

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
January 26, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, Citizen Jake Zollinger, Citizen Dan Nutsch, Planning & Zoning Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

Weeds: Brett updated the Board on his attendance at the Idaho Weed Conference in Boise. He also attended the Native Plant Working Group meeting in Salmon. He is pleased to report that the Weed drone is on its way and will be arriving in February. There are still some FAA exemptions that he needs to complete for the drone. Brett has requested bids for the proposed "road-side" spray truck from three different companies. He is expecting a cost around the \$70,000.00 amount for a Dodge 4500. The spray system will be custom designed by Custer Weed Dept. and the BLM Weed Dept. The costs for this truck and spray equipment will be reimbursed through BLM grants. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the bid process that the Weed Department has initiated. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Herbicide prices are starting to come down, and Brett is watching costs to get the best inventory for the money for the County.

Road & Bridge: Brandon introduced Dan Nutsch, who wanted to discuss the first five miles of the Yankee Fork Road. Brandon also provided a spreadsheet with the actual costs for the Yankee Fork road work broken down. He verified that the USFS Schedule A agreement pays the Road & Bridge \$18,000.00 per year to do the maintenance on the Yankee Fork road. Dan presented his private enterprise cost figures, and Brandon explained that he is required to use the FEMA cost figures. Dan then brought up the "pot holes" that keep reappearing and presented his opinion that they are caused from lack of drainage. He then provided his view on how to grade a road and stated how fast it should be completed. Brandon rebutted with the ITD requirements that he is required to follow. Commissioner Smith inquired about the posted speed limit on the Yankee Fork Road? It is currently posted at 35 to 45 MPH. Brandon provided photos of road work being done on the Yankee Fork. He also explained that the ITD Inspectors do not allow any road materials to be placed on bridge decks, for long term maintenance of the bridge structure. All agreed that the catch 22 is that the better the road is maintained, the faster the public drives, in spite of the posted speed limit. Dan informed those present that he has given grader operation classes to other county road departments. He then discussed the application and timing of Mag. Chloride. Clerk Lura Baker asked Dan if the Yankee Fork Road is in better condition now, than it was before the County began maintaining it? He agreed that it is better, and the main problem is the ever-increasing speed of vehicles using the road. Dan offered to assist Brandon with crew training. Brandon asked if the road needs to be turned back to the USFS, and Dan said NO.

The crew equipment for the Chevy 2500 still needs to be installed. Commissioner Smith moved that \$2,500.00 be approved for completion of equipment for the Road & Bridge truck. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Brandon then provided photos of the R&B plow truck with a broken frame. Nothing was hit to cause the break, so insurance does not cover the costs. Brandon would like to repair the frame break to support the hood and bumper and use the truck as a dump/water truck but no longer use it to plow snow. This year he has enough snow plow trucks. The Board agreed that he had a good plan and to follow through.

The chip spreaders that the County currently owns are both 1960 models. One is useable, but the other has been damaged and scavenged for parts. The Idaho company that manufactured them will refurbish

their old models. New chip spreaders cost between \$500 and \$700 thousand and a refurbished model will cost around \$200 thousand. It will be 9 to 10 months before the "chipper" will be needed, and Brandon has an estimate of \$156,000.00 to rebuild the damaged chipper and a new head will cost \$31,000.00. The company has offered a tour of their shop and equipment to Brandon and the Board of Commissioners. The Board agreed that the damaged chipper should be refurbished as soon as the R&B budget will allow; perhaps FY2025. The share/trade agreement with the adjoining counties were then reviewed. Brandon is currently working with Lemhi County and the Lost River Highway District to cover each other in case of major breakdowns.

The Hamm Roller (problem child) lease is up on May 24th 2024 and this roller will be returned to the company. Brandon has been in contact with CAT and a replacement machine is available for an annual lease payment of \$29,644. This would be a CAT CS54B vibrating roller that will be available in May. Brandon will bring the official paperwork to the next Commissioners meeting.

The gravel sources in the East Fork and the County Line in Pahsimeroi need renewed permits for any further use by the County. Brandon is working on the renewals. The S.P.O.T. unit that the R&B has used for safety communication in remote areas of the road system are 6 years old and need to be replaced. The satellite phone is also up against the same problem. Brandon discussed getting a second satellite phone through Disaster Services. Board members agreed that using the phone system would be best. Commissioner Smith made a motion that gives Brandon approval to continue researching the possible phone systems that will work for the County. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Emergency Services: Clerk Lura Baker reported on behalf of Manager Levi Maydole and updated the board on the storage of the sandbags in the Mackay area. He has been able to utilize the forklift from Mackay Lumber to get the Konnex storage filled up with sandbags. There are some bags that had to be stored outside. The recent repairs that were completed on the Mackay Dam have all been documented and turned into FEMA. The BRIC Grant that is in process could well be affected. The final item was that Levi has installed the second AED Unit upstairs in the courts.

Clerk: Lura has received the FOIA requested information from the USFS on the sediment records for a grazing permit. The size of the file of information required her to put it on zip drives for the Board members. Clerk Baker then updated the Board on the Public Defense Commission and the changes that are forthcoming. She has attended the meeting with the Public Defender, and Jarad Ricks, Public Defense Commissioner for the annual review. The State of Idaho will take over on October 1st and the counties will no longer receive PDC grants to help cover the costs.

NRAC: Committee Chairman Jim Hawkins attended. Clerk Lura Baker provided him with a printed copy of the Annual Idaho Wolf Report from the Fish & Game Dept. The next meeting between the Custer Co. and Lemhi Co. Board of Commissioners will be on February 15th at 1:00 PM in Elk Bend at the Dusty Mule restaurant. Lynn Bowerman is the newly appointed Chairman of the Lemhi Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Smith updated those present on new USFS management direction for "Old Growth Forests". He will contact Mary Darling and inquire if she would be able to assist Custer County with this latest issue. The issue of grazing allotment management via sediment data is at an impasse due to the rules for monitoring. Jim suggested that Karen Launchbaugh be contacted to have an unbiased look at the current sediment data. The Board agreed that assistance is warranted.

Junior College/Certificate of Residency: Upon review of the application, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Winters application. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

Credit Card: The credit card use request from the Sheriff's Office for dispatch training certification was reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the \$125.00 card use, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed at 10:35 to go into South Custer Ambulance. The regular meeting was reconvened at 10:40 with Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Citizen Jake Zollinger and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins attending. Commissioner Smith reported on the E. ID State Fair Annual meeting that he attended. The annual assessment for the county has not changed from 2023.

Clerk: The Fiscal Year 2023 Audit is now completed and Commissioner Smith read Gary Merkle's letter aloud. The Board then reviewed the audit. Commissioner Smith made a motion that the FY2023 Audit be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. After review of the Jan. 11th meeting minutes, Commissioner Smith moved that they be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

LRED: Mr. & Mrs. Mike Evans and Lin Hintze attended. Those attending were advised that Commissioner Wayne Butts had passed away on January 8th. His funeral is being planned for June 22nd at the Community Event Center. Condolences were expressed by the Mackay residents. LRED Executive Director Mike Evans reported on their grant process and their letter requesting support from Custer County has been received. Discussion was then held on the "Leakage Data" that has been generated by the Idaho Department of Commerce. Lin Hintze brought up the amount of money that is leaving the county through Amazon that is not included in the Dept. of Commerce data sheet. He will get back to them and request that information also. Commissioner Smith requested a copy of the breakdown information for Custer County and Mike will forward it to him via e-mail. Mike then reviewed the annual events they promote, as well as the Mackay business' that are currently up for sale. The KCAT group will be meeting soon with Konnex Mine and the new plan of operations is expected. The new Mackay City mayor is Richard Mangum, and the two new city council members are Karen Hames and Pat Powers. Lin voiced his concerns about voting procedures within the Urban Renewal Districts.

The meeting was recessed at 12:10 for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 PM. Attending were Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins and Jake Zollinger. Also attending via Zoom connection was Barbara Petty, University of Idaho Extension Director.

University of Idaho: Commissioner Smith moved to go into executive session under 74-206(1)(a) for personnel at 1:01PM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous ayes. No decisions were made during this session and the Board returned to regular session at 1:20 PM. Commissioner Smith asked Barbara about the possibility of getting student assistance with gathering and interpreting of data for a grazing allotment sedimentation issue. She felt the University would be able to assist and recommended Dr. Jim Sprinkles that works at the Cummins Center in Salmon, Idaho, as well as Karen Launchbaugh.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the credit card use in the amount of \$263.94 for replacement of the under-sink water heater in the Treasurer's office bathroom that is leaking. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith then made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1-16-2024 Public Hearing for the Kootenai Walk Road vacation. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

Claims: Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims be approved and paid. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

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| Current Expense | 42,435.68 |
| Road & Bridge | 10,253.58 |
| Election Fund | 288.85 |
| District Court | 12,395.82 |
| Health District | 12,491.00 |
| Jr. College Tuition | 2,000.00 |
| Solid Waste | 1,536.37 |
| Weeds | 221.50 |
| LACTF | 10,658.00 |
| Auditors Trust | <u>697.75</u> |
| TOTAL | 92,978.55 |

Solid Waste/Great West: A Zoom meeting was scheduled and those attending via zoom were Travis Pyle/Great West and Steve Botti/Stanley Mayor. Attending in person were Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Jake Zollinger and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. Travis began the meeting by updating the Board on what his research has found. Custer County needs to get the Small Community Exemption, and then they need to generate enough revenue to build and operate a County land fill with their assessment and dumping fees. Travis provided a Financial Forecast spreadsheet to help explain the costs and income needed. All agreed that the solid waste fees in Custer County will need to be higher. Mayor Steve Botti provided a synopsis of the Stanley area solid waste situation. Currently a fair amount of Custer County waste is being hauled over to Blaine County. Travis stressed that "Solid Waste" is a necessary utility for everyone and there is a cost involved. When asked what the next step should be, Travis explained the financial forecast spreadsheet. Commissioner Corgatelli asked Mayor Botti if an employee share program between County & City for one or two days per week could be worked out. Steve agreed to look into the possibility. After reviewing the actual solid waste costs, it was agreed that even if present fees were to double the County would still be operating at a loss. Suggestions included doing a gradual annual increase of solid waste fees until a nest egg could be budgeted for land fill start-up costs. Travis reminded everyone of the capital improvements that will be ongoing, such as the needed tipping floors in Mackay and Stanley. The list of needs included (1) increase the Solid Waste Fee; (2) Set up a Capital Improvement Reserve Account; (3) Get the Stanley and Mackay transfer sites completed; (4) Research the employment costs of a Solid Waste Attendant. The Zoom meeting was concluded at 4:45 PM.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to allocate \$5,500.00 to support Lost River Economic Development for FY2024. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved to send \$3,500.00 to the American Stewards of Liberty for the excellent work they do. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

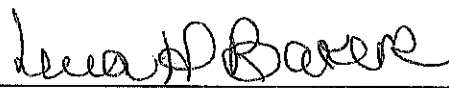
The Board of Commissioners then welcomed Jake Zollinger as their newly appointed member. Governor Brad Little provided the press release today appointing Jake to fill District One's chair, per Idaho Code. Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli administered the Oath of Office for Jake as Clerk Lura Baker photographed the event. First item of business were the committee assignments that each Commissioner is required to accept. After discussion it was agreed that Jake would assume the Custer Economic Development Association, the North Custer Rodeo Committee, and the Custer County Fair

Board seats. As the prior Chairman of the Custer County Fair Board, it was agreed that he would need to resign that position. Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Corgatelli then gave a quick orientation of his new job and offered their assistance. The agenda for the upcoming Idaho Association of Counties midwinter meeting in Boise, Jan. 29 through Feb. 1st, was provided for Jake.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.




Randy Corgatelli, Vice Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest: 
Lura H. Baker, Clerk