

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2012**

The Elmore County Commissioners met in special session on the above date in the Commissioners Room, basement of the Elmore County Courthouse, 150 South 4th East, Mountain Home, Idaho.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Arlie Shaw, Civil Attorney Buzz Grant, Clerk Barbara Steele, and Deputy Clerk Shelley Hooper. Commissioners Al Hofer and Wes Wootan were present via speaker phone.

Also present were Sheriff Rick Layher, Carol Killian of Disaster Services, Mountain Home City Mayor Tom Rist, Fire Chief Alan Bermensolo, and local fire fighters Larry Jewett and Bud Corbus.

The purpose of the special session was to adopt an Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster in regards to the Trinity Ridge Fire in Elmore County.

Motion by Shaw, second by Hofer, to sign Resolution No. 481-12 Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency in regards to the Trinity Ridge Fire in Elmore County.

SHAW..... -AYE

HOFER..... -AYE

WOOTAN..... -AYE
so ordered.

Motion carried and

RESOLUTION NO. 481-12

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ELMORE COUNTY (the “County”) COMMISSIONERS (the “Board”), STATE OF IDAHO, ON THE 9TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2012, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, TO WIT;

WHEREAS, the Board, pursuant to Idaho Code §46-1011, has the authority to declare a state of local disaster emergency regarding the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the wild fire located in the County, commonly known and referred to as the Trinity Ridge Fire, is a local disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster emergency exists in the County and the County requires state emergency assistance to supplement local efforts to protect life and property and to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local

or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Board requests that the Governor of the State of Idaho, together with the other appropriate state officials, along with other appropriate federal officials, to make such declarations, and provide such assistance within County as required and allowed by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Elmore County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare, pursuant to Idaho Code §46-1011, that a local disaster emergency exists in Elmore County, Idaho; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor of the State of Idaho be advised of this local disaster emergency and is requested to take all action available for the amelioration of the above described local disaster emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Elmore County Recorder be directed to properly file this Resolution pursuant to Idaho Code Section 46-1011 and that the Elmore County Clerk provide prompt and general publicity of this declaration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED , that this Resolution shall remain in effect for seven days, unless it is extended by the Elmore County Board of Commissioners.

Approved as a Resolution of the Elmore County Board of Commissioners effective on this 9th day of August 2012.

ELMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/S/ ARLEN O. SHAW, Chairman

/S/ ALBERT HOFER, Commissioner

/S/ WESLEY R. WOOTAN, Commissioner

ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk

Chairman Shaw explained the Special Enforcement Situations Operating Plan, which is an agreement between Elmore County and the Forest Service. The Elmore County Sheriff's Department will provide officers to guard the roads in the areas affected by the fire. The agreement states that the County will pay the officers then the Forest Service will reimburse the County for the hours worked.

Motion by Shaw, second by Wootan, to accept and sign the Special Enforcement Situations Operating Plan.

SHAW..... -AYE

HOFER..... -AYE

WOOTAN..... -AYE
so ordered.

Motion carried and

Sheriff Rick Layher updated the Board and the audience of the current status of the Trinity Ridge Fire. There was an inversion in the Middle Fork which was causing some fire-fighting issues. A small fire crossed Middle Fork, but it was put out. Now they are trying to hold the fire at Dutch Creek and Swanholm. They are trying to make a burn line around the Rocky Bar area. The weather will be a factor in determining if they can hold the fire and keep it from going into the Featherville area.

Carol Killian discussed the Fire Mitigation Grant application, which will be used to provide resources from other agencies to help with the fire-fighting efforts. The grant cannot be used until there are structures in eminent danger, but Ms. Killian is working with the Bureau of Homeland Security to get everything in place if that time comes. She will keep everyone updated on the progress of the grant approval.

Chief Bermensolo stated he is ready to offer the county support. They already have agreements in place with Idaho Department of Lands for support. He asked if the County would be willing to commit resources and funds to fight the fire without knowing if they would get reimbursed through the grant. If the County waited to get grant approval before committing to the resources, it may be too late for the City fire fighters to help. Chief Bermensolo stated that his fire station can commit two pumpers and a water tender, along with eight fire fighters. He just needs to know that before he sends his crews out, there is workman's compensation and liability insurance in place and compensation to the districts for their help. Ms. Killian stated she is working with the Forest Service and they have a say in who does what in regards to the fire-fighting efforts. Chief Bermensolo stated the Forest Service has nothing to do with structure protection and has asked him for help. That is why he is willing to give any help needed, he just needs all of the pieces in place before he can help. Chairman Shaw explained the how much the reimbursements would be from each government entity if the grant was approved. If the governor approves the grant, the state will pay 50% of the funds. For the federal government to give any funds, there needs to be a certain amount of homes in danger and if approved they will pay 75% of the funds. Ms. Killian is working with the assessor's office to determine exactly how many homes will be in eminent danger. Now the Board needs to determine how much they are willing to spend along with that. Sheriff Layher explained that Valley County was in the same situation. Their Commissioners and Sheriff had to make a decision on what they were and weren't going to protect and decided that, on a worst case scenario basis, they would pay to protect only the structures on the main roads. Any structures off the main roads were not included because they didn't want to endanger fire crews by being stuck off main roads and not being able to escape if they were overcome by the fire. Chairman Shaw stated that the estimated cost may be somewhere in the \$100,000.00 per week range. Chief Bermensolo stated they wouldn't put their crews in place until the threat of the fire hitting Featherville was twelve hours away.

Motion by Wootan, second by Shaw, to commit \$100,000.00 from PILT funds to support fire suppression of the Trinity Ridge Fire.

SHAW..... -AYE

HOFER..... -AYE

WOOTAN..... -AYE
so ordered.

Motion carried and

There was a question of who would be responsible for insurance if one of the firefighters was injured, since they are City firefighters, but are fighting a fire outside of city limits for the County. Mayor Rist stated they need to get clarification from ICRMP on who would be responsible. The City has a mutual aid agreement in place with the Bureau of Land Management which covers the fire fighters, so they may need to have an agreement with the County as well. Sheriff Layher thought the Idaho Department of Lands may already have these agreements in place. Ms. Killian will find the necessary information and report back to the Board.

Sheriff Layher questioned how far past Featherville will Chief Bermensolo’s crews go to fight the fire. Chief Bermensolo stated that they have no forest fire fighting experience, so their main mission is to protect the structures in the Featherville area only. Once his crews get up there, he will work with the safety officers to see where they will be most effective.

Sheriff Layher stated that they did evacuation planning, they have gone to door to door and spoke to residents, and are using a ribbon system to mark that they have alerted each residence. They will go back to each residence again eight hours before an evacuation will occur. The Pine Senior Center will be used as the main evacuation point. If the Senior Center is in jeopardy from the fire, the evacuation point will be moved to the Elks Lodge in Mountain Home.

Motion by Shaw, second by Hofer, to adjourn.

SHAW..... -AYE

HOFER..... -AYE

WOOTAN..... -AYE
so ordered.

Motion carried and

/S/ ARLEN O. SHAW, Chairman

ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk