


Abbreviated Minutes: Complete Set Of Minutes Are On File In The Clerk's Office

Madison County		
Madison County Commissioner Meeting Minutes		
APRIL 10, 2017	8:00 A.M.	COMMISSIONERS' ROOM
ATTENDEES	Commissioners: Chairman Jon Weber, Kimber Ricks and Todd Smith Deputy Prosecuting Attorney: Troy Evans County Clerk: Kim Muir	

AGENDA TOPICS

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Commissioner Weber

Public Comment: None

Brett Sampson from BYU-I came in to visit for the morning.

County Business:

Committee & Board Reports:

Commissioner Ricks reported on the LEPC Board's routine meeting in the training room at the Sheriff's office. The report on flooding hasn't changed since last week.

Commissioner Smith reported on the Golf Board meeting. Teton Lakes is hosting the High School State 5A Golf Tournament in May. The staff is hoping for good weather which in turn should bring people from around the State. There was a discussion on a food vendor, however with the current restaurant at the golf course, they will need to go through the restaurant for food, or pay \$300 a day for him to not operate and use the facility as they wish. People can bring their own food onto the course like snacks, etc. Commissioner Smith also reported on new City appointed Golf Board members.

Commissioner Weber reported on the Fair Board meeting. He said that the Commissioners have committed to help financially this year for new restroom facilities on the west side of the grandstand. It will take running a sewer line from the current concession stand to the street. Road and Bridge will help with asphalt removal, dig the trench for the sewer line, backfill and then repave the midway as wide as it is currently. The Commissioners will need to approve approximately \$100,000 to make these repairs. Grant possibilities were discussed; however, the Fair Board would like to have it completed before the car show and other summer events so this likely is not an option moving forward. The grant representative for the truck was present and he reported that things are looking positive.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to commit to no more than \$100,000 out of the Commissioner Reserve account for improvements at the Fair Grounds for the 2017 year. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Calendar Discussion

IACC will be in June. Commissioners would all like to be registered for this conference.

Discussion Items

Budget Discussion

Employees will receive a onetime payment of \$10 a year for each five year increment when they are recognized for their service award.

A possible remodel for the law library office for the Public Defenders was discussed. Commissioners okayed an amount up to \$1,000. This would include purchasing a desk, computer and client chairs for the Public Defender to use for court purposes and meeting with Indigent clients.

Grant writing contract

Commissioner Ricks spoke with Sharon Pirente. There might be some grant possibilities for the restroom at the Fair Grounds. She will come to the next meeting for grant proposals.

Contracts/Documents

Commissioner Ricks made a motion to approve the Designation of Polling locations for the May 16, 2017 election. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the Beer and Alcohol License for Fresco Kitchen and Grill. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Ricks made a motion to approve Change Order #3, Archer/Lyman Highway 5000 South, which decreases the contract total. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to sign and approve the Millennium Grant Funds. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and sign employee certificates for time worked for the County. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Ratify: Signature of letter to Governor Otter regarding the grocery tax credit

The Commissioners would like to see a larger tax credit on the tax return. The County favors relief on the Grocery Tax. It wouldn't take effect until 2018, and there is still time to make improvements to the Bill. The Commissioners are interested in relief for citizens; however they would also like to see support from tourists.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve signing a letter to Governor Otter regarding their opposition to the current Bill repealing the Grocery Tax Credit. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Routine Matters

After review, Commissioner Ricks made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

After review, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and sign the Commission Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2017. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

After review, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and sign the Emergency Commission Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2017. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Ricks made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residency for Kimball Allowitz, Derek Hayes, Yorik Alvarado, Robert Berrett, Jaden Mortensen, Brayden Robinson, Emily Bennett, Hannah Bennett, Reggie South, Baylie Kivett, Carlie Kivett. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the personnel actions. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Agenda Items:

Jeremiah Cochran, Wage Study presentation

Jeremiah presented copies of the Wage Study Report. This study began with looking at job descriptions. He identified bench mark positions; these are positions that were used to gauge the current job market pay.

Jeremiah has met with all Department Heads and Elected Officials several times in the past year to gather data and information; he also inquired of surrounding Counties. Jeremiah is proposing that forty three employees be moved to a more marketable compensation for their position. In addition, employees whose comparative ratio is lower than it should be need to be raised immediately to move them in line. This is Phase I of his proposal to be effective immediately. There is also a larger adjustment to be made the beginning of the fiscal year, or spread over a few years if budgetary restrictions are too tight; this is Phase II of his proposal. To retain and attract desired talents, the County needs to consider the broader marketability of the talent in some of the jobs. The salary range schedule would mean we move away from our current step and grade, by using the marketability scale and salary that would be based on substantive information. This is easier for employees, Department Heads and Elected Officials to understand.

Over the next few years, we might find that in order to keep up with other Counties, adjustments in salary ranges will need to be made. Moving forward, Jeremiah recommended a more focused management approach to be able to compare appropriately with market numbers.

Jeremiah said it is common for Counties to have multiple levels of the same position. For example, changing from a Clerk level 1 to a Clerk level 2 will come with a pay increase. The County needs to have various pay levels because of the competitive nature of that job position. Jeremiah suggested reviewing this again every few years, however, we should be careful not to overpay.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to move forward with Phase I of Jeremiah's proposed schedule, effective with the April 27th payroll. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The Commissioners will look at Phase II during the upcoming budget cycle. They will also look at matching 401K monies.

Jeremiah will submit an invoice requesting additional compensation for the work he has done. The Commissioners will review that invoice once received.

Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk, Executive Session Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) and exempt records.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Ricks seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner Weber-yes
Commissioner Ricks - yes
Commissioner Smith-yes

Commissioner Weber returned the County Commissioners to open session at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Ricks made a motion to sign Lien Release on Case No. 2012028, sign Lien on Case No. 2017022, sign Approval on Case No's 2017017 and 2017021, sign a Denial on Case No. 2017018. Indigent Non-Medical: Sign Approval on Case No's. N2017014 and N2017015. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Michelle Zinn/Jared Arnold, General Services Dept. Eclipse discussion, Parks budget

Jared is looking at budgets for hiring Parks employees; he wants to go strictly to seasonal employees. Commissioner Weber is proposing that we have the Parks department maintain the Fair Grounds this year as well as the Parks, County buildings, and buildings west of the courthouse in town.

Jared reported that the Fair Grounds is mapped and ready to be rented out for the Eclipse.

Lisa Smith with the Standard Journal joined the meeting.

Shawn Boice

Property Tax Exemptions

Commissioner Smith made a motion to grant Property Tax exemptions to: LDS Church, ECIPDA, Shumway Academy, BYU-I, Upper Valley Friendship Club, Twin Pines, Presbytery of Kendall, St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve an Ag exemption for Paul Dye. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

Rick Henry, Wage scale report

Ryan Kaufman, Bart Quayle, Korie Hansen and Rick Henry were also present. Rick presented a plan to bring all Sheriff's office employees to 95% of market value and 100% for those that have been there for more than ten years; there is room this year in the current budget for this proposal. Commissioner Weber pointed out that bringing the Sheriff Office's employees up into the suggested range shows that Madison County is not the training ground. We are currently falling behind the City of Rexburg who is now updating the compensation of their ranks. For the new budget, the Sheriff's office will not be proposing a 3% increase. Commissioners asked what their market is and the Sheriff's offices and locations they lose people to. Sheriff Henry said they compete with Bannock, Bonneville, Bingham Counties and INL. They feel these increases will make them more competitive and that the benefit package is comparable with surrounding Counties. The Commissioners will discuss this further and advise the Sheriff of their decision.

Randi Beeton, Eclipse and the property around the Butte

Randi thanked the Commissioners for their time and hearing her. She said that she is speaking on behalf of many of her neighbors and friends. She has concerns with the large numbers of people coming to our community, especially her neighbors opening up large amounts of land to spectators on the Butte. She reports that the Central Fire officials have told her to make sure she has good fire insurance. She is concerned about large crowds becoming unruly and igniting fires with just one tossed cigarette.

She used an example of another town where police had to use tear gas to get people off roofs and out of neighborhoods when the crowd's presence becomes unruly. She worries about drug use and that many are coming to party and get drunk. She is concerned with vandalism, rapes and kidnappings and said we can expect three large motorcycle groups.

Randi stated that we have limited police, fire protection and phone service; in addition internet service could be compromised. If there is inclement weather people could become angry. She doesn't like the feeling of her neighbors saying that "it's my land and I can do what I want when I want, no matter what neighbors think".

Randi said she can make several thousand dollars by leasing out her land, however she wouldn't do that to her neighbors; it will not be a good time on the Butte, but a nightmare. She would like the Commissioners to set laws and boundaries. She feels that a land owner should not be able to invite large amounts of people to their property because the risks can outweigh any revenue being brought in. Randi feels that fire and other safety concerns are paramount and are pitting neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend. She would like to be made aware of what the County is doing to prevent problems the large crowds could present.

Randi wants people to fill out the gathering permit and get neighbors to sign off before they can get an approved permit. The County will enforce the current law to the best of our ability. This involves a gathering permit and approval by the fire department. The issue is the fire department where Randi is talking about is the Central Fire District in Menan, not the Madison County EMS. There are likely differing standards and considerations each would make.

She stated that she would like to come back and put some laws into place that will hold people responsible for what they are putting their neighbors through. After the fact is too late if people are hurt or homes are burnt. The Commissioners are happy to listen, however they are really limited on what they can prevent private property owners from doing with their lands. This has been discussed in joint City of Rexburg and County meetings regarding this point.

Property Owners/ Horrock's Engineers, Review status of frontage, Archer/Lyman and other connecting roads

Kelly Hoopes from Horrock's stated that the Old Castle structure, Liberty Park Canal and the check structure are old and need to be replaced; he presented a bid to pre cast the structure. Dana Yost with Old Castle and Kelly walked the structure and added a few items to the bid. Commissioner Ricks asked Kelly if the project is covering the entire cost or is the County covering it. If it was already due for replacement, they should cover some of the costs.

The right of way has not already been negotiated however the land owners are agreeable on what is planned based on a letter of understanding outlining the improvements at Liberty Canal. Kelly said we need to make sure that water is kept away. Kelly met with irrigation; at Liberty North the check has to go in before water is turned on. We need to put in culverts, two 48" culverts and one 30' pipe. Kelly asked Commissioners to sign the \$7,000 bid for the check structure. Commissioner Weber asked Kelly to revisit sharing the cost. Kelly has been in touch with PacifiCorp and will work out an easement to relocate the guy wire; the cost will be \$10,000 to make that move. The road has been surveyed; the cost of the pavement is the largest cost; \$250,000-\$300,000. In addition \$100,000-\$250,000 for the structure \$60,000-\$80,000 for the Bannock Gym slope and \$20,000-\$30,000 more for the culverts.

The total cost will be approximately \$500,000 without the land requisition.

Commissioner Ricks reported that ITD might be willing to give some right of way land. Kelly said they met with Jason and looked at the Lone Pine issue, they own 55' on the north; they indicated they would give us that property however they were opposed to road surfacing .

Kelly said the next step is talking to property owners. He said they are willing and expecting to talk to the County. Before that happens, Kelly will put a cost estimate together.

Reo presented the Archer/Lyman traffic study. He said that there are approximately 4,600 cars per day through the area. Commissioner Weber asked what the implications are to the County. Justin Bowen said that if the Bagley's think it will benefit, then it is an option to continue to discuss. Benchmark is not interested in the road going through their property. Commissioner Weber asked Kelly to see a few different options. Kelly will draw that out and run a quick estimate. Commissioner Smith asked Justin if he would be open to donating the land. He said they would look at the drawings. Kelly asked for a work session to review the drawings and discuss the options. Commissioner Weber said he would like to have Terry Bagley included in the work session as well.

Gary Wilcox/, Current flooding conditions Trevin Ricks

Trevin Ricks presented the Commissioners pictures of current project and graphs of the extended flooding forecast. He reported that they are almost done placing the rip rap. The charts compare flood levels to 2011 and 1997. The last week in May is projected to be the concern for this spring. Gary reported that the County does have easements to allow for access. A few of these need to be elevated and Gary asked if County trucks could help with the fill. The Commissioners are willing to assist.

Department Head Meeting

Executive Session, Executive Session Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) employee matters

Commissioner Weber made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:05 p.m. Commissioner Ricks seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

- Commissioner Weber-yes
- Commissioner Ricks - yes
- Commissioner Smith–yes

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn Commission meeting at 3:55 p.m. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Approved:

Jon O. Weber, Commission Chairman

Todd Smith, Commissioner

Kimber Ricks, Commissioner

My name is Randi Beeton. I want to thank you for allowing me to be on the agenda and allowing my voice to be heard today. For the sake of time and disagreement, I purposely chose to come here with little support, but I want you to know I do have friends and neighbors who feel as I do.

I understand Madison County has a great deal of concerns with a solar eclipse coming and attracting visitors and large crowds with very limited resources. Many of my friends and neighbors share those same concerns especially as we live on the Menan Buttes.

I am standing before you today in regards to a website called: [idahosolareclipse](#) I just learned about 2 weeks ago that was selfishly and very inconsiderately put online several months ago to attract large crowds to camp up to 4 days close to where my neighbors and I live on the Menan Buttes. It's a reckless and naive attitude to believe: "It's my land and I can do what I want, no matter what neighbors I may affect."

It's especially concerning as Central fire officials have verified valid concerns on the Menan Buttes during August with heat and wind conditions, juniper trees, sagebrush and weeds that just one little cigarette could ignite and become a recipe for fire. Being told to make sure our homes have good fire insurance by Central Fire is not a comforting thought either.

Plans have been in place for months as marketing skills have been implemented to advertise online, in newspapers and in magazines. Porta-potties have been ordered, money collected, and merchandise to sell. This was all done without neighbors knowledge who this will directly affect.

We're not only concerned with a disastrous fire that could destroy homes, or trap young children, the handicapped and older people as the river borders the butte, but we're also concerned about the dangers of large crowds being so close to our personal residences.

I recently youtubed "large crowds near homes" and was shocked to learn how quickly crowds can become unruly and out of control near neighborhoods. I think we can all pretty much agree there's little or no reasoning with those drunk or using drugs. Police had to use tear gas to get crowds off people's roofs and from vandalizing homes and vehicles that all started from simple partying close to nearby residences.

As I researched a little more about crowd control, I was surprised to learn there are books and protocol on steps to take when crowd behavior quickly escalate to unruly behavior and crowd control is needed. With a shortage of police and fire protection, what will those do inviting large crowds to my neighborhood if this where to happen on the Menan Buttes?

In a recently held public meeting in Menan, I was surprised how little some knew about the affects the solar eclipse crowds will have. I was relieved to hear the Jefferson Sheriff say quote: "When we invite the world, we need to take our blinders off and not assume all people will be good and follow rules and laws. Many will come to break laws and many will come to make trouble with partying and getting drunk." unquote.

Along with large crowds comes gas and food shortages, traffic gridlock, disturbing the peace, drunkenness, vandalism and something I didn't think of but as a Jefferson County Commissioner told me he was worried about rapes and kidnappings. I was also told by an officer we can expect 3 rival biking gangs called, "Hells Angels, Brother Speed and the Mongels." Currently I don't know much about these rivals but there are large numbers coming to Madison County.

We know there will be limited police and fire protection as there is just not enough resources. We also know internet and phone service will be scarce in trying to even get a hold of them in an emergency. My neighbors and friends do not want these crowds close to our personal residences. Would anyone? If we have bad weather or even a small emergency, ask yourself where will crowds will go to get help? You can bet they'll go to the nearby homes to get it.

If you remember Ligertown in Idaho, laws were changed to protect citizens and animals from certain people's attitude "It's my land and I can do what I want, when I want and I don't care what neighbors it may affect." My neighbors and I do not want to be another story like Ligertown.

I'm seeing too many people light up when they talk about the solar eclipse and how much money they believe they can make. I was told I could make several thousand dollars to rent my home or rooms in my home. I could use the money too, but I personally would not and could not do that to my friends and neighbors. Instead I get to feel like most of my neighbors in feeling trapped for 4 days just trying to protect my home and family. This will not be a jolly good time on the Butte, but a nightmare on the Butte.

Whether a person owns 1 acre or 40 acres; common sense and good judgment should and must be implemented. A land owner should not be able to invite an unlimited amounts of people than what they can afford in liability claims or what they can handle to keep the peace on their own properties.

Limitations and restrictions must be applied and laws should not be waved to accommodate visitors ever. Our voter, law abiding, taxpaying, citizens rights should always be respected and carry much more weight than that of visitors, outsiders or intruders. We should not try to change or wave laws and rules for an event such as a solar eclipse. Laws were originally put in place for protection of it's citizens, especially when risks can way outweigh and supersede any profits.

Madison County has a good website inviting the public to designated areas for fees. Let our county make this revenue by putting the visiting public in these public safe and designated areas instead of in areas where fire and safety are valid concerns.

We come to you today in hopes to awaken conscience. This has put neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend and has the potential to become much worse. As voter, taxpaying citizens we ask Madison County to do the responsible thing by immediately enforcing ordinance section 12:36 and any other laws to protect our homes and families as they're being placed in harms way by inviting crowds (or intruders) close to our homes with camping up to 4 days. Since when should outsiders outweigh those who actually live here?

Please enforce laws and do not allow permits to be issued in areas where neighbors can and will feel its affects. We need to heal relationships and not tare them apart. We also ask that we be made aware of what plans are being implemented as this has been kept secret from the neighbors in the past and we hope this behavior will not be allowed to continue.

Randi Beeton