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, Clerk Barbara Steele, and Deputy Clerk Shelley Essl.

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 decisions were made as a result of the Executive Session:

K-03-15-06 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to deny as applicant failed to cooperate to determine residency and indigency.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the minutes for March 30, 2015.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

City of Mountain Home Police Chief Nick Schilz appeared to present Sheriff Rick Layher with a Citation and Award of Merit for his dedication to public safety following his assistance in the apprehension of an individual with a felony warrant.

Sheriff Rick Layher, Chief Deputy Mike Barclay and Attorney Lee Fisher from the County Prosecutor’s Office appeared. The prosecutor’s office has been handling the case where an individual owned several pigs and was not caring for them properly, which resulted in a court order for Sheriff Layher to seize the pigs from the owner and place them in the care of Troy Pierson. After further investigation into the case, Attorney Fisher is requesting that the board approve that Sheriff Layher can disposition the forfeiture of the animals to Mr. Pierson and let him take ownership, as he has been providing food and care of the animals.
Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, after due consideration in what would be in the best financial interest of the county while providing compassionate care for the animals, that the Elmore County Sheriff exchange ownership of the livestock, consisting of ten pigs, which were acquired by forfeiture from Ronald Holtz for the cost of the care, shelter and food of the livestock to Troy Pierson, the individual who provided food and care of the animals, from the date of delivery of the animals from the Sheriff through the date hereof.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Chief Deputy Barclay discussed the security plan for the country music festival.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and sign the Memorandum of Mutual Support for the Disaster Services Department to participate in mutual aid with other counties during an incident or disaster where support is needed.

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 $366.98, payable to Les Schwab Tires.

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 $161.99, payable to Grubbrother Arts-$151.00 and Paul’s Market-$10.99.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Megan C. Bortz, Jennifer R. Hitchings, Michael D. Leopard, Amaranta Juarez and Corena C. Wright.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and sign the Independent Contractor Agreement with Kent S. Ogaard for Juvenile Probation Curfew Checks.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and sign the Independent Contractor Agreement with Kent S. Ogaard for Juvenile Probation Curfew Checks.

WOOTAN.................................................... -AYE
Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve and sign the First Amendment to the Agricultural Agreement with Nathan Jones.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The monthly department head meeting was held.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, appeared to update the board. Mr. Seyedbagheri explained the barley yellow dwarf disease on small-grain fields. The disease is carried by insects. The warmer fall weather helped the insects carry the disease for a longer period of time, but Elmore County had only two positive findings, where other counties are loaded with the disease. Crops planted in the spring will be fine, it is the fall crops that can be affected. He did his second evaluation for early egg hatch in grasshopper and Mormon crickets. There are indications that if the weather remains warm, there may be some grasshopper hatches but they are pre-planning for that possibility. The noxious weed department has been spraying heavily for white-top and other noxious weeds. They will be receiving grant funding from the Bureau of Land Management for mapping and weed spraying.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared to give his monthly update. Mr. Dye hired a temporary assistant while his administrative assistant is out on maternity leave. The case load has remained the same, which has given his probation officers time to complete their reports. The community service report was reviewed. Mr. Dye attended an administrator’s meeting last week where he was updated on legislative changes regarding dual jurisdiction juveniles, curfew restrictions and minors in possession of alcohol. Mr. Dye has also been working on legislation regarding bullying. He feels this is a serious issue and should be increased from an infraction to a misdemeanor.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared. Mr. Roberts gave his comments regarding the bid packets that were received for the ambulance remount. The extrication department has been quiet. They have been involved in the planning sessions for the upcoming country music festival.

Jennifer Crogg, Misdemeanor Probation, appeared to update the board. The total number of clients on probation is one hundred forty five. As of this date, two clients were added to the caseload and two clients were released or terminated from probation. The number of conditional release clients is thirty five and there are three restitution cases. There are forty six clients enrolled in community service, which is clients on unsupervised probation only. The community service report was reviewed.
Emma Scott-Landers, Drug Court Coordinator, appeared to give her monthly update. Ms. Scott-Landers stated that their case load numbers have not changed in the last month. They have added a new community service project, which is the community garden off of Haskett St. They only have three clients that are currently doing community service, which is only mandatory for those client who are unemployed. She has received a new joint grant solicitation. There are two different entities providing the grant funding so there will be two grants available for up to three years each. One grant amount is $350,000.00 and the other is $300,000.00. One grant will require a 25% match and the other will require no match. The grant application is due on June 1st. Ms. Scott-Landers will have the paperwork prepared for the boards review and approval at next month’s meeting.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, appeared. Mr. Christy informed the board of an issue with the High Mesa Wind Farm which has eleven towers and turbines located in Elmore County and eight located in Twin Falls County. Mr. Christy stated Elmore County has not received the 3% gross sales tax for 2012 and 2013. High Mesa incorrectly identified the eleven towers and turbines as being in Twin Falls County instead of Elmore County, resulting in the tax being paid to Twin Falls County. He has been working with the Twin Falls Treasurer to resolve the issue and recover the taxes in the amount of $70,559.28. Mr. Christy discussed some issues he is having with the Mountain Home Rural Fire District and building permit approvals. Commissioner Corbus had attended the last rural fire district meeting and is aware of the issues and is working to find a resolution. Mr. Christy’s department has issued six building permits this month and have five pending building permits for Elmore County. He anticipates that building permits will increase over the next few months. Three land use applications have been submitted for April, one application for a one time division, 1 CUP for a subdivision and one for a CAFO expansion.

Brian Chevalier, Pine EMS Supervisor, appeared to give his monthly update. A landing zone class was held in Pine, which was very informative, with approximately fifteen people in attendance. Life Flight brought a helicopter in for the class as well. Mr. Chevalier discussed the possibility of getting a remount done on one of their older ambulances. He stated that there is a grant coming available in the next few months and will meet with Carol Killian, Disaster Services to get her help with the grant paperwork. He will be meeting with the Sheriff’s Department regarding him assisting with the vessel department and boating issues. Interest in volunteering has been increasing and he has spoken with a few individuals that are interested in taking EMT classes.

Bill Richey, Military Liaison, appeared. Mr. Richey updated the board of the runway closure and repair project at the Mountain Home Air Force Base. More extensive runway repairs are needed, which may delay the completion of the project. If that happens, the will need to find other bases to send the aircraft to until the project is complete. A meeting was held on April 1st to discuss the surface water acquisition project. Representatives from Air Combat Command, the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Mountain Home Air Force Base were present and discussed funding for the project and it was decided that it would be treated as a “utility” and put into the five year defense budget as such. The timeline of
when the project will start was also discussed. The Singapore Ambassador to the United States made a visit to the Mountain Home Air Force Base in early April and expressed his thanks to the base, the City of Mountain Home and Elmore County for supporting his personnel that are currently stationed at the air force base.

Jennifer Smith, Human Resources Manager, appeared to give the board her monthly update. Ms. Smith has been conducting employee interviews and has met with twenty three employees so far. She has been reviewing Sheriff’s Office manuals, job descriptions, Blue Cross benefits, as well as payroll information. She has also attended a PERSI Choice meeting and is currently working on resolving an employee disciplinary action. The board asked Ms. Smith to research local Blue Cross agents, as the current agent is from Boise and they would like to contract with local businesses if possible.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared to update the board. Repairs to the Command Vehicle are complete and it is ready for use at the upcoming country music festival. She is working on an agency based emergency operations plan which will be more tailored to Elmore County’s abilities and needs during an emergency situation. Grant funding for an ambulance remount for an ambulance in Pine was discussed.

Assessor Ron Fisher appeared to discuss the process of reevaluating agricultural properties.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to adjourn and conduct a jail inspection.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

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