



**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
May 26, 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

This meeting was streamed live online for those wishing to attend remotely.

ACTION ITEMS

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mendenhall and Troy Evans were excused from the first hour of the meeting.

Calendar Items:

Next Commission Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2020. This will be a Department Head Meeting also.

Discussion Items:

The appointment of a Planning and Zoning Board member will be discussed at a future meeting.

ECIPDA proposal. Terry Butikofer was present to further discuss seed money to allow beginning to drawing specs on an expansion of a business development plan to allow CEI and ISU to change the nature of their building. CEI may put funding in to lease the facility long term. The President of CEI joined a telephonic meeting and commented here are many options that are not available at BYU-I that CEI would like to offer to residents. The City contributed and ECIPDA would like County support also. The Department of Commerce is also involved in this matter. This funding would move the project forward to pursue construction of a new building and allow them to hire an architect. ECIPDA would participate in-kind to develop the project. ECIPDA would purchase property and pursue funding to purchase the building. The commitment from the county for an educational facility Terry hopes would include exemption from property taxes. The school would be geared more toward workforce development, offering a 2-year degree or certificate. Degrees would include radiation safety, and IT among others. The City of Rexburg would like to see entrepreneurial space to encourage new business. The level of support will be discussed by Commissioners. Commissioner Mendenhall would like to support this, but is unsure of where the funding will come from. CEI is looking to increase their footprint in Rexburg and want people to stay in the area.

Fairground summer activities:

Whoopie Days Rodeo, Independence Day Parade, and the County Fair were discussed. There will be a rodeo July 3 and 4 with fireworks on the 4th. The County is teaming up with the City of Rexburg and the Chamber of Commerce to pull off these events. The county fair is scheduled to begin August 13, 2020, with a “fly in” on June 20 at the airport. The Chamber is also doing their golf tournament on June 26. These activities will look a little different as we continue to social distance. The parade route has been expanded around Porter Park to allow for social distancing. We want participants to plan ahead and take precautions. The high school rodeo held on May 21 through 23, 2020 had good participation.

Contracts/Documents:

The Waste District has been working with Troy and Jerry Rigby in conjunction with Stephanie Bonnie from Boise, for an appraisal on the property so we can move forward. Solid Waste will fund the appraisal fee of approximately \$4,500. This is the appraisal on Dana Parkinson’s property. Commissioners Weber and Smith looked at property with the Waste District to begin investigating options for a regional landfill. Idaho Department of Lands has property in that area and DEQ would like to see the district do a land swap. The option is being explored.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Letter of Engagement for the West side Frontage for land survey Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the appointment of Shane Young of Jefferson County to the Eastern Idaho Public Health Board of Health. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. Each Commissioner voted separate ballots. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Professional Agreement Invoice and Progress Report for ITD. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes for May 11, 2020. Commissioner Smith 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 \$56,780.56. Grand Total of claims \$235,943.95. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

There were no Certificates of Residency.

Personnel Actions :

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

Board of Equalization. There were not BOE matters at this time.

Rudey Ballard presented the loss ratio information for the past year with Blue Cross. He presented the options with the current Blue Cross provider and with a few other company renewal numbers for the FY2021 budget. The Commissioners will review the information presented and make some decisions. Utilization of EZ Care numbers will be forthcoming from Ann Marie.

Executive Session, Idaho Code § 74-206(1) (d): Indigent matters: Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:43 a.m. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Weber – yes, Commissioner Smith-yes, Commissioner Mendenhall - yes. The motion passed.

Commissioner Weber returned the County Commissioner meeting to open session at 9:50 a.m. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve signing an Approval on Case No. 20160016. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Michael Greenberg, Nielsen Ricks Creamery, request cancellation of penalty and interest:

Angie Moffat, Treasurer, presented the case for Michael Greenberg. He called her days before the Warrant of Dstraint was due. He would like the commissioners to still honor an agreement made in December wherein he was to pay a certain amount by December 20. The County has not heard from him since that time and he has not made any payments. Angie was instructed to move forward with to collect the taxes. The County has done their part for the past 4 years and it is time for Mr. Greenberg to hold up his end. He can go through the BOE process and can appeal to the State Board and also the District Court. Until he exhausts those other avenues, the Commissioners agree to let the Treasurer do her job. He did make a payment on the real property last week, but the personal property is the issue now. During December of 2019, the county had agreed to waive penalty and interest if he brought his accounts current, plus the December 2019 payment. Mr. Greenberg has not been in contact with the Treasurer's office since before December 2019. He is not working to resolve the problem. We can move all of the charges to the real property if he doesn't pay and will take all of the property.

City of Rexburg, De-annexation discussion:

Richard was on the meeting digitally and presented a map showing changes to the proposed North Central Urban Renewal District. Discussion ensued. He explained the purchase of the annexation the City would like to include in the new Urban Renewal District. We would immediately receive some new construction value as a base to the new district. He estimates

about \$24,000 in total taxes. Part of the reason 2nd East is included is they are looking at redoing 2nd East to make it 7 lanes rather than 5. This would require State approval. Commissioners question how property can be acquired up 2nd East, and the property tax impact this District will tie-up. Richard would like the County to be on board, but this would be an FYI for the Commissioners. It was clarified that we are talking about DE annexing from the old Urban Renewal District and putting a portion back into the new district. Richard will email the map explaining this process to the Commissioners.

Update on Solid Waste proposal with the City of Rexburg:

Darby Pozenel met with the City of Rexburg and presented the following proposal: She proposes keeping the \$80 proposed for everything across the scale except for MSW companies that bring over 100 ton a month which would be at a charge of \$70/ton. This does not include the roll off bins. The City is asking the County to raise taxes for the tipping fee beginning next fiscal year. The County temporarily changed the fee back to \$60/ton after the last meeting. The County will put a proposal together and schedule a public hearing. Commissioner Smith states that this was increased only enough to cover our costs. The scales are collapsing and the costs have gone up significantly with increased garbage being hauled in to truck to the Jefferson County site. A schedule showing estimated costs for new trucks and equipment and how the proposed fee schedule will cover the expenses will be prepared by Darby and include a 5-year capital plan.

Rachel Gonzalez/Troy Christensen, Hospital update and discussion:

Commissioner Weber asked Troy and Rachel to report on COVID and the impact to the Hospital. Rachel reports it is hard in healthcare right now. The economic impact is a commonality. They had patients coming in not wanting to wear masks, but they have to protect 100% of the people coming into the hospital. Her hope is they can communicate even though they are going about things differently, we have common issues we are dealing with, but they have to approach from a different perspective than most of us do. We all want to be socially responsible, but the risk level going into the hospital is different.

Troy Christensen spoke about the financial aspect. They came into 2019 being one of their strongest ever. The number of patients seeing the hospital now is less, but finances are not a concern. March and April 2020 ended with a net loss with elective surgeries not being an option. Of the procedures that were sidelined, most are back up and going. They have received relief funds, but don't plan heavily on them. Replacement of equipment has been delayed until the next fiscal year.

Hourly staff has stayed at 75% of their full-time status and administrators believe this is the way they can best help the community and put dollars back into the community. They also wanted to keep staff which they need and want to keep with new competition coming in, so the hospital felt okay about using their reserves. Employees, along with all citizens, have felt the pinch of the pandemic. There are only two entrances open in the hospital and they are screening with volumes of people entering down. This may become the new normal.

There was discussion regarding wage and pay never being the number one issue with employees. It is usually the culture or environment of the work place. Employers always lose if you are fighting pay. The goal is to help the employee feel valued. Antibody testing was discussed and how much immunity you gain from actually have COVID. It is hard to know if it's' going to give us good information. There are rumors there are 7 different strains of COVID going around. They would like to test everyone in the Fall to see if you have the flu or COVID. We may have this go on for years. The reliability of the antibody testing is not solid at this time.

Rachel stated appreciation the first responders, doctors and nurses. During these times, it has been a good reminder of the true essential services. Rachel asks for continued feedback on messages received referred to them.

Sandra Briggs, Impact Zone: Sandy Briggs called and cancelled this meeting.

There being no further business Commissioner Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 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