

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 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 4th 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.

Scott Hunsaker, appeared and reviewed the 2014 Audit. Mr. Hunsaker explained his process of internal control testing, which included reviewing checks and disbursements, receipts and payroll items. He presented the board with and reviewed the final audit report in which he concluded that the county is in a very sound financial position at this time. Mr. Hunsaker also reviewed accounts being handled by the Sheriff’s Department and the Jail. He suggested that a monthly summary of these accounts be submitted to Clerk Steele for record keeping.

Sheriff’s Department Chief Deputy Mike Barclay appeared to discuss a personnel issue.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(b) to discuss a personnel issue. Roll call vote was taken.

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.

Assessor Ron Fisher and Kathleen Figueredo appeared to review an application for cancellation of taxes submitted by Ms. Figueredo. Due to personal issues, her taxes became past due for tax years 2011 through 2014 and the county is in the process of taking tax deed on the property for the 2011 taxes. Ms. Figueredo is requesting cancellation of her 2011 taxes, which amount to \$974.50 plus penalty and interest. She stated that with her tax return she can pay on her 2012 taxes and start making monthly payments on her 2013 and 2014 taxes, but she cannot come up with the entire 2011 past due balance that is needed to stop the tax deed process. Assessor Fisher recommended that the board approve the cancellation of the 2011 taxes to give Ms. Figueredo the ability to start repayment of the 2012 through 2014 taxes. The board feels that Ms. Figueredo needs to put her tax return toward the 2011 taxes instead of cancelling that year’s taxes. Discussion followed.

Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny the request from Kathleen Figueredo for cancellation of taxes for tax year 2011.

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

HOFER -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

The public portion of the meeting was held.

Tony Haberland and Ed Walters appeared to discuss the condition of Bradford Street. Commissioner Hofer explained that the county did a survey of the road and there are trees that need to be removed from the roadway. Once the trees are removed, the Mountain Home Highway District will bring the road up to standard and the City of Mountain Home will maintain the road. Mr. Walters stated that there are huge holes in the road which make the road impassable and wondered if someone could grade the road to make the road passable until the highway district can do their improvements. Commissioner Hofer again stated that no work can be done until the trees are removed. Discussion followed.

The monthly department head meeting was held.

Wade Baumgardner, Veteran Service Officer, appeared to update the board. Mr. Baumgardner conducted a VA briefing and provided two new VA publications to American Legion Post 101. Several folks have come in to say thank you to the county for making the veteran service office available to veterans in the area as they have been successful in receiving an increase in ratings or have been awarded disability compensation for the first time. Since the last meeting, he has assisted twenty seven veterans, spouses and family members with their specific VA issues.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared to give his monthly update. Mr. Dye reviewed his caseload report. Mr. Dye has purchased a new department vehicle which will be available for use by county employees for county related travel. He has remodeled his meeting room, which will be used to house the Court Assistance Officer, but will also be available to any county office needing a meeting area.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared to update the board. Mr. Roberts is in the process of finalizing the ambulance remount specification packet, which will be ready for the board to review at their March 9th meeting. The department's trucks are older models and have been having several mechanical issue recently. They will eventually need to replace the older truck and Mr. Roberts has been researching grant funding for the purchase. With the increased amount of equipment they need to carry on the truck, they would like to purchase a two ton truck that can handle the equipment weight. He stated that used two ton rescue trucks are listed at \$100,000.00. He will continue to research grant funding. He has been holding monthly training meetings to keep the members up to date. Mr. Roberts also discuss a proposed mutual aid agreement he received from Orchard Training Center. He feels the mutual aid agreement was quite lengthy, so he will work with Attorney Grant to draft a simplified agreement.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared to update the board. She is still learning the online Web EOC program. She will be attending a two day "mass fatalities" table top exercise in Boise this week. There will be a Special Events training class held on March 27th and 28th. She feels the class will

be a great precursor to the county music festival that will be held this summer and she is encouraging everyone to attend. Since the festival will be a two year event it will be very important to have an after action report to determine any improvements that need to be made. The emergency managers from eleven counties would like to form a team to assist smaller counties in the event of a major emergency. A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed to put that into place.

Emma Scott-Landers, Drug Court Coordinator, appeared to give her monthly update to the board. She has been working on the NHTSA Highway Safety Funding Grant and has just been notified that department is eligible for a three year grant instead of a one year grant. The grant will cover treatment classes, reading materials that participants are required to have for the program and a portion of the salaries for the coordinator position and the probation officer position. A letter signed by Chairman Wootan will need to be submitted with the grant paperwork, which she will bring back for signature later in the meeting. Ms. Scott-Landers reviewed the program statistics. Currently, there are twenty four participants in the program, with three new pending entries into the program. She reviewed the upcoming community service projects.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department Director, appeared to update the board. The Elmore County Regional Transportation Committee, made up of the county's highway districts and representatives from Elmore County and the City of Mountain Home, will meet to discuss transportation needs within the county and possible cost sharing efforts. They will also work on updating the county traffic plan. Six building permits were issued for January 2015. There are currently four pending building permits. They issue a violation after an investigation of a home being constructed in what was permitted as an agricultural building. One land use application was submitted in February for a one time division. Since the start of the year, the department has conducted fifteen pre-application meetings for Conditional Use Permits.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, and Jennifer Crogg, Misdemeanor Probation, were unable to appear but provided written monthly summaries to the board for their review.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve and sign the letter to CTA Architects Engineers.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of \$149,068.72, payable to Elmore Medical Center-\$148,929.20 and RTI-\$139.52.

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

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the Pest Abatement District Expenses in the amount of \$526.00, payable to Elmore County-\$333.31, Office Value-\$94.30 and Mountain Home Auto Parts-\$98.39.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the expenses in the amount of \$147,787.57.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Treasurer Amber Sloan appeared. Her office has been working on the past due taxes for 2011. She has sent out sixty six Notice of Pending Issues. They have forty three parcels that will be taken at tax deed, which is very high for this time of the year. They will be sending out sheriff letters for two hundred twenty two delinquencies on personal property tax.

Treasurer Sloan and Assessor Ron Fisher discussed an earlier request by Kathleen Figueredo for a cancellation of her 2011 taxes. They recommended that the board cancel her 2011 taxes and allow her to put her tax return toward her past due 2012 taxes. Discussion followed.

Assessor Fisher’s office is continuing to sign homeowners up for exemptions. Several homeowners have been applying for circuit breaker exemptions, which runs through April 15th. They have been analyzing sales data on properties in Elmore County and comparing that with current valuations. They have completed a preliminary ratio study, which indicated that properties are selling for higher prices compared to last year’s sales. This may result in higher valuations for residential properties, but they are researching if the sales are occurring in specific areas instead of using a blanket valuation increase.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve and authorize Chairman Wootan to sign the Drug Court NHTSA Highway Safety Funding Grant application paperwork.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, 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.

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

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

Regular session resumed. The following decision was made as a result of the Executive Session:

K-01-15-03 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to suspend the application as the applicant has applied for SSI/SSD and has been denied, but has an advocate to assist with his appeal.

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

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to add to the agenda and sign the Proclamation of Elmore County proclaiming March 4th of each year as Idaho Day.

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

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

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

Regular session resumed.

Mountain Home City Mayor Tom Rist, Economic Development Director Paula Riggs and City Grant Writer Susie Colthorp appeared to discuss a Community Assessment Project. Ms. Colthorp wrote a grant proposal to Capital Matrix to acquire grant funding to cover the cost of the community assessment project. The city was awarded funding in the amount of \$12,500.00. The cost of the assessment is \$25,000.00. Ms. Riggs will meet with city council regarding funding for the remaining \$12,500.00. She asked the board if the county would be able to contribute any funding towards the remaining amount. She stated that she will also speak with the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce about a contribution, but she knows that their budget is very limited. Ms. Riggs reviewed the scope of services that would be included in the community assessment. Chairman Hofer asked if the results would be available for public viewing. Ms. Riggs explained that Roger Brooks International will conduct the assessment. Once the assessment is completed, a public workshop will be held where the findings and recommendations will be reviewed and discussed. Mayor Rist feels this is a great opportunity for the economic future of Elmore County. Discussion followed and it was decided that it should be a combined effort between the city and the county to have the assessment done to better the future of Elmore County. The board agreed to split the remaining cost of the assessment with the city.

Judge Epis appeared and discussed alternative options regarding the expansion of the county courthouse.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to take a short recess.

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

CORBUS..... -**AYE**

HOFER..... -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.

Jon Hunt and Ben Stephenson, Stephenson Computer Consulting, appeared to discuss a proposed upgrade to the county email system. After several issues with the current email service, they are suggesting that the county migrate to Google Apps mail service. Mr. Hunt discussed the advantages of the upgrade and what is involved in the installation and set-up. Mr. Stephenson discussed the need for an increase in internet speed in conjunction with the set-up of the new email service. Discussion followed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(b) to discuss employment applications. Roll call vote was taken.

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. Commissioner Corbus excused himself from the meeting before the Executive Session ended.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to adjourn.

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

CORBUS..... -**ABSENT**

HOFER..... -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ WESLEY R. WOOTAN, Chairman

ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk