

**COMMISSIONER MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**April 29, 2011**

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met this day with Chairman Dennis Crane, Paul Christensen (remote by phone) and Bob Kunau, Board Members; Alfred E. Barrus, Prosecuting Attorney; Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

**AMENDMENT TO AGENDA**

Chairman Crane requested an addition to the agenda to discuss and establish the Budget Hearing date for FY2012. Commissioner Kunau made a motion to add that item to the agenda, seconded by Chairman Crane, followed by a unanimous yea vote.

A conference call was initiated by Chairman Crane to allow Commissioner Christensen to participate as he was not able to be in attendance.

**BUDGET HEARING FOR FY2012**

Chairman Crane asked Clerk Larsen what date was being proposed for the Budget Hearing. Larsen suggested Monday, August 29, 2011, inasmuch as the final date possible for that hearing was the day after Labor Day. Commissioner Kunau made a motion to establish August 29, 2011, as the Budget Hearing Date for FY2012, seconded by Chairman Crane, followed by a unanimous yea vote.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS**

Chairman Crane turned the time over to Sheriff Randy Kidd to make a PowerPoint presentation regarding law enforcement statistics, breakdowns in cost, and comment on law enforcement provided by Cassia County to its citizens.

Sheriff Kidd presented statistical breakdowns in the number of county-related versus City of Burley-related warrants. 75% of cases were City of Burley cases and 25% were for the rest of Cassia County. 92% of warrants were City of Burley warrants and 8% were for the rest of Cassia County. Overall offense reports were 77% from the City of Burley and 23% from the rest of the County. The overall Sheriff's Office budget is \$3.3 million. 77% of that budget as the City of Burley's proportion would equate to \$2.6 million annually.

He further reviewed actual costs of law enforcement to the City of Burley including administrative costs (less any costs for administrative personnel or liability insurance), dispatch, investigations, patrol (less waterways and snowmobile), and the contractual cost of half of the building expenses and concluded that the cost of service received by the City of Burley totals \$1,937,545.

Comparisons of actual law enforcement cost from 2006 to 2010 were presented. Increases during that time frame totaled 21.9% with the City of Burley absorbing only 16.3% of that resulting in the County absorbing \$85,640.80 of those increases. From 2006 to 2011, the County has absorbed 2.2% of the overall budget.

Cost comparisons were presented for the cities of Blackfoot, Mountain Home, Jerome, Garden City, Rupert, and Chubbuck. Based on their population base, each of those cities pay more than the City of Burley has been budgeted to pay, some significantly.

The presentation concluded with detailing the reasoning to continue with the joint law enforcement as currently structured with the City of Burley and Cassia County. It would be more cost effective than doing it separately by avoiding duplication of services and because grants are afforded multijurisdictional agencies. Duplication of liability costs is avoided and costs generally are decreased by economy of scales. It is best for all citizens as it provides more consistent services and there is no confusion as to where to go for those services. Specialized groups such as a SWAT Team, drug task force, and a dive team are better facilitated by a joint law enforcement. Officer George Warrell commented on the difficulty he experienced while working in Heyburn with three separate entities and that there was much greater cooperation when those services are coordinated as they currently are. More importantly, The future of nineteen (19) families is currently in the balance. Sixty (60) men, women, and children all share uncertainty right now and morale of the officers are obviously affected as well by the current uncertainty.

Sheriff Kidd concluded by asking if there were any comments or questions regarding the numbers or facts he had presented.

### **COMMENTS**

The Board will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2011, at the District Court Room at the courthouse. The public has been invited and notice was given to the Mayor of the City of Burley and all of the Burley City Council to give them time to prepare. Chairman Crane indicated that coming to a conclusion regarding the agreement between Cassia County and the City of Burley was important for budgetary purposes. Clerk Larsen reiterated that importance as well as it involves the dollars and personnel that it does. The Sheriff indicated that the City of Burley is invited to all budgetary considerations of the Sheriff.

Chairman Crane concluded by indicating that he felt the City of Burley was getting a pretty good deal. He had talked to a number of individuals who were instrumental in setting this consolidated law enforcement agreement between the City of Burley and Cassia County and they were all adamant about keeping things as they currently are.

Sheriff Kidd also concluded by saying that law enforcement going back to how it was thirty (30) years ago would actually set back law enforcement thirty (30) years as well.

### **RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 2, 2011

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING**

Coreen Hart – The Times News; Jay Lenker sdorfer – The Weekly News Journal; Renee Wells – The Voice; Chris Jensen, George Warrell, III, and Dan Renz – Cassia County Sheriff's Office; Patty Justesen – County Treasurer; and Dwight Davis – County Assessor

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

/s/  
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Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk

/s/  
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Dennis Crane, Chairman