

Abbreviated Minutes: Complete Set of Minutes Are on File in The Clerk's Office



**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2020**

Attendees:

Jon Weber, Commissioner (Chairman)
Todd Smith, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner
Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Kim Muir, County Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Commissioner Weber

ACTION ITEMS

Public Comment: None.

Calendar Items:

Next Commission Meeting: Monday, July 27, 2020 and will include a meeting on the west side frontage road that evening.

Discussion Items:

Budget and levy discussion, decision on participation in the Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to opt into the Coronavirus Relief Funds pending details. This includes the county being committed to not taking the 3% tax increase this year. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Contracts/Documents:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Polling locations for the August 25, 2020 Election. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Designation of Polling locations for the August 25, 2020 School Election. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Cooperative Agreement for University of Idaho Extension Programs and budget for FY2021. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Public Defense Commission Annual Review Supplemental Questionnaire. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith approved the contract with ITD for weed control. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes for June 17, 2020. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes for June 22, 2020. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. General fund total \$278,649.70. Grand total of claims \$1,468,422.75. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residency for Jaesi Steed, Kaylee Mickelsen, Amanda Tunnell, Eunice Mora-Perez and Karlee Kay. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Personnel Actions :

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the personnel actions. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Weber made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(c) to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public entity, (d) exempt records, Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk, (f) discussion with legal counsel and (j) contract matters. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Weber – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall - yes. The motion passed.

Commissioner Smith returned the County Commissioner meeting to open session at 9:55 a.m. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve signing Approvals on Case No's. 2019017 and 2020013. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to deliver a letter to Mitch Neibaur regarding the decision on the D7 lease at 127 E. Main Street, #B in Rexburg. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Linda Demming, Late fee and interest waiver for property taxes: Linda is asking forgiveness of late fees and penalty. She thought the payment for the first half of the taxes was made, but with COVID her life has been in turmoil.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the recommendation to cancel the interest and penalty in the amount of \$411.63, for the 2019 property tax. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Darby Pozenel, Solid Waste Public Hearing – Fee increase and review and sign Ordinance #427, Solid Waste fees:

Commissioner Weber opened the public hearing at 10:02 a.m. The public hearing was properly posted. Solid Waste fees would go from \$60 to \$80/ton. Larger haulers i.e.: City of Rexburg, Snake River Solid Waste and PSI will be given a rate of \$70. County expense to haul garbage to Jefferson County is up significantly, as well as adding more trucks, trailers and staff to handle the increase.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve signing of Resolution #427 to repeal the old Ordinance and amend to be effective October 1, 2020. This ordinance is to increase fees from \$60 to \$80 with an exception to commercial haulers. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Chief Child, Troyse Miskin, Request and discussion regarding new ambulances:

Commissioner Weber, Kim Muir, Chief Child and Troyse Miskin met last week to review finances. The Ambulance District needs 2 new ambulances as two of the current fleet are antiquated and unsafe. Commissioner Weber does not want EMS to feel that the county has funding whenever the need arises. He emphasizes that this is a onetime deal. Troyse commented that EMS has been asking for several years and they realize this is a hardship on the county. Troyse mentions that grants have been applied for and they are looking for further funding options. Ordering two ambulances at the same time will save on the price. This funding could be on the books as a loan. The ambulances to be replaced are 2008's; the predicted life of an ambulance is about 5 years.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of two new ambulances. Funds will come from funding budgeted for in the FY 2020 and 2021 budgets. If other funding does not come available, other reserves will be used to purchase the 2nd ambulance. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Richard Horner, Review and sign: Approval of the Urban Renewal North Central Eligibility Report:

The City Council will review and approve the Urban Renewal District on Wednesday and will request a plan be put in place. City Council, Urban Renewal and the Commissioners all will approve the final plan. As part of the plan Commissioner Smith would like the Ambulance and Justice funds will need to be made whole as a part of this process. Also, that it doesn't be made a slush fund for anyone.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Resolution #447 to approve the Urban Renewal North Central Eligibility Report. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Road and Bridge, Acceptance or denial of Silver Tip Business Park roads:

Silver Tip Business Park has done all of the work and contacted Road and Bridge upon completion. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and accept the Silver Tip Business Park roadway with the recommendation of Road and Bridge. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to recess Commission meeting and convene Board of Equalization. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

BOE, Standard Plumbing: Upon a phone call to the Standard Plumbing representative, he let us know the Board of Equalization request was withdrawn by Standard Plumbing. The County was not notified prior to this phone conversation.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to deny the value request for Standard Plumbing. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed

Ryan Nelson, Hardship request, 2016 delinquent taxes:

Ryan and Greg Nelson were present regarding Brigham's Mill apartment complex. Ryan and his family have owned a few other apartments in town. In 2013 BYU-I put out a letter stating more student housing was needed. From January 2017 they have been at about 50% occupancy. In fall of 2019 they were full. Winter was good and projected about 80%. Occupancy for Spring was around 30% and is pretty devastating. They were hoping for a deferment or payment plan. They were in talks with Shawn, but would like to see if the county could help them out. Commissioner Weber proposed a payment plan over 3 months and they would waive penalty and interest. Students were released from their contracts. Fall numbers are changing daily, but they are about 50% of capacity for Fall currently, but they are scared with COVID numbers rising.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve cancelling penalty and interest and extend a 3-month payment plan for Brigham's Mill Apartment complex. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Angie Moffat, Tax deed hearing:

Angie Moffat, Treasurer presented 3 names for tax deed:

Maggie and Denton Palmer – land only

Rick Hancock Henry's Fork Plaza – land only

Daniel Morris – 2 ½ acre pasture land

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to move forward to tax deed the three properties. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the COVID -19 regional response plan at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion passed.

There was discussion regarding a regional response plan and/or county, city plan. There were numbers listed which is more than just a spike in COVID cases. Madison currently has 24 active cases. Bonneville is currently at 55 cases sustained over a 3-day period. Fair activities were discussed and the restrictions between indoor and outdoor activities. What is the impact with BYU-I and the impact of business owners? There will be a plan voted on. Placing a mandatory order is a tough thing for the public currently. Masks have become the focal point, but part of the matrix should be hospitalizations and deaths.

Noon: Lunch Break

Discussion, Review and sign: Broadband Grant Application, Scott Johnson, Daniel Torres, Todd Smith:

If we are able to run line to the Archer Fire station, it would provide fiber to homeowners in the area. It would benefit many of those around the line. The 5G those towers require some fiber to connect. It would provide better more stable wireless connection to residents. It would allow better and closer access to towers.

The grant application is due on Wednesday. Commissioner Mendenhall asks if what the City is doing would benefit the county. Payment must be made and completed by December 15, 2020. We put up the funds (general funds) and get reimbursed by the grant. There is \$50 million available for this area. It is not a huge endeavor to apply for it. The grant will be awarded the 31st of July.

A route needs to be identified. You have to hook up a government facility as well as a public area that 100 people can connect wirelessly up to 25 MB. The school and a fire station in Archer would be a good spot. If the route went west, it would include the airport, but fewer facilities. The City is taking it to the golf course. Going through the river and the railroad would be more expensive, but could go through a conduit across the bridges and on power poles. The school district is familiar and has submitted a letter of support in advance.

Bradley registered to submit the grant and could be the point of contact and will work closely with the City. Commissioners will sign approval. The City has heard from a few contractors, but the Road and Bridge Department will not be able to assist with their current schedule.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve applying for the grant with the route to be south to the Archer Fire Station. Bradley Petersen was named as the contact person for the county. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

There was discussion about the trail system and requests to run trails from Jefferson County through Twin Bridges and to Sugar City. Putting trails on roads we are constructing currently was also discussed.

Rudey Ballard, County insurances:

The life, vision and disability insurance premiums will remain the same for FY2021 budget year. Delta Dental is decreasing premium. Blue Cross began asking a 22% increase, but have lowered the increase substantially. If we agree to a \$250 deductible on generic drugs the increase is much less.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Option 2 which reflects a 1.95% renewal with the following changes discussed above, with Blue Cross. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

There being no further business Commissioner Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Approved:

Jon O. Weber, Commission Chairman
Todd Smith, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner

Attest: Kim Muir, Clerk