

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 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 Sheriff Len Humphries

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

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

Treasurer J'lene Cherry reported her office is busy collecting taxes. It hasn't been busy yet, but June is usually lighter than December. Treasurer Cherry has 14 days left until her retirement. Lori Beard was the only candidate to apply for the new Treasurer, and has been interviewed and approved by the Republican Committee. She just needs to be interviewed and approved by the Commissioners. We only had one property that ended up being tax deeded this year. It is a roadway between 2 farms in Ashton area. The gentleman has been deceased for several years, and there has been no interest in the piece after a title search. We have a tax deed sale on July 11th, we can add it to the sale along with another property in the Ashton area that is being tax deeded, then we won't have to worry about it next year.

Assessor Carol Blanchard reported her office is in the middle of assessment appeals. Things are going as good as can be expected. Valuations have gone up this year, so we are getting a lot of calls from people with concerns but we are happy to talk with anyone who has questions. She feels our appraisers are very good, we have the sales data to support our decisions, and they are very good at helping people understand how their valuations work. She's very proud of them. So far, only 2 people have requested BOE information packets because her appraisers have been able to take phone calls and help people understand and not panic.

Sheriff Len Humphries reported we have 18 inmates in custody onsite and 5 offsite. We've logged 18,149 activities in the last month. We had 400 911 calls, 1,893 registration checks, 883 traffic stops, 530 incidents including 41 arrests and 278 traffic tickets and helped with 17 traffic accidents. Sheriff Humphries is interviewing 4 people today for dispatch and hoping to pick up at least 2 of them to fill positions. We did testing last week for a patrol position we've been trying to fill since October. 3 applied but 1 backed out, so he hopes to be able to offer the position to one of the remaining 2 applicants. The sandhills have been fairly busy. Search and Rescue hasn't been too bad but they did have to help some kids out of the Sand Dunes last week. Sheriff's Summer Camp starts today with 14 kids. They will be touring the buildings today to see how county government works.

Clerk Abbie Mace reported she went to the conference in Moscow as well. They got to meet as Clerks on their own for a day and met with the Supreme Court. There are changes coming to Odessa, the clerks aren't happy about these changes. The courts want more control of the program, so they are thinking they may move the program to the cloud, which is a good thing. But, they want her clerks to have state email addresses even though they are county employees. There is strong opposition to this change, but

they aren't being heard. The Clerks met with the new Secretary of State and she feels we are getting more support from him and his office for our election processes. They discussed the Presidential primary for next year. The Republican Party will likely want to caucus the first part of March 2024. She isn't sure what the Democrats will do if they want to be on a ballot, but theirs would be held in May 2024. This is limiting to our shut-ins and people who may be out of town because they have to be present at the event in order to participate. The Clerks met with the State Tax Commission to discuss legislative changes. They met with the State Controllers Office and discussed Transparency Idaho. They are focusing on the local taxing districts and cities this year. Clerk Mace has been working on the budget, the 21st and 22nd have been scheduled for budget meetings with the department heads. This week we have a hearing on the Vallow-Daybell case, her attorney filed a request for a new trial. Her sentencing will be on July 31st and it will be a live audience here in our courtroom, so there are concerns about how to handle the press and the number of seats that can be filled. Sugar-Salem School District is meeting to decide if they want to be on an August Ballot for a supplemental levy election. If they do, it will only affect 4 precincts in our county. ICRMP is increasing their rates this year due to the industry as a whole, so we've taken a 20% increase in our insurance premiums for next year and they have doubled our deductibles to \$3000 per incident. They have cautioned if we have personnel issues, these issues be discussed with her and Civil Attorney Blake Hall, and ICRMP will be asked to be involved if anyone needs to be let go.

Commissioner Dance reported the Ashton Senior Center had training opportunities for their drivers and the meals-on-wheels staff. The freezers in the kitchen were replaced and the old ones were put on auction and brought in \$223. Steve Hill from Ashton Hill Electric helped them fix their electrical issues. East Idaho Public Health has put together their 2024 budget and has finished their meetings with the 8 counties in the district. He attended the IAC Meetings, and the Idaho Roadless Rule Commission meeting while he was in Moscow. He also had an annual meeting with the Idaho Association of Board of Health to discuss various topics, including the transfer of funds and how it could affect them. He feels they didn't understand how it could affect them, possibly negatively, but hopefully they have a better understanding now. ECIPDA/Altura had their meetings and an held an election and he was nominated and elected to fill a position on the Personnel and Budget Committee. RACE is doing a fantastic job with our youth and he thanks them for their service and efforts to know the kids and their families and situations to figure out how best to help them.

Commissioner Hill reported the jail is going really well now that the weather is cooperating. They hopefully fixed the leak in the foundation going to the Assessors office. The carpet has been installed at the annex and everyone is moved back into their offices. The Fair Board is preparing for the fair August 8-12 and have a lot of activities planned.

Commissioner Kamachi reported attending the Commissioners and Clerks meetings last week in Moscow. They attended several seminars and gained a better appreciation for the county departments and the amount of work they do. Clerk Mace participated in a presentation and they were very impressed with her efforts. The Capital Crimes Defense Fund approved their budget but they are thinking they may have to raise it to \$1M because there are possibly 5 capital cases throughout the state.

Greg Roderick Mtn West Waterworks RE: Presentation for Possible Assistance - action item

Mr. Roderick stated he works for a local company called Mountain West Waterworks. Commissioner Dustin Parkinson from Madison County is their CEO. They are a wastewater management company. He is representing the company today to offer their services to Fremont County or anyone in the area that could use them. Their team has a combined 80 years of experience, and have level 4 licensing in all areas of wastewater management. Because of their experience, they can serve as a liaison between us and DEQ and other state programs.

Commissioner Kamachi stated he may want to talk with Brandon Harris, our Public Works Director, because Mr. Harris would be the best one to know where these kinds of services could be used.

Commissioner Dance asked about the practical applications for this business.

Mr. Roderick stated they can do everything from subdivided communities, to municipalities. They currently have 50 water contracts and 9 wastewater contracts across southeast Idaho and parts of Wyoming and northern Utah. He offered several examples, including the City of Roberts, the LDS churches owned summer camps and the range of maintenance work and servicing they perform.

Commissioner Dance asked about the fees.

Mr. Roderick stated they work with people and their current budgets and how much they are charging. Fees are also modified according to whether or not they are the operators of the system or if they work with the system's operator.

Clerk Mace gave Mr. Roderick phone numbers and information for our Public Works Director Brandon Harris, as well as Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff who may also know where best to apply these kinds of services.

GIS Greg Newkirk RE: Harames Parcel Amended Plat, 3rd Amended Plat - action item

Mr. Newkirk presented application #23-012 for Harames Parcel Amended Plat, 3rd Amended Plat along with Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decision.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve application #23-012 for Harames Parcel Amended Plat, 3rd Amended Plat for Danny Draper 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.

Emergency Management Keith Richey RE: Discussion with Forest Service Regarding Wildland Fire -

action item

District Ranger Bill Davis introduced Jeff Hill and Matt Ramstead. Mr Hill is the Fire Management Officer for the Forest Service and Mr. Ramstead is the Assistant Fire Management Officer. They are here to discuss the Sawtell fire last summer and things they learned and hopefully have fixed. They brought a map to explain the PODs and how they are intended to work. They will also discuss the new Idaho Master Agreement for fire management.

Jeff Hill discussed the problems they had with the Sawtell fire last summer. They haven't had to call in an Incident Management Team in several years, so last year when they did have to call one in, every member had a different list of people they felt needed to be contacted, but none of those lists were the same and there wasn't a master list of people that really needed to know what was happening. This is why Commissioner Dance had more knowledge of the situation than Keith Richey did. They are working on putting together a master phone list for future use.

Mr. Hill explained the large numbers of an Incident Management Team and all of the jobs involved. They can be anywhere from 50 to 100 people, sometimes more. He asked for suggestions for areas that might be big enough to house that many people.

Mr. Hill discussed the Idaho Master Agreement for the funding for big fires. Fire Management Assistance Grants are available but need to be signed by a fire commissioner while the fire is still being fought and out of control. He discussed the issues with Fremont County being so divided between Forest Service, BLM and private land, and the difficulties with managing fires because someone different has to take responsibility for any fires in all of those different areas. There will always be someone to fight the fires, it's a matter of figuring out who will pay for it afterwards.

Mr. Hill explained the PODs or Potential Operational Delineation areas. Some areas need to be fully suppressed, some areas just need to be managed but can be allowed to burn. The POD is intended to help them identify each of these areas more quickly, so they are color coded to help identify different areas to be able to fight fire more efficiently and help them know where to focus their resources. They will leave their maps here for the Sheriff's Office and Keith Richey.

Public Works Brandon Harris and Curt Miller RE: Landfill Vehicle Purchases - action item

Mr. Miller stated he needs to update a couple of pickups for the landfill. He has a bid from Taylor's Chevrolet for 2 2023 models Chevy pickups for \$48,272.00 each. They have one on the lot, the other is on its way so we wouldn't have to wait very long for it. The other bid is from St. Anthony Motors for their 2024 models and will cost \$57,795.00 each. He would like to go with the 2023 models from Taylor.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the Solid Waste purchase of 2 2023 Chevy Silverado Crew Cabs from Taylor's Chevrolet in the amount of \$48,272.00 each. Commissioner Hill 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 June 12, 2023 as presented. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from May 30, 2023 as amended. Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed the insurance. There won't be an increase on our dental insurance. For the vision, we can either do a 10% decrease, or enhance the program

and do a 2% increase that will help with eyeglass purchases. Clerk Mace recommends the 2% increase. Our open enrollment meetings will be held the end of August to allow more time for employees to get their wellness checks done. Notices will be sent out to our employees closer to those dates.

Commissioners discussed an offer from Jeff Patlovich for the county property that is currently his back yard. Mr. Patlovich has offered \$1500.00 to the county for the parcel, along with the \$150 assessment fee for Jeremy Dixon.

Civil Attorney Blake Hall stated the commissioners have declared the piece an odd lot property. Now that an offer has been given, a public notice now needs to be published to the newspaper for 1 week, and then the community has 15 days to object in writing to the sale before it can be sold to Mr. Patlovich at his offer.

Commissioner Hill stated he would accept this offer.

Commissioner Dance recommended including the extra cost of publishing in the cost of the sale.

Mr. Hall stated in order to add those extra costs we would need to go back to Mr. Patlovich to renegotiate.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to adopt a resolution to accept the offer from Jeff Patlovich in the amount of \$1,500.00 plus the appraisal fee of \$150. 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 12:24 p.m. 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