

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

January 6, 2020

Present: Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Rick Ellis, Commissioner; Cindi Sievers, Clerk for Minutes.

9:30am Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to pay the Indigent accounts payable for \$7,438.47. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to pay the January 6, 2020 accounts payable for \$13,142.31. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the minutes for December 23, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

Old Business and Correspondence

Clerk Farnworth presented employment forms for the new Code Enforcer and a wage change to reduce the pay for one of her employees.

Chairman Wood read into the record the ordinance violations that was provided by the County Attorney for the Code Enforcer to enforce.

BRP Accounting for the Care Center

Invitation to the Lincoln Days Friday, January 10, 2020. Chairman Wood read the invitation into the record. Each candidate will get 2 minutes to speak. The State Representatives have been invited. JoAnn Rutler, Secretary for the Central Republican Committee, discussed the Representatives who have said will attend.

10:00am Action Items

Katie Hillin presented the Commissioners with the request for combining the Kimama Precinct and Dietrich Precinct. Katie explained the issues from the November election that facilitated the reason for the change.

Mike Telford is present to discuss his position as Precinct Committeeman. By combining the precincts, it eliminates his elected position as Committeeman. Discussion on a better way to provide voting services to the voters in Kimama. Discussion on the problems that happened in the November 2019 election with the mail ballots. Discussion on the web site and the need for a better presence for searches and information. Discussion on the polling place in Dietrich at the Church. Clerk Farnworth will look into other options, but there are guidelines that have to be met for voters and the poll workers. Katie stated she is willing to work on the web site.

No action taken.

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Old Business discussion.

Discussion on the survey of the County gravel pit area. Cindi Sievers, P&Z Administrator, stated this will be discussed in next the Planning & Zoning meeting. Chairman Wood explained the need to have it surveyed.

Discussion on the football field survey for continued discussion for a sell or trade with Shoshone School District.

Grant for the Care Center has been sent in for 4 more rooms with bathrooms and remodel for other bathroom facilities. The County may hear back as soon as next week. The need for these improvements is prospective residents are not choosing to stay at the Care Center is because they cannot offer private rooms.

Discussion on the EMS quarters and the progress of completion.

10:30am Executive Session

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(c) Interest in real property. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Vote Commissioner Hubert, aye; Commissioner Ellis, aye; Chairman Wood, aye. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

10:50am Chairman Wood adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Discussion with Clerk Farnworth about the new election system software. It is not working well and the other County Clerks are complaining about the system as well. The Secretary of State's Office is working to get the system up and running properly for the March Presidential Election.

Discussion on Planning and Zoning expanding the commercial/multiuse zoning in Lincoln County for potential Commercial or Multi-family use.

11:00am Bond Survey review

Clerk Farnworth presented the results and the surveys that were returned. Discussion on the results and how it was counted. Commissioner Hubert brought Idaho Code 31-2419 regarding records and read it into the record as a reason he should have been able to review the surveys before today. Clerk Farnworth responded to the response from Commissioner Hubert. Since there were complaints with the last survey taken, she felt she was justified in not letting anyone look at the surveys until today during the Commissioner's Regular Meeting. County Attorney Roats agreed with her reasoning stating she is the custodian of the records and had the authority to deny the request.

Chairman Wood read into the record the questions and results to the questions on the survey. A record of the results will be on file with the minutes. Clerk Farnworth stated there were 135 of the surveys returned and not able to deliver. This left 2002 surveys that were delivered. From the 632 responding, it is a 31.5% response to the survey. This is about the same percentage of voter turn out to an election in an odd year. About half of the surveys had comments.

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Commissioner Ellis stated the turnout was about the same as the election and feel the Commissioners should move forward with building a new courthouse on a new location.

Commissioner Hubert stated the cost is the reason for the low percentage on the bond election and the survey sent to registered voters. In his opinion, they do not want to be taxed more than they can pay. Discussion on the ADA accessibility and when the County was contacted regarding the courthouse.

Chairman Wood commented on the survey question asking "should the county build a new courthouse" was 60% who did not want a new courthouse. The majority of voters have stated in the survey that they want to renovate and annex. She said there has been 4 times this has been brought to the Commissioners that the wishes are to renovate and annex. She discussed the Committee that was formed to survey the public and they recommended to renovate and annex based on the results of the survey they sent out. This survey has the same outcome as the previous. She believes that it is the cost to the tax payer that was the reason the bond failed.

Commissioner Hubert said that the County needs to find an architect and builder to find out how much it would take to build new on a new location. Discussion on new verses renovate and annex.

Chairman Wood stated it is clear the majority of the people have said in both surveys and the bond they want to renovate and build an annex. The main change that needs to be done is to lower the cost to the tax payers.

Commissioner Ellis discussed the percentage that voted in the November Election. He states, because of the low turnout, he wants to build new because the bond failed.

Clerk Farnworth stated all three Commissioners approved the survey questions sent out to the voters and that they would abide by the results of the survey. County Attorney Roats also stated the Commissioners would abide by the results of the survey.

Chairman Wood opened the meeting to the public in attendance for the discussion.

Comments on the discussion from the public; the Commissioners need to come together and not disagree amongst themselves; design of the courthouse; lower the cost to the tax payers; discussion on the Committee that was formed and perspective going in to the meetings and the facts found resulted in the recommendation to renovate and annex; make the current courthouse ADA compliant with the money that is already saved. The public comment was all in favor of keeping the courthouse and if they would lower the bond it would make the bond more likely to pass.

Chairman Wood stated the money will be close in cost for construction (within \$100,000), but the need is to lower the bond. If by reducing the size of the annex and use the money set aside for building to lower the bond amount to \$3.5 million, it would likely pass.

Commissioner Hubert maintains his opinion that building new on a new location would be cheaper. He discussed the size of the courthouse and the safety factor for courts and sheriff's department.

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Continued discussion from the public. One of the Committee members, formed by the Commissioners, asked other Committee members in attendance for an understanding of the facts found during their meetings. It was asked if the consensus was the construction costs for new or annex were similar and the renovation would have a contingency built into the cost of construction to cover any unforeseen issues. This was told to them by all the architects in the interviews, including the architect hired for the plans shown at the bond meetings. In addition, there would not be a significantly large amount between new or renovation and annex. The other members agreed.

Commissioner Hubert would like to recommend hiring an architect and a builder to find out what the const would be to build new. He added that he had other contractors look at dollar amounts for building new on the current location as less to build.

The Commissioner reviewed the comments made on the surveys and read them into the record.

Chairman Wood moved to move forward with Renovation and Annex with a bond amount of \$3.5 million dollars. No Second, motion dies.

Commissioner Hubert moved to hire an architect and builder for a cost for a new courthouse on a new location. No Second, motion dies.

Chairman Wood pointed out there is 3,000 square feet difference in of cost amount between what was on the construction for the bond than what Commissioner Hubert presented to the architect and builder for new construction on a new location.

This discussion will continue January 21, 2020 at 11:00am.

12:20 Chairman Wood adjoined the meeting for lunch.

1:20pm Chairman Wood reconvened the regular meeting.

Chairman Wood read Resolution 2020-01 into the record to amend the Employee Policy Manual.

Chairman Wood made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-01. Discussion on the keypad on the doors and the need for the resolution. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Vote unanimous in favor, motion carries.

1:30pm Employee Policy Manual review.

Clerk Farnworth read the changes into the record for discussion.

Discussion on; babies in the office, dogs in the courthouse, harassment reporting, in-house and outside publication for hiring, nepotism, Chief Deputy compensation, employee exemption for law enforcement paid by salary, part-time regular employees benefits, reserve employees, right to change compensation, comp time use, compensation time use, timeclock use, full time hours for employees and law enforcement, military leave and benefits, travel mileage, employee pay for travel, risk management requirements, vacation leave, sick leave, sick bank, holiday pay, health insurance eligibility, miscellaneous benefits, tuition reimbursement, FMLA policy, emergency closures, policy signature page.

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Old business

Chairman Wood stated a qualified candidate has come forward to apply for SIRCOMM Director.

Chairman Wood and Commissioner Ellis continued reading the comments from the survey into the record.

3:18pm Commissioner Ellis made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(c) Interest in real property. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote Commissioner Hubert, aye; Commissioner Ellis, aye; Chairman Wood, aye. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

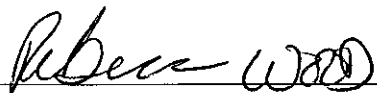
3:29pm Chairman Wood adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Discussion from the comments made on the surveys on new courthouse and renovate with annex. Discussion on money put toward a bond amount. Commissioner Ellis would only agree to put in \$1m. Commissioner Hubert would agree to \$1m maybe a little more.

3:38pm Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Cindi Sievers, Clerk for Minutes



Rebecca Wood, Chairman

Attest:



Cindi Sievers, Deputy Clerk