

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

NOVEMBER 24, 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.

Mountain Home City Mayor Tom Rist and Police Chief Nick Schilz appeared to discuss taking animals to the shelter. The city has an agreement with the Mountain Home Air Force Base that states the air force base will pay the city \$35.00 for each animal taken to the animal shelter by a resident of the air force base. Chief Schilz stated that stray animals are brought in from other areas of the county by residents or shelter workers and the shelter is not currently charging for the strays being dropped off. The board suggested that the county could pay \$10.00 for each stray animal brought into the shelter. Chief Schilz stated that any help from the county would be appreciated. Discussion followed regarding the various costs incurred at the shelter and the expense of running the shelter each year. Attorney Grant will draft an agreement for review by the board and the city. Mayor Rist stated that the city received a donation from a Mountain Home resident to build a new animal shelter. The new shelter is located near the municipal airport, across the street from Knight’s Veterinary Clinic and is scheduled to open at the beginning of the year.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the minutes for November 17, 2014.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to add to the agenda and discuss a change in the administration at St. Luke’s Elmore Hospital, as the information was received after the agenda was posted.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Commissioner Corbus attended a meeting at St. Luke’s Elmore on Thursday and was informed that the hospital administrator had been terminated. Trish Senger was named the interim administrator, while several other significant changes are being made. Ms. Senger will appear this afternoon to update the board.

The monthly department head meeting was held.

Jennifer Crogg, Misdemeanor Probation, was in court, but provided a written monthly update for the board.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, appeared to update the board. Commissioner Wootan asked about research regarding potato production. Mr. Seyedbagheri explained that once potato school is completed, he is on a committee that meets and follows up with any requests made by growers. Employees comp time hours were discussed.

Wade Baumgardner, Veterans Service Officer, appeared. He attended the Veterans Day Services at the Mountain Home Cemetery and at the Glenns Ferry War Memorial Hall. The Mountain Home City Mayor signed a formal declaration for Veterans Day honoring all veterans and encouraging the public to take part in all of the day's ceremonies. He participated in a Department of Veterans Affairs Town Hall meeting on November 20th conducted at the Elmore County War Memorial Hall. Mr. Baumgardner was informed that when a POW or a "Medal of Honor" recipient dies, their benefit amount they were receiving "dies" with them and are not transferred on to survivors. However, if the veteran dies of a service connected disability, then the survivor is still eligible for Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC). He has assisted thirty one veterans, spouses and/or family members with specific VA issues in the past month.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared. Mr. Dye reviewed the caseload report and stated that they continue to have several cases pending. There caseload is particularly busy as one of his probation officers will be attending the academy for three weeks, starting next week. Mr. Dye reviewed the community service report which now includes the visitor center's new bike path.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared. They were busy during last week's winter weather, but thankfully they didn't have any major incidents. Mr. Roberts would like to increase the amount of reimbursement each member gets when responding to an incident. Currently, the reimbursement is \$10.00 per run. Mr. Roberts stated that he has only used half of these funds he had budgeted for the year and would like to increase the reimbursement to \$15.00 per run. He feels that he can still keep within the same budgeted amount after the increase. The board will discuss the increase and let him know. Mr. Roberts met with the Assistant Chief for the Orchard Training Center regarding emergency services on a stretch of Interstate 84. He stated that the Assistant Chief understands that unless there is a fire on the interstate in Elmore County, Orchard will not respond to any emergency situation unless they are requested to do so by Elmore County. They are working on putting a mutual aid agreement in place.

Sheriff's Deputy Bob Peace appeared to discuss the Drug Court probation officer position. Currently, part of the probation officer's salary and benefits are being paid by grant funding, which will run out at the end of the year. Since new grant funding has not been secured, the probation officer's hours will be decreased to thirty hours per week. Mr. Peace feels that the Drug Court Program is extremely important to Elmore County and needs a full time probation officer on staff, so he would like the board to reconsider their decision and keep the probation officer at forty hours per week.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared to update the board. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) now has an online system to apply for grants. It will take more time to apply

for the grants until she learns the system. Starting in September 2015, if the county purchases anything with grant funds, the funding will go directly to Elmore County instead of going through BHS.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, appeared. He received a Disclaimer of Interest application from the Idaho Department of Lands regarding the strip of state land running along the Hammett Boat Ramp property. The board authorized Mr. Christy to submit the application for the high water mark so the boat ramp project can move forward. Mr. Christy met with the Mountain Home Highway District and the City of Mountain Home regarding Bradford Street. The highway district will only bring it up to gravel road standard and is not willing to pave it or maintain it. The city wants the road paved and a fifty foot right-of-way. The highway district is also waiting for trees to be removed before they will proceed with any work. Chairman Hofer knows of an individual who is willing to remove the trees at no charge to the county. He will then follow up with the highway district once the trees are removed. Mr. Christy is making some minor changes to the Comprehensive Plan and will get the final draft to the board once he is finished. He has also made some minor changes to the RV Ordinance and will present the board the ordinance amendment for their review and approval. Mr. Christy has advertised to fill a vacant position on the Planning and Zoning board and he did receive an email from current member Patti Osborn requesting to stay on as a member.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to retain Patti Osborn as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Mr. Christy stated that building permits have declined, but he feels it is due to the recent cold weather. There are five pending building permits.

Shawna Kellerman, Jail Commander, appeared to update the board. There are currently ninety eight inmates in the jail. She is waiting for quotes to install video in the cell blocks. Maximum capacity of the jail was discussed.

Rena Kerfoot, Fair Board, appeared. She attended a fair board convention in Montana. She made several new contacts, and learned a lot from veteran fair board members. She met with several entertainment vendors as well and got ideas on how to bring big fair entertainment to a small venue. She is working on scheduling a carnival for early July and the fair board is also discussing moving the fair to one week later.

Emma Scott-Landers, Drug Court Coordinator, appeared to update the board. She has finished the paperwork for the grant extension request. Once it is approved by the board, she will submit it for final authorization. The balance of grant funding left over will be used to fund the coordinator and probation officer positions for one more quarter, training for drug court team members and several new pieces of

equipment. Several other budget items were reviewed. As of January 1st, the probation officer position will revert back to only thirty hours per week, instead of forty hours, due to lack of grant funding. Ms. Scott-Landers stated that she has done extensive research for funding, and has found nothing currently available, but the new grant funding cycle starting in January, so she is hoping she may find something then. The cost of the hourly wage and benefits for the extra ten hours for the probation officer was discussed. Ms. Scott-Landers feels it will be detrimental to the drug court program if the probation officer goes back to thirty hours per week and would like to request that the county fund the ten hours until she can secure grant funding. Six participants graduated from the program last week. Currently, there are twenty three participants in the program and there are several individuals pending entrance into the program. Two community service projects have been completed, the Recovery Celebration and the Community Baby Shower.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Assessor Ron Fisher appeared. His office is concentrating on new constructions and is getting ready to do the occupancy roll for December. The Glens Ferry DMV office will be opened five days a week starting December 1st. He will be working with Sheriff Layher to implement driver's license renewals in the Glens Ferry office as well. Commissioner Corbus asked what the requirements are for certain hospital buildings to be considered taxable or tax exempt. Assessor Fisher stated that he had done an investigation of St. Luke's Elmore properties last year and will bring that documentation to the board.

Clerk Steele updated the board of the Idaho Association of Counties ICE training conference she attended.

Sheriff Rick Layher appeared. The Drug Court program and the probation officer salary were discussed. Sheriff Layher stated that he has several drug seizure vehicles that he will be auctioning off in the coming months. The money from the vehicle sales can be used to help supplement the shortage of the salary.

The funding of the Drug Court probation officer's salary was revisited.

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

HOFER -**AYE**

CORBUS -**AYE**

WOOTAN -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to add to the agenda Idaho Waste Systems and the letter of credit, as the issue came up after the agenda was posted.

HOFER -**AYE**

CORBUS -**AYE**

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

Ronda and Randy Avery, Idaho Waste Systems, appeared to discuss the annual letter of credit. The letter of credit is used in the event the landfill needs to be closed. Ms. Avery explained the regulations that must be followed to close a landfill.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Kylie Renae Bradshaw, Ryan Jeffrey Goins, Madeline Ann Karst and Cicily D. Brenenstahl.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of \$234.43, payable to Thrifty Car Sales-\$94.95 and RTI-\$139.48

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the Pest Abatement District Expenses in the amount of \$2,270.93, payable to Centurylink-\$36.07, Stephenson Computer Consulting-\$1,266.74, Mountain Home Auto Parts-\$42.82 and Bastida Auto Repair-\$925.30.

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

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-11-14-02 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as not medical necessary or emergent per the medical review, and not the last resource. The applicant should apply for health insurance through the exchange.

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

K-10-14-04 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as not indigent, imputed income and lifestyle issues.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Trish Senger, St. Luke’s Elmore, appeared. Greg Maurer, hospital administrator has been let go and Ms. Senger will be the acting administrator until the position is filled. The board has concerns regarding the fact that St. Luke’s is in charge of the county’s ambulance services and asked that Ms. Senger keep them informed of the resolution of the issue.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the expenses in the amount of \$113,999.53.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to add to the agenda, approve and authorize Chairman Hofer to sign the Drug Court Grant Award Adjustment paperwork.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to keep the Drug Court probation officer at forty hours per week and pay the wages and benefits on a month to month basis until grant funding can be found to cover the extra ten hours plus benefits per week. The Drug Court coordinator and probation officer are directed to use their best efforts to collect all fees due from drug court participants.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to adjourn.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ ALBERT HOFER, Chairman

ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk