

May 8, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Idaho, does hereby meet this 8th day of May 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 Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nate Marvin gave the invocation.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE/MEETINGS AND REPORTS)

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

Nate Marvin reported that he attended the Fair Board meeting last week. Marvin provided an update on the Area III Agency on Aging Organization.

Gordon Wilkerson provided an update on projects through SREDA (Snake River Economic Development). Wilkerson stated he attended the Weiser Soil Conservation District meeting and provided an update on upcoming projects.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines, to approve a duplicate warrant in the amount of \$25.00 payable to Annie Blanchard. Motion carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to accept the bid submitted by Indianhead Electric, LLC for LED lighting at the fairgrounds. Motion carried. Payment will be issued from the building & grounds budget.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve a second quote submitted by Indianhead Electric, LLC to change out fourteen high bay lights in the livestock barn in the amount of \$2,820.00. Motion carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to allow the Commissioners to sign Letters of Support to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board for improvements to the Galloway Dam. Motion carried.

Gordon Wilkerson moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines, to approve the request for ARPA funding for Midvale School District for secure doors in the amount of \$21,172.00. Motion Carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines, to approve the signing of 2024 Indigent Defense Financial Application. Motion carried.

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For clarification Gordon Wilkerson stated that if there is extra expense incurred over the cost of replacing the Dixie Creek Bridge, the State Historical Society wants to study the preservation of the bridge, and that expense should be covered by the State Historical Society, not county taxpayers or County Road & Bridge.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve a demand warrant payable to Beniton Construction in the amount of \$33,756.13 for the secure entry project. Motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

The minutes of the Board not heretofore approved of May 1, 2023, were approved as corrected.

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 \$223,618.01 for general expenses by a motion of Nate Marvin, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson. Motion carried unanimous.

IN THE MATTER OF JUVENILE PROBATION)

Dahlia Stender, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, met with the Board. Stender requested that the Board approve funding for the Cambridge and Midvale School Districts in the amount of \$500.00 for senior class events. Stender stated the funding would be paid through lottery funds.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve the request for funding for Cambridge and Midvale School Districts in the amount of \$500.00 for their senior parties.

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)

Sam Edwards, Emergency Manager met with the Board. Edwards reported that Washington County is under a Flood Advisory until Tuesday evening. Edwards stated the flow in the Weiser River has decreased. Warmer temperatures are likely to increase run off over the next week.

IN THE MATTER OF ANNEX BUILDING)

Dion Zimmerman met with the Board. Zimmerman provided an update on the proposed remodel of the Annex building. Zimmerman provided a Preliminary Cost Estimate of

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\$3,070,944. Zimmerman stated that he would not recommend adding to the building after employees have been moved to and working in the structure.

Haines inquired if the proposed structure would be a wood frame building. Zimmerman stated that was correct.

Haines stated the additional parking would be a huge benefit to the county offices and customers.

Zimmerman stated he did reach out to the City of Weiser regarding setbacks.

Sheriff Thomas stated he liked the idea of a second floor to be left unfinished.

Zimmerman estimated the second floor would add an additional cost of \$2,000,000.00. Stairs and an elevator would have to be added.

There was discussion of additional parking in front of the courthouse and Justice building.

Zimmerman will report back with additional estimates on items discussed today.

Thomas inquired if there would be a cost to the City of Weiser for additional parking.

Wilkerson stated he has a meeting with Skip Brant, Idaho County Commissioner, later this week regarding the Wolf Reduction Proposal. Wilkerson will report back to the Board.

IN THE MATTER OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY)

Delton Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, met with the Board. Walker discussed cattleguards since it had been previously asked if that would be a taking. Haines stated he did not believe it was a taking. The county would incur the replacement cost.

Walker stated it would only be a taking if the county took it out and did not replace the cattleguards.

There was discussion regarding the terms of a Grazing Lease Agreement with the county. Wilkerson stated the State does prepare leases for a ten-year period.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Nate Marvin to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m. in accordance with I.C. 74-206(1)(c) to conduct deliberations concerning labor negotiations or to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency. Motion carried unanimous. Gordon Wilkerson, Aye; Lyndon Haines, Aye; Nate Marvin, Aye.

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Lyndon Haines stated they were out of executive session at 10:31a.m.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to accept the offer on RP14N03W122300 for the “Salubria Pit” submitted by the McKee brothers in the amount of \$31,000.00. Motion carried.

Walker will prepare a contract for the sale of the property.

IN THE MATTER OF AMBULANCE)

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, 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. 23-29 for general expenses in the amount of \$2,408.30 and Order No. 23-0016 for payroll expenses in the amount of \$25,259.68 was presented to the Board for review.

Smith reported the Ambulance District had twenty-seven calls for service last week which included seven transfers and nine public assists/refusals for care. Smith provided an update on radios and getting the new ambulance in service.

Smith reported a neo-natal training will be held at the ambulance station tomorrow.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve Order No. 23-29 for general expenses in the amount of \$2,408.30. Motion carried.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson, to approve Order No. 23-0016 for payroll expenses in the amount of \$25,259.68. 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 FOREST SERVICES UPDATE)

Jeff Jones, Forest Service District Ranger, met with the Board. Also present were David Vining, Andy Bumgarner and Mandi _____.

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David Vining, Fire Fuels, and Aviation Staff Officer addressed the Board. Vining provided a history of his employment with the Forest Service to the Board. Vining provided a summary of updates to the Board and stated there are currently about twenty vacant positions. Vining stated a new Master Agreement with the State of Idaho has been signed. Vining further stated that the Forest Service has entered into agreements with Adams and Valley Counties through the Good Neighbor Authority program. Methods of fuel management were discussed. Vining stated the Forest Service plans to treat 250,000 to 300,000 acres over the course of 5-10 years to reduce fuels. The Forest Service will be partnering with Montana Conservation Corp, Idaho Conservation Corp, Mule Deer Federation, etc. to help complete the work.

Vining stated the Idaho Master Agreement was signed this year (April) for a five-year term. Vining noted that there are changes to the Agreement and should not affect the response to wild land fires. The Forest Service will continue to send to the closest resource. Vining reviewed a map identifying lines for potential control locations. Vining stated the Forest Service had worked with local agencies to identify the locations.

Vining provided a seasonal outlook and stated there were fifty-four fires last year, and twenty-seven of those occurred in September.

Wilkerson discussed the Four Corners Fire and inquired as to why it was not arrested.

Vining stated that he was the duty officer on the Four Corners Fire and that there were staff on site from beginning to the end. People do the best they can. Vining stated that staff are on duty for 36 hours and there are limitations to human beings and what they can do. Vining informed the group he would be willing to meet with Roy Mink to discuss the situation.

Wilkerson inquired if there was timber coming off the area due to the Four Corners Fire.

Jones stated there were issues in the roadless areas and the Sheep Creek Drainage. Jones stated that 50 to 150 acres of timber will be salvaged in the current sale area.

Vining discussed the annual precipitation and snowpack. Vining informed the Board that an above normal fire season is expected in the Snake River Plain.

Vining informed the Board that the Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association has installed cameras on Brundage and Tamarack. The Forest Service will install cameras on Indian Mountain and Pollock Mountain. The cameras are public facing cameras that can be viewed during an incident.

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Jeff Jones discussed timber sales. Jones stated the Forest Service is collecting data on the Johnson/Goodrich and Ditch Creek areas. Boise Cascade was awarded the Woodhead Timber sale.

Jones provided an update on the Adams Creek area and stated that prescribed burning is to begin soon.

Andy Bumgarner, Range Specialist, stated there would be a minimum effect to the permittees during the prescribed burns. Bumgarner discussed tree planting and the management of the subject areas for grazing, etc.

Mandi discussed the planting of White Bark Pine. Mandi informed the Board that Cuddy Mountain is projected to plant approximately 3,000 total acres, with one hundred acres for White Bark Pine planting. Mandi discussed planting and the areas where planting will take place. Mandi stated that plans for planting White Bark Pine began before the species was listed. Mandi informed the Board that the Forest Service is focused on the most suitable habitat for planting.

Bumgarner stated the Forest Service will meet with permittees regarding the proposed planting locations. Fencing would be a last resort.

Haines discussed the importance of open communications for all involved.

Jones stated the written regulations on White Bark Pine do not prohibit grazing, or vegetative treatments.

Wilkerson inquired if the Board of County Commissioners could be involved in the consulting process with the Forest Service, permittees, and Fish and Game regarding Section 7, Applicant Status.

Bumgarner stated the permittees have written letters stating they want to be a part of the process. Bumgarner informed the Board that he did not believe the process had started yet. Bumgarner further stated that he expected the process to be handled at the regional level. Bumgarner stated that permittees will need to send letters to the regional offices.

Haines inquired if it would be a benefit for the Board to submit a letter, to be part of the process.

Jones will research the matter and report back to the Board regarding drafting a letter.

Wilkerson discussed the snowmobile parking lot.

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Jones stated that the Forest Service does not have access to the suggested area on Seid Creek. Jones stated it could take a couple of years to get an access easement to the private road.

Wilkerson will proceed with contacting the landowner regarding an easement for the purpose of a snowmobile parking lot.

Motion by Lyndon Haines, seconded by Gordon Wilkerson and unanimously carried to recess at 12:14 p.m. until May 15, 2023, at 8:45 a.m.

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk

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