

Lincoln County Commissioners Minutes for July 17, 2017

Present: Vice Chairman Rebecca Wood, Commissioner Roy Hubert, Clerk Brenda Farnworth for minutes.

9:30am Vice-Chairman Wood

Chairman McConnell is absent this week and Vice-Chairman Wood is taking charge of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood led all present in the pledge of allegiance.

Claims, Minutes

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the minutes of the Ambulance District meeting of July 10, 2017 as presented. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Discussion on the issue with the variance with IRIS. Vote unanimous in favor motion carries.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the minutes for the Commissioner Meeting of July 10, 2017. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the expense claims for \$27,757.39. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Discussion. Tri-County Weed Control was \$.10 different than budget, but will pay as invoiced. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Correspondence

Newsletter from the City of Shoshone. Listed are the dog license fees they charge, \$5 for spade and neutered and \$10 for non.

Fried Chicken Potluck luncheon at the Fairgrounds that all County employees are invited to. That will kick off the Fair week.

Discussion on getting the 3 new flags with the new logo. Had a few issues from the manufacturer with the file type and took a few tries to get the right file to be processed. Vice-Chairman Wood had to pay for the flags from her PayPal account, that is the only payment type they would accept.

Carmen Wilmore from Extension Office brought in an application for poison bait for grasshoppers. Vice-Chairman Wood gave an update of the grasshopper situation, it's getting bad for the farmers on the outside edges by the desert.

Sheriff introduced two new deputies;

Bobby Wade has been hired for replacement for Kevin Thompson. His background is Military police and Camas County and Elmore County experience.

Thomas K Smith, TK Smith. Just finished a contract overseas doing contract work. Comes highly recommended. Taking over for Jay Henson in Court Security and Civil.

Deputy Thompson has a kayaking event tomorrow on the Snake River with the Venture Scouts, Troup 57, which the Sheriff sponsors. Trips are planned by the youth and the Sheriff's department goes along for support. They do fund raising events to pay for their events.

New deputies joined the meeting and introductions were made.

10:00am Don Hudson on New Courthouse
Don Hudson joined the meeting

Don presented to the Commissioners a petition from constituents to help the Commissioners make a better decision on the courthouse. Petition has signatures from 50 registered voters. They also invited the constituents to take a short survey, 11 completed the survey. They had a booth setup at the Arts in the Park and people stopped by.

The petition statement: "We the undersigned, are registered voters in Lincoln County, Idaho. We recognize the need for a new courthouse in Lincoln County and that the decisions concerning a new courthouse will affect the citizens of Lincoln County for generations to come. We feel that these decisions must be made with the cooperation, contribution and approval of the citizens of Lincoln County; Therefore, we are petitioning the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County to stop incurring any additional expenses relative to the building of a new courthouse in Lincoln County and to make no binding agreements until a steering committee can be assembled and informed of the actions and expenses incurred to date relative to a new courthouse. The steering committee will examine options, debate the possibilities and reach consensus in a public forum before any construction plans are made or approved. We expect the committee to be assembled as quickly as possible."

Survey had questions to try to determine what the constituents were thinking in regards to a new courthouse. Don gave a synopsis of the answers from the survey.

Don then gave the Commissioners some anecdotal comments from the public that he recorded.

Don encouraged the Commissioners to put together a steering committee and to hold more public meetings on the new Courthouse.

Discussion on an email that Don Hudson had put out to the public on the county spending money on a new courthouse without the public knowledge. Commissioner Hubert reminded him that all money spent is done so in a public Commissioners meeting and that never is any money approved to spend outside of that forum.

10:30am ADA Compliance Training

Clerk Farnworth reported on a presentation at the District IV Elected Officials meeting last week. The Idaho Supreme Court brought in an expert, Bruce Adelson, in ADA compliance to present. The information was very informative and he even pointed out a deficiency in the new Jerome Judicial building.

10:45am Grasshopper and Vole infestation

Chairman McConnell visited with the County Extension regarding a vole infestation at the Fair Grounds. Discussion on what is being done with some poison bait.

Grasshopper issue. Received a form from the Extension office that patrons can complete to request the USDA do an evaluation of the need for suppression of grasshoppers. If approved the USDA will pay for treatment for over 5 acre agricultural land. Requested that the form be made available to all.

Richfield is having a serious issue with grasshoppers starting to infest the south properties.

Old Business

New Courthouse. There have been some posts on Facebook and there is a lot of discussion about the new courthouse due to an article in the newspaper where the school was quoted about the property trade with the County.

Discussion on the issue and what should be done. Discussion on the value of a steering committee. Commissioner Hubert made suggestions of who could be on the steering committee who would have backgrounds and experience that would lend to the committee.

Commissioner Hubert attended the Intermountain Gas Company public meeting. They gave a projection of 360 more hookups by the year 2021 for Lincoln County. 75% of the gas comes from Canada and rest from US. They can store hundreds of millions of cubic feet of natural gas in a salt cavern for years. The spur that runs through Shoshone will be a huge user. They can hook up any house in Shoshone, but it will cost based on distance from the main spur.

11:15am Animal Control Ordinance

No update from E. Scott.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to amend the agenda to change the Transfer Station Letter to after 1pm as time permits. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Clerk Farnworth has not been able to get the letter finished. Vote unanimous in favor, agenda is amended.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to amend the agenda to add a call veterinarian Dr. Ofer Inbar at 1pm. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Good faith reason, we can't move forward with the Animal Control Ordinance until we determine who will be selling the licenses. Vote unanimous in favor, agenda amended.

Old/Other Business

Commissioner McConnell attended the P&Z meeting last week and expressed to the Commission the Board's intent to take back P&Z. There were no objections to the change.

The Craters of the Moon National Monument has been taken off the review list in Washington DC. Letters were written requesting to keep it at least at the status of National Monument, if not raised to a National Park. Commissioner Wood wrote letters in favor of keeping and also a thank you letter after the news was received that it was taken off the review list.

Discussion on further recreation opportunities in Lincoln County. Discussion on a bike trail connecting the trail that is being brought up through Bliss to Blaine County.

Discussion on the rendering plant if they are still looking at property in Lincoln County.

Rocky Mountain Hardware purchased the old animal sale lot and seem to be either remodeling the building or tearing it down.

Rusty Parker has resigned as the Republican Committee Chairman and Don Hudson has been voted as new Chair. Mike Piper has resigned his position as Richfield representative.

11:45 Public Defense Grant application

Clerk Farnworth presented a revised grant application and explained the differences. Discussion on the proposed new part-time position for a Public Defense Coordinator as suggested from the Public Defender.

Vice-Chairman Wood made a motion to approve and sign the new Indigent Defense Grant application for the FY2018. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Discussion. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

12:02pm Vice-Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting for lunch.

1:00pm Vice-Chairman Wood reconvened the meeting

Phone call to Dr. Inbar regarding licenses of dogs for the animal control ordinance. Dr Inbar was not available at this time, will call back.

Letter to Southern Idaho Solid Waste regarding dead animal fees was read into the record.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the letter to South Idaho Solid Waste pertaining to disposal fees and authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign the letter. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Statement of Treasurers Cash was received, \$3,804,368.66 in County Funds.

1:15pm Shooting Range Permit

Mary Davidson was unavailable today, so Clerk Farnworth informed Commissioners what was needed. The Sheriff's permit for the building at the Shooting Range has expired and they have been unable to get the building finished. Discussion on the options.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to issue a new Shooting Range Permit for the Lincoln County Sheriff's office for 1 year and waive the fee. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Discussion, it makes no sense to charge the Sheriff another \$100 that will be paid by the County back to the County. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

1:21pm Call from Veterinarian, Ofer Inbar, regarding issuing licenses for dogs. Vice-Chairman explained to the Dr. what the County was proposing to do with the Animal Control Ordinance and asked if the Dr. would be interested in taking on the process for issuing the license and tags.

Dr. Inbar requested a copy of the Animal Ordinance and will be at the next Commissioners meeting to discuss further.

1:29pm Public Hearing – Canal Company Property Purchase
Two constituents present; Lee Kelley, and Linda Jones

Vice-Chairman Wood went through information distributed to constituents present. The offer letter for \$90,000 and the last appraisal done in 2015 at \$107,000, which contains an areal map and pictures of the property.

Vice-Chairman Wood explained the reasons the Commissioners are desiring to purchase the property, for secure storage of equipment and extra Sheriff's vehicles. The lockable bay could be used to impound vehicle evidence for crimes, which has in the past been quite a County expense. It has a shop area where our maintenance contractor could use for building and repairing.

Commissioner Hubert added that we did have a hazardous contamination audit and it came out clean with the exception of a few barrels of product that the Canal Company will remove from the property.

Further discussion on the reason for the purchase.

Lee Kelley is opposed to the purchase of the property. He feels the County will not save any money and does not agree with the need for such a place to keep the County vehicles and equipment. We should use the land across the street that the County owns, even if we build a new courthouse, there should be room for a place to secure company property.

1:56pm Commissioners Budget Workshop

Assessor Linda Jones joined the Commissioners since she won't be here next week for the budget discussions. She has no areas where she sees she can cut proposed budgets.

Andrea Patterson and Bruce Adelson are at the Courthouse doing a Court ADA audit and stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

Andrea suggested that in the request for proposal (RFP) for the new courthouse that we ensure that we say they will comply with Title II of the ADA Federal regulations and the 2010 ADAAG.

Further discussion on ADA issues with old courthouses, ours being one of the oldest in the State.

2:33pm Budget Workshop

Commissioner Wood brought up some ideas about having a cap on the salary step grade. Suggested topping the salary step at 10 years and go after that point to the national inflation rate only so that the elected officials are not falling behind.

Further discussion on ideas where we may be able to cut expenses. Clerk Farnworth will review the salaries and make a proposal at capping on increases at 6%. Also she will review in more detail the revenue projections.

3:02pm

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Wood seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Brenda Farnworth, Clerk

Rebecca Wood, Vice-Chairman

Attest:

Brenda Farnworth, Clerk