

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

JULY 28, 2014

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.

Robert Sandberg, of Alternative Power Development, Northwest, LLC, appeared to discuss a solar wind farm project and ask the board for support for the project. The 80 MW solar project will be located in the Grand View area. It will be built on 560 acres of farmland that has been out of production for five years. It is scheduled to be completed before the end of 2015. The project will provide up to three hundred constructions jobs during the twelve month construction, and will result in the hiring of permanent full-time maintenance specialists. The solar farm will generate an estimated \$400,000.00 per year in property taxes to Elmore County. Mr. Sandberg reviewed the construction of the sight and the environmental benefits it will provide. Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department, also appeared and reviewed the project approvals that were handled through the Planning and Zoning Department. He stated that a draining plan and building permits still need to be obtained. Mr. Sandberg stated that Idaho Power has approved the solar farm and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will soon be taking public comment on the project. He is requesting a letter of support from the board to present to the PUC.

The monthly Department Heads meeting was held.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department, gave his monthly report to the board. The building inspector will be taking his commercial exam this week. Mr. Christy reviewed the Planning and Zoning Handbook with the board and asked for their comments. Sixteen building permits were issued for July 2014. There are currently three pending building permits. There are thirty eight active code enforcement investigations, up from thirty six active the previous month. Mr. Christy will follow up with Idaho Power regarding the earlier discussion of the solar wind farm project.

Wade Baumgardner, Veterans Service Officer, appeared and updated the board. He has been busy assisting several veterans with claim appeals and he is still diligently working on the "Atomic" veteran's claim. Since the last meeting, he has assisted twenty two veterans, spouses and family members with specific VA issues.

Sheriff Rick Layher appeared to update the board. The issue of the dangerous curve on Highway 20 was discussed. The increase in the ILETS contract was reviewed. ILETS is the state computer system that the sheriff's deputies use to check driver history. The Command Vehicle Policy was reviewed.

The monthly department head meeting continued.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared. Mr. Dye reviewed the caseload report. There is an increase of fourteen cases from last month. He also reviewed the community service report. He is currently looking to hire a new community service work crew officer. The JABG Block Grant was reviewed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve and authorize Chairman Hofer to sign the FY2013 JABG Block Grant for Juvenile Probation.

HOFER -AYE

CORBUS -AYE

WOOTAN -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

Mr. Dye also requested an overtime line item of \$10,000.00 be included in his budget. He stated that he is trying to keep the overtime hours low by using a flex time system or comp time. Chairman Hofer and Clerk Steele explained how other departments keep their comp time down and suggested M. Dye do the same.

Jennifer Crogg, Misdemeanor Probation, appeared. The total number of clients on probation is one hundred eighty. As of this date, nine clients were added to the case load and four clients were released or terminated from probation. The number of conditional release clients is thirty seven and there are five restitution cases. There are thirty seven clients enrolled in community services, which is the number of clients on unsupervised probation only.

Emma Scott-Landers, Drug Court, appeared. Currently, there are twenty eight participants in the program. She will be starting three new participants tomorrow and there are three additional people on a waiting list for the program. She reviewed the community service report. She will be meeting with Judge Hicks to research future grant funding. There will be three participants graduating on August 12th.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared to update the board. The Command Vehicle policy was discussed. The chairs have been put in the EOC and she is still working on getting a few new computers and new filing cabinets. She has completed the Forest Service billing for last year's fires. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is doing an audit of equipment purchased with grant funding. Ms. Killian has notified each department having this equipment. She will be attending a disaster exercise on August 20th, in preparation for the air show.

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

Clerk Steele reviewed some final budget requests. A full time position will be added into the Assessor's Office budget. Increasing a position from part time to full time will be added into the Sheriff's Office budget.

The monthly Elected Officials meeting was held.

Clerk Steele, Assessor Ron Fisher, Treasurer Rose Plympton and Prosecuting Attorney Kristina Schindele appeared.

Treasurer Plympton’s office is still working on tax collections and will be sending out distraint warrants on Friday.

Attorney Schindele’s office is busy. They have had several felony cases added in the past few weeks. She will be holding interviews next week for the Drug Court Coordinator position.

Assessor Fisher’s office is still signing residents up for homeowner’s exemptions. The appraisers and mappers will be attending classes to keep up with their certifications.

Clerk Steele has been busy finalizing the FY2015 budget.

The jail audit was discussed.

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

HOFER	-AYE	
CORBUS	-AYE	
WOOTAN	-AYE	Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.

Brian Chevalier appeared. He was hired as the new Pine EMS Supervisor. The start date for the position and the job requirements were reviewed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve and sign the Jail Food Provider Contract with ABL Management.

HOFER	-AYE	
CORBUS	-AYE	
WOOTAN	-AYE	Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve and sign the AT&T Cell Tower lease agreement for the Elmore County Fairgrounds.

HOFER	-AYE	
CORBUS	-AYE	
WOOTAN	-AYE	Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, 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-06-14-05 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to approve with a reimbursement order of \$50.00 per month and 50% of Federal and State tax refunds as payment.

HOFER -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
WOOTAN..... -AYE **Motion carried and so ordered.**

K-06-14-06 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as the applicant failed to appear at subpoenaed interview appointment and failed to cooperate to determine eligibility.

HOFER -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
WOOTAN..... -AYE **Motion carried and so ordered.**

K-06-14-07 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as the applicant is not indigent per Idaho code and has discretionary income to pay the bills over five years.

HOFER -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
WOOTAN..... -AYE **Motion carried and so ordered.**

K-06-14-08 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as the applicant has sufficient assets to pay the medical bills and is not indigent per Idaho Code.

HOFER -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
WOOTAN..... -AYE **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Juvenal Emmanuel Beltran, Shelby L. Sloan, Corena Celeste Wright, Michael D. Leopard and Jason H. Turner.

HOFER -AYE
CORBUS -AYE
WOOTAN..... -AYE **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the expenses in the amount of \$76,647.51.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

The board discussed the Treasure Valley Transit (TVT) request for a contribution to help fund the public transportation service in the City of Mountain Home. The board feels that TVT needs to research other funding options, such as forming a taxing district or possibly increasing the fee to ride the bus from \$1.00 to \$2.00. They can also meet with local businesses and request contributions. It was stated that the county is already committed to supporting several county entities and organizations and realistically, the county cannot contribute to everything, due to budget constraints.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to adjourn.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ ALBERT HOFER, Chairman

ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk