

*Abbreviated Minutes: Complete Set of Minutes Are on File in The Clerk's Office*



**Madison County  
Commissioner Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2021**

**Attendees:**

**Todd Smith, Commissioner (Chairman)**  
**Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner**  
**Douglas Smith, Commissioner**  
**Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney**  
**Kim Muir, County Clerk**  
**Jacob Thorington, Standard Journal**  
**Coworkers and family of Elected Officials being sworn in**

Pledge of Allegiance  
Invocation by Sheriff Henry

**ACTION ITEMS**

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Rob Wood, Prosecutor, was sworn in by Commissioner Smith at 8:45 a.m.

Swearing in of Commissioner Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner Doug Smith, Sheriff Rick Henry and Treasurer, Angie Moffat by Judge Steven Boyce at 9:00 a.m.

**Public Comment:** There was no one present to comment.

**Calendar Items:**

The next Commission meeting will be held Monday, January 25, 2021. This meeting will include a Department Head Meeting.

**Discussion Items:**

**Reorganize Board of County Commissioners:**

Doug Smith was welcomed as Madison County's newest commissioner. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to appoint Commissioner Todd Smith as Chairman of the Madison County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to appoint Brent Mendenhall as Vice Chairman of the Madison County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Airport Board Members:**

The airport board would like Commissioners to consider relaxing any specific rule of term limits. The current board would like to continue serving until things go forward with the new airport. When Commissioner Smith began oversight of the board, it was almost a new board and there have been a few leave, but most have stayed on. Continuity at this point is valuable.

Commissioner Doug Smith comments he believes board members, in general, need to change. Two terms may not be enough but there are other people in the community who have expertise and would like a chance to serve. Commissioner Mendenhall stated some boards have been successful because they have rotated. Assigning years and staggering would be helpful so the recent history of the board remains intact. This matter will be considered further.

**Reassignment of Commissioner Areas of Responsibility:**

The Areas of Responsibility were discussed and explained to new Commissioner Doug Smith. Region 7 Mental Health will be reassigned to Commissioner Mendenhall.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commissioner Areas of Responsibility. Commissioner Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed. The Commissioners will also serve over individual departments and offices in the county.

**COVID-19 discussion and update:**

Numbers have increased in the past week, but County numbers have been steady. Vaccination is the new topic. The Governor lowered the priority to age 65 and over. Public Health and Sheriff's Offices are concerned about jail employees. Commissioners are in full support of suggesting jailers be moved up to receive vaccinations as soon as possible.

**Public transportation funding:**

Commissioner Mendenhall and Clerk Kim Muir attended a meeting with the City of Rexburg, EICAP and Randy Rhead. Commissioner Mendenhall is not opposed to providing a means for public transportation and agree there is a need, but there is more information needed and ADA issues that need to be reviewed. At this time, the County is not supporting any funding for public transportation until clearer focus is received.

**Contracts/Documents:**

There is an ordinance in place currently regarding the Commissioner's yearly schedule. Setting the calendar will be informally set annually.

**Routine Matters:**

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to approve the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes that were inadvertently posted on the agenda as December 21, 2020. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of January 4, 2021. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The General Fund total claim amounts were \$198,749.59. The grand total of claims was \$882,045.89. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residency for Jade Dixon, Brandon Peterson, Nadezhda Potter, Lonnie Wallace and Adison Maviano. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Personnel Actions :**

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the personnel actions. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) exempt records, Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Todd Smith – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall – yes, Commissioner Doug Smith - yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Todd Smith returned the Commission meeting to open session at 9:43 a.m.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve signing a Lien Release on Case No. 2019021 and a Denial for Case No. 2021001. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Shawn Boice – Caroline Scheese for Patricia Scheese**

Caroline Scheese was present to appeal the circuit breaker for her mother-in-law. She has been taking care the affairs of her mother, and mother-in-law, Patricia Scheese, did not remember to apply for the circuit breaker.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the circuit breaker application and credit the taxes and the penalty and interest for the late payment approximately \$900. Shawn asked that the circuit breaker information go to Caroline for Patricia Scheese as Caroline now has dementia. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**U-Wrench – tax cancellation request**

U-Wrench is the mechanic Shop on Highway 33 just south of the Moody Highway. Gary and Shawn talked to the owners in June. They have been annexed by the City and the frontage and parking property was taken away and the owner has felt that the value is hampered. A value was agreed to in June, but was not applied in last year's tax bills.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the tax credit for U-Wrench in the amount of \$710.35. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Aaron Lerwill – tax credit**

Aaron split a chunk of ground and the appraiser did not take 55 acres off the original parcel. He was being charged for the sold parcel as well as the new owner.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the tax credit for Aaron Lerwill in the amount of \$447.68. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Dale Nickell – structural fire**

Dale Nickell will be excused of the tax from November 7 - December 31, 2020 because of a mobile home fire. The home can be removed, but the real property will remain taxed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to approve the partial tax cancellation for Dale Nickell for fire damage to the building in the amount of \$23.81. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

#### **Moody Creek Produce – fire loss**

Around the first of November 2020, Dan Nedrow filled out paperwork for the fire that occurred. The total loss will be one to two million dollars. Again, the structure can be removed, but the real property will remain taxed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the partial tax cancellation for Moody Creek for fire damage to the building in the amount of \$1,403.27 Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

#### **Laird Robinson – late taxes**

Laird states he paid the taxes for the whole year making the check out December 11. Checks sometimes sit on his desk for a few days, but he mailed around the 13 or 14<sup>th</sup> of December. The envelope was postmarked in Denver on December 24, 2020. He is asking that the penalty of \$155.10 be forgiven. After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to forgive the late tax fee for Laird Robinson in the amount of \$155.10. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Tax cancellations Angie can forgive without approval were discussed.

#### **Bradley Petersen – Discussion regarding Planning & Zoning and Building fees**

Bradley said the County hasn't evaluated the Planning & Zoning and Building fees since 2008. These fees are determined by the Commissioners. Bradley will do some comparisons from other counties and suggestions for what the fees should be. A public hearing and ordinance would be first needed if the fees are restructured.

#### **Bart Quayle – Jail update**

Bart presented Idaho Code showing the Commissioners need to be updated on the state of the jail every three months. There have been no attempted escapes and the conditions of the jail were reported to be good. Jared explained the contract set up with Badger Medical and daily medical procedures for inmates. Reports were given on total number of jail beds, COVID exposure and the ways they are handling the pandemic, as well as food handling in the jail.

#### **County credit card discussion**

The procedures for the Sheriff's Office were discussed and agreed upon for implementation of a new credit card program, which is there will be a card issued to a person or persons at the Sheriff's Office in order to track them better.

#### **Blake Willis – Tax credit for single student apartment complex**

Blake Willis, of 1343 Morningside Drive in Rexburg, is part owner of The Towers and Hillcrest Apts. During February, March and April, 2020, the University made predictions that student population would drop. He talked with Commissioner Weber and started making payments. His request is to waive the interest and late fees for property taxes. He prefers to use the income approach with the student population down. Angie was present and said the taxes were not current on the Hillcrest Apartments, but were on

the two Towers complexes. Blake reports occupancy for Fall semester was about 70%, Spring dropped down by about 20%, but Winter is back at about 90%. There were more students that came back Winter semester than expected. Commissioner Mendenhall asked what is being done to bring Hillcrest property tax current.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the cancellation of penalty and interest on Towers One and Two which is about \$7,846.62. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to approve the cancellation of penalty and interest which is \$1,766.05, if he will bring the taxes current on Hillcrest within the next thirty days. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to go back into Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b) employee matters. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Todd Smith – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall – yes, Commissioner Doug Smith - yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Todd Smith returned the County Commissioner meeting to open session at 11:58 a.m.

There being no further business Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Approved:

Todd Smith, Commissioner  
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner  
Douglas Smith, Commissioner

Attest:  
Kim Muir, County Clerk