



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

**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022**

Attendees:

**Todd Smith, Commissioner Chairman
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner
Douglas Smith, Commissioner
Troy Evans, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Kim Muir, County Clerk**

ACTION ITEMS

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Pledge of Allegiance: By all present

Invocation: Commissioner Mendenhall

Calendar Discussion:

- Next Commission Meeting: April 25, 2022
- IAC Spring Institute Meetings May 25, 2022 in Idaho Falls
- Budget and Levy Training, May 5, 2022
- Clerks and Commissioners June 7 – 9, 2022 in Burley

Discussion Items:

Golf Passes: Golf Passes were discussed and the Commissioners wanted to clarify the benefit that was granted in the past. Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to pay ½ of a buddy pass, ½ the cost of a season pass and ½ on two golf punch cards. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Summer Party: Commissioners also discussed holding the summer county party at the golf course and providing golf and lunch. Commissioners will discuss this further with Kirk Mace and the City of Rexburg.

Budget meetings: These will be set with departments June 15 and 17, 2022 from 9:00 until noon

ARPA/Covid Status: The spreadsheet was reviewed. More information will be gathered.

Enterprise Leasing: Jared is seeking further information. A decision needs to be made regarding the 5 currently leased automobiles.

BOE Training: Board of Equalization Training was discussed. Commissioners attended the training last week. These meetings will be scheduled the last half of June. The second Monday in July is the last date to hold BOE by Statute. The home owner exemption was discussed regarding making the exemption

retroactive to the first of the year. The Commissioners asked the Treasurer to see how much it cost the County and taxing districts in homeowners exemption last year.

Trash blowing off trucks and pick-up: Commissioner Smith has received calls regarding citizens nearly hit by construction materials coming off the back of private construction trucks heading out to the C & D site. According to Ordinance #154 that is in place, it states trucks are to be covered. Solid Waste can charge a \$15 fee for trucks not being covered at the C & D site and will be encouraged, after notice has been given.

Contracts/Documents: After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the FY 2023 Notification of Budget Hearing, Sept 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the D7 Lease for Bonneville County. This reflects approximately an \$1,100 increase. D7 is in support of this. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Resolution #480 To Destroy Old Records, Prosecutor's Office (#4). Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the Designation of Polling Places for the May 17, 2022 election. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters: After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The grand total of claims was \$480,983.19. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous including credit cards. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022. Commissioner Mendenhall 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 the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

Robert Kohler, Water Outlook and Drought Declaration: Stan Crittenden and Chief Child were also present for the discussion. Robert reports American Falls Dam is currently at 84% capacity and has senior water rights, Palisades is 38% full, Jackson Lake is 22% and Island Park is 92%. According to the National Weather Service, December and January were great, but February and March have been dismal for snowpack. Forecasters are saying we may run out of water by July. Madison County is rated among the second driest with Fremont County being the driest. Idaho was the 8th worst in the U.S. We are starting out our season behind and farmers are nervous and are changing to crops that would consume less water. We are way below normal for snowpack and higher temperatures are predicted, as well as severe drought. Declaring a Drought Emergency would allow federal funding and help us work with farmers. Butte and Bonneville have already declared. If the County follows in declaring a drought emergency it will assist

Emergency Management with wild fires. It does not restrict the Commissioners in any way. Our data is screaming at us that we need to take some action. The drought declaration would expire December 31, 2022. Commissioners feel that it is the right thing to do. Robert said Lake Powell is dangerously low and they are looking at having to shut off hydro electric power.

Given info presented and the outlook, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve Resolution #481 declaring a drought declaration. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Executive Session: Employee and indigent matters. Chairman Todd Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:15 a.m. Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(b) employee matters and (f) pending litigation issues. 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 to open session at 10:00 a.m.

Gary Armstrong/ Chief Child, Discussion to Adopt the 2021 version of the Fire Code: Clarifying options were discussed for the 2021 International Fire Code, as well as verbiage changes on fourplex properties. A Public Hearing will be noticed for May to adopt the International Fire Code 2021 version.

Gary, Stan and Chief Child have been working on an RFP for the Thornton Commercial District Water Plan and would like permission to submit.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve submission of the RFP Thornton Commercial District Water Plan. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Sam Butikofer, Trailer Morgue Trailer:

Sam has met with Teton, Jefferson, Fremont, Clark, and Bonneville to see if they would be interested in sharing a refrigeration truck to be used in a mass casualty. Fremont would like to be included. He reached out to Emergency Management, Fire Dept and Law Enforcement. They have determined an active shooter is the biggest risk. We have had 2 active shooters in the past year in Madison County, but no large mass shooting. Sam asks how we refrigerate a large number of corpses in a mass shooting? Once we own a refrigeration truck and corpses have been stored, food can never be transported in that truck again. A refrigeration truck could not be used on a temporary basis.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to table the purchase of the mobile morgue trailer until further information could be obtained. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Department Head Work Meetings:

Assessor: A review has been done by the State Tax Commission. This tells us where our market is at. We are out of compliance by about 1.4%. We are currently at 88.65% on our ratios. We could have gone up 3 -5%, last year, but Shawn erred on the side of the homeowner. We will have to comply for 2022, but this will require raising property taxes again this year. Ag land will remain the same.

DMV was discussed. The department is still requiring appointments.

Elevation Management: Elevation Management is filing for the developer's exemption. They are the original owner and developer and all lots are sold. Shawn recommends passage. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the tax exemption for Elevation Management under the site improvement code. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Fairgrounds: Evan was not present. We will have him at the next meeting.

Sonnie Haws, Solid Waste: Bid Award 914 loader: After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to accept the bid from Western States for the new 914 Loader for Solid Waste. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

The scale house bid from Harold Harris was discussed. Completion is set at 190 days as building fabrication is currently taking longer. Commissioners ask that Harris Construction be informed there should be no change orders. After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to accept the contract with Harold Harris for the scale house. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Fee increase discussion for commercial and household fees: Residents in Madison County currently pay a \$25 fee per household. The fee has not been raised for many years and an increase to \$35 was suggested. Tipping fees are increasing for the counties close by. Sonnie has done some research on increasing prices to the larger contributing companies hauling in to us. The fee would go from 3.5 to 4 cents per lb.

Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to set a public hearing on May 23, 2022, to increase commercial and household fees. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Wade Kaufman, Snowmobile Grooming: Things went well this year and they are under budget. Both Caterpillars are shut down for the season. They didn't groom as much as they had wanted, but are in the process of getting everything in place for next year. The Board would like to have 4 operators per CAT, ready to groom on a more regular basis and maximize use of trails. The next Board meeting will be in Jefferson County this month. Three members are up for reappointment this year. Doyle, Heath and Wade. Board members will submit names to the BOCC, with a minimum of two or three for each position.

Broadband Project: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to amend the agenda to include authorization to dig for broadband. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed. Silver Star Communications is working with Western States to complete the broadband project. Silver Star is seeking the right-to-work in the Madison County right of ways and easements as specified in the design documents.

Commissioner Douglas Smith made a motion to authorize work in the right-a-ways and easements. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

Cindy Roberson Retirement: A celebration of Cindy Roberson's 31 years of service to the county was held.

Commissioner Todd Smith made a motion to adjourn at 3:14 p.m. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed

Approved:

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

Attest:

Kim Muir, County Clerk