

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

**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2021**



Attendees:

Todd Smith, Commissioner (Chairman)

Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner was excused from the meeting

Douglas Smith, Commissioner

Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Kim Muir, County Clerk

ACTION ITEMS

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Calendar Items

The next Commission meeting will be held Monday, July 26, 2021.

Schedule of Commissioners:

Commissioner Todd Smith will attend the Tri-County and the 5C meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Doug Smith will attend the Golf Board meeting on Wednesday. Commissioner Smith also mentioned a meeting with the Veterans on August 4, 2021. He would like to have all commissioners attend. This would be a published meeting.

Discussion Items

East Idaho Solid Waste District update: The appraisal has been delayed and this will push the meeting with Department of Lands to August. There is a weekly call with Dept. of Lands and DEQ. Things are going well. A possible alternative will be discussed in Executive Session.

Snowmobile Bylaw and Idaho State Parks and Recreation discussion: Idaho State Parks and Recreation joined the grooming board meeting last week. Commissioner Smith attended the meeting. The state was worried about the board members not working together. The Bylaws were discussed. The recommendation was to add a board member from each county. Another grooming board meeting will be held on July 27, 2021 in the Commission Room. It will start at 7:00 p.m.

Contracts/Documents

Cullin was present. He explained the need for the grant and how the market has changed since cell phones have taken over and the land lines are few and far between. The fees and charges from land lines are no longer coming in. Texting is now working for the 911 system. They average about 25, 911 calls per day. Many are accidental calls. Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to approve the 911 grant application. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to sign and approve the Teton Dam Site Recreation Management Agreement. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to ratify the Fairgrounds Music and Arts contract. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters

Minutes of July 1, 2021. The minutes will be signed at the next meeting.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The General Fund total claim amount was \$395,792.98. The grand total of claims was \$1,299,940.05. Commissioner Todd 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 Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all. The invocation was given by Commission Chairman, Todd Smith

Public Comment

Kirsten Ruebush texted the following message: Todd, I cannot be present today for public comment. Would you please make note of this communication with you on the record? As there has been no substantial discussion by Planning and Zoning regarding fee schedules, yet they are in the process of discussing changes to code, I would suggest that you get the Commission's input on those fee changes before you act. More minds make better decisions. One strong concern I have is from 101-15 where fees should at least cover the costs are explained and identified, I think it's difficult for a good decision to be made about each fee. Please allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to give input before you take this to hearing.

Executive Session

Chairman Todd Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:22 a.m. pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(b) employee matters and (c) to acquire real property not owned by a public agency. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Todd Smith – yes, Commissioner Doug Smith - yes. Commissioner Todd Smith returned to open session at 10:04 a.m.

Tammy Erickson, Summer wellness challenge

Tammy stated typically the summer challenge comes through commissioners. Time off is usually offered for those who lose weight or exercise for the summer. Tammy stated the requirements are to lose 5% of body weight and keep the weight off for 3 additional weeks after the final end date. Each person puts \$15 in a pot that is split with the top 3 losing the most at the end of the challenge. Participants are allowed to take a picture of your scale at home. The exercise challenge is to work out 150 minutes per week and provide proof to Tammie. This challenge will begin July 19, 2020. Discussed also was the Walktoberfest beginning in October. Commissioner Smith would like to see a competition with the City, and have all participants contribute to the prize money. Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to approve the summer wellness challenge as well as the time off for those meeting their goals. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed

Bradley Petersen, Planning and Zoning fee adjustment

Melissa Van Slochteren was also present for this discussion. The proposed fees were discussed. The preliminary and final plat fees were combined for the subdivision plat. They wanted simplify the process and just have one fee of \$500 and thinks it should average out to about the same as it currently stands. They are not trying to make any extra revenue, but would like to see it simplified. The appeal fee should not be more than subdivision fee, but want to make sure they are covering their costs. There are review

fees that are added also. Commissioner Doug Smith feels the price of a subdivision should be higher as much more time is spent and it is not covering costs. We publish in the paper and have to pay that cost. Bradley and Melissa were asked to take the matter to the P&Z commission to get their input and then the Commission will review again.

The public hearing will be advertised for August 9, 2021 regarding these fees.

Shawn Boice, Homeowners exemption project discussion

Amanda Lareese was present for this discussion. A new law passed by legislators allows homeowners to be given the exemption year-round. This can be a large tax cancellation and discussion ensued on the best way to distribute these cancellations to taxing districts. This first year, we will have to give tax cancellations and it will take funding from the taxing district. This is not a taxpayer issue. How to manage this application was discussed. Thoughts were to have the Treasurer be authorized to give the credit and then monthly, she will report the totals to the county. It says in statute there will not be proration. Shawn feels this is a poorly thought-out bill and is hoping the matter is cleared up next year. We are giving a tax cancellation credit after primary rolls are set and we will have to continue to cancel taxes. Also discussed was when a rental comes in to a previous homeowner how it will be tracked. Those that buy after April 18, 2021 will get the exemption when they did not previously. This will make a big impact on the larger counties. Commissioners will visit with the Treasurer and Assessor at the next meeting. A new motion will need to be made to raise the amount Angie can forgive without Commissioner approval.

This will need to be an amount budgeted to make up for the tax credits. The amount could be up to \$100,000. We will need to make sure taxing districts are aware this could have an impact with this exemption.

Sarah Wageman and Kerrie Mathews, Bureau of Reclamation, Management Agreement for Recreation at Teton Management Agreement for Recreation at Teton Dam.

Jared and Cindy from the county were also present and asked questions for clarification on the Agreement regarding signage and associated costs. Madison County can charge a fee to be put back into the funding and there is a 50/50 cost share between the Bureau and the county. There is funding from the BOR in the 2025 budget year, but they may have a budget that can assist before 2025. A sprinkler system and construction items could be included on the new budget. Cindy reports the road down to the river is constructed, but there is a soft spot that needs to be worked on. Cindy questions the item in the Agreement splitting professional costs and said we don't want to hire an engineer when they have an engineer on staff. Sarah comments they will work with us. Part of this is covered in the transportation study and said there is a site plan. Jared asked for clarity on items on the Agreement. Ramps and boat docks were discussed as future budget items. We will need to build a budget reserve for improvements to the park and start planning for it. The county and public are excited to finish the project. It will be a nice addition to the community. The Agreement will be signed on July 26, 2021, and Fish and Game will be invited to discuss further amenities. The agreement puts Madison County in charge on behalf of Reclamation to do what we want. We can apply for grants for docks or ramps, but BOR would like to review the grant applications. We will do a separate agreement with Fish and Game. Jared comments that a gate may be installed for the winter to keep people out of the area, as it will become inaccessible with snow. Fremont Madison Irrigation District have interest at some point, possibly to have a pump or facility where there would be a small transfer of land.

Paul Sorensen, Review and sign: Broadband Feasibility Study with Wide Open Networks

Paul is asking Commissioners to sign a contract to do a study with Wide Open Networks at a cost of \$32,530 to be paid in 6 installments, with additional for travel. Funding for this project will come from ARPA funding. This entity will design the network and see where they need to place equipment. They will take the summer to complete the study, and if it goes well we should jump quickly to finish the project. With ARPA funds available to many, fiber is going quickly and we need to order the equipment and be ready to install in the spring. At this point Wide Open Networks will prepare the study. They could supervise the installation, if we want to retain them. The BYU -I Livestock Center would like this to be installed by Fall semester. Paul will visit with Scott at the City to see if it can be done. Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to sign and approve the contract to do a feasibility study with Wide Open Network. Commissioner Todd Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Burn Ban

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to include the current fire situation and discuss a burn ban. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

Chief Child and Robert Kohler were present to discuss. Corey reports on an increase in fires and many localities have declared a burn ban. Two test areas; Pine Creek pass and Moody, are at all-time lows for moisture and are at a high level for fire. Surrounding counties have declared burn bans. Nothing he has seen tells to go into a burn ban. The 10-day forecast is showing more hot dry weather, with thunder storms and windy conditions which are prime for a fire. Campgrounds are busy. They are asking that an ordinance be put in place declaring a burn ban.

Firework restrictions were discussed and determined it best to include them in the restriction. An emergency meeting will be posted tomorrow, July 13, 2021, at 2:30 to sign a burn ban ordinance for Madison County. The mayors of the cities will be invited along with law enforcement.

There being no further business Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. Commissioner Todd seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Approved:

Todd Smith, Commission Chairman
Douglas Smith, Commissioner

Attest:

Kim Muir, County Clerk