

Pat Momont, University of Idaho Extension and Mir Seyedbagheri, appeared to discuss restructuring of the Extension Office and to clarify the role of the Extension Educator for the county. Mr. Momont announced that Mr. Seyedbagheri will be retiring on June 18, 2016. Mr. Momont will more than likely take over the administrative portion of the Extension Office until a replacement is found for Mr. Seyedbagheri. Commissioner Wootan stated that board understands that the Extension Office needs to follow both county policy and University policy, so the office will need to be restructured to make sure that both sets of policies are being followed with the office running smoothly. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the responsibility of the Extension Educator when it comes to field work and administration duties. The board understands the amount of field work that needs to be done by the Educator and has posted a job opening for an office manager to oversee the daily administration aspects of the office in the absence of the Educator. The board also stated that since the job posting, the extension office staff has become very upset over the new position. Mr. Momont would like roles and responsibilities of the office manager clearly defined to help the office run smoothly. Chairman Corbus feels that office manager position should be put on hold until Mr. Momont takes over the administrative role once Mr. Seyedbagheri retires so everyone can work together to restructure the office. Discussion followed.

The monthly department head meeting was held.

Wade Baumgardner, Veterans Services officer appeared to update the board. Mr. Baumgardner has been processing several claims for veterans requesting consideration for an increase in their rating for an existing illness that has gotten worse or something new they are suffering from. He is working a claim for an elderly veteran residing at Cedar Crest for “Aid and Attendance”, which is a special offering from the VA that pays a specific amount to help off-set the cost of their residency. Mr. Baumgardner explained the annual Disabled Veterans Elk Hunt and reviewed the application that needs to be filled out to participate. Since the last meeting he has assisted thirty one veterans, spouses and/or family members with specific VA issues.

Alan Roberts and Chris Corbus, Extrication Department appeared. The new extrication truck is now in Boise and the extrication crew is going to meet with them on Monday for a “pre-construct” meeting to do a layout for the box and mounting the tools. There were two extrication calls at the same time on Monday night, so the crew got to use the new tools on the second call. Mr. Corbus stated that the new tools were amazing and made the extrication super easy.

Jennifer Smith, Human Resources Manager, appeared to give her monthly update. Ms. Smith has been holding several training seminars on various county topics. She has also been working on training for employees who are notary publics for the county. She has also been working on billing procedures for the extrication department and Pine EMS.

Brian Chevalier, Pine EMS Supervisor appeared. He has hired a few new EMT's. The staff recently had an "Emergent Pediatric Care" training class. They purchased some new rescue equipment and Search & Rescue will conduct a rescue class on the equipment use. They will also attend a St. Luke's "Simulation Lab" in May for additional training. They will be on standby for Camp Wilson. They had three calls since the last meeting. He is working on state grant funding for a new ambulance and he will work with Alan Roberts on the specs for the new ambulance. He was also awarded pediatric equipment through grant funding.

Bonnie Layton, Glens Ferry Economic Development, appeared. She made a call to MotivePower in Boise to discuss possible economic development opportunities and is waiting to hear back from them. She received two proposals last week. One project proposal had no building fit anywhere in the county. The other was from a manufacturing company that has low utility needs but they want to be within one hour driving distance of airport. She think there is a building in Glens Ferry that may meet their needs, so she will submit that to the company. She has been working with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on improved signage for the state park in Glens Ferry. She has a phone meeting with Buxton scheduled for this afternoon.

Vence Parson, Plant Facilities Manager, appeared to update the board. The roof of the courthouse is in need of some repairs, so they will be starting on that soon. He has hired a part time employee for three hours per night to cover for another employee out on sick leave. They will also have to replace the asphalt on the side parking lot where handicap and prisoner transport parking is located.

Alan Christy, Land Use and Building Department appeared. The number of building permits has increased. They have also issued a rather large permit for the Grandview solar project. He has been working on the plans for the parking lot at the American Legion property. He has also been working with ZGA Architects regarding the plans for the new bathrooms at the fairgrounds. He will also follow up with Idaho Power regarding the power issue at the fairgrounds and back to the board. Commissioner Hofer asked about the status of the Mayfield Townsite project. Mr. Christy stated that the project is in limbo as they are having issues with the Department of Water Resources. He will keep the board up to date with the status of the project. The Planning and Zoning Commission is working on an update to a zoning and development ordinance. The State Flood Plain Coordinator has provided the commission with a new model ordinance for flood regulations and has insisted that they move forward with an ordinance amendment. The commission will conduct public hearing June 1st regarding the amendment.

Alan Lawler, Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), appeared to give his monthly update. He has been working with the IT department on getting a listing of available RC&D grant funding on the county website. Canyon County acquired a donated lavender farm near Lake Lowell. They property must remain a working farm, so the will use it to hold lavender festivals. The Idaho Greenfest will be held tomorrow in Boise and RC&D will have a booth set up there. The Parma Irrigation District received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Agriculture to upgrade the canal

system. Chairman Corbus asked how the Mountain Home Irrigation District could get the same grant funding to repair leaking dams and canals. Mr. Lawler stated that they would have to apply to the Department of Agriculture. Chairman Corbus asked if RC&D could help facilitate the process. Mr. Lawler will research the grant process and report back to the board. The annual Wildfire Mitigation Forum will be held on May 16th at Barber Park. Idaho Power has installed handrails on the docks at CJ Strike per a request by a handicapped boater.

Carol Killian, Disaster Services appeared. She got a generator for the Pine EMS building. EC Power will go up to the building and make sure the generator is large enough to power the building. Applications for grant funding will be changing starting next year. They are planning a functional exercise for June 23rd. There will be a table top exercise for country music festival sometime in June. Ms. Killian gave the commissioners a draft copy of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for their review and any comments they may have. She is working on creating a Facebook page for disaster services in Elmore County. She is also working on a mitigation grant for funding for fuel reduction.

Mir Seyedbagheri, Extension Office, appeared to update the board. They have been larvaciding in several areas of the county. He has surveyed for mormon crickets and grasshoppers for early hatch. There is a good chance of grasshopper hatch unless there are heavy rain levels, which will enhance the fungal growth pathogens and kill off the eggs. He has surveyed fields for barley yellow-dwarf disease and the results were negative.

Traci LeFever, E-911 Supervisor and Chief Deputy Mike Barclay appeared and discussed the termination of the Zuercher Contract. They paid \$20,000.00 for GIS services with Zuercher and found that the services were not compatible with the county’s current GIS mapping system, so it was decided that the contract would be terminated. Zuercher will refund the county \$3,000.00 for the remainder of the contract.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to approve and authorize Chairman Hofer to sign the Termination of the Zuercher Contract.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

The monthly elected officials meeting was held.

Treasurer Amber Sloan reviewed the funds she has invested for the year. They will be mailing tax reminders the first week in May for June collection. The number of tax deed properties is now down to nine. One of the properties has a trailer that will be auctioned off in May and Treasurer Sloan would like to bid on the trailer so when the county gets the land at tax deed, the county will also own the trailer.

Assessor Ron Fisher Signing up taxpayers for homeowners and circuit breakers up until April 18th. They are still working on market values for 2016. His office is working on the ration study to determine values for this year.

Motion by Wootan, second by Corbus, to approve the expenses in the amount of \$178,725.50.

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

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

HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

The board continued the meeting to conduct a walk through at the county marine building.

Regular session resumed.

Karama Billick, Tim Flowerday and Jennifer Hynek, representing Idaho Country Concerts appeared to give the board an update on this year’s country music festival. They will be making improvements on dust abatement. They have contracted with a company to do a chemical spray that is supposed to keep the dust down for up to thirty days. They have also been working with land owners who have put down granite sand on the access road to help with the dust. They already have their water permit. They have renewed the contracts with Red Truck and Fairfield for fire services. The second year is always better and things start falling into place. They contracted with a different security company, whose owner is a detective with the Boise Police Department. They met with the owner this morning and found that he is very organized and has approximately two hundred employees. Local ranchers had concerns with road closures during last year’s event, so they have met with those ranchers and worked out the issues. The City of Mountain Home had to provide extra police services during last year’s event, so they already met with the city to take care of reimbursement issues. They will set up a time for the board to take a tour of the venue during set up, prior to event starting, so they can see how things progress before the concert.

Motion by Corbus, second by Wootan, to go into Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(b) to discuss personnel issues. Roll call vote was taken.

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

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

HOFER -**AYE**

Motion carried and so ordered.

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

Commissioner Wootan updated the board on the borehole drilling at the Bennett Road landfill.

A short recess was taken. Regular session resumed.

Al Bermensolo, Mountain Home Fire Chief, Chris Cromwell, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Alan Lawler appeared to discuss grant funding for a Phase Two Sustainable Fire Break on the south west side of Mountain Home and also the Paradigm Project. Mr. Cromwell handed out maps depicting the Paradigm Project, which is a series of fuel breaks along Interstate 84 between Blacks Creek and Glenns Ferry and explained the phases of the project. They also met with Chief Bermensolo about the phase two fire break project that will wrap around Mountain Home and back up to meet with the Paradigm Project. Grant funding from the project was discussed. The application for the grant funding would have to be done through the county, with the funds being disbursed for the phase two project as needed. Discussion followed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to have Elmore County commence with the application process for grant funding through the Bureau of Land Management for the Phase Two Fire Break Project in conjunction with the Paradigm Project.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

The employees from the Extension Office, Pest Abatement and Noxious Weed Control met with the board and a lengthy discussion followed regarding the staff's concerns with the posting of an Office Manager position to oversee daily administrative operations of the office and the "restructuring" of the office. The staff is very upset with the board's decision to hire an office manager and feel that they should have a say in the job description for the new position and also to be included in the hiring process for the new position. They feel that they know their daily job duties and that the county should not hire someone with no experience with pest, noxious weed and 4-H issues to oversee their duties. The board clarified that the office manager will oversee daily operations of the "office" and that the restructuring is needed to make the office run smoothly. Discussion followed.

Motion by Hofer, second by Wootan, to adjourn.

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

/S/ FRANKLIN L. CORBUS, Chairman
ATTEST: /S/ BARBARA STEELE, Clerk