

February 23, 2004

8:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Teeter with Commissioners Stapelman and Bingham in attendance. Minutes were taken by Clerk Smith.

Applications for County Aid

The Board considered the following Applications for County Aid:

Approved: 94672, 100071, 100056 Denied: 100059, 100079, 100087, 100072, 100055

Juvenile Probation Grant Application

Dixie Tate and Christal Bossert met with the Board requesting a Letter of Support for the grant application for the Juvenile Probation Department. The Board unanimously approved a **MOTION** to issue the Letter of Support.

Bills and Payroll

The following bills were examined, approved and ordered paid and the warrants may be seen at the Auditor's Office.

	Bills	Payroll
Current Expense	\$18,214.71	\$43,219.73
Health	7,602.08	
Indigent	49.18	1,472.25
Parks & Recreation		959.46
Revaluation	1,011.02	8,036.94
Landfill	1,610.56	
Weed	415.67	2,159.24
District Court	1,857.89	6,560.52
Justice Fund	32,385.56	120,898.41
E911		1,761.21

Home Owners Exemption

Assessor Vaughn met with the Board to provide information about the process required for people to obtain a Home Owners Exemption. This information was being

provided to assist the Board in their consideration of a Hardship Exemption hearing later in the day.

Monthly Meeting of Department

The monthly meeting of department heads was held:

TREASURER TWISS reported that there are still 22 real property tax bills and 62 personal property tax bills not collected. She also said that they are keeping very busy with Circuit Breaker Applications.

ASSESSOR VAUGHN mentioned that his motor vehicle department is gearing-up for the receipt of all the new license plates.

SHERIFF FRIES advised the Board that he is still waiting on the delivery of the last of the five vehicles he purchased. He also mentioned that the Emergency Response Trailer that they received through the Homeland Security Grant will be a valuable asset.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR ASTON presented the Building Permit Report for January. He advised the Board that snow removal costs are way up this year and he suggested looking at other alternatives for next year. As soon as weather permits, the parking lot across the street will be repaired and the parking blocks in the rear parking lot will be fixed up.

WEED SUPERVISOR SMITH reported on the Weed Board Meeting and the recent IWCA Meeting that he attended in Nampa. He mentioned that the legislature may be amending some of the weed laws. Smith also said that Christensen's could build the trailer that was budgeted and the cost would be \$2500.

PUBLIC DEFENDER WHIPPLE presented his Monthly Activity Report which reflected 83 new clients including 14 new juveniles.

COUNTY AGENT SCHUSTER presented the Activity Summary for Agent Gillespie. He was off-work most of the month due to the birth of his first child.

CLERK SMITH distributed and reviewed the initial draft of proposed guidelines to be followed by any department applying for a grant. He also discussed the proposed new policies covering “Special” Absences due to weather and the prohibition of **any** employee from cashing **any** check in **any** county office.

General Reserve Appropriations

The Board unanimously approved General Reserve Appropriations for the Sheriff’s fax machine (\$265.98) and for Clerk Smith’s new chair (up to \$150.00).

Mileage Reimbursement Policy

Clerk Smith reviewed a Mileage Reimbursement Policy that was adopted by the Board in 1997 which tied the reimbursement rate to the amount that the State of Idaho paid. Several years later the Board opted to not follow that policy when the State raised their rate to 36 cents per mile. Now that the State has increased that rate to 37 cents per mile, Clerk Smith presented the matter to the Board. The Board unanimously approved a **MOTION** to increase to the state rates effective October 1, 2004.

Rose Garden Plaques

Clerk Smith raised the issue of the Rose Garden Plaques which are deteriorating. The Board wanted to look at several options that might be available in lieu of the County standing the expense of rehabilitation.

Application for Hardship Tax Exemption

Virgilio/Diane Rodriguez and Clint Crane met with the Board to ask their reconsideration of their earlier denial of their Application for Hardship Tax Exemption.

Errors by one or more of the parties involved in their purchase of the property resulted in the Rodriguez's mortgage payment being \$57/month higher than originally stated. Although an inability to make the payments was not shown, The Board felt the Rodriguez's should not have to carry the full burden of someone else's errors. As a compromise, the Board unanimously approved a **MOTION** to cancel \$355.30 of their 2003 taxes.

Legal Counsel for Commissioner Board

Administrative District Judge Barry Wood met with the Board, along with Prosecutor Walker, to discuss the effect of the court's changes on the availability of the Prosecutor to the Board. Judge Wood travels to Minidoka County from Gooding County to substitute for Judge Melanson since his reassignment to the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court in Twin Falls. Judge Wood's schedule requires the Prosecutor's presence in court Monday mornings which is when the Board usually needs legal counsel for their meeting. The Prosecutor will check-in with the Board when the court takes their noon break to review any legal questions.

Application for Tax Exempt

The Board approved the Application for Tax Exempt Organization filed on behalf of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Inc on parcel RP 10S23E106510A.

County Health Insurance Program

The Board moved their meeting upstairs to accommodate those discussing the idea of changing the County's Health Insurance Program from Blue Cross to the Gem Plan. In attendance were members of the County Employees' Benefits Committee as well as Barbara Steele, representing the Gem Plan, and Hyatt Erstad, who is the County's

health insurance agent. Following a two-hour discussion and question/answer period, the Board unanimously approved a **MOTION** to apply with Gem Plan pending legal counsel's approval of the enabling documents.

Election Polling Places

Clerk Smith presented a proposal to the Board regarding the locations of two polling places for the Primary and General Elections. He pointed out that Big Valley School continually restricts the larger-turnout General Election to a small classroom. The congestion causes confusion for the voters and unfavorable working conditions for the judges. This problem will be compounded in 2006 when we will have to add a touch-screen voting machine to each polling place. The spatial problems at Acequia School are not as serious but they too will be compounded in 2006.

Smith proposed moving the Big Valley School polling place to the McGregor Center at the Fairgrounds for 2004 and if that worked-out well, then in 2006 the Board could consider moving the Acequia School location to the McGregor Center, too.

A decision is not needed for a month or two, but Smith wanted to get the proposal out now to allow time for public input.

Having no further business on the Agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.