

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
November 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM by Commissioner Chair Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioner Steve Smith, Commissioner Jake Zollinger, Clerk Lura Baker, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Brett Plummer, Brandon Jones, Karma Bragg, Melissa Hardy and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia in attendance.

**Road & Bridge:** Karma Bragg gave the mitigation report on the Garden Creek Project, have been monitoring the survival rate of the vegetation and the native species are thriving. Would like to work with the Weeds Dept on monitoring the vegetation, specifically with drone coverage. They have 10 years to monitor the vegetation in that area and feel they are ahead of schedule on progress. Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Corgatelli advised that they felt that Karma could go ahead and coordinate with the Weeds Department to schedule the use of the drone. Karma has been monitoring the fence along these projects and will continue to. Just had a class of Environmental Science students help her plant vegetation on Pole Creek, can always utilize those students if the County has projects. Gave a proposal for funding support to the Commissioners requesting \$5000 for the 2025 fiscal year, Commissioner Smith advised that would need to do add as an action item to approve funding support for next Commissioners Meeting. Karma went over her annual performance report of recent projects, revenues, educational programs and future projects. Commissioner Smith touched upon promotion to students and community to become involved in future projects and education.

Melissa Hardy was present to request of the Commissioner to approve plowing from the Yankee Fork Dredge to their personal residence, she advised that they are now both currently working away from the home and unable to plow the road on their own. Brandon Jones advised that this section of the road is a Forest Service schedule A, which has been extended to the Custer Townsite so that the R&B department doesn't have to ask permission to go past the Dredge. Commissioner Smith asked Jones and Hardy if there is any private road in this section, Jones advised that it is public road. Jones advised that he is in favor of plowing this section of road as needed and there is a turn around above the Custer Townsite, which he will have to contact Parks & Rec to make sure that the turn can be used as that is their section. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve plowing through the Custer Townsite, as needed, with the joint approval of the Forest Service and Parks & Rec, motion seconded by Commissioner Zollinger, motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Brandon Jones gave report that have all plow trucks converted except for one, which has had some mechanical issues in the conversation back to a plow. Will have six (6) trucks when all up and in operation. Will be putting out a job opening advertisement within the next week for CDL operator as they are in need of one more operator. Discussion regarding CDL training, there is a training option that Salmon River Stages is offering that could be considered. Current Employee Policy requires that employees need to have a Class B CDL for employment, discussion regarding assisting employees in obtaining this type of CDL.

Jones and Corgatelli met with LTAC at three different bridge projects. FLAP is only grant that is available for this extensive funding. At this point the cost of the Bayhorse Bridge Project is estimated at \$12,000,000 to \$14, 000,000. This is the same grant that is being applied for on the Garden Creek Phase II project. Need to have a serious discussion on the use of the old Bayhorse Bridge, LTAC is

advising that the old bridge doesn't actually have to be removed, could be given to private property owners, but there would have to be plan for releasing liability from the County to the private sector. Have a year and a half to plan for this project. Muleshoe bridge below Clayton was reviewed and it will need to be addressed as it is now listed as Critical status, there are several options but LTAC advised that the County will most likely never receive funding to improve this Bridge as there is not a necessary transportation over this bridge. There are three options, to abandon the bridge, improve the bridge or remove the bridge. Discussion regarding funding, removal and timeline. Commissioner Smith made a motion for Jones to pursue funding for removal of the Muleshoe Bridge below Clayton, Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The third bridge that was reviewed was the East Fork Bridge at Road Creek. LTAC advised that they felt could put a concrete pillar at each footer to secure the bridge rather than adding more rock, as that could interfere with environmental permitting. Commissioner Zollinger made motion to have Jones pursue funding to modify the Road Creek Bridge on East Fork, seconded by Commissioner Smith and motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Zollinger asked status of other roads for the rest of the County.

Jones would like to take a member of the Commissioner out to the Pahsimeroi Valley to review some of the roads in that area. Commissioner Zollinger would like to go with Jones, so will Gordon Vaden. Both will coordinate with Jones to set a time and date.

**Weeds:** Weed Supervisor Brett Plummer advised that he had a meeting with the new BLM Weeds Department, Caleb Dunkle and Randall Anderson, discussed funding and projects for the coming 2025 season. Will be attending Weed Conference January 27 -31, 2024 in Nampa. Has been completing reports and assisting R&B with shop projects. Hauled a plow blade back from Salmon for R&B. Knapweed infestation was addressed on Wilson Road, which could affect the Garden Creek Project, will continue to spray for this noxious weed in that area. Has not heard back from the Stanley Coalition, Steve Botti, for the Fire Mitigation that was being discussed.

Discussion regarding the Challis Airport, as Commissioner Smith asked Plummer if he was still the manager of the Airport. Plummer is no longer the manager of the airport but discussion ensued regarding an upcoming meeting regarding the Challis Airport. It was addressed that previously the City of Challis had wanted to implement eminent domain regarding obtaining private property for the Airport and the Commissioners agreed unanimously that they would object to that concept.

Karma Bragg advised that the County Agent's office had suggested a weed application class, she stated that her office would offer to assist with the County Weeds Department in providing a class, Plummer and Bragg will discuss. A regional training was discussed for a future date.

**Commissioner:** Discussion with Justin Oleson regarding a letter that was received from the attorney representing the BLM on the building site location. It is the unanimous decision of the Prosecutor and Commissioners that the BLM will still need to follow the application process set forth by the Custer County Planning and Zoning and that the BLM will still need to follow all stipulations listed within the County P&Z ordinances.

**Commissioner:** Commission Zollinger gave report from Town Hall meeting that Thompson Creek Mining Company held. Thompson Creek Manager Don Weeks gave history of care and maintenance since 2014 but want to be back in full production by 2027. Had 41 employees during C&M, currently up to 147 and

by January 2025 plan to have 180, however plan is to have over 300 employees by 2027. Safety Manager Kenny Wright discussed the strict drug & alcohol non-tolerance policy and a "Work Safe Home Safe" training that employees have attended. Discussion on housing for the addition of 300 employees. Tiny homes only approved in lower subdivision, not on private property closer to the mine. As of now nothing has been platted, but will want to start building on property they own above the Challis Redi-Mix and drilling their own large well, looking at a duplex behind the old Village Square Store, will be working on utilities with the local entities and City. Short on skilled tradesman and trying to hire those types of people. Think mine will have a twelve year lifespan. Advised current market value is \$22 per pound for moly, have to be at \$15 to remain profitable. Rebuilding mill, which will need to be updated. Want to use local vendors and suppliers as much as possible.

Commissioner Smith advised that he and Commissioner Corgatelli had attended a meeting with ITD, SNRA and Salmon River Electric at the building site in Stanley. SNRA had not wanted to cut down additional trees to position the building closer back to the current employee housing, however as there had to be trees cut for fire line, can now put the building back. Will have to drill a new well, power will not have to be rerouted extensively, which is a benefit. Commissioner Smith to reach out to the Amish building company in regards to building the structure and will meet again with all entities when closer to start project.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Allicyn Latimer again advised the Commissioners that the ARPA funds need to be dedicated by December 31, 2024. Latimer advised that there is \$771,914.96 in ARPA funds that need to be obligated by resolution. Commissioner Smith advised that he would like to discuss all of the items that need to be funded. Commissioners discussed these funds and the projects that are needed. Commissioner Zollinger made motion to allocate the ARPA funds in the amount of \$771,914.96 to the construction of the Custer County Jail, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**Clerk:** Clerk Lura Baker gave a copy of the LRID Contract to review, County Prosecutor Justin Oleson attended the meeting to assist in reviewing the contract. Commissioner Smith read all pages out loud and Commissioners discussed each paragraph of the contract, corrections were made to paragraph 2, 3, paragraph 2 page 9 attach A, paragraph 20 clarify 4 years on record retention, Paragraph 23 reword "and any breach by subrecipient, subrecipient is responsible for all fines, fees or sanctions imposed for terminating contract" and questions for LRID on paragraph 11, 15 for Insurance Coverages (will need to check with ICRMP),

BRIC and LPDM (Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation) Grants

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 Noon and reconvened again at 1:34 PM. Commission Chairman Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner Smith, Gordon Vaden, Will Naillon, Jacquell Bruno and Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia attended.

**Assessor:** Assessor Jacquell Bruno came before the Commissioners with a request for two tax cancellations. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve cancellation of \$875.71 for RP000320020070A and \$399.72 for RP14N19E085425A for a total cancellation of \$1275.43, Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chairman Randy Corgatelli recessed the regular Commissioners Meeting at 1:40 p.m. to go into the Board of Equalization.

**Sheriff:** Kathy Rodgers came before the Commissioners with a proposal for dispatch Holiday Pay policy, she advised that they wanted to try and come up with an agreement in the interim of reviewing the Employee Policy. The proposal is to give dispatchers that are working on the Holiday, double time pay for the hours that they are working those Holiday hours, to do an addendum to the Employee Policy for Holiday Pay. Commissioner Smith asked for clarification on the time frame for this addendum, to which Sheriff Maydole advised that it would be until Policy could be reviewed and revised or until approximately next fiscal year. As Chairman Corgatelli had not been in attendance at the last Commissioners Meeting, Rodgers gave a recap as to the issue that is being presented to the Commissioners, bringing him up to date with the current proposal. Commissioner Smith asked for clarification on the cost of what the Policy stated in 2018 compared to today. Sheriff Maydole advised that in 2018 payroll for a 5 person shift was \$13,000 for budget for Holiday annually, but for policy now would be \$5000 for annual Holiday pay. To go to a double time holiday pay plan, would be \$10,000 annually. Commissioner Smith advised that he felt that it would be beneficial to review the numbers to be able to see if it would be possible to entertain revising the Holiday Pay Policy, Clerk Baker will put together figures for each department for next meeting.

Sheriff Maydole went over the revised Mackay Law Enforcement Contract, which he felt was adequate. Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the \$44,557.80 annual Mackay Law Enforcement Contract, Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion passed.

Sheriff Maydole advised that he spoke with Mayor Botti and the Stanley Law Enforcement Contract will be tabled for review by the Commissioners until December.

Have not been able to get a quote from Ray's Heating and Plumbing, did get a bid for the electrical portion in the amount of \$600 from Wunsch Electric. Will pursue a bid from another entity if possible.

Commissioner Smith reviewed the meeting regarding the search & rescue/waterways/sheriff office in Stanley. The location, size and funding were discussed.

**Emergency Management:** Lisa Benson/Emergency Manager reported that CCWP was submitted to Forest Service and BLM, Forest Service responded with changes and BLM is still reviewing.

Worked on the 2024 SHSP and finally got it submitted, have been approved and waiting for a grant application number for grant in the amount of \$21,056.69.

Still working on the (NQS) National Qualification System Plan that is due December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Smith made motion to approve the LPDM in the amount of \$727,434.00 with match amount of \$80,826.00 for a total award amount of \$808,260.00 with the stipulation of the approval and signing of the LRID contract with changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zollinger and motion passed.

Reviewed the projects that have been in process and the completion status. Some of these projects included All Hazard Mitigation Plan Renewal, Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Wildlife Protection Plan.

The meeting was recessed at 3:32 p.m. to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The meeting was reconvened at 3:37 p.m.

The previous minutes were then reviewed for approval. Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the Minutes of 11-12-2024 Regular Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

**Claims:** Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims for FY 2025 be approved in the amount of \$67,464.95, including the addition of invoices for Jack Latimer (\$300.00), Wells Fargo (\$716.55), and Staples (\$1333.08), Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion carried.


Current Expense	17,174.56
Road & Bridge	25,962.40
Election Fund	373.07
District Court	22.03
Rodeo Grounds	22.18
Revaluation	495.48
Solid Waste	2,098.19
Weeds	308.04
Waterways	16.06
PILT	21,000.00
<u>Emerg. Comm. Fund</u>	<u>9.00</u>
TOTAL	\$67,464.95

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.



  
Steve W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

  
Lura H. Baker, Clerk