COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

OCTOBER 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.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(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:

NM-10-15-03 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to approve with a reimbursement order of $50.00 per month to begin November 2015.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

K-09-15-02 Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to approve the 31 day emergency application with a reimbursement order of $50.00 per month beginning January 15, 2016 and deny the additional request for a laparoscopy with right salpingo-oophorectomy per medical review.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Tony Schiro and Art Hoult, Elmore County Amateur Radio Club and Assessor Ron Fisher appeared to discuss an application for a property tax exemption. Assessor Fisher reviewed the criteria need to be considered a tax exempt charitable organization.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve the property tax exemption for the Elmore County Amateur Radio Club, parcel # RPA0112015001AA

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the casualty loss exemption for parcel #RPA0019003011A for an exemption in the amount of $11,041.00 as the result of a house fire.
The monthly department head meeting was held.

Brian Chevalier, Pine EMS Supervisor, appeared to update the board. Call volumes have decreased. He has recruited new volunteers from the Mountain Home Air Force Base to cover shifts. Cost quotes for heaters for the ambulances were reviewed. Mr. Chevalier stated that these heaters, once installed in the ambulances, will keep the equipment heated and reduce the amount of propane that is being used to heat the bay.

Motion by Corbus, second by Hofer, to approve the installation of an ambulance heater into Pine EMS ambulance #2517 by Sawtooth Equipment in the amount of $1,015.54.

Commissioner Corbus informed Mr. Chevalier that the proposed helipad at the Pine EMS building will be put on hold for now.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, appeared to give his monthly update. Chairman Wootan asked about the current economic status of local agriculture. Mr. Seyedbagheri stated that predictions were good for Idaho agriculture but it will impact the state with other commodity prices. The 4-H program was awarded $10,000.00 from Idaho Country Concerts.

Alan Roberts, Extrication Department, appeared to update the board. The specifications for the ambulance remounts were discussed. Mr. Roberts stated that the remount has met all the standards. The EMT’s would like to know if the springs can be lowered to make it easier to put a gurney into the ambulance. He would not recommend re-arcing the springs to lower the ambulance, as there are other alternatives that can be done to correct the issue. The bid for a new extrication truck was reviewed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Corbus, to approve and award the bid to Western Idaho Freightliner for a new extrication truck.

Steve Dye, Probation Supervisor, appeared to give his monthly update. There were five new clients added to the Adult Misdemeanor Probation caseload, three clients released and thirty one clients enrolled
in community service. Drug Court still has nineteen participants in the program. The Juvenile Probation caseload decreased by three clients, but the number of pending cases has gone up quite a bit so the probation officers are busy with reports. The community service also increased quite significantly.

Wade Baumgardner, Veterans Services Officer, appeared to update the board. He provided a detailed briefing on the direct and indirect financial revenue return to Elmore County and the time it takes to adjudicate a VA claim (based on the number of disability issues) to the VFW in Glenns Ferry during the monthly meeting on September 17th and to the American Legion Post 26 during the monthly meeting on October 6th. He had a meeting with Doug Jacobson from the Regional Office of Veterans Affairs and was told that Mr. Jacobson was impressed with the way he is doing business and with the claims success rate. He also was told that he is one of the only Veterans Service Office that meets with the county commissioners on a regular basis and that the monthly report is an excellent way to keep the commissioners aware of his activities and important VA issues. Since the last meeting he has assisted twenty nine veterans, spouses and/or family members with specific VA issues.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services Coordinator, appeared to update the board. Ms. Killian attended a cyber security table top exercise. One of the speakers at the exercise explained that his company will go into businesses and hack their systems, showing how easy it is to breach a system. She gave the board a draft of the new Emergency Operations Plan for their review and comments. She has been working closely with the Air Force Base regarding a company that provides a Geo mapping system, which can collectively take mapping from several different entities within the county and gives everyone the ability to see the same map.

Alan Christy, Land Use & Building Department Director, appeared to give his monthly update. One hundred forty six building permits were issued for FY2015, with sixteen permits for new residential construction and ten permits for new manufactured home residences. Seven building permits and two agriculture exempt permits were issued so far for October 2015. Procedures for the appeal hearing were reviewed. Mr. Christy has been in discussion with the Mayor and City Council regarding the possibility of the city hiring a City Planner. Mr. Christy reviewed disclosure and hearing procedures for the appeal hearing this afternoon.

Rena Kerfoot, Fair Director, appeared and updated the board. The SILDS program worker from the jail has been working on the grandstands and is close to completion of the repairs, which included new stairways on each side and replacing the seating and floorboards. The exhibit building waterline project was quite an extensive job. The main waterline going to the exhibit building was separated from all of the other waterlines going to the rest of the buildings so when the buildings are winterized, the exhibit building will still have water and can be utilized year round. She received an email from a renaissance organization who would like to rent the grounds for a renaissance fair. The flea market is doing well and is generating $100.00 to $200.00 per month for the fair budget. The Rocky Mountain Fair Convention in Utah starts November 11th, where she will be meeting with the carnival group for next year. The fair
dates for next year will be July 17th through July 23rd. Commissioner Corbus suggested a meeting with the fair board and the commissioners to do a walk through at the fair grounds to access what additional upgrades may be needed.

Bill Richey, Military Liaison, updated the board. The runway construction is complete and they are working on finishing the taxiways and should be completed by early December. They have also put in a request to reconstruct the Bravo ramp, which is where they park heavy aircraft. That project should start in 2017. Mr. Richey attended a Climate Change Preparedness working group meeting on October 5th and gave copies of the minutes from the meeting to the commissioners. He reviewed the top five partnership concepts, which included the Snake River pipeline project, collaborative water conservation, fuels management and habitat preservation, improved snow removal services and reducing base energy consumption.

Jennifer Smith, Human Resources Manager, appeared to give her monthly update. She is working on recruiting and hiring for an Elections Specialist position and openings in the Sheriff’s Department. She has several employee training programs scheduled. Four employees will be taking Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave and Ms. Smith has been meeting with the employees regarding questions and concerns the employees may have. She has also been researching office supply vendors and price comparisons.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Assessor Ron Fisher updated the board. His office is conducting a new round of property reviews with about 20% completed so far. The Glenns Ferry DMV office has begun issuing driver’s license renewals which has been going well so far.

Treasurer Amber Sloan updated the board. Her office has been working on the tax drive, which she hopes to have done by next Friday. Most assessment values have increased, so taxes will be increased as well. She reviewed her annual investment report with the commissioners.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve the minutes for September 25, 2015.

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Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve and sign the proclamation declaring November 13th as “World Pancreatic Cancer Day”.

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Motion carried and so ordered.
Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the Ambulance District Expenses in the amount of $345.29, payable to RTI-$139.45 and Verizon Wireless-$205.84.

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 $675.61, payable to Commercial Tire-$92.78, Express Services, Inc.-$550.15 and Verizon Wireless-$32.68.

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.

Mike Simmonds, ZGA Architects appeared to give the board an update on the courthouse master plan. A lengthy discussion followed as Mr. Simmonds reviewed proposed drawings for a new courthouse and remodeling of the existing courthouse.

Commissioner district boundaries and mail-in precincts were reviewed.

A short recess was taken. Regular session resumed.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to approve the expenses in the amount of $277,656.75.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

Dwight Miller, Parametrix, appeared via speaker phone to update the board on the borehole drilling at the Bennett Road landfill for the Arid Exemption. They sent out bid requests to Haz-Tech Drillers and Hiddleston Drillers for the borehole drilling project. Based on schedule and cost, he is recommending Haz-Tech for the drilling project. Haz-Tech is a Meridian based company and Hiddleston is a Mountain Home based company. Commissioner Corbus voice his desire to give the job to a local drilling company. Commissioner Hofer agreed with keeping the dollars within the county, but feels that the board should hire the company that will guarantee to do the job on the scheduled day. Discussion followed. Chairman
Wootan put a call into Hiddleston Drillers to get a confirmation that they can start the drilling project on the specified date. The board will get back to Mr. Miller with their decision on a drilling company later in the meeting. Since the groups did not meet, Commissioner Corbus stated the board will go forward with the continuation of the hearing.

Motion by Wootan, second by Hofer, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(d) and 74-107(4) to discuss records exempt from disclosure. Roll call vote was taken.

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Motion carried and so ordered.

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

A short recess was taken. Regular session resumed.

The board discussed getting letters of support from various entities giving their support to Elmore County’s efforts on the acquisition of water rights and aquifer recharge studies.

A short recess was taken. Regular session resumed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to give Parametrix the approval to hire Haz-Tech Drillers for the bore hole drilling project at the Bennett Road Landfill.

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Motion carried and so ordered.

A continuation hearing of the appeal for CUP-2015-09 Jim Carrie, dba Intermountain Development Inc. was held.

Chairman Wootan asked if anyone had any written testimony to submit. Jeff Hobbs submitted addition written testimony which will be included in the record.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Director referred the audience to the sign in sheets and rules for the continuation hearing.

Chairman Wootan asked if the groups have met since the last hearing to see if they could work out some of their issues. The groups did not meet. Commissioner Hofer stated that at the end of the last hearing, the commissioners were under the impression that the groups were going to meet and see if they could come up with some compromises, and if they were unable to reach any compromise, the board would make the decision.
Attorney Todd Lakey spoke on behalf of the applicant. Attorney Lakey stated that it seems that the major issues are the number of wells and number of lots. As per the testimony he presented at the last hearing, Mr. Carrie has followed all of the rules and regulations and has the science to support his application as presented. Attorney Lakey gave the board an exhibit depicting a map of the subdivision and the water reports that were done by the engineer and the rough locations of the lots and the aquifer that the subdivision will tap into. He stated that Mr. Carrie is willing to pursue the community well option, but there are several challenges with the Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), particularly the amount of time it takes to get it approved. Mr. Carrie submitted an application for the community well in July, so the process is in motion. He would like approval to move forward with Phase 1 with individual wells and finish with the community well system once approved. Mr. Carrie is also proposing to take three lots out of Phase 3 which would bring the lot sizes to about two acres.

Bob Peace was next to speak. He feels that the entire subdivision needs to be on a community well and should have no individual wells. He is also against a through way between the subdivisions, as it will cause increased traffic in his subdivision. He stated that if the board approves this, it will set a precedence for future subdivisions to request changes. He is hoping for half the number of lots that are proposed and a community well system.

Jeffrey Hobbs was next to speak. Mr. Hobbs submitted written materials from the United States Geological Survey for groundwater and rural homeowners. He stated the Elmore County Ground Water Quality Improvement and Drinking Source Protection Plan are the rules that need to be adhered to when planning a community and expanding the municipality. He stated that these guidelines have been ignored. In reference to Attorney Lakey’s statement that Mr. Carrie has applied for a community well, Mr. Hobbs stated that he spoke with IDWR and DEQ yesterday regarding the project and no one mentioned to him that Mr. Carrie applied for anything. He feels that if growth in Mountain Home continues to deplete the water, it will turn mountain home into a ghost town.

Connie Guyer was next to speak. Ms. Guyer feels that if the subdivision is approve with individual wells initially, what would obligate Mr. Carrie to ever put in a community well system. She spoke with IDWR a few weeks ago and found that Mr. Carrie had not applied for any water rights. She also wants the number of lots reduced because she does not want to look at fifty houses out her front window, and cannot afford to drop her well if the high number of wells depletes the water levels.

Martha Ralphs was next to speak. She submitted written testimony for the record. She is concerned about the septic tanks in the proposed subdivision. She spoke with DEQ and was told that they required a nearby subdivision to chlorinate their water system due to e-coli in the water. She wants to make sure the community wells are done properly and will not affect the water coming into the wells in her subdivision.
Wayne Shepard, City Engineer for the City of Mountain Home, was next to speak. Mr. Shepard stated that the city is on record expressing concerned about the number of lots, wells and septic tanks that will be added to the aquifer if the project is approved. He stated that the city has purchased older water rights due to the over allocation of the aquifer. There is a risk that if you have water rights newer than 1975, you will probably lose the right to use them if and when IDWR begins regulating water.

Ben Costanzo was next to speak. Mr. Costanzo felt that there may have been a possibility of a compromise with Mr. Carrie, but after statements made at the beginning of today’s hearing he now feels that will never happen and doesn’t care if Mr. Carrie ever gets approval.

No other audience members wished to speak at this time.

Attorney Lakey gave closing comments. Attorney Lakey stated that it is clear from the design that through traffic is not planned for the project. The Mountain Home Highway District has not expressed any concerns about traffic and no traffic plan was required. The project is not in nitrate priority area and Mr. Carrie is not ignoring the regulations applicable to septic systems. Central District Health will review and approve the final design on every lot in the subdivision, so he will have to comply with current regulations and requirements. Attorney Lakey feels that to a certain extent, this comes down to property rights and Mr. Carrie should be able to move forward if he follows the rules and requirements and is consistent with the character that exists in that area, and the neighbors should not be able to require him to preserve their views.

Jim Carrie gave closing comments. He stated that he has put a lot of time into this and has brought in professionals to help him. He feels that he should be able to move forward as he is using the property in accordance with the guidelines that are in place, so he would really appreciate approval to move forward.

Chairman Wootan closed the hearing. Deliberations were set for November 13th at 2:00 pm.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to adjourn.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

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WESLEY R. WOOTAN, Chairman
ATTEST:

_____________________________________
BARBARA STEELE, Clerk