

Custer County Commissioners
Special Meeting
April 24, 2025

The Custer County Commissioners Special meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room at the Custer County Courthouse. Attending were Chairman Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Commissioner Will Naillon, Sheriff Levi Maydole, Deputy Mike Niemeyer, Emergency Manager Lisa Benson and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. Joe Shelton and Eric Smallwood with White Cloud Communications also attended. Emergency manager Lisa Benson reported that the IOEM Grant funds have been unfrozen and the County will be receiving them as before.

White Cloud Communications representatives Joe Shelton and Eric Smallwood presented their information. The original Communications Plan RFP response given to Custer County was completed by TAIT, with assistance from White Cloud Communications. Joe provided some background on their company experience within Idaho, which is vast. They install TAIT equipment at many of their projects and feel TAIT equipment is very durable and affordable. White Cloud would like to offer Custer County an avenue to get the needed work completed but in affordable project phases. The Board agreed that the original 4+ Million-dollar proposal given by TAIT was unaffordable for Custer County. The Board made clear they need to get legal advice from our Custer County Prosecutor before any decision can be made on changes to the original RFP. Lisa will visit with Paul Rogers before any action is taken.

Possible cost saving changes were then discussed. The use of P25 capable components instead of using P25 compatible components was suggested. The USFS and the BLM are all still using analog systems due to the mountainous terrain. If compatibility is eventually required by law, then it is a simple matter to become licensed to use the same components digitally. Use of NASPO (National Association State Procurement Office) for the best price on purchases without having to go through the bid process. It was understood that there needs to be updated equipment installed in the dispatch area, as well as at the different repeater sites. A Star-Link Mini system also could be installed on vehicles to fill in where ever the radio signals fail.

Eric felt the Dispatch center is the #1 concern, as that equipment is no longer repairable. You cannot even find parts for that system now. Discussion was also held on the repeater sites as to which ones had backup power and which still needed a backup power system. The use of Custer Telephone buildings was also discussed and phone numbers were exchanged to be sure everyone was in the communication loop on what could be done.

The Board asked for a ball park proposal of essential repairs, with breakouts for each location. This would enable the County to do repairs as funding was available. The current problem with radio connections to Grouse Peak was discussed between the Sheriff and White Cloud Communications. They will be sending someone to do the repair as soon as next week. The requested proposals will be forthcoming within the next month. The White Cloud representatives then excused themselves from the meeting.

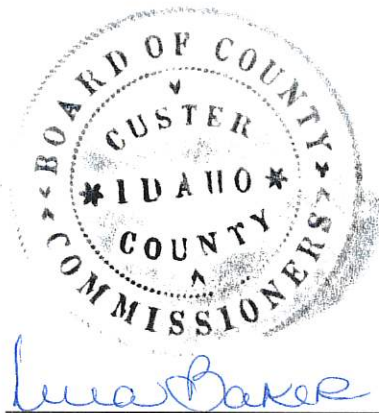
Discussion on Custer County jail needs was then held. Commissioner Will Naillon asked how does the County build something that fills our needs AND we can afford to operate? Sheriff Levi Maydole has looked in this issue as well as the current costs for out of county inmate housing and transportation. Research has revealed that a 16-bed jail would fit within the available space for construction. It would allow for enough out of county bed rental to help pay for the detention officers required to operate it,

as well as provide enough bed space for Custer County inmates. A walk-through Jail Inspection was then begun at 12:10 PM and concluded at 12:45 PM.

Big D Construction representatives Mike Shatzer and Matt Blomquist attended the meeting. Commissioner Will Naillon explained Custer Counties situation with a very old non-compliant jail and no available funding. Mike explained their construction service options. The plans from the 2017-2018 jail proposal were then reviewed, as well as the history of many failed bond elections. Matt went over the Fremont County jail project that their company recently completed, along with the building costs involved. Big D Construction is a nationwide company headquartered in Salt Lake City, UT. They work out of the regional office in Idaho Falls. Each job site will have a Job Site Superintendent that will be at the job each day. The Project Managers and Engineers will only be on site as needed. Their company does "design oversight" that keeps the design process within budget. The Fremont Jail broke ground in June 2022 and was completed March 2024.

Commissioner Naillon inquired about just what the County responsibilities were? Big D Construction needs to know the size and scope of our design to be able to provide tentative plans. The meeting was recessed to tour the possible construction site and the old jail. While on site other options were explored as to location and inmate bed configuration. Agreement was reached that a pre-construction estimate with ball-park \$ figures could be sent in 2 weeks.

With no further business before them the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.



Attest: Clerk Lura Baker


Chairman, Randy Corgatelli