

## **COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

**#582**

**February 23, 2009**

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met this day with Chairman Dennis Crane, Paul Christensen and Clay D. Handy, Board Members; Alfred E. Barrus, Prosecuting Attorney; Larry Mickelsen, Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

### **PREVIOUS WEEK'S MINUTES**

The Minutes for February 9 and February 12, 2009 were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve and proceed with publication of an appropriate synopsis. Roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

### **CALENDAR**

The Board reviewed the calendar for February and March 2009.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. A booklet from NACo Re: National County Government Week, May 3-9, 2009
2. Legislative Tax Bulletin Report No. 5 from Associated Taxpayers of Idaho
3. Legislative Bulletin from IAC of February 13, 2009
4. A letter from former NACo President Bill Hansell Re: DefendDonStapley.com
5. A public notice Re: Pacific Northwest February 2009 Public Information Meetings
6. Applications from the Forest Service RAC Committee. Chairman Crane will attend the RAC meeting on Friday, 27 February, 2009 to be held at the US Forest Service District Office in Twin Falls.

### **COUNTY INSURANCE**

Kelly Bowen met with the Board to get amendments signed for new doctor payment rates. After review it was moved and seconded to sign an amendment for adding Providers to be paid at the PPO rate, an amendment for Vision Benefits through Burley Eye Care Center and a Schedule of Excess Loss Insurance Schedule for MBA Benefits Administrators, Inc., and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

### **VETERAN'S AFFAIRS-FUNDING MATTER**

Daryl McCall and Larry Cottom of the Mini-Cassia Vets met with the Board discuss the activities of the Veteran's organizations. They expressed gratitude to the county for all that has been done to assist them with donations and assisted their purchase of a van for taking veterans to VA facilities. They requested assistance to conduct activities at the County Fairgrounds during the July-August time frame that would benefit citizens of the community. The organization has 503(c)(3) status. The Commissioners took the matter under advisement to determine if the type of assistance requested can be provided by the County.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:31am it was proposed by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Christensen that the Board convene in Executive Session under Idaho Code Section 67-2345(1)(d) with Commissioner Christensen voting yea, Commissioner Crane voting yea, and Commissioner Handy voting yea. The purpose and general tenor of the meeting was to discuss medical indigent matters. Following the discussion, the Board returned to regular session at 10:00am.

Following Executive Session the Board Denied Cases # 2009018, 2009004, 2009016, 2009020, 2009000, 2009005, 2009011, 2009010, and 2009006; Signed Findings of Fact for Case # 208118; Signed Release of Lien for Cases # 204075, 208140, 208143 and 208144; Signed Notice of Lien for Cases # 2009019, 2009020, and 2009021; Signed Stipulations for Cases # 208137, 208127, and 208106; Approved Case # 206113 to keep \$1,500 of their income tax return; Approved Case # 207158 to pay \$2,000 of their tax return to the County, Took Case # 208089 under advisement and will allow them to keep \$1,000 of their income tax return; Presented Cases # 2009003, 2009013, and 2009001; Assigned Case # 99004 for collections; Approved Cases # 2009013, and 2009001 ; Signed Order of Reimbursement for Cases # 2009013 and 2009001.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

**Detention Center:** Rob Neiwert introduced Russ Rasmussen as the new Deputy Director. He has a total of 160 inmates with 50 from Minidoka County, 73 from Cassia County, 30 from the State and 7 for the US Marshal. He has been in contact with ICE for providing transportation for their undocumented worker inmates. The Fire Department and Dietician inspected the facilities this past month and there were no problems. He reported on the check that was modified by the released inmate. He discussed the purchase a check writing printer that would prevent these problems in the future. He is going to discuss previous employees with the Jail Committee and explain why they resigned, perhaps because of the low wages they received. Holding state prisoners in and out of state was discussed.

**Sheriff Department:** Sheriff Randy Kidd reported they are fully staffed and have 2 at POST. Fingerprint machine is broken down and they received grant money from Homeland Security to purchase a new one. Reported on the status of security enhancements for the Sheriff's Office. He was pleased with the City/County Law Enforcement meeting this morning. The Board reviewed all of the requests for pay increases and discussed them with the Sheriff. The clothing allowance issue was discussed and it will remain in the budget, but it is taxable income.

**Janitorial/Maintenance:** Sharon Higgins reported on Fire Inspection results. No problems with the exception of some unauthorized extension cords.

**Weed Department:** Gordon Edwards invited the Board to a 4-H dinner on Tuesday evening. Concerns were expressed regarding the "Stimulation Monies" and the programs that it would impact. Discussed issues that will impact the State from boats that have become contaminated with weeds from lakes/rivers in other States.

**County Administrator:** Kerry McMurray reported that mapping and GIS are ongoing. There is a public hearing for the P&Z this Thursday. It is for potential amendments to the subdivision and zoning ordinances.

**Clerk:** Larry Mickelsen reported that the staff is busy as usual and asked the Department Heads to begin preparing for the upcoming budget season.

**Prosecuting Attorney:** Al Barrus reported that they are very busy. The arrests and jail numbers are increasing. They are dealing with many problems, but are getting some cases finalized, that have been around for a long time.

### **CHANGE OF STATUS**

The Board reviewed 10 changes of status forms, 9 from the Sheriff's Office and 1 from the MCCJC. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

### **PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ISSUES**

The Board discussed issues concerning the private organizations in the county that appeal to the Board for financial and different types of County assistance. There has been some discussion with Prosecuting Attorneys in the State to determine the proper policy for the requests. Law Enforcement coverage and legal authority for all events in the community will have to be determined and an enforceable policy developed.

### **INTERMODEL AUTHORITY**

Commissioner Handy discussed the Intermodel authority and difficulties businesses are having in trying to invite businesses to come into the Mini-Cassia area. He requested that the Intermodel Committee review the applications and resolve the issues that will arise. A proposal to have a Committee Chairman that is very involved with the inquiries and to make monthly reports to both Boards of Commissioners is being considered.

### **AUDIT ISSUES**

The Board requested that the account balances be presented to them prior to beginning the budget process.

### **BLM**

Mike Courtney representing the BLM discussed the Economic Stimulus requests they receive. He indicated that a project at the Milner area is a very viable option, where public comment can help to develop a plan. He discussed forming a partnership with the County to move forward with planning and development of the plans that will be developed. He reported that the Windland project at Cottrell is being transferred to Shell Oil. He reported that there will be 5 wells drilled in the Raft River area by Agua Caliente. US Geothermal is working in partnership with them. The wells will be drilled to about 7000 feet.

### **USFS**

Scott Nannenga reported that the USFS received \$1.1 billion nationwide of the Economic Stimulus monies. He does not know if there will be any money allocated for this area. The projects they have scheduled will be put on hold until money determination is made. Any revenue they receive will be used for creating jobs. The USFS has received a request for wind testing on Cottonwood Ridge. He discussed the Howell Canyon and North East Cassia Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects.

### **US FISH & GAME**

Jerome Hansen and Wayne Wright met with the Board to discuss a US Fish & Game Revenue Enhancement Fee. They presented a handout that explained the reasons for their request for a 15% fee increase. Jerome explained the economic benefit to Cassia County for hunting and fishing. Wayne explained that their funds are almost exhausted and they do not receive any general fund monies. Their revenue is from license and tag fees and a federal match. They are requesting the support of the Cassia County Commissioners for the fee increase. It was moved and seconded to fully support the fee increase and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

### **LUNCH**

At 12:15pm the Board departed for lunch at Stevo's Restaurant, and Kerry McMurray, County Administrator presented his report on the response letter to Acme Dairy during their working luncheon. The Board also discussed the current members of the Snowmobile Committee and concerns they have. Commissioner Handy will attend the next meeting and resolve the issues that exist.

**ORDINANCE 2009-02-01**

The issue was tabled until March 2, 2009

**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

At 1:39pm it was proposed and seconded to convene as the County Board of Equalization. Roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

It was proposed and seconded to delete the Home Owners exemptions on the following parcels: (See attached list). Roll call vote was unanimous by the Board. Notices will be sent to the property owners.

Following the discussion, the Board returned to regular session at 1:40pm.

**LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX**

The Board reviewed and gave considered executing a letter of support for local option sales taxes. A letter of support Re: Idaho Local Option Tax Authorization 2009 was prepared. It was moved and seconded to sign and execute the letter of support and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

**HOWELL CANYON REPORT**

The Board reviewed the Burley Highway District Howell Canyon report dated January 31, 2009.

**COUNTY EXPENDITURE**

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated 2-23-2009. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$19,406.40
INDIGENT FUND	105	\$15,547.73
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$5,079.83
COUNTY ROADS & BRIDGES FUND	107	\$2,370.69
WEED & PEST FUND	108	\$4.86
REVALUATION FUND	114	\$147.42
911 COMMUNICATIONS FUND	115	\$289.05
COUNTY SNOWMOBILE FUND	118	\$650.00
ASSESSOR TRUST FUND	123	\$70.00
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$23,693.23
MINI-CASSIA DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE	136	\$346.65
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$1,465.88
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$5,734.65
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,806.39</b>

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2009.

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

Margi Owens, Weekly News Journal;

**ATTEST:**

/s/Larry A. Mickelsen

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Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

**APPROVED:**

/s/Dennis D. Crane

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Dennis Crane, Chairman