

May 21, 2001

11:10 AM

This special meeting with the Cassia County Commissioners was scheduled to discuss several joint-county programs and concerns. All six commissioners were in attendance.

Ethanol Plant Construction

There has been quite a bit of interest locally in conducting a feasibility study regarding the construction of an ethanol plant. Two of the local promoters, John Remsberg III and Winston Inouye, have requested that the counties show their support by contributing \$500 each toward the cost of the feasibility study.

Both Boards were reluctant to do so because of the precedent it would set for contributing to private business concerns.

Public Defender Office

They also discussed the idea of creating a two-county Public Defender Office to address the problem the Public Defender Office to address the problem the Public Defender Whipple reviewed at our last meeting. Kerry McMurray felt that a court-appointed panel would need to be used to pick the Chief Public Defender and a person or board would need to be set up for oversight authority. They agreed to set up a committee to research the idea.

Jackson Area Emergency Services

Commissioner Crane reported on a meeting he and Commissioner Teeter attended with the sheriffs regarding problems of dispatching emergency services to the Jackson area. They established a protocol and will watch it for a year before pursuing any changes.

Veterans' Service Officer Position

Commissioner Povlsen reported they had six applicants for the vacant Veterans' Service Officer position. She and Commissioner Handy will meet tomorrow night to narrow the list to three.

Economic Development

Concerning matter of economic development, an item discussed was CSI's recent efforts to initiate a regional program and they would like to expand it to the Mini-Cassia area.

South Central Health District

Commissioner Handy mentioned the South Central Health District's budget proposal which includes a healthy 6% increase in personnel expenses. He inquired if Cassia County was concerned about the constant increase in the counties' contribution without knowing their financial condition (cash reserves).

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was recessed.