

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

PREVIOUS WEEKS' MINUTES

The minutes for February 22, 2005 were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve and proceed with publication of an appropriate synopsis. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

CALENDAR

The Board reviewed the calendar for February & March 2005.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

1. A letter from Dallin Baggett, Re: Removal of a stop sign at a railroad crossing at 350 E Highway 81. The Board prepared a letter to Mr. Baggett asking him to contact the Burley Highway District, as this is the Highway District's responsibility.
2. A letter from Dean Draper informing the Board that he will be retiring on 30 April, 2005, and was thanking the Board for their support while he served as County Fair Manager.
3. A letter from South Central Community Action Partnership, thanking the County for their annual contribution of \$2,000.00.
4. An announcement of a Hazardous Fuels Treatment workshop on April 5-6, 2005 in Pocatello.
5. An invitation from the Shoshone-Bannock tribe to attend the 2005 Tribal Sovereignty and Treaty Rights Seminar on April 27-28, 2005, at the Student Union Building at Idaho State University.
6. A letter from the Idaho Capital Crimes Defense Fund, giving guidelines, which will authorize Counties to create a voluntary capital crimes defense fund to ease the burden of the cost of trials for death penalty cases.

MINI-CASSIA COMMERCE AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the status of the Mini-Cassia Commerce Authority Information Committee. The Board recommended March 16 or March 29, 2005 as the date for a joint public hearing with Minidoka County to consider a proposed ordinance. This will be confirmed with the Minidoka County Commissioners and published in the newspaper for the public to be aware of the meeting and invited to attend.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Public Defender: Doug Whipple presented the Cassia County Public Defender Clients Commissioners Report for December 2004 and January 2005. He reported that things "seem to be slowing down." He says that this can be attributed to the Juvenile and Adult Probation Offices.

Assessor: Marty Holland reported that his office is very busy and they are involved with the state Tax Commission regarding property tax bills. He requested the Board come and review and certify the property rolls by signing them.

Detention Center: Mike Fehlman reported there are 143 incarcerated, with 52 of them being from the State of Idaho. Other counties/jurisdictions also have the MCCJC house their excess prisoners. The State numbers will stay high, especially with women prisoners, because the State Penitentiary is full. Drugs are still the major cause of incarceration. The MCCJC is fully staffed at this time.

Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Jim Higen reported that search and rescue efforts are partially funded from the State snowmobile licensing fees. If an individual is in violation of the law, then that person must pay for the cost of the search and rescue. He just returned from the National Sheriffs meetings in Nevada and received some good and interesting training. The Sheriff's Office is still looking for another employee for the Dispatch Office. He reported on the death of Brian Bird's child and the funeral will be tomorrow, March 1, 2005.

Treasurer: Gayle Erekson presented a copy of the Cassia County Statement of Treasurers Cash for the 1st quarter of FY 05, and a summary of all tax code areas, for the Commissioners review.

Janitorial/Maintenance: Sharon Higgins reported that all is going well and they are in the process of "gearing up" for the spring work. Box Elder bugs will be a big problem, and Gordon Edwards says he will take care of them.

Extension Office: Richard Garrard reported that they are getting ready to weigh the 4H beef in preparation for the County Fair. Grace Whitman is coming in April to take over as the 4H specialist. He has studied the 16% beef reduction in the area, which will cost about 336 jobs. He is studying the impact on the County if sugar beet production is cut by 50%.

Weed Department: Gordon Edwards reported on awards he has received from the State and National committees, which recognize his outstanding efforts in weed and pest control. He reported that Gem County is requesting support in pesticide spraying and mosquito abatement. The Board of Commissioners will send a letter of support for the Gem County efforts. He reported that with the warm weather we have had, they weed control efforts will intensify very soon. Puncture vine is going to be a major problem, as it spreads throughout the County. Richard Garrard feels that this is probably a result of spraying the borrow pits with Round-Up, which also kills the grass and then the weeds do not have any competition. He reported that the BLM and Forest Service weed control budgets might be reduced, which would impact the weed control efforts of the County. The contract with Gordon is fair and equitable and will be annually renewed.

County Administrator: Kerry McMurray reported that the Intermodal Commerce Authority will meet on Wednesday to review and approve the proposed ordinance and will meet in March finalize the ordinance.

Clerk: Larry Mickelsen handed out the Idaho Transportation Department State Travel Mileage Chart for the Department Heads to use when checking employee mileage claims and explained that this was only for their information.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Board reviewed the 2005 noxious weed control program on federal land in Cassia County with Gordon Edwards.

COUNTY EXPENDITURE

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated February 25, 2005. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$1,947.42
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$398.59
COUNTY ROADS AND BRIDGE FUND	107	\$68,269.80
HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUND	112	\$5,000.00
REVALUATION FUND	114	\$47.38
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$22,918.27
D.A.R.E. TRUST FUND	137	\$1,525.26
	TOTAL	\$100,106.72

PROPERTY ROLLS

At 10:30am the Board went to the Assessor's Office to review the Property Rolls. The Board's conclusion was that everything regarding the County Property Rolls was in good order.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Dan Barker presented the Cassia County Annual Construction Report for calendar year 2004 to the Board. Construction value totals for the year were \$14,179,228.00, about a \$4 million increase over the previous year. Dan discussed the rural addressing system in the County. He said that the maintenance on the highway signs was a daily requirement because of destruction and theft. Dan gave the Commissioners a list of the signs that are missing throughout the County. He requested that the new GIS system be commenced so that the new signs can be installed before some serious problems develop. Kerry McMurray reported that the Burley Highway District has been invited to a meeting to develop the ordinance and to begin implementation of the GIS and installation of new signs. The ordinance must be developed before the new sign installation can begin.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Scott Nannenga presented a pamphlet to the Board entitled A Condensed History of Water and the Forest Service. The Forest Service will present a 2-hour show for the public at the Best Western Convention Center. He gave a report on the drought conditions throughout the Magic Valley. There is a project, under the Stewardship Contracting Authority, to do some tree thinning in the Rock Creek area. There are federal funds for upgrading and renovating public campgrounds. The Forest Service receives about \$15,000.00 per year from the fees charged for using public campgrounds. These fees come back to the Forest Service for maintenance of the campgrounds. Scott reported that they have begun to issue grazing permits.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:00pm 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, it was proposed and seconded that the Board return to regular session at 12:15pm. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session, the Board Approved Case #204157 and Case #205031. Signed Order of Dismissal for Case #204158, Case #205005, and Case #205028. Signed Notice of Lien and Application for Medically Indigent Benefits for Case #205030 and Case #205034.

RECESS

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 7, 2005.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING

Renee Wells, SIP; Kelly Adams, Public Lands

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

Dennis Crane, Chairman