

Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
12-9-2024

The regular meeting of the Custer Co. Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:02 AM by Vice Chairman Steve Smith in the Commissioners Room at the Custer County Courthouse. Attending were Commissioner Jake Zollinger, Gordon Vaden, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, Clerk Lura Baker, Commissioner Steve Smith, R & B Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins

Weeds: Supervisor Brett Plummer reported on the CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Agreement) tour of the Middle Fork. They were checking on inventory and just which airstrips needed attention. They saw the Cougar Ranch, Taylor Ranch, Soldiers Bar, Mahoney, and Cabin Cr. Airstrips. The Soldier Bar, Mahoney and Taylor Ranch airstrips are badly weed infested. They have a list of approved chemicals and are working on the cost share agreements for 2025. The cost share partners are ISDA, the USFS and the ID F&G. Water is an issue on the Soldier Bar airstrip, as it is well above Big Creek. Getting the used chemical bottle chipping trailer scheduled is difficult. They only have a few and they are in high demand. The USFS Contracts are in review to check the funding amounts, as is the BLM Contract. Brett has all the weed vehicles winterized and parked.

Road & Bridge: Superintendent Brandon Jones brought the Annual Road & Street Financial Report for review and approval. Upon completing the review Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve the 2024 Annual Road & Street Financial Report as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura Baker will put the information into Transparent Idaho for the County. The Sign Grant received by Custer County has paid for the "Message Trailer" and the rest of the grant funds will be used to purchase signs. It has been requested that more "snow removal signs" be placed on the major artery roads. The R&B will change these signs over to "Open Range signs" in the spring and then back again in late fall. Commissioner Zollinger reported on the road tour that Brandon took him and Gordon on. They toured Morgan Cr., Garden Cr. and Pahsimeroi. He felt that productive plans were in the works. The L-HIP Grant application for \$100,000 will be completed and earmarked for the East Fork Road. Protect Program is in process within Boise County and Idaho County. Brandon plans to put in a project for emergency evacuation from wildfires in the Stanley area. This has a 100% match for planning and there is a possible \$3,000 to \$4,000 available. He will work with Lisa Benson/Emergency Manager. The Hot Springs Road Meeting is scheduled for tonight at 6:00 PM. Community opinions are to be heard and options explored. The ID Transportation Dept. has provided informational displays on the different options. Brandon is meeting with the USFS on 12/17/24 at 9:00 at the FS building. This is to discuss the financing of a screening plant for the Road & Bridge Dept. They would like to enable the R&B to fix the lower Bay Horse Roads, as well as get better signage on the upper roads. The two new plow trucks are being refitted and need tool-box storage space. Brandon presented his ideas and is getting the costs involved together. The Board gave him the go ahead to pursue his ideas. Clerk Lura Baker reminded Brandon that the gate at the Stanley solid waste site still needs to be straightened up. It was bent during the wildfires this summer. Commissioner Smith also reminded Brandon that a jersey barrier is still needed by the septic tank lid at the deputy housing in Stanley to prevent damage when they plow snow. The 406 Grader lease will be up in April and Brandon brought the options of All-Wheel drive vs Tandem drive graders. The tandem drive grader 5-year lease payments are \$363,903.00 the all-wheel drive grader 5-year lease payments are \$400,863.00. The board approved the upgrade to all-wheel drive for

the Road and Bridge. Brandon reminded everyone of the Christmas Party that is planned for Friday from 5:00 to 10:00. He asked everyone to please come.

Court Annex: Allicyn Latimer, Rick Forestier and Rob Dunham attended. Getting the correct type of sprinkler heads was the first item of concern. The Board went over the options and gave Rick their opinions. Rob then reviewed the roofing and entry jobs that have taken way to long to complete. An option of work deadlines was discussed with a daily overage fine of \$500 per day included. Clerk Lura Baker will get the paperwork together.

Solid Waste/Stanley: Clerk Lura Baker informed the Board that the 50 Cu Yd roll-offs are here at Blue Mountain Refuse. When asked about using them for the chipping of tree thinning, she reminded all that the Homestead area is the only area where that could be done, due to the summer wildfires. Commissioner Zollinger asked if a Stanley resident has been found to man the solid waste site? The hours to be open were then discussed, and it was agreed that a job description is needed. The Mackay site is open 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Personnel Policy: The discussed changes were gone over. Vacation is available to full time employees (8hrs) and part time employees (4hrs). Sick leave is available for regular and full-time employees (8hrs) it is not available to part time employees. It is required to give at least 2hrs notice for sick leave. Payment of Holiday time was reworded. All official holidays will generate 8hrs regular pay to regular and part time employees. If an employee is required to work on a holiday, they will also be paid straight time for the hours worked that day. For paid leave of absence, such as bereavement there are 40 hours available. It was discussed and approved for the Road & Bridge Dept. to be able to roll any holiday that falls on a Friday back to Thursday, as they traditionally work 4 - 10 hr. days. The Board gave their approval of the above listed amendments.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer provided her reports to the Board. Jake inquired about the AARP Funds being allocated for the jail project, which was verified by Allicyn.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under 123-6798 for legal at 9:43 AM. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it passed. Attending were Prosecutor/Justin Oleson, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Commissioner elect Vaden, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made and they returned to regular session at 9:58 AM

Planning & Zoning: Jessica Clemenhausen attended and inquired about a possibility of P&Z Board member that has already been involved in a hearing, but being a commissioner elect will he be able to sit in on the hearing when it is appealed? Prosecutor Oleson felt it would be best for all concerned if the appeal is scheduled before the new appointments to office are completed.

Commissioner Smith brought information on House Bill #608/Ag Protection Area Model Ordinance. It is laid out with 20-year increments with automatic renewal. Discussion on the benefits and repercussions of applying the Ordinance were held. All agreed that the County should just wait and see how it all shakes out. The BLM letter of response for the Government to Government meeting was read by Commissioner Smith.

NRAC: Chairman Jim Hawkins provided his report to the Board. He will get with Jolie Turek on the economic study that is required. The information that a new Field Manager application has been received for the Challis office sounds positive. Another feral horse has been hit on Highway 75. This brings the total to 3 so far this year. The BLM wants ITD to build fence and put up signage warning of the horses. It was also learned that there is a possibility of an emergency gather. It was noted that portions of the existing fences are completely down and need serious repairs. Discussion turned to the Cutler allotment non-compliance letter. Preston has 30 days to respond and has Bryce Jones assisting him with the response. These issues are building to a head. Commissioner Smith updated everyone on the Western Watershed lawsuit on trapping wolves, as well as the possibility of listing wolverines.

Probation: Officer Aletia Straub-Workman provided her report letter and spoke on the huge case load this year. She currently has 30 formal probation cases. She also reported that the Court has ordered counties to have policies for Misdemeanor Probation and Juvenile Probation. Clerk Lura Baker offered to assist with getting these policies written up.

University of Idaho: Extension Educator Sarah Baker discussed the 2025 Contract and verified that the figure to insert in the space provided is \$28,000.00. Commissioner Zollinger moved that the 2025 Contract with the U of ID be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Signatures were affixed. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about helping the Market Animal Sale committee with getting payments out the kids in a more timely manner. Sarah reviewed the entire scenario that she deals with. It has become a repeating problem with Mr. Kelvin Krosch. Sarah was then asked about her progress in finding office help. The job is for 19 hours per week at \$17.00 per hour. She has received some applications for the part time position.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:05 and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Zollinger, Gordon Vaden, Lance Stavast, Mike Fuller, John Runkle, Chris Waverek, Dan Patton and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins.

Agencies: SNRA's Mike Fuller reported that the Valley Creek Bridge has been repaired for public use. The USFS – RAC's are considering merging of the Central and South-Central zones. This will enable the use of funds that are currently held. The amount of temporary hires has been cut way back from 17 to none. The Stanley community ice rink is being filled and looks great. Commissioner Zollinger inquired about their prep for the spring run-off in the Wapiti fire scar? Mike reported they are still clearing down trees, and have put out a lot of firewood for the public. The Elk Creek Bridge was burnt and will need to be replaced. The fire mitigation timber has been sold for salvage along #210. The new school building is coming along well. The kids are all excited about having a high school in Stanley. A 182 Cessna went down in Pettit Lake. Both occupants were able to swim to safety but they haven't been able to retrieve the plane as yet.

Lost River Ranger Dist.: Lance Stavast reported that they completed 149 miles of trail work on Lost Creek, Sawmill Cr., Wet Creek, and Warm Creek. They restocked trout in partnership with the Fish & Game in 8 lakes and 5 streams. The proposed road work has been completed in Muldoon and the Bear Creek road reroute is done. They have done fencing projects and rebuilt some exclosures.

BLM: Dan Patten reported there is a statewide Recreation Summit coming up in February to gather public input and direction. There will be mini summits to involve the locals held in March. His office applied for the ID Parks & Rec. Grant for the mountain bike skills course. They will partner with the City of Challis and assist beginners with their bike skills. The feral horses were then discussed. Commissioner

Smith will get a letter to the ID Transportation Department concerning the needed fence work. Dan was brought up to date on the fence that is on site from Malm Gulch to the private lands further upriver. The emergency gather criteria was then broached. Dan felt they needed a declared emergency, such as a fire or flood. The Board all expressed their concern for the Thompson Creek Mine workers that are routinely traveling on this road through these horses. BLM plans to burn the piles of limbs in Bayhorse soon.

Challis Ranger Dist.: Chris Waverek they are working on Phase II and III of the Upper Challis Creek projects. They don't have enough funding to do the Bear Creek Crossing at this time. The FLAP Grant to maintain the motorway is for stabilization work. The Copper Mountain Road S21 – to Cape Horn needs a new bridge that will be financed through fish mitigation funds in 2026. They were able to hire 8 new fire crew that are permanent staff. The Keystone to Ramshorn trail is being opened up to larger vehicles. A temporary permit for Israels' to do snow removal in Mill Creek, as well as a permit for plowing the Morgan Creek summit have been issued. They have received mixed opinions about keeping the road plowed. The hand piles of slash in Dougherty Gulch have finished burning.

Commissioner Zollinger brought up the Mackay dump site easement. Dan said to call Sarah Phillips as she handles the rights-of-way. Zollinger then asked about progress on the Jeff's Flat Road washout repairs. Dan was unaware of the issue.

The meeting was recessed to go into South Custer Ambulance at 2:27 PM. The regular meeting was reconvened at 2:30 PM.

Sheriff: Deputy Ethan Kelly and Head Dispatcher Kathy Rodgers attended. The patrol job has been posted and they have received some interest but no applications to date. The Stanley Law Enforcement Contract was then reviewed, and it was found they still owe the county for 2024. After review Commissioner Zollinger made a motion to approve the new 2025 Law Enforcement Contract. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. Samples of the new Sheriff's Dept. logo were shown, as well as the new uniform. Deputy Kelly is working on re-assessing the evidence room to provide better access and space utilization. Deputy Levi Mitchell is the new Training Coordinator and Waterways Deputy John Haugh has finished up for the season. A new Body camera was brought for the Board to look over. Ethan reviewed the operations and how they work, from docking, off loading and updating. The Night Shoot went well for the firearms qualifications. They use night vision as well as flashlights. Training is being done for a new dispatcher as well as an Evidence Technician. There are currently 3 inmates in the county jail, but one will be going to Bannock County soon. There are 4 out of county inmates also. The new Patrol Office has been finished up in the old firehall building. Clerk Lura Baker announced that the \$600,000 Grant has been received for the new Sheriff's Office/Jail. A \$800 bid for installing the washer and dryer electrical hook-up has been received from Wunsch Electric. Commissioner Zollinger moved the bid be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. The wood heating stove installation for the deputy housing in Stanley is currently in progress. The quote received to upgrade 4 laptops for the Sheriff's Office was \$180.00 per computer. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve cost from Snake River Computers. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. The radio backup system has not been working, so Day Wireless has been hired to find the problem. Repair costs to the radio consul will be \$970.00. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve the payment of this cost, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura Baker reviewed the payroll ordinance updates that were approved today. Employees receive regular pay for any hours worked on a holiday, as well as 8 hours of holiday pay. Kathy requested help with a patch of ice that is right in front of the Sheriff's Office door. The Board agreed to talk to Brandon/R&B about getting it fixed.

Emergency Management Director Lisa Benson attended and reported that she is working with ICRMP on getting the wrecked van removed from the R&B Yard. Lisa reported on the great IOEM Training classes she attended. She was able to meet a lot of people from around the state and put faces with the names. Cyber Security was a major topic and everyone agreed that regular updates need to be done. Commissioner Smith felt that this training needs to be attended each year by employees and at least one Commissioner. Lisa brought the new FEMA Grant for Sub Recipient Big Lost River Irrigation District that needs signatures. Commissioner Smith moved that the FEMA Sub Grant be approved and signed. Commissioner Zollinger seconded the motion and it carried. Norm Folgers/TUSA has advised us of Dale Evans Bank being interested in helping us with funding. There are also USFS Grants available due to the summer wildfires.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen has another appeal that will be scheduled for January 6th, at 6:30 PM. Discussion was held on the make up of the Planning & Zoning Board and how changes are coming. The next regular meeting will be Jan. 2nd. The new State rules for Agriculture Ground Protection were read aloud by the P & Z Board and it was rejected.

Bernie Judge of Pocatello has the contract to maintain the generators here in Custer County. His visit went well and he found a dead battery at the CEDA generator as well as one at the Hot Springs Firehall. He will install coolant heaters in the generators at a cost of \$558.50. The Board agreed the work needs to be done. Wunsch Electric will be contacted to do the new circuit breaker, with Scott Yearsley as a backup. There are many grants available through the Forest Service due to the wildfires. The Community Wildfire Defense Program Grant @ \$250,000 per community; Under-served communities are eligible for an additional \$10 Million. These funds will go to communities with high wildfire risk.

Clerk: Lura Baker provided the RD400-4 Agreement with Taylor Pratt on the jail building. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve the agreement, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. The Equal Opportunity RD-400-1-Ag agreement was then discussed. Commissioner Zollinger moved to approve this agreement as well, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. The Gem Plan Board ballot was then reviewed. Commissioner Zollinger chose Kim Caywood, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. The Ballot was marked and signed for return.

Claims: Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims be approved in the amount of \$117,664.70 with additions of \$5,000.00 to Custer SWCD, \$2,942.34 and \$2,284.00 to Lemhi County, \$3176.22 to Computer Arts Inc., & \$631.16 to Steve Smith. Commissioner Zollinger seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	35,187.31
Road & Bridge	17,813.31
Battleground Mosquito	153.00
Election	1,131.85
District Court	2,287.20
Rodeo Grounds	70.00
Revaluation	656.44
Weeds	78.96
LACTF	60,286.63
TOTAL	117,664.70

The meeting was recessed to go into South Custer Ambulance at 4:55 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 4:56.

Idaho Power has won their court case and Custer County owes the back taxes. Clerk Lura Baker will be working on the corrections needed.

The minutes of the 11-25-2024 Commissioners meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Zollinger moved the minutes be approved as presented, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

With no further business before them the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.



Lura Baker

Attest: Clerk Lura Baker

Steve Smith

Acting Chairman, Steve Smith