

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
May 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Randy Corgatelli, with Commissioners Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones, Dan Tanner, Mike Newmyer, Will Naillon, Ron Bloxham and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance.

**Weeds:** Brett Plummer provided his Snake River Computer Systems bid for the desktop computer and laptop computer that he will need for the UAV Drone operations. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the purchase of the Dell Lat 5430. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith then made a motion to approve the purchase of the Dell Desktop Optiplex computer for a cost of \$2,445.00, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Plummer then provided the bids he has received on a cargo trailer to transport and house the drone and related equipment.

Commissioner Smith moved that the purchase of a 8.5' x 18' cargo trailer be approved for a cost of \$9,285.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Plummer then reported that he has not received the bid on the spray unit as yet. He will be attending the Weed Superintendent's meeting held in Clark county on May 14<sup>th</sup> and connect with the Idaho Transportation Department. The Weed Dept. has most of the road sides treated, as well as the cemetery, rodeo and fair grounds. There will be a June 16<sup>th</sup> Frank Church Weed meeting that Plummer will be participating in, but he has no applications in for funding. Discussion turned to the operations and recharging of the spray drone. Plummer updated the Board on the new license 16 credit requirements and test consolidation changes.

**Road & Bridge Dept:** Supt. Brandon Jones let the Board know that the walk through of the factory that rebuilds chip spreaders is scheduled for tomorrow. He invited them to attend if they could. Capping of the Custer Road project has been finished. His crew was able to do some training as they did the project, so it took a bit longer than planned. The Road & Bridge crew is losing one part time employee to the mine in two weeks. Jones has met with the Prosecutor about the "School to Work Program". There is one student interested in the program and it has a lot of sideboards involved. The new ¾ ton truck #112 is here and Jones asked if he could install steps to assist with getting in and out. The Board agreed that they should be purchased. The Safe Streets & Roads Grant is not suitable for purchase of a Message Board Trailer, but the extra funds left in the sign fund could be used to buy the message board trailer. Supt. Jones would like to use \$3,500.00 to purchase two newer traffic counters that provide much more information than the older style. He felt that two counters would be adequate, as they can be moved.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to add Blue Mountain Refuse/Wendell Gohn at 9:45 AM. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith then reported on the NACO/WIR Conference he attended along with six others from Idaho. They toured Yosemite National Park and discussed how fuel loads could be reduced. Smith was disappointed to learn they are not putting the timber removed to beneficial uses. Smith then reported that the CO<sub>2</sub> and smoke alarms have been installed in the Stanley deputy housing. There is still some flashing and stair bannisters to be installed. Commissioner Smith will stay in touch with Damon Burk/Big Ben Construction.

**Tax Exemption Session:** Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia attended with the needed files at 9:00 AM. (see attached minutes) Also attending were Prosecutor Justin Oleson, Assessor Jacquel Bruno, and Appraiser Jeremy Dixon. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:30 AM.

**Treasurer:** Allicyn Latimer, Treasurer provided her monthly report. Commissioner Smith inquired about any Legislative changes, of which there were none. Latimer reminded the Board that the ARPA Fund monies need to be earmarked before Dec. 2024 for the required reporting. The tax reimbursements of \$68.19 that have surfaced for hydro's were discussed. The Board agreed that they should be paid from the General Fund. Latimer then requested permission for Road & Bridge to haul more of their reject materials for the Challis cemetery. Board agreement was unanimous.

**Solid Waste:** Wendell Gohn/Blue Mountain Refuse brought the commercial account information requested by the Commissioners. All residents agree that a Challis Landfill is needed, but they don't understand the costs involved in the operation of a landfill. Gohn reported that in 2023 he paid \$106,991.00 in tipping fees to the Lemhi Co. landfill. Commissioner Corgatelli asked Wendell what it would take to make the Stanley transfer site workable. Wendell Gohn responded that two roll off units are needed as well as a site attendant to operate the site. The current retaining wall has settled, as well as the cement pad that the roll-off's sit on. Discussion was then held on the days of service to offer in the Stanley area and how the transfer/hauling would be handled. Gohn suggested talking to Clear Creek Refuse about the hauling as well as Blue Mountain Refuse. All agreed that winter weather and snow is the main problem.

The meeting was recessed at 10:17 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance District. The meeting was reconvened at 10:20 AM.

**NRAC:** Chairman Jim Hawkins inquired if the comment period extension request for the Sage Grouse EIS had been sent? Commissioner Smith hasn't gotten it done, but agreed to do it today. Mary Darling with Darling Geomatics is responding on behalf of Custer County within the current deadline of June 13, 2024. Commissioner Smith informed the group that Seth Griggs/IAC has put in a line item fund for "Litigation Assistance" to help counties on Natural Resource issues.

**Emergency Management:** Gary Chamberlain attended the meeting as the representative for the Canal Company. He provided the history of the "problem culverts" that were installed by FEMA during the 1984 earthquake event. The used culverts were too small for the flow, so three were installed at each road crossing on the Hot Springs ditch. The triple configuration of culverts has caused spring trash to collect at each crossing every year creating many problems. During sub-zero weather the multiple culverts cause the water to freeze and causes winter flooding. The Canal Company would like to replace the rusting 40-year-old triple culverts with single 4-foot flat bottom culverts that have tapered entry flanges attached. A hand-written letter from Ryan Hunt was also provided on the culvert subject. The window of low "water-flow" for culvert installation is quickly closing. April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>. Chamberlain stated that the Canal Company doesn't want to have any problems with FEMA. He stated that in the 1960's and 1970's the State of Idaho exempted canal companies from FEMA engineering requirements. The Idaho Water Users Association received the FEMA exemption. Planning & Zoning Administrator Jessica Clemenhagen attended and was offered a copy of the exemption letter by Gary Chamberlain. Clemenhagen will make the request to FEMA for culvert replacements, as well as contact IOEM for assistance. Nine (9) culverts – 4' flat bottom with entry flanges x 25' long are needed to replace the problem culverts.

**Clerk:** Lura Baker/Clerk relayed questions from Great West/Travis Pyle on the Solid Waste Assessment Project. He needs to know what Custer County plans to do on solid waste fees? Dates were then set for the Public hearing on Solid Waste Fees of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Public Hearing for a Road Vacation was set on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 pending counsels input. The county Gem Plan Insurance will be going up 5.9% in 2024.

**CWPP Update:** Commissioners reviewed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Commissioner Smith informed EM Manager Levi Maydole about a 1500-gallon Osh-Kosh Brush truck that S. Custer Rural Fire Dept has that is not listed. The map on page 35 was reviewed and the private property designation is very vague and hard to see.

The meeting was recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Steve Smith, NRAC Chairman Jim Hawkins, Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins, SNRA Deputy Ranger Michael Fuller, BLM Assistant Field Manager Dave Hillard, BLM Acting Field Manager Martha Price, Assistant Dist. Ranger/John Runkle and Assistant Dist. Ranger/Bart Gammett attended the meeting.

#### **Agencies**

Challis/Yankee Fork Ranger Dist.: Assistant District Ranger John Runkle has been in contact with Forest Supervisor Heather DeGeest trying to schedule attendance at a Custer Co. Commissioners meeting. The seasonal workers are coming on to staff. The IOGA permits are being renewed as before. How they deal with the un-used permits has

not been decided. The Forest Service road crew is out working on the road network. Opening of the Yankee Fork Dredge and the Town of Custer will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The trail crews will be starting work in the Middle Fork soon. Weather conditions are favorable for prescribed burns and they will be concentrating on the Lost River area first. The Rooker Fire in the Panther Creek drainage was contained within 13 acres.

Lost River Ranger Dist.: Assistant District Ranger Bart Gammett reported on the roads. The Bear Creek road reroute was completed last fall and the old route has been closed. The Muldoon Road was also rerouted. They are proud to keep area access open by getting the roads up out of the creek bottoms and riparian areas. Trail work begins on the Lower Cedar Creek area. The joint management program for the Golden Trout stream fishery is beginning with Mackay High School students, Idaho Fish & Game and the US Forest Service. Each fall the high school students complete a fish count in Cedar Creek and the students figure out how many fish to re-stock each spring. Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM will be the restocking date for 750 Golden Trout in the Cedar Creek drainage. Gammett invited folks to attend.

Sawtooth National Recreation Area: Ranger Fuller reported that fuel wood permits in the Stanley area will be available by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The docks and campgrounds are all opening up from the winter closures. Blaine County has quitclaimed the old "Baltimore 42" mining claim to the SNRA. The slash piles near Grand Jean have been cleaned up by burning. Commissioner Smith has reported the size (40' x 60') building that is needed for the replacement Sheriff's office in the Stanley area. Michael Miller reported that the School is working on building a High School building in Stanley. Very generous folks have donated the funds. They no longer have a school bus driver for the trip down to Challis high school. Commissioner Smith asked about when the SNRA would be installing boat washing stations in the Redfish Lake area? Miller reported they are enlarging the parking area and re-routing the traffic, but have no plans to install a boat washing station at this time.

Challis BLM Field Station: Dave Hilliard/Assistant Field Manager introduced Martha Price/Interim Field Manager. She is a Civil Engineer by trade and will be staying in Challis for the summer. The many BLM job openings were discussed. Applicants have come in for Area Field Manager, Assistant Field Manager and Administration. Interviews are starting for Field Manager, and the Archeologist position is still open. The BLM has begun reclamation on abandoned mining sites along Highway 75, that have been inactive since the 1960's. They plan to get 6 of the 21 mine sites restored this summer. Design of the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop of campsites for the J. T. Fallini Mackay Reservoir campground has begun. They will be adding another 15 to 20 campsites. Commissioners inquired about the feral horse situation? There have been no updates on the horse situation. The BLM is taking some mustang colts to be in the 4-H Program. The placer mining permit at the mouth of the East Fork is ongoing.

Idaho Fish & Game: Regional Director Ryan Hilton reported that wolf depredations were light for winter of 2023/2024. There was one report from the Pahsimeroi Valley. The steelhead season has been a good one and lasted quite a good while. The Salmon are just starting to arrive and the counts will be coming in soon. The Sage Grouse lek's are doing well this year. Hilton reported the 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Idaho Fish & Game will be June 8<sup>th</sup>. There are Free Fishing Days scheduled throughout the state. The BLM and the Fish & Game are meeting about the boat ramp at the East Fork. The spring green up count of elk has shown they are maintaining their numbers pretty well. Fish & Game have put collars on 260 Bighorn Sheep for research.

Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes of the 4/24/2024 be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Smith then moved that the minutes of the Tax Exemption Session 4/8/2024 be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/30/2024 Special Commissioners Meeting, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. Commissioner Smith then moved that the minutes of the 5/7/2024 Special meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Sheriff:** Sheriff Levi Maydole attended and updated the Board on the events of the weekend shooter standoff. He read his 5/12/2024 press release for those attending that had not heard it. All agreed it was a best-case ending scenario for a very difficult situation. There was a avalanche fatality in Donaldson Bowl near Mackay on 5/10/2024. Sheriff Maydole then updated the Board on the final roll-put of the IPAWS notification system. His office is setting up public protocol for social media and press releases. Sheriff Maydole informed the Board of the urgent need for a Public Information Officer in his office. He actually needs four positions filled. Administration Clerk, (2) Detention Officers, and a Lieutenant Deputy. Commissioner Corgatelli inquired what pay scale he was

thinking should be paid. Levi listed \$17.00, \$24.00 and \$28.00 per hour respectively. The remaining budget was reviewed for funding options. Hiring priorities were set with #1 Administration Clerk and #2 Lieutenant Deputy. Clerk Lura Baker reminded everyone of the benefit cost for new hires. It was agreed that two priority positions could be advertised. Sheriff vehicles were then discussed and how to utilize them the best. Maydole has met with Ben Wolfinger/Jail Inspector concerning the Custer County Jail situation. The SNRA Modification of Agreement was reviewed by the Board, and copy provided to Sheriff Maydole for his review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the MOA with the SNRA, pending the approval of Sheriff Levi Maydole. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

Coach Works invoices for the grill guards for Sheriff vehicles were reviewed. The total cost for 10 vehicle grill guards will be \$14,177.14. The Board agreed to pay the lump sum up front, so scheduling of vehicles can roll smoothly. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session under Title 74-206(1)(f) for Legal at 3:20 PM Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous Aye. Attending were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Sheriff Levi Maydole, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session, and the board returned to regular session at 3:25 PM. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of a laptop computer for the Sheriff's office at a cost of \$2,925.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith then moved to approve the purchase of all items needed for a computer access point in the S&R building at a cost of \$1,713.45. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica Clemenhausen/P&Z Administrator attended and has received a request for an address in an older subdivision that currently has unnamed access roads. The Board felt that the sub divider should name the internal roads and the address should be decided upon at that time. The proposed "Lot-Split Tracker" was presented by Jessica. Commissioner Smith suggested adding a column with "Original Parcel Size", and Clerk Baker suggested adding "Survey Notes" of who – when- etc. Administrator Clemenhausen has sent a letter out to all owners of "unbuildable lots" in 2022. She has responded to the mail she is receiving and asked the Board of Commissioners to review her response. She will be conferring with the Land Use Attorney to get this situation rectified.

**Probation/Juvenile Corrections:** Probation Officer Aletia Straub-Workman attended and provided copies of the MOU for funding through the JJP. Commissioner Smith moved that the MOU be approved, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. This program is the CBAS (Community Based Alternative Services) and SUDS (Substance Use Disorder Services) that work so well.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of backup batteries from Snake River Computer Services, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Phase I of the server room update estimate was received in the amount of \$13,310.00. Commissioner Smith moved that the Phase I server upgrade be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

**Claims:** Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims be approved and paid with the additions of \$13,310.00/Phase I upgrade, \$1,713.45/IOEM, \$2,925.00/Sheriff computer, \$1,650.00/ backup batteries, \$14,177.14/Grill guards and \$450.00/Smith mileage. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried.

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Expense          | 70,801.16         |
| Road & Bridge            | 115,670.93        |
| District Court           | 3,567.97          |
| Rodeo                    | 296.20            |
| Revaluation              | 8,020.16          |
| Solid Waste              | 100.00            |
| Weeds                    | 3,335.24          |
| Waterways                | 10.00             |
| Emergency Communications | <u>2,275.72</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>204,077.38</b> |

**Clerk:** Clerk Lura Baker inquired about the pews that can be used in the Court Annex building. There are (10) 11-foot benches and (1) 10-foot bench. The Board agreed that the county should get them. Commissioner Zollinger has a trailer available to haul them from Blackfoot.

**HVAC Bids:** The three bids that were received for installation of the HVAC system in the new Court Annex were opened. Ray's Heating & Cooling/Salmon, ID bid \$349,390.00. Energy Plus/~~Ammon~~, ID bid \$344,850.00. and Wiemer Heating & Cooling/Idaho Falls, ID bid \$244,588.00. Commissioner Smith moved that the low bid from Wiemer Heating & Cooling for \$244,588.00 be accepted. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.



Attest:

Lura H. Baker  
Lura H. Baker, Clerk

Randy Corgatelli  
Randy Corgatelli, Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner