



**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
January 25, 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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation by Commissioner Doug Smith

Public Comment: There was no one present to comment.

ACTION ITEMS

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Calendar Items:

The next Commission meeting will be held Monday, February 8, 2021.

Discussion Items:

COVID-19 discussion and update.

The Governor's orders for school athletics will be withdrawn. The governor stated on Friday that superintendents could fill high school sporting events up to 40% capacity. Madison County is down to 86 COVID cases and more and more people are receiving the vaccine. Vaccines are rolling out for those over 65 beginning the first of February.

Airport Board member discussion.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to relax replacing the board members for a year until the new airport has final answers. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed. The by-laws of the airport board will need to be reviewed to ensure compliance.

Golf Board appointment and members.

The current City/County joint appointee has served two consecutive terms. There is a recommendation to appoint Karl Boehm to the board. This member would replace Derek Taylor.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Karl Boehm as a Golf Board member to fill the County/City members. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

City Planning and Zoning member appointment.

Two are needed from the Impact Zone. Suggestions and names were discussed. This will be put on the next agenda.

Legislative update.

Commissioner Mendenhall gave an update on a few of the Legislative issues. He is attending meetings in Boise this week.

Contracts/Documents:

Commuting Authorization forms.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Probation, Road and Bridge, Solid Waste, Public Works, Planning and Zoning Commuting Authorization forms. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Findings of Fact for the Nordic Ridge Estates Subdivision Final Plat.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact for the Nordic Ridge Estates Subdivision Final Plat. Commissioner Todd Smith recused himself due to a declared conflict as he has done throughout. Commissioner Jon Weber was the other Commissioner at the time of hearing, but is no longer on the Commission. Commissioner Mendenhall is the only vote in this matter. The motion passed.

D7 copier lease buyout.

There were two options presented for the Commissioners' review.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the D7 copier from Yost. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

There were further discussions regarding the lease option and a buyout from the current provider. Commissioner Doug Smith rescinded the previous motion to authorize the printers.

After review and discussion, Doug Smith made a motion to approve the lease from Yost Office Supply for \$234/month and to buy out the remaining lease from Fisher. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of January 11, 2021. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The General Fund total claim amounts were \$96,046.87. The grand total of claims was \$509,175.79. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Personnel Actions :

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

Executive Session:

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 to open session at 9:43 a.m.

Justin McCracken, concerned snowmobiler regarding the Grooming of District #33:

There were other community members present, as well as members from the District #33 Grooming Board.

Justin began with a question for Mr. Mendenhall regarding if the Commissioners should be involved in this. Commissioner Mendenhall expressed his feelings that the functioning board needs to take care of problems internally. He does not feel the Commissioners should be involved until the Board of the Grooming District has tried to solve the issues first. If problems persist, then the Commissioners can act.

Justin submitted a public records request and doesn't feel all the information that was requested was responded to. He said Mrs. Muir, the Clerk, has done everything she could, but the response that was made, was insufficient. There are agendas but no minutes. No copies of contracts were provided that are signed by all parties.

Max Radford asked how do we get everyone to work together? Many people have signed their petition to make changes to District 33 grooming. The trails are not kept up and the Board has been there too long and does not act. He claimed that there will be no public help until Randy Hormon and a few others are gone. The Commissioners have a way to make changes to help the District reach its full potential. Randy is getting paid to make sure the grooming is done. Why is he getting paid when he is not taking adequate steps to groom the trail? Maps have not been updated for some time. District 33 has the potential to have great trails, but they have the reputation for having the trails that are terrible in his and many other's opinions. Changes need to happen. Groomer drivers need to move the trees that are falling on the trails. Cattle guards need to be marked and filled with snow and signs fixed. Board members need to be rotated. Teton County, WY should be on the board. Not all documents have been submitted as requested by Public Records Request. They would like a response within 7 days. Max was going to attend a meeting and had Parks and Rec and the Sheriff's Office scheduled to go, but then they changed it.

Doyle Barney came forward to speak to this issue. Doyle is proud to have been part of the grooming district for 30 years and is proud of his service and the hours he has spent. Doyle has a book with many minutes going back for years. It was set up for the board to assist the Grooming District. They have prepared a budget every year. The problems today, could have been addressed if they had come to the Board meetings to address them. The Commissioners should not have to resolve this issue, it should be up to their Board. They have never had Bylaws. They operate under Park and Recreation guidelines. The Board was advised not to have Bylaws from someone on the state level, as they are not a public entity. Anytime there has been a Board change, the board meets and provide the name of a person, they feel would do a great job and is then presented to the County Commissioners. The current Park and Rec head came to Groomers Board and we paid David Payne for the 3 months to supervise. When Dave left, they were kicked out of the county shed, since then the board has gotten more involved and found somewhere else to store the groomer. They have worked with the Sheriff's Offices, but they no longer do. They have not had much representation from the Commissioners and Doyle states they are welcome anytime.

Commissioners state their obligation is to approve budget and board members. Commissioners would like to have the Board to come up with job descriptions, bylaws and how to approve claims. They would also like the Board to work better with the Sheriff's Office and respond to the public record's request.

Clint Hansen comments the vendetta has gone on since one of the members was let go 13 years ago and it needs to end.

Troy Evans, the civil attorney suggested three next steps: First, the grooming board needs to respond to the active public records request. Second, the grooming board needs to make a written response to addressing the issues raised by Mr. McCracken and the public, and provide this to the Commissioners. Finally, the grooming board should work on putting together a set of bylaws. He will provide them copies of examples he has.

Commissioner Doug Smith would like this to be a good Grooming Board for the citizens. He went and rode in the Groomer last Friday night from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion that we follow those three outlined steps in this matter by legal counsel as the next steps in this matter. Commissioner Smith added that he will appoint Commissioner Doug Smith to follow this matter and see that these items are taken care of. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Sam Butikofer, Coroner report for 2020, Questions on COVID grant proposal.

Sam gave a report on last year's investigations by his office. In 2019/2020 deaths attended went from 61 to 92. They did 3 COVID investigations. He reported the storage containers ordered have been delivered and he is still waiting for the coolers.

Sam is asking if there could be a pill counting machine purchased for the Coroner's Office. They confiscate all medication left from a decedent. They count all medication by hand. The medications are disposed of at the conclusion of this process. The Commissioners approved of this purchase, and it was in his budget to utilize.

Sam would like to hire two more deputy coroners. They are struggling to make things work, while current staff have full time jobs. Commissioners approved and asked Sam to check his budget and work with the Clerk's office.

Ryan Lerwill, proposal for Madison County to be a 2nd Amendment sanctuary county.

Ryan proposed that Madison County become a 2nd Amendment sanctuary county. He is worried about the political situation and has felt compelled to do everything he can to help our Sheriff and County Commissioners. He would like to define the county as a 2nd Amendment County with a well-regulated militia. This supports the Bill of Rights which we all should support and empower the Commissioners and the Sheriff. Ryan presented some samples of resolutions and stated that the cities of St. Anthony and Ashton are sanctuary cities now. He presented a petition with approximately 280 signatures and discussed Idaho Code § 18-3302.

Commissioner Mendenhall asked if this would predispose background checks for those obtaining firearms. Ryan did not think it would, nor did Bart Quayle from the sheriff's office. The next step will be for Troy Evans to research and propose a Resolution for the county's review.

Bradley Petersen, Progress report on the Comprehensive Plan revision and timeline, Mission Statement of the County.

Bradley has had the Economic Development report completed and explained the opportunity for electrical options that came out of this report. He will look into what we need to do to provide the infrastructure for growth rate and population of the county. We may not see Census numbers until 2022 because of COVID-19, but estimates are about 54,000, with an average growth rate estimated at about 1%. GIS employees were present for this discussion. Median household income in the county is \$39,000 per household and the high student population is the major contributor. Other statistics for the county he mentioned are: Median age is 23 ½ years old. Many Madison County residents leave the county to go to work every day, but many are also coming in from neighboring counties. He asked if we providing adequate housing.

Bradley included the mission statement he and Melissa have written to adopt for the Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioners will send this out to community members to review.

Commissioners asked if we are making progress on the Comprehensive Plan and if we are where we need to be to provide for community members in 10 years. Bradley answers his hardest challenge is tackling every day questions. He is taking the steps to get there, handing off to Melissa what he can. He feels there would be value in leaning towards a company on a retainer for advice on the Comprehensive Plan. Sharon Oakey was present and said she feels we are bringing in too many outside contractors that are charging too much in the first place.

Employee Recognition.

The following employees were recognized for their service to Madison County: Mitch Stevens, William Brower, Jared Newell, Colin Selin, Ilene Palmer, Maki Fujimoto, and Jessica Owsley.

Department Head Meeting:

Discussion topics.

- Commissioner areas of responsibility changes
- Personal use of Club cards
- Employee time and use of PTO
- COVID funding and needs of departments
- New credit card implementation

Commissioner Smith commented on recent fraudulent emails received and those present were warned to question if something sounds unreasonable.

The proposed mission statement was read and department heads were asked to consider and give input.

Departmental reports:

Bradley - Planning & Zoning is moving forward with updating the Comprehensive Plan, there are a lot of requests for new subdivisions.

Jared - Mosquito, Weed, Buildings and Grounds are very busy doing maintenance projects. He was thanked for doing a great job with the snow removal.

Paul – IT, installed a new fire wall recently, Klim in Rigby loaned the county an extra fire wall until we could get a new one here. The Commission Room technology will be upgraded later this week.

Evan – Fairgrounds, has been really busy with arena rentals this winter and the facility is being utilized. Evan is looking forward to growth.

Angie – Treasurer, things have slowed down, but they are working on delinquent taxes currently

Jess Tanner – D7, Numbers have slowed with COVID and not as many people are in the court system.

Shawn – Assessor, DMV is by appointment only, the new software has caused issues. Overtime has been submitted and the State is reimbursing. Shawn is meeting Wednesday with his staff regarding appointment only access and may re-address in April or May. The new software has caused major issues and slow-downs state wide.

Darby – Solid Waste, the C & D site had a fire last Friday. Crews did a great job getting it put out. The new Solid Waste District facility is moving forward with opening on the new property and hope to have it functional by the end of the year.

Cindy – Road and Bridge, has been busy building 2 new bridges. Snow pack does not look good so far this year.

Rob - Prosecutor's Office, Jury trials have been light because of COVID restrictions, but preparation on a big case has been overwhelming.

Kirk – Kirk has a new employee with one resigning. He has updated his security.

Bart- Sheriff's Office, Detention facility has seen fewer inmates, but they have been successful mitigating COVID,. Patrol staff has been busy. They have a new software platform they are working through. The new DMV/Drivers licensing has worked out well. Jared and his crew have been on many projects and have done great.

There being no further business Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 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