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 Al Hofer, Commissioners Bud Corbus and Wes Wootan, Civil Attorney Buzz Grant, Clerk Barbara Steele, and Deputy Clerk Shelley Hooper.

Dewey Crane, Snake River Rubbish, appeared to update the board. He would like to build a wing fence around the Hammett transfer site to keep the trash from blowing around the area. He would like to hire a part time employee for three months, from mid March until mid June to split his time between the King Hill and Hammett transfer sites to educate people on what can and can’t be dropped there. He feels this may help with keeping the transfer sites cleaner and more organized. Mr. Crane stated that the cost of the part time employee will be approximately $1,300 per month. He would hire the person as his employee and request reimbursement from the county.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the minutes for February 18, 2014.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the bill for the Atlanta Highway District for Arrowrock Road, 7 hours-service truck & rock rake, 1 hour-grader and 2 hours-loader, in the amount of $457.50.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Wintauna Belt, Boise National Forest, appeared to update the board of some Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) proposals she will be submitting for repair projects and asked for letters of support to submit with the applications.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of $139.00, payable to RTI.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the request from the Idaho Wool Growers Association to re-appoint Steve Damele as the director from Elmore County to the District #2 Animal Damage Control Board.
Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Jennifer R. Hitchings, Megan Marie Klosek, Bradley Edward Roach, Trixi Sanchez and Kalleen Hope Hodgerson.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The monthly department heads meeting was held.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared. He took the Extrication Operations class last week at fire school, which is one of the requirements for his application to be an extrication instructor. Call volumes have been down.

Wade Baumgardner, Veteran Services Officer, appeared to update the board. This month they have had several requests for funeral reimbursements and requests for Aid and Attendance to help defray costs of nursing home care. Agent Orange claims continue to be filed as there is no time limit for submission of these claims. This month he has assisted thirty one veterans, spouses and family members with specific VA issues.

Mir Seyedbagheri, County Agent, sent the board a written monthly update.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, appeared to give his monthly update. They currently have an agreement with Owyhee County to do building inspections in a portion of their county. Mr. Christy was informed last week that Owyhee County has just implemented a resolution reducing the cost of their building permits by forty percent. This reduction will not make it feasible for his office to continue to do building permits in Owyhee County without affecting the taxpayers of Elmore County. Mr. Christy was not informed of this reduction before it was implemented. According to the agreement, Elmore County can give thirty days notice to terminate the agreement. He has told Owyhee County that he intends to bring this to the board and has requested that the board make a motion to terminate the agreement.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to terminate the building inspection services agreement between Owyhee County and Elmore County signed October 10, 2012 and authorize Alan Christy to provide the required notice to Owyhee County.

Motion carried and so ordered.
Mr. Christy is looking into sending three of his staff members to attend Code Enforcement training in Nampa on April 22-24, 2014. Informational items regarding rebuilding after the 2013 wildfires were discussed. Chairman Hofer asked Mr. Christy to put together a breakdown of fees necessary for an individual to rebuild after a wildfire. The Comprehensive Plan draft is out for public comment until April 4, 2014. His department has received comments from Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho Power and Bonneville Power Administration.

Katie Ashby, Drug Court Coordinator, and Emma Landers appeared and reviewed their current stats. Currently, they have twenty seven participants with four pending. Twenty one of these participants are employed and there is one with employment starting March 4th. Anyone not employed volunteers a minimum of twenty hours per week, completes five hours of documented job search and must submit ten applications per week. Two participants graduated from the program last month. May is National Drug Court month and they are hoping to have another graduation then. They will be holding their third annual softball tournament. The drug court grant will be finished this year. Clerk Steele asked if there is any other funding available. Ms. Ashby stated that they can extend some of the participant services for up to a year. These are funds left from the grant that had not been spent in the first quarter, but once they are gone, there will be no more available funds from that grant. She has been checking into other funding sources, but has not yet found any.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, appeared and reviewed his community service report. Their case load numbers remain the same. They still have a high number of pending cases and a high number of “high needs” juveniles. He will be making some changes to his Policy and Procedures Manual in the next few months.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared. She received the last piece of equipment for the Emergency Operations Command (EOC) data lines and all of the lines should be installed next week. She has a new computer system called Thin Clients installed, with the system running through the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS). All backup information will also be stored with BHS, in the event that the county’s computer system goes down during an emergency. She is also working in some grant funding for new furniture of the EOC and dispatch area. The Emergency Operations Plan will be going to an agency based plan structured on a smaller scale, targeted more to what counties can do during a disaster. Prairie now has a new fire chief. They currently do not have much equipment. Ms. Killian is researching what kind of funding they can get for radios and special project funding once they establish their needs. Blacks Creek Road is stilled closed. Logging trucks have torn the wet road apart, so the Mountain Home Highway District is waiting for it to dry out before reopening the road. Ms. Killian discussed special projects money, which is leftover grant money. She has applied for some special projects money to hire a helicopter to take a repeater to Dog Mountain and has been in contact with Stephany Church at the Forest Service regarding this project.
Alan Lawler, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), appeared and updated the board of the projects he is working on. He attended the RC&D meeting last week and heard of several preliminary projects in the county.

Bill Wenner, Misdemeanor Probation, sent the board a written monthly update.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Assessor Ron Fisher appeared. Taxpayers are still coming in to file for homeowner’s exemptions and circuit breaker tax reductions. They are also working on valuations for the ratio study. He hasn’t gotten any response from US Bank following the denial of their request for a tax refund.

Treasurer Rose Plympton appeared. Her office is still working on tax deed properties. They currently have thirty six tax deed properties, but are trying to work with people to reduce that number. She stated that many people are walking away from the properties, as they are not able to sell the bare parcels.

Clerk Steele’s office will be holding a school levy election on March 11, 2014.

Sheriff Rick Layher, Chief Deputy Mike Barclay and Jail Commander Shauna Kellerman, appeared to update the board. Deputy Barclay stated that the total number of “in custody” at the jail as of today is ninety. He is hoping that the number of “in custody” will continue to rise. He was told that the state would rather pay in state fees then housing prisoners out of state. Currently, the state pays $40.00 per day to the counties for housing prisoners, and the federal government pays $57.00 per day for housing federal prisoners. There is legislation trying to be passed to raise the state fee to $50.00 per day. Deputy Barclay discussed some issues at the Pine sub-station. He would like to have an overhang built over the propane and gas tanks. When it snows, the tanks get plowed in and the gas company must shovel out the tanks before they can be filled. The side door to the sheriff’s bay opens out and when it snows, the door can’t be opened due to piled up snow. Chairman Hofer stated that the roof can be extended out to cover the door and resolve the issue. Inside the building on the main floor, there are large air bubbles popping up throughout the vinyl flooring, causing a tripping hazard. The Badger Medical contract was discussed. Commissioner Corbus stated that there are some items in the contract that have not been followed up with. Attorney Grant will review the contract and make sure that all items are being addressed. Mental health evaluations were discussed. Currently, Badger Medical will do a mental health evaluation and send the prisoner to Boise for follow up treatment, and the county is responsible for paying for those services. The board may want to put the contract out for bid, so Attorney Grant suggested first seeking interest from other companies, and he can prepare a packet of the requirements for review by interested parties before putting the contract out for bid. Sheriff Layher agrees with bidding out the contract, but would like the current parameters kept in place if there were a new company contracted. Deputy Barclay discussed the dispatch agreement with the City of Mountain Home and the contract with the City of Glenns Ferry for law enforcement. He will attend the next Glenns Ferry council meeting and also speak
with Mountain Home’s police chief and let them know that the county will be requesting a 3% raise for this year. Sheriff Layher stated that the Glenns Ferry city council questioned if the city dog catcher is called out to help the sheriff’s department, who would be responsible for worker’s comp if they are injured while called out for the county. Attorney Grant stated that if the dog catcher is a Glenns Ferry City employee, they will be covered by the city’s insurance. Deputy Barclay discussed rent reimbursement for the two deputies hired for the Pine area. Commissioner Hofer was under the impression that the deputies would be staying at the sub-station and not renting cabins. Deputy Barclay stated that they will not be staying at the sub-station and both have already rented places. One deputy is renting the “Dodge” cabin, which has been rented by previous deputies, and the other is currently living in a 5th wheel behind Nitz store until the cabin he intends to rent becomes available. Chairman Hofer is now concerned with the county paying $1,200 per month in rent for these two deputies and feels that more discussion needs to be held to come up with a more suitable long term solution to this issue. Sheriff Layher stated that this has always been an issue, especially in long term situations, or if the deputies have families. Sheriff Layher will research what fair compensation would be, be it an increased rent compensation or a salary increase, since the living situation is so much different in the Pine area. Deputy Barclay questioned where the cost of the shelving for jail storage building will be coming from. Chairman Hofer stated that the shelving cost needs to come out of the jail maintenance budget. Ms. Keller asked if a loft and stairs can be built in the storage building for extra storage. Chairman Hofer stated that if they can budget for the materials, maintenance can build the loft area.

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

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.

Harold and Vanda Johnson, Jody and John Wert and Russ and Sue Johnson appeared to discuss the Pine Senior Center ground and building lease agreement. They are paying roughly $3,000.00 per year for insurance coverage on the building. Attorney Grant suggested the county explore insuring the building. Clerk Steele will send the building specs to ICRMP and get a quote for the insurance. Attorney Grant reviewed the provisions of the lease agreement. The county owns the property and the Senior Center will be responsible for maintaining the building. There is a provision in the deed that the building must be used for a senior center. Attorney Grant feels that the lease agreement needs to be put into place to insure each party’s interest in the property and the building. Discussion followed regarding the permitted use of the property and insurance coverage. Attorney Grant will continue to work with the board members of the Senior Center to make sure everything regarding the property is in order.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(b) to discuss a personnel issue. Roll call vote was taken.

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

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

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

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

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed. The following decisions were made as a result of the Executive Session:

K-01-14-05 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to approve for dates of service 12/7/13 through 1/10/14 with a reimbursement order of $100.00 per month to begin on May 15, 2014 and 50% of Federal and State income tax refunds as payment, and to deny for the treatment plan received on 2/20/14 as it is incomplete and untimely filed.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

K-01-14-06 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to suspend pending the outcome of case K-12-13-02.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department, appeared to review proposed fee reductions for those residents whose homes were destroyed in the wildfires and will be rebuilding on the land.

Public Defender Terry Ratliff appeared to discuss his contract with the county. Mr. Ratliff reviewed his year-end report with the board. The board asked for clarification on how many employees he has and what his expenses are for the year. He has a staff of five. He pays for his attorney’s continuing education classes, but does not pay for travel or lodging. He also does not pay for health insurance. Clerk Steele addressed the fact that one of his attorney’s does part time work for drug court, and the drug court grant will be finished this year, so Mr. Ratliff will no longer be receiving compensation for that. Attorney Grant asked if there were any way Mr. Ratliff could reduce his budget to save the county some expenses. Discussion followed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the expenses in the amount of $118,701.18.

**HOFER** ........................................................ -AYE
**CORBUS** ........................................................ -AYE
Attorney Grant updated the board of the Arrowrock Road situation. The Atlanta Highway District has billed Boise County for winter maintenance per the agreement and has not gotten any payments from them. They have also sent Boise County several memos regarding Arrowrock Road maintenance and have yet to receive any responses.

Attorney Grant spoke with Mountain Home Fire Chief Alan Bermensolo regarding revisions to the burn ban. He is still waiting to hear from Stephany Church of the Forest Service.

The possibility of hiring a human resources officer to work part time with the county and part time with the City of Mountain Home was discussed.

Discussion regarding the public defender’s contract and annual expenses was revisited.

Senator Bert Brackett called into the meeting to update the board of the legislation he is working on regarding the Arrowrock road issue. Currently, Senate Bill 1360 deals with the issue of when road maintenance is not being done, a petition can be filed with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and if approved, ITD will do the maintenance or contract with another agency. The bill is on the agenda for a hearing tomorrow. He will follow up with the board of the outcome.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to adjourn.

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ ALBERT HOFER, Chairman
ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk