services Program and Substance Use Disorder Program between the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections and Fremont County, State of Idaho. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Burrell made a request for his wife to travel with him in his county vehicle to a conference in Moscow in June.

Commissioners Dance made a motion to grant approval to travel with him in the county vehicle. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Burrell presented his quarterly report for the Juvenile Probation program. Unfortunately, 7 kids in our diversion program will be going into our formal probation program. The diversion program is working and active, these cases just need more help. Diversion gives them the opportunity to make changes or comply and sometimes it doesn't work, but they will still be under treatment.

Commissioner Dance stated it is important to recognize that even though 7 is a difficult number to see, there are so many more kids that have successfully graduated from the diversion program. These 7 just need extra supervision and aid, and our probation program will be able to provide this for them.

Mr. Burrell stated we do have many more successes than failures and he is always proud to see every year those kids we are able to help and have a positive impact. Sometimes we are the only positive adult they have contact with, even if they don't like everything we do.

Mr. Burrell is working on absorbing the adult misdemeanor portion to the probation program. James Hymas will continue in his roll, and Kent Dummer will oversee the juvenile portion. Corinne will be a probation technician and will need some experience with James. Mr. Burrell will be attending the Misdemeanor Academy to take classes he has missed so he can help James as well.

5C Director Nicky Chavez RE: MOU for Detention Clinical Services - action item

Mr. Chavez cancelled his appointment.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Regional Solid Waste District Discussion - action item

Mr. Harris discussed current versus projected numbers for each county's landfills that will be participating in the Regional Landfill. He doesn't feel we will have to raise rates, but we won't be able to lower them either. He worries about what the final tipping fee will be, it hasn't been discussed since before Teton County agreed to be part of the Regional Solid Waste District.

Mr. Harris discussed what it would take to close both of our landfills. He talked about options for the Island Park Landfill. The state has offered ARPA funds to close both of our landfills because they are unlined. We could take the money and close, and then ask the Forest Service to allow us to clear another small portion just for C&D in Island Park. We also have concrete in Island Park that is a liability and needs to be crushed and used before we can close.

Commissioners discussed the options we were given for how the District would run. We are currently set on option 2, which would initially mean the District is only for municipal garbage. The District would have their own employees and a transfer station, and we would retain our own employees for everything else and ownership of our transfer station.

Mr. Harris expressed concerns over having to contribute funds to the District for other counties to improve their facilities. He feels they should have to come up with their own funding for improvements. He worries about how to determine where ownership and responsibility begins and ends. He worries specifically about Clark County.

Mr. Harris asked the commissioners what they would like him to do.

Commissioner Kamachi would like Mr. Harris to attend the meetings because he is best able to ask questions and gain information. He also knows our systems and can catch problems early.

Clerk Mace asked when she would need to start planning on working the Regional Landfill into the budget.

Mr. Harris feels it won't be necessary until the FY2025 budget.

GIS Greg Newkirk RE: Henry's Lake Village Div. No. 1, Second Amended Plat - action item

Mr. Newkirk presented application #23-105 for Henry's Lake Village Div. No. 1, Second Amended Plat along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve application #23-105 by Jared Lamph for a Major Plat Amendment for additional land to Lot 25A of Henry's Lake Village Div. No. 1, Second 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.

Travis Argyle GBS RE: Insurance update and renewal options - action item

Mr. Argyle discussed our insurance and options for renewal. We have several very large claims, currently, and coming up in the near future. Pacific Source has narrowed everything down to a minimum 33% increase. We do have some options for savings, but the most savings comes from utilizing an HSA (Health Savings Account), which is similar to our current Flex Account, but doctor visits and prescription costs will be out of pocket which will be difficult for many employees but the savings from this option will bring the county down to about 15.4%. They also discussed another option that would increase our deductible and out of pocket rates this would be a 21.1% increase

Commissioner Kamachi and Commissioner Hill feel the 21.1% option would be the best option. It would be very difficult for many employees to have to fund copayments and prescriptions until they have met their deductibles with the 15.4% proposal.

Payroll Clerk TaGenn Armstrong suggested running a survey at our annual open enrollment meeting in August to get their opinions on what they need for their insurance, and we can offer training on how an HSA would work if we do go this route. Mr. Argyle stated the learning curve for an HSA is about 2 years but they are able to offer as much training and support as possible.

Clerk Mace expressed concern about how to budget for this when there's no way to know who would utilize a new plan. You would almost have to budget for everyone utilizing a traditional plan and then wait and see, but she needs to be able to know now.

Commissioner Kamachi doesn't want employees to feel we are taking anything away from our employees, but wants them to understand we are trying to find them the most savings possible.

Clerk Mace stated she would like to see the county contribute funds to the individual HSA's if we do go this route to help people afford their medications. Commissioners agreed they would like to help with this.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to approve the 21.1% proposal with the idea of training for the new plan for the future. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Dirk Forbush RE: Funding Request for the St. Anthony Airport - action item

Mr. Forbush and Sam Wynn came up with numbers for their expenditures. Mr. Wynn stated they would like to protect the runway and the apron needs to be redone. They know this year it isn't in the budget for the county to help with funding, but if there is a possibility to help next year, they hope we would be willing to pitch in because the county benefits more from the airport than the city does.

Commissioner Hill asked for a number they would like the county to pitch in to help with the airport.

Mr. Forbush stated on the low end, \$10,000 a year would be great, but they would be happy with any contribution.

Commissioner Hill stated Senator Burtenshaw told him the state has money available for airports.

Mr. Wynn stated they are looking into those grants to redo the aprons and other projects. Contributed funds from the county would go to future expenses.

Commissioner Hill stated he would love to contribute, and the county does benefit from it, but we have too many loose ends this coming year. We don't know what our budget is going to do.

Commissioner Dance would like to work something into this next year's budget, but we will have to prioritize our needs.

Commissioner Kamachi would also like to participate, it will just be an issue of ability. He doesn't know if it will be probable this next year, or if it would be something we can do every year, but that doesn't mean we couldn't contribute at all in the future.

Commissioners encouraged Mr. Forbush and Mr. Wynn to come back next Spring to see where we stand with our budget and if we might be in a better financial position to help with the airport maintenance.

Payroll Clerk TaGenn Armstrong: Timesheets - action item

Commissioners reviewed the timesheets.

Emergency Management Keith Richey RE: Wildfire Discussion - action item

Mr. Richey discussed the Henry's Fork and Fall River are forecast to go down in time for the Fisherman's Breakfast. The Teton River is in low to medium level flood range but, Wednesday it could hit the action stage and will hopefully start tapering off shortly after. If we get rain this weekend this could change, but it would be primarily farm land that is affected by the flooding. Henry's Lake is 100% full, Island Park is 95%, Grassy is at 85%, Jackson Lake is at 46%. The whole system from here to American Falls is currently at 73%.

The District Fire Management Officer, Jeff Hill, and Bill Davis would like to set up a meeting with the Commissioners and the Sheriff for about an hour to discuss a POD, or a fire break. He would also like to include the Fire Commissioners. It doesn't really have any impact on his operations, but they talked like these operations would significantly affect the county. Mr. Richey would like to know if the Commissioners would like to do this as part of a formal Commissioners Meeting or hold something separate, but Mr. Hill and Mr. Davis would like to set up a meeting to discuss these things.

Mr. Richey is also working on the County Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan isn't required by state or federal law, but if the fire department applies for a grant for wildland gear, it needs to be listed in this plan. Also, if the Forest Service wants to burn an area or log an area, it needs to be listed in the County Plan. He has done most of what he can on his own. He would like to include input from the Commissioners, and he still needs to get with the Fire Chiefs to discuss their portions of the plan. Once it is finished, he will try to hold at least a couple of meetings with the public, especially in Island Park, to discuss the plan and receive input from the residents.

He discussed difficulties in communication between him and the Forest Service and Commissioners that have hopefully been sorted out for this year.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Executive Session IC 74-06(1)(b) - action item, DOE Last Chance Sewer Equipment Agreement - 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 1:34 p.m. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Kamachi voting "Aye", Commissioner Hill voting "Aye". Commissioner Dance was excused from the vote. Commissioner Kamachi declared the meeting open at 1:50 p.m.

Mr. Harris presented an agreement for equipment for Last Chance Sewer. We were contacted earlier this month from the Department of Energy and have been offered a

\$700,000.00 grant for Last Chance Sewer to add to the ARPA money we have received. There is no match for this, and it will go towards equipment for the site. There may be an opportunity for more money next year.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to sign the agreement with the Department of Energy. Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was taken with both commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Dance was excused from the vote. Commissioner Kamachi signed 2 copies of the agreement.

Clerk Abbie Mace RE: Election Canvass Correction - action item

Clerk Mace discussed an error on the canvass for the May 16th 2023 Election. The error was in the numbers for the Ambulance Levy Override Election. The early voting absentee numbers were entered incorrectly, so the votes in favor were 652 and against were 460. The error is minor and does not affect the results of the election. It still passed with the required 50.1% vote.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the corrected change from the Fremont County Election held May 16, 2023 as amended. Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. Commissioner Dance was excused from the vote and the motion passed by majority.

Randy Tanner RE: Property Line Interaction between Parker Sand and Gravel Office and County Property - action item

Mr. Tanner rescheduled his appointment.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the claims for May 22, 2023 as presented. Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. Commissioner Dance was excused from the vote and the motion passed by majority.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023 and the May 19, 2023 Special Meeting as presented. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hill discussed the cost for new carpet for the Annex Building from Belfor in the amount of \$9714.72. This is the cost not covered by our insurance.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the estimate from Belfor restoration to replace the additional carpet in the Annex Building in the amount of \$9714.72. Commissioner Dance 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 2:36 pm. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. Commissioner Dance was excused from the vote and the motion passed by majority.

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