

Custer County
Public Hearing
August 28, 2019

The hearing was called to order at 6:10 p.m. Present were Commissioner Wayne Butts, Commissioner Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, Campbell Gardett, Mike Barrett and Harriet Henderson. After welcoming everyone, Commissioner Butts inquired if the notice of hearing was legally posted and published as required by law. Clerk Lura Baker verified that it was.

Mike Barrett testified on the section that concerned him "veterans war memorials". He has reviewed Idaho Statutes §65-101 and §65-103, the Idaho State Constitution section on public indebtedness, and also talked to Kathy Ireland at the State Tax Commission. Mike is concerned that taxpayer monies are being used in aid of a private association. He suggests the Board use PILT monies for this item. Commissioner Butts reviewed the American Legion's approach to the Board of Commissioners, via the same Idaho State statutes and their request for the County to provide help. Campbell Gardett then asked to speak to the matter. The American Legions serve as "memorials" and are called "memorial halls", and many counties throughout the state of Idaho fund them. Clerk Lura Baker has also talked to the Idaho State Tax Commission, and will clarify the legalities. Commissioner Smith explained the struggle the veterans have trying to hold public events and maintain their buildings. His concern about using PILT monies is that some years PILT is not received at all, where the tax monies are annually renewed. He testified that a long hard look was taken on \$6,000 before it was entered into the budget.

Harriet Henderson testified that she would like to see a "full-time commissioner" included in the budget. The board agreed the work load was there, but not the funding. Commissioner Smith explained his concern that with one full time commissioner, the work load becomes very lopsided and the two that are not full time are always behind the information curve. Harriet's concern is that the current method is not getting everything done as it should be, and a full-time commissioner could solve that.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the budget as presented, contingent on the clarification of "war memorials". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli and passed with a unanimous "Aye" vote.

The Public Hearing was then adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk