



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

**Madison County
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023**

Attendees:

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

ACTION ITEMS

This meeting was streamed electronically.

Pledge of Allegiance: By all

Invocation: Brent Mendenhall

Corey Child, Fire Chief:

MOU regarding the Upper Snake P25 Radio System. The MOU covers surrounding counties that jointly own a repeater system to communicate and improve public safety from Pocatello to West Yellowstone. There has not been an MOU in place, so Corey was asked to write one. This covers Madison, Jefferson, Clark, Fremont and Bonneville counties. All the other counties have signed it.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the MOU for the Upper Snake P25 Radio System. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Thornton land purchase claim. A claim was received to pay for the Thornton land purchase. The county did not agree to pay for the full amount of the land purchase and only planned to pay for a portion. There will need to be a long-term plan and financing to dig the well. Funds will need to be set aside in the budget for partial funding for the fire station, property and other projects upcoming. Impact fees were discussed. Commissioner Mendenhall will meet with the fire and ambulance board and try and work out a solution. Until then, this bill will not be paid.

Calendar Discussion:

Next Commission Meetings March 13, 20 and 27th, 2023.

The March 13, 2023 Edstrom reconsideration discussion just with the Commissioners will be moved to March 20, 2023. Commissioner Mendenhall will be out of town on March 13th and Commissioner Smith has recused himself. During the March 20, 2023 meeting, a canvass of the votes will also be held on the March 14, 2023 election.

Discussion Items:

Legislative updates:

Commissioner Mendenhall discussed an upcoming bill regarding returning interest and penalties back to taxing districts, Bonneville county is opposed to it, Representative Weber does not know where it is going to go, and is torn to give back to districts since it will cost the county to collect and redistribute.

With homeowner's exemption, there is a debate about allowing sign up to be whenever they want during the year. The Legislature is thinking about quarterly distributions and either taking it back to the day the house was purchased or the day homeowners signed up for the exemption.

A new tarping law is also being discussed to secure loads. Governments are not required to tarp currently. One county estimated 5 million dollars alone to buy tarps for trucks. Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) opposed it because of the cost and little if any complaints.

Board Appointments:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the appointing of Commissioner Parkinson to the Upper Valley Board of Guardians. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

RPO Report:

Commissioner Parkinson said they defined a mission statement and that things are moving along well.

Snowmobile Grooming Board:

Commissioner Parkinson and Troy Evans, civil attorney for the county met with grooming board members Mr. Pocock, Mr. McBride and Mr. Hansen. Present were also concerned citizens. Commissioner Parkinson outlined the process and what will be followed and the commissioner's role.

CAI Software:

Computer Arts is going to phase out of the property tax software business. They will continue to provide customer support but will offer no upgrades. They are rewriting the clerk's financial software and want to bring in a partner company which will cost the county more money. There will be more discussion before we agree, but Computer Arts is ready to make the changes soon. Contract is valid until the end of the year but we might need to start looking at other options.

Per diem:

Most counties do both credit card reimbursements from receipts turned in and per diem. In the next department meeting, commissioners will mention to department heads and elected officials if using per diem to make sure they know their budget and not go over.

Approve a credit card for the Sheriff's Office:

Commissioners approved a credit card to pay utilities for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this, Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Sugar City property located next to Search and Rescue Building:

Catherine Nielsen from the Sugar City Council was in attendance. The council met Thursday night and unanimously approved donating the land just south of the Search and Rescue building in Sugar City to the county. The county would need to build something on this ground within 10 years. The property would possibly be for the use of a Coroner's office and/or the possibility of moving the Sheriff's Office to that location. The Sugar City hearing will be March 27, 2023 to donate the land to the county. We will be very aware of aesthetics on and around the property until a building is built. This is a generous donation from the City of Sugar City and the Commissioners expressed their appreciation. Documents will be signed after Sugar City meets and provides the final documents and deed.

As a side note: Connie Fogle has resigned from the Sugar City Council. Daniel Baird has been appointed.

Contracts/Documents:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to the approve Right of Way Contract with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 3000 W/2000 N. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Parkinson made a motion to approve the Change Order for a contract change on map data hosting with Rapid SOS. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to ratify signing of the WHR Contract for the Fair. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Revised Vehicle Policy:

This will be placed on a future agenda.

Opioid Settlement Participation forms:

Commissioner Smith would like to see these funds used for education. Public health has some ideas too since we need to fight the opioid issue. Commissioners would like to see Kirk Mace,

Ryan Brown and the Eastern Idaho Public Health department have a meeting together to share ideas.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve participation in the Opioid Settlement. There were 5 forms with several pharmaceutical companies. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Parkinson made a motion to approve amounts levied for Indigent Public Defense 2020, 2021. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Parkinson made a motion to approve the Summit National Bank agreement for a grader. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Routine Matters:

After review and discussion, Commissioner Parkinson made a motion to approve the claims presented by the Clerk. The grand total of claims was \$330,521.09. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2023. Commissioner Parkinson 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 Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Certificates of Residency: There were no certificates to review.

Public Comment: There was no one present to comment.

Executive Session: Executive Session Idaho Code § 74-206(1) (b) employee matters, (c) land acquisition. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:14 a.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Smith – yes, Commissioner Mendenhall – yes Commissioner Parkinson – yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Smith returned to open session at 10:03 a.m. There were no decisions made.

Gary Armstrong, Planning and Zoning:

Gary would like to submit a Request for Proposal, for a consultant to complete a Comp Plan update for the County. Gary presented a job description to hire a consultant to assist in completing the Comp Plan update. Gary would like one commissioner to assist in reviewing proposals. Commissioner Parkinson volunteered to be on the committee to review.

After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Request for Proposals, for a consultant to complete a Comp Plan update for the County. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Dispatch discussion:

Mike Courtney was present for the dispatch discussion. The Sheriff's Office would like to lease the back of the American Family Insurance building to move dispatch. Adjustments will need to be made since there is just one meter for gas and electric. They are waiting on grants for equipment and build out, but have asked for \$500,000 and should hear by April 1, 2023. If the grant is not enough, they can use their current equipment even though the equipment is getting old. Legal counsel has received the lease and sent it to the Commissioners and Sheriff's Office to review and comment.

Vehicle Policy discussion:

Lance expressed concerns about the vehicle policy stating pick up of the vehicle being used should be picked up the day before. He feels it would be less travel to pick it up on Friday. Commissioners said this would be treated as a special circumstance and address as it comes up.

Gym memberships:

Kirk addressed the \$15/month reimbursement for gym memberships as currently being a contract with a gym but asked consideration for other health awareness avenues such as fitness apps, fitness coaches, etc. Commissioner Smith wants Kirk to get input from the employee committee and then can possibly move forward to rewriting the policy to include \$15/month reimbursements for fitness accounts that include the signing of a contract.

Soil and Water Conservation budget request:

Robbie Taylor is requesting funding of \$6,500 for the Soil and Water Conservation District as has been done in the past. The funds are used for education outreach, and some schools count on the District. This year they are involved with the water quality program for agriculture as well as a high tunnel project similar to greenhouses that are designed to promote urban farming.

Board of Equalization, tax cancellations:

Twin Pines Apartment, government subsidized. This falls into 63-602GG, and been exempt in the past. After review and discussion, Commissioner Parkinson made a motion to approve the tax-exempt form for Twin Pines Apartments. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development now doing business as Altura Community Consulting has a home office they have added footage to over the years. East Idaho College does night classes. They have been given full exemption in the past. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the tax exemption for parcel #2010030. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development dba Altura Community Consulting has property to the east of the home office building and they plan on expanding in the next few years. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the tax exemption for parcel #201004B. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development dba Altura Community Consulting has property on railroad tracks in Sugar City, tried to gift it to Sugar City but paperwork has not been done. Shawn will continue to exempt but need to work with Sugar City to transfer over. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the tax exemption for parcel #0047510. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development dba Altura Community Consulting has property to the west of the home office building. After review and discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the tax exemption for parcel #1030010. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development dba Altura Community Consulting has a lot across the street from the home office and value increases are reflected on this lot. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to deny the tax exemption for parcel #2020022. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

East Central Idaho Development dba Altura Community Consulting has property in the Sugar City Business Park. Sugar City owed money and East Central Idaho paid so they traded the lot. They have no intentions of building anything on the lot since they were just “gifted” the lot. After review and discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to deny the tax exemption for parcel #P120050. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and voting was unanimous. The motion passed.

Sean Boice, Assessor on Ratio Studies:

The State Tax Commission comes in two times a year to assess how well the assessor and his team are doing their jobs. Assessment vs. market value needs to be within 90%-110% and Madison County is coming in between 93.66%-97.00% which indicates that Shawn and his team are doing their job well as well as erring on the side of the tax payers.

Computer Arts/County Deeds:

We are working with Computer Arts to improve GIS layers for the public and in doing so the public will be able to print recorded vesting deeds online vs. going to the recording office in person. Computer Arts will need to do some work on their end to enable Paul with IT to gather and capture information. Computer Arts gave a bid of \$1200 to get it up and going. Should be a seamless project.

Rec District Discussion:

Scott Johnson, Tisha Flora, Mayor Merrill and Matt Nielsen with the City of Rexburg were in attendance as well as Kailey Fryer – volunteer for the Rec District, Dan Roberts, Kirsten Ruebush,

Jared Arnold, and Catherine Nelson – City of Sugar City. Commissioners ask those from the City of Rexburg and Kailey Fryer, to be sensitive when bringing items forward involving Madison County. The public believes this is being spear headed by Madison County and it is not. Mayor Merrill responded the number one question the council is asked is why can't we have a year-round pool? Their response is we don't have funding and would have to have a District to maintain a pool. Many outside the City are also asking. The City is gauging to see if there is interest. A Rec District would be a county wide district. They could run this as a City, but out of city folks would pay extra for use.

Commissioners ask again to please be careful in advertising and the language they are using. They are controlling the language because it sets the narrative. Property taxes are a hot issue especially for the county right now. The city employees state they are not instituting this, the Madison County citizens are asking for a pool. A Rec District can encompass more than one county, but is recommended it be kept just in Madison County. There are 34 existing Rec Districts in the state of Idaho.

Tisha Flora asks what we would call it, if it isn't a "Madison County Rec District." Commissioners state that due diligence falls upon the city to promote, this is not a Madison County Parks and Rec District and ask they be careful of the education process. Tisha states that you can't control the newspaper – this article made it look like the City and the County are pushing for the District. We can't control how an article is written, but they will do their best to educate. Suggestion was to label the project "Community Rec Center". Volunteers are just getting signatures. It was stated it will be an evolving thing not driven by the city or the county, but by citizens. Catherine Nielsen states there needs to be a written report to the commissioners that lay out boundaries, etc. Dan Roberts comments the project has been driven by the City of Rexburg when they paid \$87,000 for the feasibility study. Hence, this isn't run by the citizens, it is run by the City of Rexburg.

The volunteer group will need to get approx. 4,200 signatures of registered voters to get on the ballot. Catherine Nelson said the City of Sugar City does not wish to be a part of the Rec District. She was informed they would be part of the District if the voters approved the levy.

Executive Session: The Commissioners returned to Executive Session Idaho Code § 74-206(1) (b) employee matters, Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Parkinson seconded and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Commissioner Smith – yes Commissioner Mendenhall – yes Commissioner Parkinson – yes. The motion passed. Commissioner Smith returned to open session at 1:47 p.m.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 p.m. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and voting was unanimous.

Approved:

Todd Smith, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner
Dustin Parkinson, Commissioner

Attest:
Kim Muir, County Clerk