COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

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.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared. She met with the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) regarding a grant opportunity. The grant funding would be in connection with the All Hazard Mitigation Plan regarding the abatement and/or elimination of invasive species along the corridor from the Ada County to Glenns Ferry. She feels the grant funding would be beneficial to Elmore County. They will be working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the project would be in conjunction with the Paradigm Project already in progress. Ms. Killian also reviewed her FY2016 budget, which will stay the same as this year.

Attorney Grant reviewed the Union Pacific Staging License at the Elmore County Fair Grounds.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve and sign the Union Pacific Staging License with the Elmore County Fair Grounds and deliver the signed document after receipt of payment.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the minutes for, April 27, 2015, April 30, 2015 and May 11, 2015.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the expenses in the amount of $381,542.40.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the payroll for May 2015 in the amount of $425,912.33.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.
Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Recorder’s Office Report and the Clerk’s Bail Bond Report for the record only.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Commissioner Corbus discussed a notice received by Elmore Ambulance Services from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stating the application for the installation of a helipad at Pine EMS Building has been approved. The requirements and regulations that need to be met for the installation and operation of the helipad were discussed.

The SPF Water Engineers Scope of Work Proposal was discussed.

The board opened and reviewed Request for Bid Packet for County Fuel Services, Jail Food Provider and Jail Commissary Services.

The board received two bids for Jail Commissary Services, one from ABL Management, Inc. and one Keefe Group. The board reviewed the proposals from each bid packet. Both bids will be reviewed further by Attorney Grant and Jail Commander Shauna Kellerman, who will report their comments to the board at next week’s meeting.

The board received one bid for Jail Food Services from ABL Management, Inc. The board reviewed the proposal. The bid will be reviewed further by Attorney Grant and Jail Commander Shauna Kellerman, who will report their comments to the board at next week’s meeting.

The board received one bid for County Fuel Services from Hiler Brothers Company. The board reviewed the proposal. Attorney Grant will review the bid further and report his comments to the board at next week’s meeting.

Wendy Mastroeni appeared to inform the board that she has started a petition to dissolve the Western Elmore County Recreation District pursuant to Idaho Statute 31-4320. If dissolved, any funds the district has goes to the county. The Commissioners can then allocate the funds toward recreational projects. Ms. Mastroeni stated that she will need 1,457 signatures on the petition to get the vote on the November 2015 ballot. She stated that several Elmore County residents want to know if they will be able to have input on how the funds would be allocated if the district was dissolved and the commissioners were to responsible for the funds. Commissioner Hofer stated that public hearings would probably be held in the event the district was dissolved. Members of the Western Elmore County Recreation District were present and Keyra Elmo discussed the status of the proposed YMCA building and what steps are to be taken next in the project. She stated that the capital campaign is nearly complete and the project is close to going out
for bid. She has been meeting with local organizations trying to get information on the project out to the public.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(d) to discuss records exempt from disclosure. 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 appeared to review his department budget. His budget will not contain any significant changes from this year’s budget, but he is requesting a salary increase for his Glenns Ferry satellite office as the position will now be renewing driver’s licenses in addition to regular job duties.

Steve Dye, Juvenile Probation Director, appeared to review his budget. Mr. Dye reviewed his “B” budget, which is solely funded by the state. The program is funded by three funding sources, Juvenile Corrections Funds, tobacco tax and state lottery funds. Mr. Dye reviewed the funding from each source.

Prosecutor Tina Schindele and Human Resources manager Jennifer Smith appeared to review a proposed resolution regarding the Human Resources manager being involved in personnel actions along with a department head or elected official. Ms. Schindele explained the procedure she follows when dealing with personnel disciplinary actions and questioned when the HR manager should become involved. The board feels that the HR manager should become involved once Ms. Schindele receives a report but should not take any action until any investigations are completed. Ms. Smith would like to work together with Ms. Schindele to clarify her role in disciplinary actions. Discussion followed.

Wade Baumgardner, Veterans Services Officer, appeared to review his budget. He will not be making any changes to his FY2016 budget.

Treasurer Amber Sloan appeared to discuss her department’s budget. Ms. Sloan requested a small increase in her budget for annual training for her employees. Mailing costs are increasing so that line item will need to be increased slightly.

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

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Regular session resumed.
Stephany Church and Mike Dettori, Forest Service, appeared to give the board a fire season update. Mr. Dettori reviewed areas that are unburned and still have fuel loads left after the fires from the last few years. Ms. Church stated that they have plans for a project called the Pine Featherville Corridor Fuel Reduction Project, which is on the schedule to start in 2017. The board asked if they have any plans in place in regards to the Mountain Home Country Music Festival. Ms. Church stated that they have been attending meetings with Idaho Country Concerts and they do have a plan in place. Mr. Dettori stated that the Baumgardner campground, which had been closed since the Kelly Fire is now up and running again. Ms. Church discussed a sage-grouse conservation amendment to the forest plan. She stated that the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service released final environmental reviews for land use plans in Idaho and Southwest Montana that will help to conserve greater sage-grouse habitat and support substantial economic development. The land management plans, developed over the past three years in partnership with both states and with input from local partners will benefit wildlife, outdoor recreation, ranching and other traditional land uses that rely on a healthy sagebrush landscape.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to add public comment from Don Pachner to the agenda to discuss a concern he had with the May 19, 2015 taxing district elections.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Mr. Pachner went to his polling precinct on May 19, 2015 to vote. There were several write-in candidates for the West Side Sewer District. The names of write-in candidates do not appear on the ballot and Mr. Pachner would like a clear explanation of how an individual can be informed of the names of all write-in candidates for an election. Mr. Pachner stated that he was given a list of candidates when he went to vote and feels that voters should not be given a list. According to the Secretary of State, a list of write-in candidate names can be made available for voters to look at when they appear to vote. Clerk Steele spoke previously with Mr. Pachner regarding the issue and discussed his question with the Secretary of State’s Office, who in turn sent Mr. Pachner a letter explaining the policy on write-in candidates. Discussion followed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve Tax Cancellation No. 1289 GLW Holdings, LLC.-$423.08.

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 E. Heinen, Amaya Malea-Gluch, Sydney M. Oppenhein and Matthew D. Vallard.

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

Motion carried.
Don Jensen and Jack Yarbrough, appeared to discuss Idaho Waste Systems (IWS) and the Simco Road Landfill. Mr. Jensen works with the receiver who took over IWS three weeks ago. He stated that an official board meeting was held this morning and Mr. Yarbrough was named Chairman of the Board and CEO of IWS and he presented Clerk Steele with a document stating the same. As representative for the receiver, Mr. Jensen was responsible for analyzing the physical property and equipment at the landfill to make sure everything was in order. They also had an accountant review the financial aspects of the company. Mr. Yarbrough was not pleased with the results of the financial review and felt that as the major lien holder, he needed to step in and bring the company back into a healthy financial position. Mr. Jensen submitted to the commissioners and reviewed a financial proposal for IWS. Since Simco Road landfill is a regional landfill, and several other counties bring trash to the site, they looked at what these counties were charged and how much volume that they bring to the site. Mr. Jensen stated that the Bennett Road Transfer Station tonnage price is significantly low and proposed increasing the current tonnage price from $12.69 to $16.50. He also proposed charging haulers more for each load they dump. According to the mitigation agreement, IWS contributes $30,000.00 per year toward scholarships and community service grants within Elmore County. Mr. Jensen proposed to reduce the IWS contribution to $10,000.00 and possibly have county haulers contribute towards the remaining $20,000.00. Mr. Jensen explained that Elmore County currently receives a monthly fee of 3% of gross receipts from IWS. It was proposed to reduce that monthly fee to 1% of gross receipts. These changes would help IWS offset some of their costs, such as equipment upgrades and putting in a new cell at the Simco Road landfill. They have been looking into new ways to bring business into the landfill as well, such as utilizing the railroad spurs that are adjacent to the Simco Road landfill. They have also spoke with grant writers regarding economic development grant writing to bring out of state businesses to the landfill. Mr. Jensen stated that he has spoken with a “waste to energy” contractor in North Carolina regarding what to do with the large amount of tires that are currently at the landfill. Mr. Jensen stated that the current equipment at the landfill needs to be upgraded and suggested the county partner with IWS to accomplish that. Mr. Yarbrough stated that the purpose of a business is to make a profit and IWS has failed to make a profit, instead has accumulated massive debt due to mismanagement. Mr. Yarbrough stated that the landfill post closure bond will soon come due and as the only lender, he quickly needs to decide if he is going to abandon the landfill project and move on or stay with the project. Commissioner Hofer stated that according to the mitigation agreement, if the landfill were closed, Mr. Yarbrough would be responsible for the cost of hauling the county trash to another location for two years. Mr. Yarbrough stated that he would not be responsible for the cost. IWS would be responsible. He explained that as the temporary president of the company, he is not liable for any debts that would be incurred by the company. He also stated that as the major lender, he is willing fund the closure bond, if the site were to close. Discussion followed. The board would like some time to review the proposal further before making a decision.

Marty Jones of the Central District Health Department appeared to give his comments on the IWS discussion. The board questioned what their options would be if Mr. Yarbrough were to close the landfill
immediately. Mr. Jones has spoken with Dean Ehlert, statewide manager of the solid waste programs for the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the issue and reviewed his recommendations with the board. Mr. Jones suggested that the county consult with a firm familiar with solid waste operations to get a second plan in place. Discussion followed regarding the county’s options. The progress in the Arid Exemption for the Bennett Road Transfer Station was also discussed.

Terrell Howard appeared and reviewed Blue Cross of Idaho insurance coverage renewal rates. Medical rates increased 3.37%, dental rates increased 15.40%, due to high utilization of the coverage and the vision rate decreased 11.92%. Options for medical, dental and vision plans were reviewed.

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 decisions were made as a result of the Executive Session:

K-04-15-08 Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to deny as not indigent, as the applicant failed to provide all pertinent information.

Wootan ................................. -AYE
Corbus ...................................... -AYE
Hofer ........................................ -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

NM-05-15-10 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to deny the request for rental assistance for May. The applicant has discretionary income of $578.00 per month and Elmore County is not the last resource.

Wootan ................................. -AYE
Corbus ...................................... -AYE
Hofer ........................................ -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

K-05-15-11 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to approve with a reimbursement order of $50.00 per month and 50% of federal and state income tax returns as payment.

Wootan ................................. -AYE
Corbus ...................................... -AYE
Hofer ........................................ -AYE

Motion carried and so ordered.

K-04-15-10 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to deny as the applicant has failed to cooperate to determine indigency and has failed to provide all required documentation.

Wootan ................................. -AYE
Corbus ...................................... -AYE
HOFER ........................................................... -AYE

K-05-15-04 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to deny as St. Luke’s Elmore withdrew the application.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to approve a 3% increase to the county portion of the budget for Military Liaison Bill Richey.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to adjourn.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

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