

## COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 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 4<sup>th</sup> East, Mountain Home, Idaho.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Al Hofer, Commissioner Wes Wootan, Civil Attorney Buzz Grant, Clerk Barbara Steele, and Deputy Clerk Shelley Hooper. Commissioner Corbus was not present.

Michael Simmonds and Steven Turney, representing ZGA Architects, and Judge David Epis, appeared to discuss a courthouse assessment. Chairman Hofer explained that the county is lacking space and would like to have a plan in place for a future courthouse addition, as well as utilizing the current county buildings and office spaces. Mr. Turney stated that they have plenty of experience doing remodels of courtrooms and judge's chambers in historic buildings. Their initial plan will be that they will assess all of the county's buildings and available space, look at the structure of the courthouse and review the electrical, heating and cooling systems. From there they will prioritize jobs, so any remodeling or additions will be done in an orderly fashion. The board would like to put an addition behind the original courthouse to house the courtrooms and organize pertinent offices in the original building. Mr. Simmonds stated that during the assessment, they would speak with department heads and elected official to get input on what offices should be located near each other to produce the best flow between the offices. Mr. Turney stated that since the courthouse is a historical building, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHIPO) will also be involved in the entire process. Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, will prepare a site plan of the courthouse and surrounding county properties and forward it to ZGA. Discussion followed.

The monthly department heads meeting was held.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, appeared to update the board. His staff previewed a building permit computer program and found that the program also works well for code enforcement projects and for the tracking and storing of documents. Mr. Christy would like to get the program installed sometime in the next few months. He stated that this has been the busiest month the office has had in several years. Sixteen building permits were issued for October 2014 and there are currently four pending permits. Mr. Christy anticipates building permits to stay steady through the month of November. There are currently twenty nine active code enforcement investigations, down from thirty five active the previous month. Mr. Christy reviewed information regarding the Hammett Boat Ramp project and a strip of land located between the county owned property and the river. Some investigation found that the strip of land is more than likely state owned and should not interfere with the project moving forward. There will be a Planning & Zoning (P&Z) meeting regarding an RV ordinance next Wednesday. Mr. Christy received an email from current P&Z member Patti Osborn, requesting to continue her position on the P&Z Commission. He has not received any other applications for the position as of yet.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared and updated the board. They only had four calls this past month. He anticipates that the calls will start to increase as the winter weather arrives.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, appeared to update the board. Mr. Seyedbagheri explained his research on the effects of humic substances on potato yield and quality, which showed a 23% increase in relation to control. He will be speaking at Idaho Association of Counties webinar on November 12, 2014, in Boise. Mr. Seyedbagheri discussed his part time pest department employee and it was decided that the employee will become full time in the pest department.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared. The county has received the reimbursed for Pony fire, but the Elk fire is an FMAG, so it will take another year to receive that reimbursement. She attended a two day class at the Emergency Operations Center on how to improve emergency responses. She attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting and learned that the fighter fighting manpower on the Air Force base has been cut. Ms. Killian was told that the Bureau of Homeland Security may hold a training class regarding next year's music festival in Pine. The class will center on the possibility of a mass casualty event at the festival.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared. Mr. Dye reviewed his case load report. Currently, they have one hundred seven cases. Mr. Dye discussed the issue of overtime due to the PO's having to write lengthy reports. The administrative assistant is not available to assist in completing the reports, as she has various other duties and a full work load, so Mr. Dye purchased a transcription program to assist the PO's with the reports. So far, the program is working well and slowly decreasing the time spent on writing the reports. Mr. Dye also reviewed the community service report.

Emma Scott-Landers, Drug Court Coordinator, appeared to update the board. There are thirty participants in the program, with twenty nine of them being employed. The next graduation will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Two participants started a new community service project called Citywide Baby Shower for Families in Need. Due to a recent apartment building fire, they will be incorporating assistance for any children involved in the fire into that project. She has filed paperwork for a scope adjustment for grant funding and should be getting solid figures back within the next few weeks.

Bill Wenner, Misdemeanor Probation, appeared to update the board. The total number of clients on probation is one hundred seventy four. As of this date, seven clients were added to the caseload and nine clients were released or terminated. The number of conditional release clients is thirty seven and they have four restitution cases. There are forty clients enrolled in community service, which is the number of clients on unsupervised probation only. Mr. Wenner stated that they have been having mechanical issues with their departmental vehicle and has been in touch with Chief Deputy Barclay to see if the sheriff's department has an extra vehicle available to replace their vehicle.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Clerk Steele stated that her office is currently conducting absentee voting for the November 4, 2014 general election.

Assessor Ron Fisher appeared. His staff is signing up homeowners for homeowners exemptions. They have also been reviewing properties, they have completed the checklist for the tax drive and have also been doing initial inspections on new constructions. Assessor Fisher discussed an issue he has been working on regarding a taxpayer who appealed their assessment to the State Board of Tax Appeals.

Amber Sloan, Chief Deputy of the Treasurer’s Office, stated that their office is in the middle of the tax drive and will have all of the bills mailed out by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sheriff Rick Layher and Chief Deputy Mike Barclay appeared. Middle Fork Road in Atlanta, which was heavily damaged and impassable after flooding and mudslides has been repaired and is due to be reopened by Wednesday. They are researching grant funding to purchase a new boat for use in river rescues and emergencies during the winter season.

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

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

**Motion carried and so ordered.**

Regular session resumed.

Angela Hanson and Gary Glassing, representing CTA Architects, appeared to discuss a courthouse assessment. The board explained what exactly they are looking for in the assessment and explained the layout of county property surrounding the courthouse. Mr. Glassing stated that CTA has been working with the General Services Administration (GSA) for the past fifteen years, remodeling federal courthouses across the country, and they are currently remodeling the Ada County 911 dispatch center. They have experience with detention centers as well. Mr. Glassing stated that since this courthouse has historical aspects that will need to be considered, they have a historical architect on staff that is familiar with renovations of historical buildings. Courtroom needs were discussed. Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department, will get a site plan to CTA by November 7<sup>th</sup>, so they can get an idea of the areas that would be included in the assessment. Ms. Hanson explained the processes of the structural and needs assessments and what information will be included in the final assessment. She also stated that CTA has grant writers on staff who know where to search for and find grant funding available for courthouse projects. Mr. Glassing explained that they have just under eighty employees, so they have a person that can handle every aspect of the process “in-house” and would not need to hire outside consultants for the services. Discussion followed.



