

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2015

The Elmore County Commissioners met in regular 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 Wes Wootan, Commissioners Bud Corbus and Al Hofer, Civil Attorney Buzz Grant, Clerk Barbara Steele, and Deputy Clerk Shelley Essl.

Chief Master Sergeant Richard Lien, Fire Chief of Mountain Home Air Force Base, Base Fire Marshall Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Osborn and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Curtis appeared to discuss changes that will be taking place at the Air Force Base fire department. The number of firefighting vehicles and manpower will decrease due to the change in the size of the aircrafts that fly in and out of the base. Currently, the aircraft fire protection fleet is capable of protecting any size aircraft that could possibly fly into the base. These fire trucks, which hold 8,000 gallons of water, will be replaced with smaller trucks, which will only hold 1,800 gallons of water, which will be enough water to protect fighter planes or helicopters, but not large aircrafts. In the event a pilot of a large aircraft would need to land at the base, the tower would notify the pilot that they would be landing at a significant risk. There are Mutual Aid Agreements already in place with off base fire departments to provided additional resources. Currently, the structure fire protection fleet consists of three 1,250 gallon engines and a 5,000 gallon tanker. This fleet will be reduced to just two engines. They will still be able to cover all probable structure fire scenarios with just the two engines. Since October, manpower cuts have been made, from 69 firefighters to 54 fire fighters. This, along with the decrease in fire trucks and water capabilities, will affect their ability to assist off base departments as they have in the past, but they will still assist to their fullest extent. The major concern now is that they will be limited to a single emergency at a time. If there is a structure fire, they will have to recall firefighters to standby in case of a simultaneous incident such as a fighter plane fire. Chief Master Sergeant Lien stated that this is a public education process and he has spoken with Mountain Home Fire Chief and other surrounding agencies to let them know of the transition at the base. The Air Force is also taking a more aggressive approach to wildland firefighting by establishing four regional teams which will spread out and offer support across the country.

Sheriff Department Chief Deputy Mike Barclay appeared. Commissioner Corbus discussed an issue with Oasis Fire Department and the Orchard Training Center. The Oasis Fire Department will no longer be dispatched to vehicle fires on the interstate due to staffing issues, so Orchard will be dispatched to respond to the fires in that area. Oasis members were wondering if they could be notified of these fires so they can be prepared to respond in the event the fire gets out of control and comes into the Oasis area. Deputy Barclay stated that dispatch will not give a "courtesy" notification to Oasis, but in the event the fire does head into Oasis, then they will be notified immediately. Deputy Barclay reviewed a draft contract for Sheriff Department services at the upcoming County Music Festival.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the minutes for March 9, 2015.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Catalina M. Garcia and Christine M. Hammond.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of \$361.37, payable to Pine Resort, LLC.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Pest Abatement District Expenses in the amount of \$8,000.00, payable to Animal Damage Control – District 2.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Vivian Garcia, Elections Clerk, appeared to review the results of the March 10, 2015 Bruneau/Grandview Joint School District No. 365 Levy Election.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the canvass of the March 10, 2015 Bruneau/Grandview Joint School District No. 365 Levy Election.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the liquor license for the Glens Ferry Moose Lodge No. 1446 Inc.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to add to the agenda the assessment for water rights for Hammett Public Park.

WOOTAN..... -**AYE**

CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Clerk Steele spoke with Corbin Knowles, Watermaster for State Water District No. 2, regarding a bill she received for watermaster services on Hammett Public Park, which is on county owned property. Mr. Knowles stated that the county will be billed \$50.00 per year for the water rights. The county has water rights to 9.8 acres of water from the Snake River, which can be used to irrigate the property, but a flow meter will need to be installed first.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office and Jon Kieffer, Elmore Soil and Water Conservation District, appeared to discuss the Pest Abatement District Board. Mr. Kieffer stated that the Pest Abatement District Board trustees do not meet on a regular basis, and he feels they need regular meetings to advise Mr. Seyedbagheri on pest abatement issues instead of Mr. Seyedbagheri micromanaging the department on his own. Mr. Seyedbagheri stated that his department has done excellent work for the county and does not feel that the department needs to be run any differently. Mr. Seyedbagheri and Mr. Kieffer had met with the commissioners at their September 23, 2014 meeting to discuss the same issue and it was decided that they would meet to resolve the issues that each party had. Mr. Seyedbagheri stated that he tried to meet with Mr. Kieffer and the meeting never happened. Discussion followed. It was decided that the five appointed pest abatement district trustee will be removed and the county commissioners will become the trustees which will advise Mr. Seyedbagheri on pest abatement issues.

Attorney Mike Creamer, appeared to discuss the proposed raising of Arrow Rock Dam and the possible acquisition of water rights. Commissioner Corbus explained the critical water situation in Elmore County and the importance of Elmore County obtaining a portion of the extra water that will be generated by the raising of the dam. Commissioner Hofer stated that economic development and growth in Mountain Home has also been hindered due to the lack of water available to new business prospects. Attorney Creamer stated that the Snake River may be a potential source of water for the Mountain Home area and that SPF Water Engineering commissioned studies to see if there is water available and what it would cost to bring the water into Mountain Home. The water feasibility study being done by the Idaho Department of Water Resources was discussed. Attorney Creamer discussed the steps the board should take in starting the process of acquiring the water rights.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and authorize Chairman Wootan to sign three Quit Claim Deeds between Elmore County and James K. Steelsmith and Carol S. Steelsmith for the purchase of the following county owned tax deed parcels: RPA3S06E2522715A, RP03S06E288100A and RPA3S06E353140A.

WOOTAN -**AYE**
CORBUS -**AYE**
HOFFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(d) – 31-874 to discuss indigent applications. Roll call vote was taken.

WOOTAN..... **-AYE**
CORBUS..... **-AYE**
HOFER..... **-AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed. The following decision was made as a result of the Executive Session:

K-02-15-01 Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve with a reimbursement order of \$75.00 per month beginning 9/15/15 and 50% of federal and state income tax refunds as payment.

WOOTAN..... **-AYE**
CORBUS..... **-AYE**
HOFER..... **-AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

A draft of a mutual aid agreement between Elmore County Extrication Department and the Orchard Training Center for rescue services on a specific stretch of interstate 84 was reviewed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to adjourn for lunch.

WOOTAN..... **-AYE**
CORBUS..... **-AYE**
HOFER..... **-AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.

County Prosecutor Kristina Schindele, Sheriff Rick Layher and Chief Deputy appeared to discuss litigation matters.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(d) to discuss litigation matters. Roll call vote was taken.

WOOTAN..... **-AYE**
CORBUS..... **-AYE**
HOFER..... **-AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed. No decision was made as a result of the Executive Session.

Clerk Steele reviewed the possibility of refinancing the jail bond.

Monthly billing invoices from the Public Defender’s office were discussed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to adjourn.

WOOTAN..... -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
HOFER -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ WESLEY R. WOOTAN, Chairman
ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk