

Custer County  
Commissioner Special Meeting Proceedings  
June 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Chairman Wayne Butts, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, and Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones in attendance.

Commissioner Smith moved that the agenda be amended to add Jail Inspection at 11:00 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed with roll call unanimous aye votes.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon brought the USFS Schedule A Road Agreement for review, approval and signature. There have been no significant changes from last year. Commissioner Smith moved that the USFS Schedule A Agreement for 2021 be approved and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. The company that has been working on the fuel island system has contacted Brandon/Road & Bridge Dept. and offered Custer County a bigger better system for the same cost of the system they have been unable to get up and operating. Discussion ensued and it was decided not to continue with the unsuccessful company, but move on to an installation company with a good solid work reputation. Brandon then requested the ability to purchase a new "hot washing unit" to remove the mag-chloride from County equipment. He has looked into the cost and a reliable hot washing unit can be purchased from Northern Equipment. After a discussion, Commissioner Smith moved the Road & Bridge Dept. pursue replacement of the current hot pressure washer, through Northern Equipment. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Complaints have been received from a resident of Cottonwood Lane on the road condition. Brandon has looked it over, and it needs to have a 1-foot lift applied, and then be resurfaced. He estimated the cost of the project to be over \$100,000 but not above \$250,000. Some culverts will also be needed and it will require some right-of-way work, as well as moving the current fence. Leakage from the canal that parallels the road is causing the problems, and needs to be repaired before any road work should begin. The Frac Tank that is currently used for storage of MAG, needed to be moved. When the Army Surplus wrecker truck was being used to move the tank, the boom was tweaked enough so is no longer safe to operate. Brandon would like permission to search for a replacement wrecker truck on the Federal Surplus Site. All agreed that it was a necessary piece of equipment. The different one-time funding opportunities that have been allocated this year were then discussed. Clerk Lura Baker explained the process of budgeting for the use of such funds. The Yankee Fork spring grading work is almost complete and the crew will be heading to Stanley next. Positive public comments have been received on the grading work that has been done in Mill Cr. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 8:33 AM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Those attending were Commissioners Butts, Smith and Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 8:50 AM. A letter from Jerry Flatz/LHTAC concerning the Garden Creek Road Project has been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Weeds:** Brett Plummer gave a positive report on the Skills Applicators Training class he recently attended. They taught on the use of un-manned drones for special spray situations. There is another class in Salmon, Idaho in June that Brett would like to attend. Last month the Board requested that Brett contact Pat Silvers and have him take care of the squirrel/gopher problem at the Custer County Fairgrounds. Pat drove to Mackay to do the job, and found that it had already been taken care of. The lack of good communications between all the departments is becoming a problem, and Brett asked that the Fair Board or the Rodeo Committee contact him directly, so unnecessary trips to Mackay are not made in the future. Brett let Clerk Lura Baker and the Board know about some funding changes that will be coming for the Weed Dept. due to the USFS – RAC allocations. He has been working on the spurge problem in the Mackay area. Some residents are pushing pretty hard to get him to spray their property first. He is working systematically through the weed infestation, so none get missed.

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Wayne Butts listed off the current projects the Board is dealing with. 1) The lot purchased for Court facilities; 2) Diamond Peak facility available for purchase; 3) Old firehall remodel; 4) eventual removal of the Quonset and Search & Rescue buildings; 5) Middle School building available for purchase. Commissioner Corgatelli added 6) the County property that is by the Mackay Reservoir. Chairman Butts also listed the wealth of available funds A) Wyden funds; B) HVAC Funds for water & sewer systems; C) Broadband Funds for communications projects. Clerk Lura Baker asked about RFQ's, and Commissioner Smith suggested a special meeting to get the proper direction nailed down. Tom Coates/CEDA attended the meeting and spoke on his perspective of needed improvements and possibilities. His CEDA Committee is currently enjoying a lull, but realize they will be needed in the near future. A date of June 30<sup>th</sup> was set for the RFQ meeting.

**Treasurer:** Deputy Treasurer Verla Harvie handed out the monthly report and let the Board know that tax payments are coming in very quickly.

**Assessor:** Jacquell Bruno let the Board know there will be a BOE Appeal from the Confluence Institute on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. The Teacup Restaurant that had closed down, has re-opened on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays for Coffee and Pizza, take out only. The Gateway Service has closed down.

**Indigent:** Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 9:52 AM for Indigent Review under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d), the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Corgatelli and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Attending were Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 10:00 AM Commissioner Smith made a motion for #21-04 – Denial / due to lack of cooperation, and #21-05 – Denial / due to lack of cooperation, and #13-22 Lien Release /full payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli and the aye votes were unanimous.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 10:01 AM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Those attending were Commissioners Butts, Smith and Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 10:05 AM.

**NRAC:** Jim Hawkins, Chairman attended and requested an update on USFS Mary Farnsworth's recent visit. Upon hearing their update, he suggested making a county plan that will respond to revision. Conversation was held on the information that Mary has received, and verification will be done. Commissioner Butts asked for specific options on revising the Forest Plan sections. Discussion on the required socio-economic study revealed that an updated study needs to be completed. The most recent study "CLEM" Custer Lemhi Economic Model was completed in 2012. Jim proposed updating the CLEM through Gilbert Miller, who assisted with the original study, and requesting the USFS provide the funding. Chairman Butts suggested using BYU students, or U of I personnel for the ground truthing efforts. Everyone in attendance agreed it needs to be pursued.

**Claims:** The following claims were approved as presented by a motion from Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli. The motion passed.

Current Expense	28,983.69
Road & Bridge	43,321.36
Battleground Mosquito	6,129.20
Election Fund	251.92
District Court	6,936.05
Rodeo Grounds	79.25
Indigent & Charity	5.61
Revaluation	1,131.25
Solid Waste	3,394.15
Weeds	8,577.74
Waterways	602.37
Emergency Communications	2,049.09
Auditors Trust	219.75
S. Custer Ambulance	<u>161.59</u>

TOTAL

103,843.02

The Planning & Zoning public hearing appeal time for the Boren airstrip Conditional Use Permit has expired with no appeals filed. It is now officially approved.

**Prosecutor:** Justin Oleson attended the meeting and responded to questions from the Board concerning the tax deed properties coming up for sale near Mackay. Access to the property was also discussed.

The meeting was recessed at 12:00 for the jail inspection and a lunch break. The meeting reconvened at 1:28 PM with the full Board, Wayne Butts, Steve Smith, Randy Corgatelli and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Matt Marsh/BLM and USFS employees Heath Perrine, Clayton Collins, Kirk Flannigan, and Josh Newman also attended.

**Agencies: SNRA's Kirk Flannigan introduced Josh Newman** his acting Deputy Ranger. They are working on the Wildfire Collaborative Project, and some fuels projects through virtual methods. They will have a face to face meeting on the Trap Fire salvage process. Challis/Yankee Fork RD is having two salvage sales in the area also on the Vader Burn and the Trap Burn. Kirk reported that City of Stanley is test drilling the new housing site for potable water. They will test for Sulphur content and measure water flow. If the well is not viable, they still have the option of using the spring that is above the property for drinking water. The fire season is coming on fast and local fire restrictions may be put in place early. The funds received from the GAOA will be used to re-do the parking at Red Fish Lake. It will be moved from the low easily flooded location to higher ground. The signage they proposed on a RAC project didn't receive funding this time.

**Challis/Yankee Fk. Heath Perrine** reported that the Fire IC refresher training is currently in progress. They are trying to be prepared for severe fire conditions. Current moisture levels are matching the 2003 statistics. They have experienced the first fire of the season in the south zone. A 3 to 4-acre fire is currently burning near Indian Cr. Guard Station and a 15-member Heli-tac crew has been assigned. All prescribed fire projects are over for this year. Personal firewood areas have been opened up in the Mosquito Flats area. Road #239 has been temporarily opened for wood cutting. The post & pole area is open at Cow Camp in the Squaw Cr. drainage, and permits are needed. The road side cutting area will be opened soon in the 8-mile area of Yankee Fork. Heath is looking into post & pole areas for next year if possible in Big Gulch/Pahsimeroi Valley. The RONER (River of No Return Endurance Race) will be held this weekend.

**Lost River RD Clayton Collins** reported a new firewood area in the Ramey Cr. drainage will open June 19<sup>th</sup> and close Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. RAC funding was received at 50% for the Bellis to Broad trail, and a separate USFS grant will be used to fund the other %50. The old USFS warehouse in Mackay, just down the street from Sammy's, will be put up for sale. They no longer need the building for equipment storage, and the City of Mackay is interested. They are looking at forest wide resource protection due to the drought conditions. Recreational Specialist Melissa Ballard is retiring soon. She has worked on the Mt. Borah trailhead project for years. There is an application for 2023 GAOA funds to complete the trailhead project. Commissioner Smith inquired about any post & pole sales in the Mackay area. Clayton reminded him of the area in Trail Creek.

General inquiry was made about having a post & pole sale in the Alturas Lake area. Commissioner Butts asked about the salvage sale in Trap Creek. Will the public be allowed to remove all trees, burnt and standing? Commissioner Smith asked if a letter has been sent to grazing permit holders outlining possible permit changes made because of the drought.

**BLM's Matt Marsh** reported his office is working with grazing permit holders in these drought conditions, to stay within their utilization standards. The Bonneville Power Administration has requested a delay in the EA release for their tower site on Willow Cr. summit. They are planning to fence all sites and it needs to be included. The BLM is doing fuels projects in the Poverty Flats area and in Meadow Cr. A lop and scatter project on the N. side of Willow Cr. summit is also in the works. There are several Abandoned Mine Land sites that they are remediating in the Poverty Flats area. With the new Konnex Mine site near Mackay, they are getting a lot of new claims. Konnex still needs to complete their EIS and final Operating Plan. The BLM crews have taken care of some old blasting sets at the Three Rivers Stone quarry. The Agency personnel all excused themselves from the meeting.

After discussion among the Board, Commissioner Smith made a motion that Brandon Jones employment record would continue on from his previous hire date for vacation time and other benefits. No lockouts will be done. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. A letter of confirmation will be put in his file. Chairman Wayne Butts reported on the meeting with Custer Telephone Manager, JD Bennett's. Community projects needed within Custer County were discussed

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Stu Lumpkin and Deputy Justin Mitchell attended. Stu handed out copies of his monthly report. Commissioner Smith inquired about the current Law Enforcement Contracts with each City, and the work load connected to each location? The constantly increasing cost of providing law enforcement is bypassing the contract amounts paid by each City and the county is left holding the bag. All involved realize that the County must recover their costs. Possible wording within each contract was discussed to mitigate problems. Clerk Lura Baker suggested a letter to all the Cities about contract renewals be sent. With New Construction for 2021 in Custer County at \$5,026,338 the explosive growth will affect everyone. The Board will work with the Prosecutors Office and the Sheriff on the suggested letter.

**Clerk:** Lura brought the ITD bill for the Bay Horse Bridge FLAP match of \$2,129.00 for payment approval. The County pulled out of the grant process and must pay for the application. Commissioner Smith moved the minutes of the 5/26/2021 Commissioners Meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion carried. Lura has received a notice from the Department of Insurance that the Custer County Jail is not in compliance for fire safety.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(b) for Personnel at 3:04 PM, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Those attending were Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 3:10 PM.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica Clemenhagen attended the meeting and presented her list of Certificates for the month of May and 1<sup>st</sup> day in June. The Board inquired about her job satisfaction and how things were going. The Planning & Zoning Fee Public Hearing is scheduled for the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup> of June. The P & Z Board members would like to attend, and were encouraged to do so. Commissioner Smith suggested putting up some signage within the county of "Building Application Required" to keep new residents informed of the rules. The process will be looked into for legalities. A date is needed for another zone change hearing.

**Konnex Resources:** Ryan McDonald CEO of Konnex Resources attended, along with Sheriff Stu Lumpkin, Deputy Justin Mitchell, and Deputy Crissi Gilchrist. Ryan announced that they will be officially beginning on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Most of their soil disturbance will be confined to BLM property. They are mining copper and zinc, with other incidental minerals being extracted also. They will be using a heap leach method with sulphuric acid. They began this project in 2017 and have invested \$13.7 million dollars to date. They estimate a total investment of \$52 million, with 120 to 150 total employees when fully operating. They will begin construction in 2022, and plan to begin ore production in 2023. Plans include running buses from Challis and Arco for their employees. Commissioner Smith inquired about their emergency services plans, such as EMT's, ambulance or fire crews? Ryan responded that the mine will have an internal emergency response team and ambulance within their mine and mill. All employees will be provided with a Life Flight membership. Law enforcement will be left to the County Sheriff. They currently have three drill crews working in the Mackay area, with 35 employees per crew. Chairman Butts explained the way Cyprus Mine assisted Custer County with getting needed infrastructure built. They pre-paid their taxes for 20 years. Ryan informed the meeting that the life expectancy of this ore body is 10 years for the ground/pit style extraction. There is more ore on site, but it will take underground mining to bring it to the mill. Estimates are for contractors to employ crews totaling 200 persons during the 1-year construction phase.

The Board members agreed that they should attend the City Council meetings to work through the issues surrounding the Law Enforcement contracts.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

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Wayne F. Butts, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

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Lura H. Baker, Clerk