

April 24, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Idaho, does hereby meet this 24th day of April 2023.

IN THE MATTER OF ROLL CALL)

Donna Atwood, Clerk, called roll call: Gordon Wilkerson, present; Lyndon Haines, present; and Nate Marvin, present.

Lyndon Haines opened the meeting and Nate Marvin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Gordon Wilkerson gave the invocation.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE/MEETINGS AND REPORTS)

Correspondence received by the Board was reviewed and disseminated as required.

Lyndon Haines reported he will be attending the Southwest District Health Board meeting tomorrow.

Nate Marvin will attend the WICAP meeting Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Gordon Wilkerson moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines, to approve a duplicate warrant payable to Kadin Dart in the amount of \$12.50. Motion carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson to approve the Operation in Funds/Statement of Treasurer's Cash for the period of January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$16,711,313.25. Motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

The minutes of the Board not heretofore approved of April 17, 2023, were approved as written.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

The claims, audited by the Auditor, were presented and reviewed by the Board. All credit card claims were reviewed.

The Auditor was authorized to issue warrants totaling \$184,574.96 for general expenses by a motion of Nate Marvin, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson. Motion carried unanimous.

The Auditor was authorized to issue warrants totaling \$2,687.61 for juror expenses by a motion of Nate Marvin, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson. Motion carried unanimous.

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IN THE MATTER OF WOLF MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION)

Haines read the Idaho County Wolf Management Resolution on the record. There was continued discussion on Wolf Management policies in Oregon and Washington.

Wilkerson stated that he has had contact with the local Fish & Game Management and requested they meet on May 22, 2023 with the Commissioners to discuss wolf population and “suitable habitat”.

Haines inquired if the Board had suggested changes to the Idaho County Resolution. No changes were made. There was discussion of sharing the draft resolution with other counties.

IN THE MATTER OF SNAKE RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE)

Kristen Nieskens met with the Board. Also present was Executive Board Chairman Patrick Nauman. Nieskens provided an update on SREDA (Snake River Economic Development Alliance) to the Board. Nieskens reported that there are several projects going on at this time. Nieskens reviewed the January 2023 through December 2023 Action Plan with the Board. Nieskens also thanked the Board for their continued support.

Patrick Nauman addressed the Board. Nauman reported it has been a busy spring for economic development. Nauman informed the Board that companies, no matter location, benefit all counties within this region. Nauman reported there are six active projects in Weiser currently. There was discussion regarding Pacific Fibre and the success that the company has had in Washington County. Nauman stated SREDA is currently working on the Maverick and RV project as well. Maverick hopes to be under construction mid-summer.

Marvin requested SREDA meet with the Board quarterly.

IN THE MATTER OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY)

Delton Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, met with the Board.

Haines inquired how to state agenda legislative items on the agenda for future meetings.

Walker stated the Board could add “Discussion” to the agenda. Walker stated there is no intent to keep anything from the public.

There was discussion regarding zoning legislation in 67-65 (40) that was provided to Walker and the Board by the City of Cambridge Clerk last week.

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Haines read a portion of the legislation on the record. Haines stated Washington County does not zone specific to residential. Haines stated he believed it was applicable to A2 zoning in the county.

Walker reviewed the wording “accessory dwelling”. Walker stated they could not enact anything that would ban accessory buildings. Walker stated an accessory building is defined as a self-contained living unit. Tiny homes on wheels were excluded from the legislation.

Haines read the Statement of Purpose of the legislation on the record.

Marvin discussed an issue on Cox Road regarding a house fire several years ago. A neighboring party has requested the house be removed. The Board requested Walker and Sheriff Thomas look into the matter.

Walker informed the Board that some counties have put infractions in place for violations of county code.

Wilkerson discussed code changes and setbacks that were previously discussed. Wilkerson requested that the matter be added to future agendas.

Haines stated the matter of setbacks must go before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Wilkerson discussed cattleguards and inquired who pays for the cost of the cattleguard and the installation.

Walker stated the landowner pays for the cattleguard and Road and Bridge staff does the installation.

Walker reviewed 67-65 (40) with the Board.

IN THE MATTER OF ROAD & BRIDGE/SOLID WASTE)

Jerod Odoms, Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor, met with the Board.

Haines discussed claims submitted by the department for payment.

Odoms clarified charges that were submitted for payment.

Odoms discussed bids for asphalt submitted by Thuesen Construction and Valley Paving last week. Odoms recommended that the bid from Thuesen Construction be accepted by the Board.

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Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve the bid for asphalt in the amount of \$685,065.00 as submitted by Thuesen Construction. Motion carried.

Odoms discussed equipment leases. Odoms stated that the lease is up for the 950GC loader and the model 12M3 road grader. Odoms stated the warranty is up on both pieces of equipment. Odoms stated that the equipment is owned by the county but will need to budget for replacement equipment in the 2024 budget.

Odoms provided an update on road maintenance to the Board.

Odoms informed the Board that the open positions at Road and Bridge will close today. Odoms requested one member of the Board assist in reviewing the applications that have been submitted.

There was discussion of State Funding from the Department of Environmental Quality to do repairs in the Monroe Creek Area.

There was a discussion on the placement of cattleguards. Odoms stated he will contact Prosecutor Walker regarding the issue.

Wilkerson discussed possible repairs to Dixie Creek Bridge and the diversion dam. Wilkerson mentioned that the Historical Society would like to preserve the Bridge.

Odoms stated the Historical Society would have to agree before work could begin on the bridge. Odoms stated the earliest work could begin would be June of 2024. Odoms stated he had contacted LHTAC (Local Highway Technical Assistance Council) regarding the bridge.

Marvin inquired about installing a culvert at the location. Odoms stated there has not been a design meeting held to discuss options.

IN THE MATTER OF AMBULANCE)

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Nate Marvin, to recess as the Board of Washington County Commissioners and convene as the Board of the Weiser Ambulance District. Motion carried unanimous.

Donna Atwood, Clerk, called roll call: Gordon Wilkerson, present; Lyndon Haines, present; and Nate Marvin, present.

Luke Smith, Ambulance District Director, met with the Board. Order No. 23-27 for general expenses in the amount of \$7,907.45 and Order No. 23-0015 for payroll expenses in the amount of \$26,157.35 was presented to the Board for review.

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Smith reported the Ambulance District had thirty calls for service last week which included seven transfers and six public assists/refusals for care. Smith reported he has been in contact with the State regarding putting the new ambulance in service. Smith discussed repairs to Ambulance #71 that is now back in service.

Smith discussed the purchase of body armor for staff. Smith stated updated training for staff would be needed. Smith informed the Board that some manufacturers will donate to fire and EMS agencies.

The Board reviewed allowable expenses due to the district.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve Order No. 23-27 for general expenses in the amount of \$7,907.45. Motion carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve Order No. 23-0015 for general expenses in the amount of \$26,157.35. Motion carried.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to recess as the Board of the Weiser Ambulance District and reconvene as Board of Washington County Commissioners. Motion carried unanimous.

Donna Atwood, Clerk, called roll call: Gordon Wilkerson, present; Lyndon Haines, present; and Nate Marvin, present.

IN THE MATTER OF AG BUILDINGS)

Tom and Cecelia Hunter met with the Board. Cecelia Hunter stated that they have lived in Idaho for 20 years. Hunter stated that many of her neighbors are farmers and ranchers. Hunter further stated that they were unable to attend the meetings at the Vendome and the Exhibit Hall. Hunter inquired who started the change in code and inquired why the changes were proposed.

Tom Hunter stated that he has read the State Code and believes it can be easily followed and well understood. Hunter informed the Board that he recognizes that there is a problem in the current Ag sites that do not necessarily comply with the State Code. Hunter stated that he has a problem with the word “habitat” in the State Code which is not well understood by most people. “Habitat could be for deer, squirrels, birds. Hunter stated “habitat” is a poor description for a place where residential activity occurs. Hunter informed the Board that he believed there is much to do on what appears to be ulterior motives.

Cecelia Hunter stated they are referring to County Code Title 3, Section 1 (B) and (E). Hunter inquired of Commissioner Marvin whose idea it was to bring the proposed changes forward.

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Marvin stated that it was a group effort that involved himself, and former Commissioner Chandler. Marvin stated the issue was discussed at an October 2022 Commissioners meeting. Marvin explained issues that brought this to the forefront.

Cecelia Hunter inquired if Marvin and Haines were familiar with ag operations. Hunter informed the Board that she believed people in agriculture are being picked on.

Marvin stated he grew up on a farm.

Haines inquired of Hunter if she had personal experience in agriculture. Hunter does not have personal experience in agriculture but grew up with a sheep ranch “behind them in Pennsylvania” when she was a kid.

Haines read a portion of the current draft of the proposal on the record. Haines clarified the intent of the proposal. Haines explained that the county does not have an enforcement officer and clarified that \$78,000.00 was not expended to draft the proposal. Haines stated that the \$78,000.00 was expended on the review of county codes in general over the past two fiscal years. Haines explained the county is compliant driven. Haines reiterated that the code needed to be clarified.

Tom Hunter stated that it sounds like this issue has been a problem for a long time.

Haines discussed code from neighboring counties and stated that it was never the intent to punish agriculture in the county. Haines stated it is the life blood of Washington County. Haines stated that the current proposal does allow for a sink, shower, toilet and bath in an Ag building. Haines reiterated that the code needed to be clarified.

Tom Hunter requested a copy of the Power Point that was presented at the Town Hall meeting in Cambridge.

#### IN THE MATTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR BUDGET REQUEST)

Chris Braun met with the Board. Also present were Jon Mills and Harvey Braun. Mills discussed plans to update computers and add LED lighting at the fairgrounds. Mills discussed upcoming events that will be held at the fairgrounds. Mills informed the Board that the livestock barn will be extended by forty feet. Mills discussed the number of 4-H participants and those who attended beef weigh-ins with the Board. Mills reported that enrollment has increased for the 2023 fair. Mills complimented Tyler O’Donnell at the Extension Office for his efforts in the brief time that he has been with the Extension Educator for Washington County. Mills informed the Board the Fair is requesting an increase in their budget for a total request of \$92,000.00 for the 2024 budget. Mills also discussed items planned for purchase to accommodate the increased number of enrollments.

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Kris Braun discussed donations received and how the funding has been used.

The Board thanked the Fair Board and Kris and Harvey Braun for the work that has been done.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING – PENDING ISSUE FOR TAX DEED) -  
CANCELLED

Motion by Nate Marvin, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson and unanimously carried to recess at 12:19 p.m. until May 1, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

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Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Clerk

A full audio recording of the Commissioner Meeting is available at the Clerk's Office upon request.