

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, August 24, 2020

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman
Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman
John Crozier, Commissioner
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9:03 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Howell stated he had attended the grand reopening of the Landmark Bar & Grill in Hazelton.

Commissioner Howell reported from a SIRCOMM (emergency communications) board meeting that directors were negotiating with Teton Wireless about a tower in Hagerman. He said the First Segregation Fire District in Hazelton had requested another communications tower on Skeleton Butte because of poor reception in the Hazelton area. The Commissioner also said the SIRCOMM board had considered final budget considerations and that Director Brett Reid was relating well with the staff.

Commissioner Howell told the Board that Joe Robinette was retiring after many years with the Jerome Rural Fire District. He also said he had heard a complaint about shooting in the Snake River Canyons Park and had referred the complainant to the Park Board.

Commissioner Crozier stated he had held telephone conversations with constituents and that he and Commissioner Crouch had listened to a situation report from St. Luke's on the coronavirus.

WINDMILL BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board was in receipt of a letter from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inviting Jerome County to become a Cooperating Agency in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the potential effects of a proposal by Magic Valley Energy to construct a wind energy generating facility in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties.

The Commissioners determined to answer the invitation to become a Cooperating Agency and chose Commissioner Crouch as the County's representative and Commissioner Crozier as his backup.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management Shoshone office regarding the Lava Ridge Environmental Impact Statement. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

SIGN CLAIMS

The Commissioners signed claims for the August 11, 2020, to August 24, 2020, claim cycle as follows.

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BUDGET TOTALS

8/11/2020 TO 8/24/2020

#	DEPARTMENT	PAYROLL	ACCT PAY	GRAND TOTAL
1	CLERK	\$ 25,080.61	\$ 648.73	\$ 25,729.34
2	ASSESSOR	\$ 6,435.50		\$ 6,435.50
3	TREASURER	\$ 5,205.35	\$ 116.37	\$ 5,321.72
5	COMMISSIONERS	\$ 4,327.14	\$ 26.40	\$ 4,353.54
6	CORONER	\$ 407.10	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,307.10
10	BUILDING & GROUNDS MAINT	\$ 4,713.67	\$ 1,573.53	\$ 6,287.20
11	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 3,040.03		\$ 3,040.03
13	EXTENSION AGENT	\$ 2,941.60	\$ 290.00	\$ 3,231.60
14	DATA PROCESSING	\$ 1,264.50	\$ 35,465.50	\$ 36,730.00
15	ELECTIONS		\$ 880.70	\$ 880.70
18	GENERAL	\$ 12,690.70	\$ 7,152.57	\$ 19,843.27
21	PLANNING & ZONING	\$ 9,389.12	\$ 584.12	\$ 9,973.24
22	GIS	\$ 1,444.50		\$ 1,444.50
29	GENERAL FUND RESERVE			\$ -
30	VETERANS	\$ 698.73	\$ 78.04	\$ 776.77
	Sub Total (General Fund)	\$ 77,638.55	\$ 47,715.96	\$ 125,354.51
4	SHERIFF	\$ 49,048.12	\$ 10,883.09	\$ 59,931.21
5	SHERIFF-DETENTION	\$ 51,617.50	\$ 21,359.34	\$ 72,976.84
6	ADULT PROBATION	\$ 7,034.16	\$ 1,296.61	\$ 8,330.77
7	PROSECUTOR	\$ 18,505.85	\$ 188.83	\$ 18,694.68
8	PUBLIC DEFENDERS		\$ 3,147.15	\$ 3,147.15
9	JUVENILE PROBATION	\$ 8,149.73	\$ 1,346.99	\$ 9,496.72
18	GENERAL JUSTICE	\$ 26,276.95	\$ 8,373.27	\$ 34,650.22
	Sub Total (Justice Fund)	\$ 160,632.31	\$ 46,595.28	\$ 207,227.59
3	AIRPORT	\$ 2,439.37		\$ 2,439.37
6	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 4,917.47	2367.27	\$ 7,284.74
7	FAIR	\$ 5,862.49		\$ 5,862.49
9	CAPITAL FAIR			\$ -
11	HEALTH DISTRICT		\$ 10,987.29	\$ 10,987.29
15	ELECTION CONSOLIDATION	\$ 1,734.65		\$ 1,734.65
16	INDIGENT	\$ 3,268.53	\$ 18,393.57	\$ 21,662.10
20	REVALUATION	\$ 9,285.32	\$ 979.22	\$ 10,264.54
23	SOLID WASTE			\$ -
24	TORT			\$ -
27	WEED			\$ -
29	AMBULANCE			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS BOARD			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS SHERIFF			\$ -
41	BOND REDEMPTION		\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 265,778.69	\$ 127,488.59	\$ 393,267.28

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed leave requests for Deserae Jones (2) and Mario Umana.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to hire Cody Michael Selders as a detention deputy sheriff and Timothy Stixrud as a reserve detention deputy.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail with a grand total of \$135,058.34 and a Payroll Claims Approval By Fund with a grand total of \$301,768.25, both dated August 19, 2020, for the August 2, 2020, through August 15, 2020, payroll period.

MICHELLE EMERSON—CLERK MATTERS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim were present.

CARES Act Funding: The Commissioners discussed whether to withdraw from accepting federal funding from the CARES Act for coronavirus relief.

➤ They determined to seek more information from the clerk and treasurer offices as well as from the State Legislature before making a decision on August 31.

Bond Refunding: This matter was postponed until August 31.

PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Present by speakerphone were County Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt; South Central Public Health District representatives Melody Bowyer, Linda Montgomery, and Josh Jensen; Jerome Mayor Dave Davis; Jerome City Administrator Mike Williams; Jerome Schools Superintendent Dale Layne; and St. Luke's Emergency Director Randy Hall.

As director of the Health District, Melody Bowyer said federal representatives had requested to meet with food processing plants, Hispanic community members, and Twin Falls County jail personnel about the coronavirus. She asked if the Jerome County sheriff's office would be a back-up to meet with the federal partners.

Josh Jensen reported the increase in coronavirus cases was steady but trending downward. He stated hospital capacity was sufficient and there had been no further outbreaks in District long-term care facilities.

Commissioner Howell said it had been 14 days since the opening of the Jerome Fair and Rodeo and questioned whether the event had had an effect on the number of virus cases.

Bowyer stated the incubation period is about 14 days and suggested to wait longer to see whether there was a spike in the number of cases following the Fair and Rodeo. She said the positivity rate of Jerome County was 16 percent but that the Health District would like to see it closer to 10 percent.

Dale Layne said the Jerome School district had determined to delay the opening of schools until September 8.

Jensen asked if the weekly briefing was still necessary, and it was determined to continue it until further notice.

Randy Hall gave St. Luke's patient statistics. He said the percentage of coronavirus patients in the Wood River hospital was increasing.

Commissioner Howell was excused.

DESERAE JONES—MISDEMEANOR PROBATION REPORT

Misdemeanor Probation Administrator Deserae Jones was present.

Report: Deserae Jones related July statistics from her written report. It showed 405 adults on probation and a total of \$3,564 in fees collected. She said her office was making no home visits since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Jones answered the Board's question of why some closed cases were classified as unsuccessful; she said most of them were because of unpaid fees.

Commissioner Howell was present.

Guns Purchase: Jones stated if her office replaced its handguns that it would have five guns to sell. She said selling the guns and purchasing three smaller ones would be of no expense to the County.

➤ It was determined Jones would report back to the Board on the availability of new guns and ammunition.

MARIO UMANA—JUVENILE PROBATION REPORT

Juvenile Probation Administrator Mario Umana, as well as Airport Manager Tim Larson, was present.

Mario Umana explained written statistics he presented from July 26, 2020, to August 22, 2020. They showed 68 juveniles on probation and \$360 in fees paid. He said his office was functioning well with precautions taken against the spread of the coronavirus.

Umana reported from an incident that took place in his office about 5 P.M. on a day during the previous week. He said a probationer had become suicidal and was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airport Manager Tim Larson was present.

Report: Tim Larson reported the paving repair at the Jerome Airport looked good. He said that Burkes Tractor was repairing the Airport's small tractor, which expense would be covered by CARES Act funding.

Larson gave the Commissioners three quotes for four new truck tires. The Commissioners studied the quotes and determined to approve the least expensive one.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve Point S to replace the tires on the Airport truck, not to exceed \$851.43. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Water System Quotes: Larson presented a quote to improve the water pressure at the Jerome Airport.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to accept the Gilbert's Pump Service bid as a possible solution to the pump problem, not to exceed \$6,914. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Door Repair: Larson said he had asked the County maintenance employee to repair a door at the Jerome Airport.

Lease Payments: Larson reported he had sent out all hangar lease invoices but had not received all payments.

Fuel Island Cover: Larson stated that the redesign by Vanden Bosch Welding for a fuel island cover would not be satisfactory and that other designs were expensive options.

➤ The Commissioners asked that Larson put the matter on the Airport Advisory Board's agenda for consideration by the directors.

Apron Design Project: Larson said he was determining where to move an electrical rack before redesigning the Jerome Airport apron.

Commissioner Crouch asked Larson about the weeds on Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) land adjacent to the Jerome Airport as well as progress in shop cleaning and grass planting. Larson said he had spoken with an ITD representative several times but did not receive a time when the Department would mow the weeds. He said he was making progress on cleaning the shop but was not yet ready with a collection for disposal.

➤ Commissioner Crouch asked that Larson call a company to repair the lawn sprinkler system to facilitate grass planting. He also requested that he clear weeds all the way to the highway by August 31.

Commissioner Crouch suggested that Larson ask his assistant if he would be willing to work some Saturdays in lieu of a weekday.

RICK HABERMAN—DECREASE IN PROPERTY TAX VALUATION

Present were Assessor Rick Haberman, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim. Also present were Jerome Mayor Dave Davis, Jerome City Administrator Brian Williams, Jerome Accounting Manager Lori McCrae, Jerome Finance Director Ross Hyatt, and Jerome Recreation District Director Gary Warr.

The Commissioners discussed with Rick Haberman the Agropur tax exemption and the decrease of \$14.9 million in City property valuation. He said he had consulted the Idaho State Tax Commission appraiser, who had appraised the company's valuation and saw no irregularities in the tax exemption.

Haberman stated industrial properties are valued from a report received from companies in January or February. He said his office applied the 100 percent tax exemption approved by the Commissioners by subtracting it from the company's valuation.

Mike Williams expressed concern about how the exemption was applied. He said he thought that the \$14.9 million was subtracted from what had already been assessed.

Tracee McKim said the drop in valuation had nothing to do with the tax exemption.

Lori McCrae asked a question and said she thought the tax exemption was taken out twice.

Williams said he wanted to request an opinion from the Idaho State Tax Commission. He stated property owners would be paying more taxes because of the Agropur tax exemption.

- It was determined Haberman would bring more information to the Board on August 31.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

The Board did not meet with Attorney Mike Seib for legal counsel.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to amend the agenda to include the approval of claims as an action item. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

APPROVE CLAIMS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the claims as presented. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 21, 2020, for the Indigent Fund, with a grand total of \$17,973.57.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 21, 2020, for the Justice and Indigent Funds, with a grand total of \$41,306.97.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 21, 2020, for the Restitution-Courts Fund, with a grand total of \$4,091.55.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 21, 2020, with a grand total of \$111,026.87 for the following funds: General, District Court II, Justice, Health District, Indigent, Revaluation, Court Bond Trust, and Planning & Zoning/Building.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the minutes of June 2, June 3, July 27, July 28, and August 17 as written. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved was Case No. 1920-030. Dismissed was Case No. 1920-034.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner