

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
February 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Chairman Wayne Butts, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, R&B Supt. Brandon Jones, R&B Foreman Andy Andrews and Weed Supt. Brett Plummer in attendance.

Road & Bridge: Brandon presented his proposed summer job list. 1) E Fork road 2.5 miles zipping in early April. 2) Spar Canyon Road with DOT in mid-April. 3) Capping of Custer Road and W. Double Springs with local contractor help in early May. 4) Install Road Cr. bridge with CSCD/Karma Bragg in early July. 5) Chipping lower Morgan Cr. Road/City of Challis in late July. 6) Asphalt maintenance pothole repair. 7) Dirt road maintenance grading 8) Dirt road treatment – capping. 9) Signs, replace & repair 10) Bridge maintenance 11) Culverts/cleaning 12) Cattleguards/cleaning 13) Equipment/new plow-water truck 14) Guardrail/Yankee Fork 15) Update traffic counts, update pavement evaluations, Road Scholar trainings. The work being done by Lincoln Zollinger on dump trucks #202 & #206 has been priced at ¼ the cost of other bids given for the same work. The R&B Crew has assisted him with pulling the dumpbeds off. Brandon did not want to make any changes to the Schedule A roads he maintains. Commissioner Smith moved that the Schedule A agreement of roads maintained remain the same as in 2021. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The needed crew positions have been filled. Replacement of the bridge for Road Creek is in process through Karma at the CSCD Office. They will advertise in the paper 3/31, 4/7 & 4/14. The pre-bid tour will be April 19th. Bid deadline is May 5th and bids will be reviewed by the Commissioners on May 9th. Agreement review will be May 10th, and the bid award will be May 11th. The bridge installation instream work will be done from July 11th through August 20th. August 31st is the deadline for cleanup and completion with BPA funds. The Temporary Construction Easement has been reviewed by Prosecutor Oleson. His only concern is with the date of completion. He will send the agreement on to Bobo. Commissioner Smith moved that the Temporary Construction Easement be approve and signed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The newly available federal funds for bridge replacements are being looked into by both Brandon and Commissioner Butts for application on the Bay Horse Bridge. Brandon is still searching for a crane truck to fit R&B needs. LHTAC trainings are being scheduled for the crew as they are available.

Weeds: Brett has taken the Arial Applicators Test and passed with an 86%. Next will be the 107 Pilots License test. These are the needed licenses to be able to operate drones for the Weed Department. He is still searching for a Honda side-by-side and a F750 truck to fill his needs. Currently all the weed department trucks are in working order. He will be attending the Region 6 Weed Meeting on March 6th. The BLM has added \$25,000.00 to their weed agreement budget for 2022. Jerrod the new BLM weed man is excited to fight the weeds. They have a new 5-year agreement system. Brett attended the Annual Conference of Idaho Weed Superintendents. He received great information through networking with others. Some districts are using drones and some are utilizing goats in the war on invasive weeds. They encourage the use of drones to mitigate past spray drift problems from choppers or planes. Brett is working toward a drone program for Custer County in the future, he hopes to begin with a small mapping drone. Lemhi Co. and Custer Co. Weed Management areas are working together on an Aquatic's Training session. The BLM is providing the funding and the counties will provide the labor. Commissioner Smith reported that the USFS – RAC still has funding available and would like to see more project applications.

Prosecutor: Justin Oleson attended the meeting at 8:45 AM. He reviewed the appeal procedure with the Board of Commissioners. Clerk Lura Baker reported that the DEQ will be attending the scheduled appeal this evening.

Treasurer: Allicyn Latimer attended and provided copies of her monthly report. Her office has collected 68% of the taxes to date, which is ahead of past years collections.

City of Challis Mayor, Corey Rice attended the meeting, as well as Matt Virgil from the Idaho State Tax Commission.

Assessor: Jacquell Bruno presented her list of 2021 tax cancellations to the Board.

Parcel #MHS11N17E30110 unlivable empty trailer – taxes of \$43.54.

Parcel #01A00110110030 not finished for occupancy – taxes of \$255.42

Parcel #01B0023009005 not finished for occupancy – taxes of \$444.38

Parcel #RP05N25E15020AA 7 acres/double taxed w/Butte Co. – taxes of \$195.88

The cancellation process was discussed between the Board members, Prosecutor Oleson, and Matt with the State Tax Commission. Matt clarified the “value” set by Board of Equalization, and “taxes” handled by the Board of Commissioners. All exemptions are brought before the Commissioners. Commissioner Smith moved that the tax notice for the trailer be sent to the property owner. Commissioner Smith then moved to approve the tax cancellations for the unfinished parcels. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved to approve the tax cancellation presented on the 7 acres that has been double taxed. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Matt then

explained the new process of handling BOE applications. The Board members then looked over and verified the list presented by Clerk Lura Baker. Commissioner Smith moved that exemptions be approved for the following list of applicants.

Challis Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	Calvary Outreach
Mountain Valley Baptist Church	Challis Mission Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Challis Arts Council
S ID Dist. Council of Assemblies of God	Challis Ski Club
Mackay Community Church	Mackay Senior Citizens
S Custer Historical Society	Clayton Historical Society
Heart of ID Animal Sanctuary	American Legion Post 16
Mt. McCaleb Lodge #64 AF & AM	Challis Masonic Lodge #92

Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Chairman Butts and ID Tax Commission Matt agreed that section 7 of the tax code is very difficult to apply and/or understand.

Rusty & Michelle Johnson: Property owners of the parcel with double taxation issues attended and presented their side of the story. Maps from both Custer and Butte counties were reviewed and Jacquiel has tried to contact the surveyor Shane Reamer with no success. Chairman Butts suggested a new survey could solve this ongoing problem. Prosecutor Justin Oleson explained the need to get the legal description of Custer County when it became a county in 1881, and to look closely at the title policy. Chairman Butts will schedule another meeting when additional information is in hand. All agreed that the taxation needs to be fair and no double taxing should be done. Rusty then inquired about the valuation of a 2.9 acre parcel he purchased in 2021 and why the value had increased. Matt Virgil/ID Tax Comm. Explained the economy of scale and how taxes are higher on smaller, stand alone parcels. The Treasurer, Assessor, Johnsons and Matt Virgil then excused themselves from the meeting.

Indigent: Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session for Indigent Review at 10:30 AM under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d), the motion was 2nd by Commissioner Corgatelli and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Those attending this session were Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Lyndee Kauffman, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 10:33 AM Commissioner Smith made a motion for #22-21 – Denial / due to non-compliance, and #22-03 – signature of lien. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli and the aye votes were unanimous.

NRAC: A meeting with USFS Mary Farnsworth has been set at the CEDA community center on April 12th. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the Sage Grouse BLM comment letter authored by Mary Darling on behalf of Custer County Commissioners be reaffirmed. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Jim has a May 5th date for the Co-ordination Training with American Stewards of Liberty/Margaret Byfield. They are aiming for 50 people, at a cost of \$4,500. Advertising to the target audience was discussed, and registration costs were set at \$125.00 per person. Being able to accept registration fees via credit or debit card was also suggested. Clerk Lura Baker will look into "Access Idaho" as a way to do so. Commissioner Corgatelli suggested a school to work apprentice program, to recruit young employees. NRAC Chairman Jim Hawkins asked how the Forest Plan Revision process is going? Board Chairman Butts gave his understanding that the current steps being taken are organizational within the USFS. He has been assured that Custer County has a place at the planning table. Chairman Butts updated everyone on the telephone upgrade by Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc. The new system will save the county approximately \$1,000 per month. The initial cost will be \$16,110.80 for the system. Clerk Lura Baker informed the Board of the need for a new copier in the Assessor/Clerk's office as the current one has died. She has found a fax/color copier/scanner at Valley Office Supply that fills their needs for \$11,000.00. Financing of the new phone system will come from the ARPA Grant. This will be discussed with Treasurer/Allicyn Latimer who handles the ARPA Funds and Reports. Commissioner Corgatelli let the board know about some problems with the lighting in the election storage room and the courthouse back door light. The Board agreed that it needs to be fixed. The Clerk's office will call someone to do the repairs. Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the telephone upgrade as presented by Custer Telephone Co-op. Inc. in the amount of \$16,110.80. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the minutes of the 1-26-22 commissioners meeting be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Corgatelli then moved that the minutes of the 2-10-22 meeting be approved, Commissioner Butts seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Corgatelli then moved that the minutes of the 2-8-22 meeting be approved, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried. The final plans for the replacement Sheriff's office were reviewed, and telephone and wiring issues were discussed. The needed elevator for the courthouse was also discussed. Phoenix Copper in Mackay has set February 16th for their public meeting at the Mackay Senior Center. Commissioner Smith relayed that many residents are very upset. Clerk Lura Baker let the Board know that the Courthouse cleaning lady has given her notice. An ad will be put in the local newspaper for a replacement. Commissioner Smith plans on attending the Water Dist. #34 annual meeting. Custer Telephone was notified of the acceptance of the telephone system upgrade. The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:10 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. USFS personnel attending were Heath Perrine, Clayton Collins, Jonathan LeBlanc, Kirk Flannigan, Chuck Mark, and Matt Marsh with BLM.

Heath Perrine/Challis-Yankee Fk. Dist. reported on the Bayhorse fuels reduction project. It received an objection and will be coming out soon with reports attached for comments. The Big Creek fuels project using prescribed fire was cleared and signed. The Road Side Forest Products project in the Yankee Fork will include 8 Mile, Custer and Loon Creek. It will mainly be post's & poles and be within 200 feet of the roadways. Commissioner Smith inquired about the dates it becomes available. The Big Gulch project near Sawmill in the Pahsimeroi Valley is similar. The spring burning projects planned are on Grouse Peak, Wino Basin & 100 acres in Crane Basin, as well as South Hwy 21. Heath invited the Board of Commissioners to come and work on the Ramey Creek project with him as a Co-operating Agency. The Board agreed it would be good to work together.

Clayton Collins/Middle Fork Dist. reported that he has sent out one notice of non-compliance to a permittee on the Cow Creek allotment. He is currently working on surge hiring for the USFS. They need employees in Range, Timber, Recreation, Archeology and Fish. Chuck Mark/District Ranger interjected that there are currently 40 or 50 job openings within the local Forest. They are offering entry level positions at 20% over the usual pay scale. Commissioner Butts inquired if this pay increase was applied to their current long-time employees? Housing is the worst problem, as there is none available in the area due to high demand. Commissioner Corgatelli suggested they focus on employee longevity and allowing current employees to remain in place. Clayton outlined the new USFS retaining process that lasts up to 3 years.

Jonathan LeBlanc/Lost River Dist. has some prescribed burns scheduled for Mt. Borah and the North Fork. They are holding AOI meetings in March with their permittees.

Matt Marsh/BLM asked for the call-in number for the US Calcium Appeal on Wed. 2/16. They are working on a request for repairs of the "Sweeney Bridge" that provides access to the former Sydney Downton Ranch on Ellis Cr. The new owner Kevin Chernesky is interested in repairing the bridge. Matt asked if the County is interested in contributing or participating? The Board would just like to be kept in the informational loop. The BLM will be sending out a Bay Horse fuels project letter, that explains the fire break work and two additional road pull-outs. Their office is looking at a 20% increase in staffing also. They need more employees in Range, and Fire Ecology. Thompson Creek Mine has submitted their Phase 8 Plan of Operations, and it will be completed soon. He has not received the Amended Plan of Operations from the Empire Mine in Mackay as yet. The BLM Office is still in maximum telework and mask requirements due to the Omicron Covid variant. The Rally in the Pines group did not submit a permit application before the 6-month deadline expired. They have changed the wording on their website also. The BLM plans to work directly with the USFS and are planning a law enforcement surge during their annual event. The BLM has submitted the proposed 3rd Loop of campsites at Mackay Reservoir for design plans. It will be for 30 new campsites. They plan to install an electronic scan/pay system also. Their Range Dept. is sending out drought letters with a possible 20 or 30% cut in livestock numbers to their permittees this year. Any cuts will be informed in the annual informational meetings with each permittee. Commissioner Smith asked about the 4 to 6-inch stubble height changes he has heard about in the feral horse areas? Clayton explained the methods of measurement.

Kirk Flannigan/SNRA reported that his district is working on the sewer line for the "employee housing area" to be built on the newly acquired land in Stanley. They are permitting the placement of the Salmon River Propane storage tank off of Highway 21. The Stanley Lake Road is being chip sealed, as well as the access road to Alturas Lake. They are reconfiguring the RV dump station at the Stanley Ranger Station to have 4 access points for the public. The access road past the Redfish Lake visitors center is being re-aligned. The day use area on the North Shore of Redfish Lake is being modernized. Work is being done on a visitor use management plan for the Redfish Lake area. Stakeholder meetings are being held in June and July. 2022 RAC Project is planting trees in the campgrounds. The 50th Anniversary of the SNRA is this year and there is an event planned August 10-22 at Pioneer Park. They are trying to hire for the season but getting few applications. Housing is the biggest problem. The Meadow Creek allotment has been waived with out preference. Commissioner Butts asked if it could be put in the "emergency reserve" for backup grazing areas.

Chuck Mark/District Ranger was updated by on the Tuesday, April 12th date for a Bio-Fuels Forest Products meeting with Mary Farnsworth and Dave Rosenkrance. It will be held at the Community Economic Development Event Center in Challis. There will be many stakeholders attending the meeting. Chuck reported on the Forest Wide Fire Analysis EA that is coming out within 4 weeks. They are concentrating on "at risk areas". Any economically feasible timber areas will be harvested first and this will be a very long-range project. Within the Forest Plan Revision, the USFS is changing their planning model and setting up regional service centers. Commissioner Smith expressed his concern that this will lead to less control locally. Chuck is trying to get a local Socio-Economic Study going. The Idaho Cobalt Project in Panther Cr is still working on their travel plan. The official definition of a "heavy load" is still not known. Chuck has given temporary authorization for some loads to come in over Morgan Cr. Road. The crew housing units still need to be moved into the mine site. Commissioner Smith inquired about any new National Monument expansions within Idaho? Chuck didn't know of any, and believes they are mainly in Utah.

Sheriff: Chairman Butts reviewed the floor plan with Sheriff Stu Lumpkin, as well as discussing the funding possibilities. Stu requested the use of the County credit card to pay for Kathy's APCO EMD instructor re-certification. They will no longer accept checks in payment. Commissioner Smith moved that the credit card be used to pay the charges of \$125.00. Commissioner

Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura Baker presented the Sworn Law Enforcement Payroll Policy for review and approval. The Board verified the signature date. Commissioner Smith moved that it be approved and signed, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Lura will get a copy sent to Chad at ICRMP and let him know the Board and Prosecutor have approved.

Planning & Zoning: Jessica and Commissioner Butts went over the date issued he found in the minutes. This will be corrected and the minutes re-approved. The letter of recommendation for the re-zone of Wilson Lane was presented.

Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the Agenda be amended to include the Challis Mayor/Corey Rice. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed. The proposed Sheriff's office replacement plans were shown to the Mayor. The floor plan and total dimensions were explained to all. City Ordinances were reviewed and the rules discussed. Mayor Rice then updated the Board on the City water wells and future possibilities. Law enforcement issued during the Braun Brothers Reunion were also reviewed.

Claims: Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the following claims be approved and paid with the addition of E ID State Fair \$1,500.00, McMillans Jacob \$3,541.00, AxMen \$7,441.98 and American Stewards \$1,000.00. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	46,076.12
Road & Bridge	27,026.03
Election Fund	176.96
District Court	6,648.22
Rodeo Grounds	79.90
Indigent	237.07
Revaluation	281.37
Solid Waste	4,099.60
Weeds	521.00
Waterways	105.11
Emergency Communications	2,046.47
Auditors Trust	<u>5,147.50</u>
TOTAL	\$ 92,445.35

Clerk: Lura brought copies of the corrected Personnel Policy for the Board to review. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that a replacement copier be purchased for the Assessor/Clerk with a spending cap of \$12,000.00. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to go into executive session for personnel at 4:45 PM under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a), the motion was 2nd by Commissioner Smith and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Those attending this session were Clerk Lura Baker, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins and no decisions were made. The Board returned to regular session at 4:50 PM.

Treasurer, Allicyn Latimer provided the rightful owners name on the empty trailer with delinquent taxes. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the original motion be rescinded. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. Clerk Lura Baker will put a meeting notice for the Feb. 23rd commissioners meeting to be held in Mackay in the newspaper. Commissioner Corgatelli moved that the Amended Personnel Policy be approved. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion passed. The next meeting date chosen to continue policy updates was February 25th at 10:00 AM. There will be a BOE Training meeting put on by the ID State Tax Commission next month. Possibly on April 5th

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

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk

