

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

July 16th, 2018

Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Terry Zech, Commissioner; Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes.

9:30 am- Chairman Wood open the meeting

Claims and minutes reviewed.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting for July 9th, 2018. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote unanimous in favor; motion carries.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the Ambulance District claims in the amount of \$459.32. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote unanimous in favor; motion carries.

Commissioner Zech made a motion to accept the Indigent claims in the amount of \$301.43. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous in favor; motion carries.

Correspondence and Old Business:

The ambulance building's air conditioner went out over the weekend. Chairman Wood asked Dave to look at it and see what needs to be done.

The Ambulance District grant for the patient lift was approved

Idaho Veteran Services July bulletin

LHTAC quarterly newsletter

Lincoln County Fair books available: review of the upcoming events

Arts in the Park review and discussion.

South Central Public Health District meeting on July 18th. Commissioner Hubert will be attending.

District IV Meeting on July 18th- Commissioner Hubert will not attend.

10:00 am- Animal Ordinance- Prosecutor E. Scott Paul

Prosecutor Paul presented the new draft of the animal ordinance to the commissioners.

Prosecutor Paul discussed the revisions that he made in regards to suggestions made during the public meeting.

Changes were made to 1-1-4; B impounds on private property and possible quarantine guidelines; E-6. Fees paid and proof of vaccination prior to releasing animals; 1-1-10 – Dog

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licenses may be purchased for one, three or five years and an implanted chip can be used in lieu of a collar and tab.

Prosecutor Paul will have the resolution of fees available by the date of the public hearing on July 23rd at 1:30pm.

Correspondence and Old Business:

Courthouse Tour: Julia Ingram will be attending. Colby will meet the Commissioners for the beginning of the tour. They will be leaving from the courthouse by 7:45 am.

District IV Meeting on July 18th at the Hailey Courthouse. Luncheon at 12 pm for the commissioners.

PERSI director meeting on July 19th from 8:30am-10am

Congressman Simpson-VFW on August 21st. At some point in the day, the commissioners will go to Dr. Davis office to represent the Good Samaritan Clinic. An itinerary will be available once the date gets closer.

The Ranch Rodeo in Richfield the past weekend was very successful; planning to make it an annual event.

Commissioner Hubert met with BLM about the transfer station and spoke with Magic Valley Electric about moving the generator out of the basement.

Chairman Wood has been preparing for the new judge selection interviews; the interviews will be in August.

Commissioner Zech went to the Tri-County Weed Control meeting. They spend more than 1/3 of their time in Lincoln County. Jerome County has a Code Enforcer officer that reports weed issues; could be an added job to the Code Enforcer position for Lincoln County

10:25am- Playground Donation- Commissioner Zech

The City of Shoshone is seeking donation to help cover the remaining cost of the new playground. They received a large grant for the playground equipment but are still short. A minimum donation of \$250 is required to get your name on a plaque; a \$500 donation will get your name bigger on the plaque. Commissioner Zech suggested making a donation of \$250-\$500.

Clerk Farnworth asked if the donation could come from this year's budget versus next year's. There are enough funds to do that in the current year's budget,

Commissioner Zech made a motion to donate \$500 to the city playground remodel. Chairman Wood seconded. Discussion: the city is \$6000 short after the grants and donations. Vote unanimous in favor; motion carries.

Chairman Wood went to the monthly SIRCOMM meeting. They are a four county association. None of the other counties are buying the Zuercher software in next year's budget. SIRCOMM

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believes that it will be 10 months to a year before they are fully functioning on that system. They suggested not adding the software update in the 2019 budget; suggested adding it to the 2020 budget

Chairman Wood will get ahold of Wood River Land Trust to see where the paperwork is at on Neher Park deed.

10:45am- Proposal to Reduce Commissioners Salary- Commissioner Zech

Commissioner Zech presented the commissioners with Idaho Title 59 chapter 501; citing in particular the part that reads “but no increase in the rate of compensation shall be made during the terms of such officers...” this section of the code does not apply to counties yet, but has been proposed to legislation. He also reviewed with the commissioners the average commissioner’s salary of the 13 small counties. Discussion

Commissioner Zech understands that the commissioner’s job is busy but feels that commissioners are getting away from the “service” aspect of being a commissioner and does not feel that this position should be looked at as a full time position. Commissioner Zech discussed the amount Jerome and Gooding County pay their Commissioners, whose population and market values are substantially larger than Lincoln County’s, and how it isn’t much more than what the Lincoln County Commissioners are currently being paid with a much smaller population.

Commissioners pointed out the time they spend, not only on other committees, but on phone calls 24/7. Commissioner Zech has not had to experience these yet, it takes time before the public really starts calling a new commissioner.

Chairman Wood addressed the comparison with Gooding and Jerome County. The commissioner’s hours are almost exactly the same hours worked despite the difference in population. Originally, when this raise was proposed, Clerk Farnworth looked at all the elected official pay in Lincoln County and determined that no elected official should start at a different rate. The commissioners oversee all the functions of the county. Their responsibilities are boundless throughout the county, unlike the majority of other boards. This is the only job that has executive, legislative and judicial power. At a lower wage, you do not always get diversity on the board, because you only have one classification of people that can afford to be on the board. Every elected official is starting at \$43,000.00 a year; with the exception of the County Commissioner who starts at \$28,000.00 a year. Chairman Wood believes that if the commissioners take a cut in pay, then all elected officials should take a cut in pay.

Chairman Wood opened the floor to the public for comment.

Rusty Parker requested that the commissioners give them a log of time spent. Commissioner Hubert said that commissioners do not have to keep a timesheet.

Clerk Farnworth addressed the meeting. She is the one who calculated this wage. She felt that county commissioners should be paid the same equivalent hourly rate as other elected officials. She then had the commissioners go through a typical month and calculate an average hours spent a week, and they came up with 25; with any hours after 25 a week being considered

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community service. Taking the hourly rate of other elected officials and times the 25 hours and at 4 years on the scale, where Commissioner Wood was at the time calculated to the \$31,330.

Discussion on being a paid position versus a service to the community.

Commissioner Zech thanked the commissioners for being so courteous to him and working well with him

Commissioner Zech made a motion to reduce the commissioner's salary by 20%. No second. Motion dies for lack of second.

11:21am- Budget Workshop- County Clerk Brenda Farnworth

Clerk Farnworth presented a levy table and property tax required in the last version of the budget. The property tax is over the allowable increase of 3%.

Clerk Farnworth reviewed the reductions that were made in this new version of the budget.

Undersheriff Phillips proposed to hold the patrol deputies at their current hourly rate and not give them the 3% raise because they have just received a significant raise. He would like to bump the DMV clerk to 40hrs a week and the Administrative Assistant agreed to go to 30hr a week but at the civil deputy's hourly rate instead of clerical wage with years of service at 4 years because they have added Civil duties to her job.

Clerical staff starting wage budgeted at \$11.50 an hour, a \$0.50 increase from current salary wage.

The Prosecutor and the Assessor are set for a 4-year plan instead of 3-year plan to get them to grade.

Current salary wage grade only goes to 20 years of service; there was some discussion on whether the wage grade should be capped at 20 years of service.

Clerk Farnworth spoke with the secretary of the Fair Board and they came to the agreement that they would cut \$10,000 from their property tax budget.

Further discussion.

Clerk Farnworth discussed the carry forward amounts.

Treasures Youts discussed the experience levels of employees and the need to compensate all employees for that.

Further discussion on the salaries and why they needed to be scaled back, just don't have enough revenue to increase more. Have to increase for the new deputy salary, it's already done.

12:11pm- Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting for lunch

1:00pm- Chairman Wood re-convened the Regular Meeting

More claims were reviewed.

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Commissioner Zech made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206 (1)(d)- Indigent. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote, Commissioner Hubert, aye; Commissioner Zech aye; Chairman Wood, aye. Vote unanimous in favor; meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

1:52pm Chairman Wood adjourned the Executive Session and re-convened the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Zech made a motion to grant the Indigent claim #2019005. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous in favor; motion carries.

2:00 pm- Chairman Wood adjourned the Regular Meeting and convened to the P&Z Work Session.

3:35pm- Chairman Wood adjourned the P&Z Work Session and re-convened to Regular Meeting.

Budget Workshop- Continued

Clerk Farnworth looked at what it would cost if the employees continue to get a 3% wage increase for the next 10 years. It would basically take all the 3% property tax increase, assuming there was no turnover and all the current employees stayed.

Discussion on salary budget.

Election equipment upgrade. The current auto mark machines are old and large and difficult to handle and have to be taken to each polling place. There are new machines and counters available and Clerk Farnworth has the funds available in reserve to make the purchase. They are willing to do trade-ins on the old auto mark machines and counters. The new machines would save \$0.10 a ballot. Commissioners liked the idea, but would like to see the numbers for the trade-ins.

Further discussion on the budget.

Chairman Wood spoke with Prosecutor Paul and asked if it was legal for elected officials to donate part of their salary back to the county if desired. The prosecutor was going to look into this and let the chairman know.

4:07 pm- Chairman Wood adjourned the Regular Meeting

Respectfully,

Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes



Rebecca Wood, Chairman

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Attest:

Sarah Thomas, Deputy Clerk