

**JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Monday, May 2, 2016

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mike Dahmer was present.

Commissioner Morley reported from a Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District meeting that directors had reviewed plans and firmed up contractors for the District's gas to energy project.

Commissioner Morley had also attended the Republican Breakfast where he heard reports from State legislators.

Commissioner Roemer informed the Board from a meeting of the Idaho National Laboratory in Twin Falls. She said members of the Mid-Snake Water Resource Commission had attended as interested parties.

Commissioner Howell reported on staffing and raises from a SIRCOMM (Southern Idaho Regional Communications) meeting. He said the agency would soon be operating with a full staff. Negotiations were ongoing on property for the tower in Castleford. The SIRCOMM staff still had concerns about the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system and had set a deadline of July 1 for the company to have 18 items updated. Commissioner Howell said the 911 staff was appreciative of the barbecue held in observance of National Dispatcher Month.

**SIGN VEHICLE CLAIM FOR KYLE FISHER**

Mike Dahmer was present.

Commissioner Morley signed a claim to enable Probation Administrator Kyle Fisher to purchase a vehicle for his department, as approved on March 28.

**SIGN MENTAL HEALTH PROCLAMATION**

Mike Dahmer was present.

The Commissioners signed a proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

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**PROCLAMATION**  
**Mental Health Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Jerome County residents experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our community; and

WHEREAS, with early and effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can lead full productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization, and citizen shares the responsibility to promote mental wellness, support prevention efforts, and advocate for access to treatment for mental illness.

THEREFORE, we, the Board of Jerome County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Jerome County, Idaho.

As the Board of Commissioners, we also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Jerome County, Idaho, to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May in the year 2016.

ATTEST:

/s/ Charles M. Howell

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

/s/ Michelle Emerson

Michelle Emerson, Clerk

/s/ Catherine M. Roemer

Catherine M. Roemer, Commissioner

( S E A L )

/s/ Roger M. Morley

Roger M. Morley, Commissioner

**BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Mike Dahmer was present.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to pay Scott Hedrick Construction \$239,958 for work completed in April of 2016. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail dated April 26, 2016, for the April payroll, with a grand total of \$187,946.11.

The Board signed a Payroll Claims Approval By Fund dated April 26, 2016, for the April payroll, with a grand total of \$293,296.83.

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Commissioner Howell recessed the Board of County Commissioners and reconvened as a Board of Equalization.

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**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

Mike Dahmer was present.

There were no matters to come before the Board of Equalization.

Commissioner Howell recessed the Board of Equalization and reconvened as a Board of County Commissioners.

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**INDY PIERCE—LIEN SUBORDINATION REQUEST**

Social Services Director Kim Burlington was present. Also present were Indy and Bryant Pierce as well as Mike Dahmer.

Indy Pierce said she was unclear as to why she had been asked to be present.

Commissioner Howell and Burlington explained that in order for her to purchase a house, she needed to ask the County to subordinate on a lien that would be attached to her house.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to authorize the chairman to sign the subordination agreement with Indy and Bryant Pierce. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**MISTY CHAPA AND KAREN DANIEL—PROPERTY PURCHASE**

Attorney Mike Seib was present. Also present were Misty Chapa, Karen Daniel, and Mike Dahmer.

The Board discussed with Daniel and Chapa concerning Daniel's desire to sell property to the County. As Daniel's realtor, Chapa requested that the County pay closing costs, a commission, title fees, recording of a deed of reconveyance, prorated taxes, and a water assessment.

➤ The Board determined to consult its legal counsel further that afternoon about the legality of paying the fees.

**DAN MILES—PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND SOLID WASTE INFORMATION**

Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant Stephanie Aslett was present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** Miles suggested the Commissioners reduce the number of Planning and Zoning Commission members to five. He said having ten members on the Commission made it difficult to reach decisions.

Commissioner Howell explained the Board had increased the number of Commission members because of the number of absences and recusals and because the Board desired a broader point of view on the Commission.

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Commissioner Roemer added that the Commission members were pleased about a more rounded approach with the added members.

➤ The Board later determined to discuss the number of members on the Zoning Commission with the planning and zoning administrator and the chairman of the Commission.

**Solid Waste Information:** Miles had questions about fees Jerome County pays to the regional solid waste district.

Commissioners Howell and Morley explained that the regional district operates the Jerome Transfer Station. Commissioner Morley said the District refunds money to the seven counties included in the District at the end of the year. Commissioner Roemer verified that the refund goes back into the solid waste fund.

Commissioner Morley said the County had recently raised some fees at its Transfer Station in order for them to be uniform with the other counties in the District. He said the standardization prevented residents from avoiding fees by using transfer stations outside of their counties.

Josh Bartlome, executive director of the Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District, was present by speakerphone. He said Jerome County had paid the District \$774,090 in FY 2015-16 and that he was comfortable with the amount of Jerome County's reserve fund for solid waste fees.

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

Emerson said the County endeavors to maintain six months of premiums for the solid waste district.

Bartlome said the solid waste district would need to expand at some time, and Miles agreed.

#### **DISCUSSION—AIRPORT HOUSING**

Sheriff Doug McFall, Code Enforcer Bob Wright, and Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant Stephanie Aslett were present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

This matter was continued until 2:30 P.M. to allow more time for discussion.

Meeting recessed at 11:50 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

#### **RENE LEBLANC—SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BUDGET REQUEST**

Rene LeBlanc, Linda Montgomery, Jeremy St. Clair, Yvonne Humphrey, and Cheryle Becker, all representing the South Central Public Health District, were present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Montgomery, who recently had been re-elected to the Board of Health, presented flyers titled “What South Central Public Health District Can Do for You.”

LeBlanc, as executive director of the District, said three factors had increased the health district’s budget and asked for a two percent increase from Jerome County for FY 2016-17, amounting to about \$2,000. He spoke of two crisis centers, which he said preliminary shadow pricing showed a potential of savings.

LeBlanc reviewed a booklet of District statistics with the Commissioners.

Becker reported 12 Jerome County families were participating in the “Parents as Teachers” program. She said the District also conducts home visitations in conjunction with the Head Start program and continues to offer immunizations to organizations.

LeBlanc said the new WIC (Women/Infants/Children) Walk-In Wednesdays had been successful. He added that the employee responsible for environmental health could not be present because of increased activity in his department.

#### **GARY JOHNSON—WATERWAYS FUNDING**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present were Gary Johnson, chairman of the Waterways Board, and Rob Grant, director of the Valley Recreation District, as well as Mike Dahmer.

Johnson reported it had been beneficial for the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District to administer Waterways funds. He said the \$10,000 for waterways that the County had provided annually paid for maintenance of the Wilson Lake recreation area, including such expenses as trash, toilets, and weed spraying.

Johnson said the Waterways Board would like to complete its project to install all plastic docks at Wilson Lake. Waterways directors had purchased 12 docks and needed approximately \$19,000 to finish the project.

Emerson advised there were funds left over from previous years that could cover the amount needed for the rest of the docks.

➤ It was determined Johnson would consult the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District about matching funds that could be available for the dock project.

#### **DAVID RODRIGUEZ—CONCRETE REPAIR**

Rodriguez had phoned to reschedule for May 9.

#### **AIRPORT HOUSING, Continued from A.M.**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown was present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

The Board discussed its decision to offer the Jerome Airport residence to the Airport maintenance employee.

- It was determined to consult legal counsel later in the day.

### **RICK HABERMAN—TAX CANCELLATIONS**

Assessor Rick Haberman and Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober were present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Commissioner Howell passed along a compliment to Haberman from Mitch Watkins of Watkins Distributing.

Haberman explained that Bill Hall had received a late notice for taxes owed but that he had never owned the property generating the taxes.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to cancel taxes of \$262.78 based on \$16,614 of assessed value for William and Elaine Hall Living Trust, Parcel No. RP09S16E128440. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Haberman told the Board a homeowner exemption applied in 2014 should not have been dropped in 2015 and recommended cancelling taxes.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to cancel the taxes for Doug and Tiffany Shirey, Parcel No. RP000490010020, based on \$53,650 of assessed value, which represents the value of the homeowner exemption if it would have been applied. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **TEVIAN EKREN-KOBER—MOBILE HOME TAX CANCELLATION**

Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober and Assessor Rick Haberman were present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Ekren-Kober explained that the assessor's office had not removed from the 2015 tax roll a mobile home that had been moved from the County in 2014.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to cancel the remaining tax, penalty, interest, and sheriff fees in the amount of \$267.32 for Calvin Henderson, Parcel No. MH0917E010015A, previously located at 597 East 300 South, Jerome. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **GEORGE PARKER—AIRPORT FUEL DISCUSSION**

Airport Manager Garth Baker and Maintenance employee Will Jackson were present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Parker, who leases agricultural spraying pits at the Jerome and Hazelton Airports, submitted 26 pages of documentation he said supported that he had been charged twice for excise taxes.

The Board reviewed the information with Parker.

The Commissioners agreed that Parker had proven his point. Commissioner Howell said that the County needed to take two actions—(1) make changes to discontinue the double charges, and (2) hire a financial auditor.

- Baker said he would make the necessary changes to discontinue the double charges the next day.

- The Board determined to continue a discussion of hiring an auditor until its legal counsel was present.

### **MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL**

Attorney Mike Seib was present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

**Sign County Surveyor Contracts:** Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown was present. He presented contracts that had been signed by two surveyors. Board signing was continued until May 9 so that legal counsel could review them.

**Claims Documentation for the Employee/Supervisor Manual:** This matter was not discussed and was added to the May 9 agenda.

**Karen Daniel Property Purchase, Continued:** Seib advised that the County could pay for extra fees in addition to the appraised property price.

- ❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to pay Karen Daniel the sales price of \$4,000 plus title insurance, closing costs, deed recording, water assessment, commission, and taxes for a total of \$5,292.83. It was seconded, followed by discussion to make sure the seller transfers her water rights to the County, and carried with unanimous ayes.

**Airport Housing, Continued:** The Board discussed with Seib compensation for extra duties expected of an employee living in airport housing.

- It was determined to reach the outside auditor on the phone regarding the matter on May 9.

**Airport Fuel Discussion, Continued:** Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. The Board explained to her the findings presented by George Parker.

- Emerson said she would ask the County's outside auditor if it would be a conflict for him to audit the Airport fuel sales.

Seib called for an **executive session**.

- ❖ 5:03 P.M. – A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to go into executive session per Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f) regarding litigation. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

5:09 P.M. – Return to open session.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to hire conflict counsel Naylor and Hales, P.C. as described in executive session. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to sign the contract with Naylor and Hales. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**READ AND APPROVE MINUTES**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to approve the minutes of April 25 as written. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**INDIGENT MATTERS**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to follow staff recommendations as presented for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Dismissed were Case Nos. 1516-043 and 1415-151.

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