

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

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

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the minutes for February 9, 2015.

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

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of \$610.86, payable to Elmore County-\$323.11 and Pine Resort LLC-\$287.75.

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

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Certificate of Residency applications for Alicia A. Holt, Venessa Marie Sabol, Hernan Arciniega Sanchez, McKenzie Preston Wilson, Kyle Richard Brown and Conner Kenneth Scott Carpenter.

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

The Human Resources Manager hiring committee, comprised of the three commissioners, Clerk Steele, County Prosecutor Tina Schindele and Sheriff Rick Layher met to review applications for the Human Resources Manager position.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(a) to discuss employment applications.

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

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

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, Jeff Day, Idaho Fish and Game Department, and Hammett residents Nathan Jones and Dorian Duffin, appeared to discuss the Hammett Park boat ramp

project. Mr. Christy stated that there was a survey done of the county owned property which is in the process of being drafted. Mr. Day stated that the ownership of a strip of land between the county's property and the river has been established. Since it is too late for the project to move forward this year, Mr. Day suggested moving the placement of the ramp further downstream to alleviate any public property concerns on either side of the park. Mr. Jones stated he and his mother-in-law, who owns property there as well, are not in favor of development of the park and the boat ramp. They feel that there are other locations on the river that may be better suited for the boat ramp. Mr. Duffin feels that improving the boat ramp will possibly lead to larger improvements in the future and the park will become an "attractive nuisance". He stated that there were improvements done about twenty two years ago to make the river access area bigger. Mr. Day feels that it would be better to move the ramp downstream further and improve the area because people will still use it anyway, whether improvements are done or not. Discussion followed.

Mr. Christy also discussed a Planning and Zoning Commission member appointment. Jeff Blanksma's term will end on February 14, 2015 and is willing to serve another term. Mr. Christy has not received any new applications to serve on the commission.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to appoint Jeff Blanksma to the Planning and Zoning Commission for another term.

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

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-01-15-01 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to deny as Elmore County was unable to serve the applicant to appear at the interview. The applicant failed to cooperate to determine indigency or residence.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to accept the proposal from ZGA Architects for a Courthouse Master Plan.

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

**Motion carried and so ordered.**

Commissioner Hofer discussed water rights and the aquifer levels.

Commissioner Corbus updated the board of the Ambulance Oversight Committee meeting. St. Luke's Elmore is looking into outsourcing their billing.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and authorize Chairman Wootan to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Supreme Court regarding the position of a Court Assistance Officer.

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

**Motion carried and so ordered.**

Tina Venable appeared to discuss the Idaho Food Bank delivery at the Pine Senior Center. She met with a representative from the food bank to discuss options for deliveries. The senior center received their last scheduled delivery last week. As of now, the food bank will only make a deliver again in May if the senior center will meet them at Highway 20 and transport the delivery to the senior center by personal vehicle. Ms. Venable stated that this is not an option at this time, as she cannot find anyone willing to take on that responsibility. She stated that the senior center would like to request \$15,000.00 from the county to pay for materials to build a 20 x 24 storage building next to the senior center. It was suggested that Ms. Venable may need to speak with the board of directors at the food bank and also speak to her state representatives to see if they can help resolve the issue and have the deliveries continue to the senior center. Ms. Venable will make these calls and follow up with the board.

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

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

**Motion carried and so ordered.**

Regular session resumed.

Trish Senger, St. Luke's Elmore and Mike McGrane, Elmore Ambulance Oversight Board, appeared to discuss a request for a pay increase for the Elmore Ambulance Service (EAS) paramedics. Mr. McGrane stated that the past three years have shown increasing turnover in EMS staff, Paramedics and EMT's across the agencies operated by St. Luke's. Paramedic losses have been directly tied to pay, which was verified through exit interviews. Recruitment, especially for paramedics has been increasingly difficult. Other area EMS agencies, Ada County and Canyon County in particular, have completed marketing

surveys and have adjusted EMS pay over the past year, further increasing the spread between them and St. Luke's and it is becoming increasingly difficult to compete with these agencies. Mr. McGrane explained market surveys and outside comparisons used to align and adjust paramedic wages. He recommended maintaining the current wages for EMT's and advanced EMT's and to increase paramedic pay 12% to match the regional market. They will be moving the EAS billing and coding to Magic Valley Ambulance Billing Team which will give the potential for additional revenue through ambulance coding that can help offset the increases, although a date has not been specified yet. The main goal is to stabilize turnover, retain quality paramedics, effectively recruit qualified paramedics who will remain with EAS and compensate staff fairly against area paramedic services. Discussion followed. The board would like to see if the Magic Valley billing will bring in increased revenue.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to adjourn.

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

**Motion carried and so ordered.**

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