

**JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

PRESENT: Catherine Roemer, Vice Chairman  
Roger Morley, Commissioner  
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9:05 A.M.

Commissioner Howell was not present because he had been delayed at a Jerome 20/20 meeting.

**GEORGE PANAGIOTOU—SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARK AND NATURE  
CONSERVANCY**

Present was George Panagiotou, president of the Snake River Canyons Park Board.

Panagiotou asked the Board to consider five matters.

(1) He requested that the Commissioners ask Southern Idaho Tourism to include tourist opportunities in Jerome County in the information it disseminates.

➤ The Board was scheduled to meet with the executive director of Southern Idaho Tourism that afternoon.

(2) Panagiotou asked that funds that had not been spent from the \$20,000 budgeted for the Park in the FY 2015-16 Budget be added to his budget request for FY 2016-17.

➤ Commissioner Roemer said his request would be addressed in the Board's budget workshops.

(3) He requested an answer the following week of whether the Commissioners would sign a letter stating the Park managing board had authority to work on behalf of the County when approaching entities about developing the Park.

➤ Commissioner Roemer questioned what he would do with the authority and told him that the Commissioners sign contracts on behalf of the County. She said the Board would discuss his request with its legal counsel.

(4) Panagiotou requested a motion to accept the Park plan he had submitted to the Board on June 20 to revise the Master Plan by removing Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) property from the Park.

➤ The Board agreed that the IDL property should be removed from the Park's Master Plan. Commissioner Roemer told Panagiotou he had the ability to bring a quote for Park signs to the Board for approval.

9:33 A.M. – Commissioner Howell was present and presiding.

(5) Panagiotou offered the County a 60-day window to acquire his property called Devils Corral by launching discussions with The Nature Conservancy and other organizations to purchase the land for the County as part of the Park.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Page 1 of 6

- The Board later scheduled a discussion of Panagiotou's proposals on July 18.

### **BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Board signed a leave request for Arthur Brown.

### **BUDGET REQUEST—EDEN/HAZELTON AMERICAN LEGION**

Gene Brown, commander of the Eden/Hazelton American Legion post, had phoned the deputy clerk to say that he could not be present until July 25.

### **BUDGET REQUEST—INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS**

A representative of the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers had phoned the deputy clerk to advise that she would not be able to meet with the Commissioners in July, but she requested that the County maintain its \$1,000 donation for the agency in the FY 2016-17 Budget.

### **BUDGET REQUEST—CRISIS CENTER OF MAGIC VALLEY**

Donna Graybill, executive director, and Katelyn Schwennen, counselor, both representing the Crisis Center of Magic Valley, were present.

Graybill told the Board her agency had changed its name to "Voices Against Violence" to reflect more accurately its new focus. She said the organization now had an office apart from its shelter house.

Graybill showed the Commissioners a power point presentation of the programs offered. She said the focus of the group was on case management, with shelter as one of its many programs.

### **BUDGET REQUEST—JEROME SENIOR CENTER**

Gillian Minter, executive director of the Jerome Senior Center, was present.

Minter reported government funding for senior centers over the next four years had been cut drastically. She said the center served over 570 meals per week, including Meals on Wheels. She elaborated on activities and services offered at the center and said any increase in funding from the County would be appreciated.

### **BUDGET REQUEST—JEROME AMERICAN LEGION**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Jerome American Legion Commander Ron Posey.

Posey said the Legion had been able to replace logs on its building with help from the County during the current fiscal year. He requested an increase to \$5,000 in the 2016-17 Budget to help the Legion expand its building. He added that the structure had not been large enough to accommodate some of its functions and that Legionnaires planned to perform most of the remodeling work.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION—INTERVIEW FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT POSITION**

❖ 10:35 A.M. – A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to go into executive session per Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(a), hiring an employee. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

10:57 A.M. – Return to open session.

**BUDGET REQUEST REVISION—ASSESSOR**

Assessor Rick Haberman was present.

Haberman discussed with the Commissioners the open position he had requested for the FY 2016-17 Budget. He concluded he was not saving the County money by not filling it so he would like to hire a new employee.

The Board discussed with Haberman his need for another employee.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown was present and requested an executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

❖ 11:48 A.M. – A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to go into executive session per Idaho Code Section 74(206)(1)(a), hiring an employee. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

11:56 A.M. – Return to open session.

Meeting recessed at 11:56 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:16 P.M.

**BUDGET REQUEST—EDEN/HAZELTON SENIOR CENTER**

Pat Bruning, director of the Eden/Hazelton Senior Center, was present.

Bruning requested a larger donation if possible because she said funding for the center from government and other agencies had decreased, resulting in a deficit of \$3,025. She told statistics of an increase in meals served and gave the Commissioners a flyer about a fundraiser that the center would be conducting in the Eden and Hazelton communities.

**BUDGET REQUEST—SOUTHERN IDAHO TOURISM**

Melissa Barry, executive director of Southern Idaho Tourism, was present.

Barry presented a handout of the mission of Southern Idaho Tourism, including facts about tourism in both Region IV and in Jerome County. She said her agency wanted to serve Jerome County and to help with advertisement of the Snake River Canyons Park.

➤ The Commissioners asked Barry to add Wilson Lake information in the Jerome County attractions on its Website.

## **MARISELA IBARRA—BADGER MEDICAL CONTRACT**

Deputy Sheriff Marisela Ibarra was present by speakerphone.

Deputy Ibarra informed the Board that she had spoken with a representative of Badger Medical, which provides medical care for County inmates. She said the company had agreed to continue its services under the current contract because the population of the County's new jail had not yet increased.

➤ It was determined to assess in October whether it would be necessary to renew an increased contract with Badger or to obtain bids from other providers.

Attorney Mike Seib was present and requested an executive session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

❖ 2:55 P.M. - A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to go into executive session per Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(b)(f), personnel and litigation. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

3:26 P.M. – Return to open session.

## **BUDGET REQUEST—AMBULANCES, Continued from July 11**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim were present. Also present were Curtis Maier, administrator for St. Luke's Jerome; Blaine Patterson, Magic Valley Paramedics; and Tom Legel, St. Luke's Magic Valley.

Patterson reported on four ambulance stations operated by St. Luke's for five local counties.

Legel informed the Board that the number of ambulance calls and expenses continue to increase. He said the hospital's goal is to purchase one new ambulance a year. Legel requested that the County increase its payment to the hospital for ambulance service three percent from \$437,000 to \$450,110 in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Maier requested that the County report how it had utilized the \$20,000 it had budgeted from ambulance funds for Quick Response Units in the current budget year and asked that any remaining funds be remitted to the hospital because the ambulances operate at a loss every year.

Maier presented an agreement to extend the hospital's lease of Magic Valley Paramedics Station #4 from the County for another year. He also requested that the County provide automated sprinklers at the building and sealcoat the parking lot.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to sign the contract for St. Luke's to lease the building at 240 East Main housing the Magic Valley Paramedics. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

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

The Commissioners began discussion of budget requests for the FY 2016-17.

4:45 P.M. – Commissioner Roemer was excused.

Commissioner Howell suggested a five percent salary increase for each department (unless a department head had requested less), to be awarded to employees at a department head's discretion in order to grant employees market value adjustments. The exception would be the sheriff's department, which had its own longevity and merit increase policy. The salaries of elected officials would also be subject to the five percent increase unless they had requested less.

Commissioner Morley agreed with the plan for salary increases.

Those present discussed donations made from the General Fund and determined as follows.

Snake River Study Group: Remain at \$3,000.

SIEDO (Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization) Dues: Remain at \$8,000.

Southern Idaho Tourism: Remain at \$1,000.

Community Council: Eliminate.

Jerome Food Ministry: Increase to \$1,500.

Jerome American Legion Hall: \$1,000 donation and \$3,000 in a building fund.

Eden/Hazelton American Legion Hall: Increase to \$1,500 donation.

Interfaith Care Givers, Remain at \$1,000.

Tri-County Board-Community Guardian: Eliminate.

Vietnam Memorial Wall: Eliminate.

Crisis Center (now Voices Against Violence): Remain at \$3,000.

Animal Control: Remain at \$1,500.

Historical Society: Remain at \$5,000.

Jerome Highway: Remain at \$2,000.

Hillsdale Highway: Remain at \$2,000.

Economic Development: Remain at \$40,000.

Snake River Parks Administration: Remain at \$20,000.

Northside Transportation Committee: Remain at \$600.

Internment Memorial Barbecue: Remain at \$1,500.

Snake River Parks Cleanup: Remain at \$1,000.

Animal Shelter: Remain at \$6,000.

Senior Citizen Centers: Increase to \$4,000 (\$2,500 for Eden and remain at \$1,500 for Jerome)

Apex Security System Maintenance: Reduce to \$2,000.

Digital Imaging Project: Remain at \$50,000.

Soil Conservation Service: Remain at \$12,000.

Building Fund: Increase to \$300,000 for Annex remodeling.

Building-Extension Office: Increase to \$20,000.

Emerson reported that the outside auditor had advised that excess ambulance funds could be transferred to a different fund; she suggested the justice fund because it involves public safety.

Emerson advised the FY 2016-17 Budget could incorporate the \$15,000 requested by the City of Jerome for its Fire Department, which assists St. Luke's paramedics. She said paying for a sprinkler system for the ambulance building would be possible from the current budget. The Board also considered budgeting funds for the Jerome Rural Fire Department.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

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Charles M. Howell, Chairman

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Jane White, Deputy Clerk

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Catherine M. Roemer, Commissioner

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Roger M. Morley, Commissioner