



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

**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
January 10, 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

Invocation: Commissioner Mendenhall

Public Comment: None.

Calendar Items:

The next Commission meeting will be January 24, 2022.

Eastern Idaho Public Health Board meeting will be January 20, 2022

The next Fair Board meeting will be January 19, 2022

IAC Midwinter Conference will be January 31 – February 3, 2022

Discussion Items:

Discussion on Veteran's Building. Commissioner Mendenhall toured the Veteran's Building with Kandee to see the space and consider a proposal for the County Extension Office to move into the building. Kandee talked with Joe Law and they asked the county to give them a plan for the building. The options were to put the extension offices in the back of the building or to move extension into the front and move Veterans to the back offices. The auxiliary room would remain next to the kitchen. The county could make it accessible for the public to rent out. The Extension receptionist could take messages for the Veterans if they are in the front offices and could put the Veterans in touch with the correct person. The next step would be meeting Dave Decker onsite to inspect the building and then go to the Veterans meeting and present a plan. Putting an addition onto the building was discussed, but a second set of restrooms would be required and would be costly. Kandee suggests the ceilings need to be dropped for additional heat/air and sound proofing. Kandee purchased additional kitchen appliances through a grant that need to be installed.

Newspaper ad regarding snow in roadway. The Commissioners discussed the effectiveness of putting notices in the paper regarding snow removal and placement of removed snow by county residents in the

roadway. The conclusion was that many people don't read the paper and it would likely not benefit. It is hopeful that citizens be wise as they remove snow from their driveways so not to impede a county road.

Contracts/Document:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to ratify signature of the Airport Rescue Grant Agreement, to keep operations running at the Airport. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Todd Smith to amend the agenda to include the Annual Road and Street Report. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed. After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the corrected Annual Road and Street Road Report. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the 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 with the exemptions of two invoices that will be further discussed with Jared Arnold. The General Fund total claim amounts were \$157,750.70. The grand total of claims was \$373,345.02. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Commissioner Meeting Minutes of December 6, 13, and 29, 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 Certificate of Residencies. 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 the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Executive Session: Idaho Code §74-206(1)(d) exempt records, Ann Marie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk. Chairman Todd Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:07 a.m. Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(d) AnnMarie Sorensen, Indigent Clerk. 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 9:22 a.m.

Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to sign an approval on Case #N2022003. Commissioner seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Jess Tanner, Butte County office lease and expenses:

Jess was asked to take over the Butte County Drug Court Treatment. The rent is anticipated to be close to \$4,000 and with travel expenses, the total would be about \$5,000 annually. The rent for Madison County rent has also increased. Funding will be used this year from contingency and a budget line will be added to the 2023 budget.

Nate Thompson, Bridge discussion:

Nate’s brother was in attendance with him as well as Cindy Roberson and Gary Armstrong from the County. The Thompson’s are putting in a subdivision adjacent to River Rock Estates. The county required River Rock to leave a stub road for fire restrictions. A bridge would need to be installed to finish the road and have it connected to the Thompson’s subdivision Western Skies. With the addition of homes in this new subdivision, the Fire Department would need access to that road. The only access is through the subdivision. Cindy was present for the discussion and said the bridge would have to be engineered and then the County would have to approve the engineering. The cost to do a pre-poured option or build the bridge would each be close to \$200,000. The Thompson’s would like to satisfy the code and do the right thing for the county. The fire code will come into play with this situation and the best option is to make connectivity with the two roads. Commissioners feel that planning and good infill development would be in the best interest of the County. Cindy states that Road and Bridge had funds in their budget to fund one-half of the construction costs for the bridge.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve participating in one-half the cost of bridge construction connecting the River Rock Estates and Western Skies developments. Commissioner Doug Smith seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Gary mentioned a mapping error regarding a 3-acre strip of property goes to the center line of the property to the canal. There were never taxes collected on the 3-acre strip. Centerline of the canal is where the property line is. He has the corrected maps.

Adoption of Hill Ranch Estates Road:

Roads are complete and the developers are ready for the county to adopt this roadway. Cindy and Gary were present and report the road meets all specs and have been approval by the county. We don’t normally track the deeds on these roads, but the plat indicates they will be county owned roads.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to adopt the Hill Ranch Estates Road. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Department Head Work Meetings:

Assessor Shawn Boice: Shawn states the Property Tax Symposium meeting on Friday, January 7, 2022 with the State Tax Commission was the best he’s seen. He reports the Madison County residential values increased 19% last year and he expects the values to increase by 15 – 25% this next year. Shawn has people concerned about the levy rates. Shawn would like to increase public awareness so the public is informed why the rates will increase.

We need to be prudent county-wide to help citizens out on the levy rates. Commissioner Todd Smith commented on the tax shift from commercial to residential and notes the school levies have increased dramatically.

Salaries of the City of Rexburg employees were discussed. Shawn suggests we get all players in one room and let them know what county residents are up against and ask them to keep budgets as low as possible. How to do this was discussed to keep things equitable. Future discussion with our Legislators on this topic will also be planned.

Assessor's Office and DMV are both doing well. DMV is now handling licensing of snowmobiles and off-road vehicles. Shawn is open to suggestions on whether or not the appointment only system is working. At this point, the feedback is positive.

Fairgrounds, Evan Wise:

Evan reports he is in the process of getting bleachers and lights ordered. The shipping costs are really high, so he is trying to find a cheaper way to get them here. Arena rentals are keeping them busy. The buildings are holding up. They will do some work to the Quonset to make it safer. The bucking shoots are old and worn out in the indoor arena. They are 40 years old and will need to be replaced soon. Funding to add onto the pens will be needed in the next few years. The Fairgrounds will need to move to meet the growing community needs. We need to research feasibility to move or not and what the costs will be. The Fair Board has been discussing the possibility of bringing in a professional rodeo.

Solid Waste, Sonny Haws:

Baylie Majors has submitted her resignation. This position will be opening in the near future. Sonny reported he will be meeting with contractors this week for the scale house. There were no bids received. Where there were no bidders on the project, the county will be the general contractor and sub out portions. The design has been drawn up by an engineer. Sonnie discussed equipment needs and stated he is currently looking for trailers. The door that was hit at Solid Waste was discussed. The department is busy, but doing well.

Snowmobile:

Wade Kaufman was present as the chairman of the grooming board to report. They had a slow start, due to lack of snow, but are now grooming. Some of the maintenance will be put off until next year. The snow came all at once and they are working to get caught up. They are actively looking at hiring additional operators. Currently on staff are Jared Lewis and Brock Hansen on the Madison side, but another person is needed. Wade would also like to get one more person on the Teton side as backup. Scott Wood is still operating in Teton County. The maps have been distributed and there is funding in the coffers to print more. There are a few updates needed. Wade reported on a state-wide tracking system to show where the groomers are in real time and see the last time trails were groomed. The signal cannot always be picked up while grooming, but it is being fixed. The site is: www.idahoetrails.com. The next grooming meeting is on the 25th of January, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the county annex building.

Angie Moffat, Tax Cancellations- HOE:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to approve the tax cancellations in the amount of \$3,983.88 for those requests received in December 2021. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Tammy Erickson, Winter Wellness:

The proposed challenge will include the option of exercise or weight loss and would run from January 18 thru March 14. The exercise option requires 150 minutes of exercise per week. The weight loss option includes donating \$15, with the winner taking the pot, but must keep the weight off for a certain amount of time. Reporting will be to Tammy on a weekly basis. We have done the challenge twice a year for the past few years. Last fall we had 50 participants. There was discussion on how to change it up for the Spring challenge.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve 8 hours of comp time for those participating in the exercise and weight loss challenge and meeting the qualifications listed above. Commissioner seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Robert Kohler/Chief Child, Grant discussion, 911 upgrade – finalization of costs and support of other entities:

Commissioner Mendenhall and Todd Smith attended the City Council meeting last week. The City would like to be involved in this agreement Teton Communications and the City have agreed to hold off replacing the base station, which will reduce the overall amount of ARPA funds the county would pay to \$374,165. Discussion ensued regarding accruing funding to replace the base station within the next one to five years with a cost to the county of \$285,000. Commissioner Mendenhall stated that putting the base station off 1-5 years does not look good and questions what will happen if the current system goes down. He suggests that we move ahead as planned, and the other entities can fund with upcoming budgets. As all entities upgrade, used base stations will be set aside if needed to emergency backups.

The City agrees that the RFP was resolved in 2007 and are confident it will hold for the current equipment. A second RFP with the equipment needed will be sent to Teton Communication. New ARPA guidelines were received last week, but we have not read through them yet. Corey is confident that the ARPA fund guidelines will show in favor of using ARPA funding for this upgrade to the system. Commissioner Mendenhall suggests adhering to the motion made at the December 13, 2021. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Corey also mentioned Idaho Dept of Lands would like to us to submit grant applications for a fuel reduction project, in the amount of \$300,000. If approval is received the Fire District will go in and clean up Beaver Dick Park and Twin Bridges to reduce the shrubbery, reduce fire hazard and make improvements They will also do some work on the warming hut and other areas if allowable as the property owners are identified. Corey will return to report on the scope of work as this process proceeds. Additional employees will be hired if the grant is approved and could be trained and ready to go if there is an immediate need for wild land fire.

The parking lot near Fisher's Pasture was discussed and will be reviewed for improvements.

Commissioner Doug Smith made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the voting was unanimous. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Approved:

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

Attest:
Kim Muir, County Clerk