

Custer County  
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings  
August 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Vice Chairman Randy Corgatelli with Clerk Lura Baker, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, R&B Supervisor Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins in attendance. Commissioner Steve Smith phoned into the meeting for the first 30 minutes, then arrived in person.

**Weeds:** Brett has the older White F250 truck chassis ready to be listed on the federal surplus site. He plans to start the bids at \$3,000.00 as the truck has 132,000 miles on it. He requested clearance to purchase two Samsung tablets to use for mapping in the Weed Department. These units are very durable and come with screen protectors. He provided an informational pamphlet on the spray drone he is looking to purchase in the future. They are made in Texas, USA along with the required software (as required by law). He has received the BLM Grant for the next 5 years. Commissioner Smith asked about the weed postcard to inform residents about Idaho weed law. Brett has talked to the ID Dept of Weeds and they will provide the cards to the County, who will then get them addressed and mailed out. Brett has received calls about roadside weed problems in southern Custer County. That area is maintained by Lost River Highway District, and he has forwarded the information to them. Everyone agreed that all weeds seem to be bionic this year due to the good rains. Commissioner Smith moved that the Weed Dept. be approved to purchase two Samsung tablets for mapping at a cost of \$709.00 each. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Smith then moved to approve the listing of the White F250 truck on the Surplus Sale Site. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

**Road & Bridge:** Brandon has been trying to replace two of the older R&B dump trucks, 1989 and 1995. His searches have not found anything worth purchasing to date. He has found the best options through Diesel Depot and would like to handle the purchase with them. Commissioner Smith moved that Road & Bridge move forward on the purchase of 2 trucks at Diesel Depot within the budget of \$150,000.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Brandon explained that the sand beds will need to be purchased separately at an approximate cost of \$20,000.00, and he will do his best to remain within the budgeted amount. Brandon updated the Board on the Garden Creek Road Project. The construction company had it open to two-way traffic over the Braun Brothers Reunion weekend. The cloudburst caused washing problems that they had to quickly repair. He also received a complaint about the haul trucks using Valley Road. Unfortunately, there is no other route for them to utilize. The approach work on the McGowan property is progressing well. The Road & Bridge Dept has finished up with the Mackay Fairground/Rodeo ground access work. They did the job with the Lost River Highway District and the crews worked very well together. Commissioner Smith reported on having the power lines moved to enable the road work to be done. All the road materials were donated for this job. The dangerous rock points on Morgan Creek Road are still on schedule to be removed with the funding from the Safety Grant. The first one to be taken care of will be where the fatality occurred. They will do as much work as possible within the \$1.3 million Grant funding. The Commissioners were invited to attend the "Bridge Planning Meeting" on bridge work scheduled for Squaw Cr. LHTAC Agreement #24349 on the three Squaw Creek bridges has a 0% match requirement and is in the amount of \$1.3 million. The footers will be replaced and the bridges will be resurfaced. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the #24349 Agreement between the State of Idaho and Custer Co. Road and Bridge to rehabilitate the old bridges. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Brandon brought the LHTAC application for Phase II #24315 of the Garden Creek Road rebuild. This grant is for \$3.5 million and has a 7.34% match requirement. It will encompass the section of road from the bridge up to Living Waters driveway. Commissioner Smith moved that LHTAC Agreement #24351 for Garden Creek Road Phase II be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. The power grease guns that Road & Bridge use are worn out and falling apart. Brandon would like to replace two of the three that they use. The Commissioners approved the purchase of two new DeWalt power grease guns. Brandon clarified that the fencing that needs to be done at the County Fair Grounds will be done by K & S Fencing. Commissioner Smith will contact Steve Bragg at (208) 940-0836.

**University of Idaho/Extension Service:** Marnie Spencer and Sarah Baker attended the meeting at 8:50 AM. Discussion began on the Custer County request that Sarah Baker be moved over into the central district. Marnie stated that Extension District layout reviews will be done in 2024, but the U of I will be making no changes at this time. The Eastern District has 14 members, the Central District has 10 members, and the Western District has 10 members. Commissioner Smith then inquired about the outcome of Marnie's meeting with Barbara Petty. No changes will be made by the U of I. Smith then questioned the lack of communication between the Eastern District office and the Board of Commissioners. Marnie stated that she last attended the March 2022 Commissioners Meeting. One recurring issue is the annual budget, that has repeated for the past 3 years. Steve asked why this continues to be a problem? Marnie apologized for the U of I, and then inquired about the upcoming budget. The U of I would like the Custer County to fund both the full-time and the part-time office positions. Commissioner Corgatelli stated that the County will fund the full-time position only. Once that position is filled and successful, then the part-time position will be considered. Extension Educator Sarah Baker excused herself from the meeting. Commissioner Corgatelli moved to go into executive session for Personnel at 9:20 AM under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a), the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Corgatelli and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Those attending this session were Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Corgatelli, Dist. Director Marnie Spencer and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 9:42 AM.

**Treasurer:** Allicyn Latimer provided the monthly reports for the Board members. Updates were exchanged on progress with the Court Annex building. Clerk Lura Baker also attended and updated those present on her part of the Court Annex project. Treasurer Allicyn reported there is only \$69,000.00 left to collect on the 2022 Taxes. The 2023 interest-bearing accounts have provided \$300,000.00 from the C.D.'s, Money Market, and State Pool.

**Indigent:** Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session for Indigent Review at 10:20 AM 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. Those attending this session were Clerk Lura Baker, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Upon return to regular session at 10:25 AM Commissioner Smith made a motion for #07-06— Release of Lien/Paid in Full, and #16-05 – Release of Lien/ Paid in Full. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corgatelli and the aye votes were unanimous. Motion passed.

**Clerk:** Lura brought a letter she received from Adrienne Hall about the proposed Court Annex Building to the Board of Commissioners. A phone call was placed to Adrienne by the Board to clear up her misunderstandings of the legal process involved in small government building projects. Lura has also received an e-mail from the new Search & Rescue Commander in Stanley. The secure storage of Search & Rescue items, currently located in the Stanley Sheriff's Office building was the subject. Custer County Water Ways Department also has items stored in the Sheriff's office that will need to be relocated while the building is being remodeled. SNRA Elizabeth Bjerke will be contacted to get the proper paperwork forms and begin the process.

Tim Mark with Gem Plan Insurance attended the meeting at 10:50. Commissioner Smith moved that the agenda be amended to move Gem Plan Insurance up to 11:00 from the original 11:30 timeslot, in the absence of Prosecutor Justin Oleson at that time. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

**Gem Plan Insurance:** Tim Mark attended to provide a basic update to the county on the financial statement and current position of Gem Plan Government Employee Medical Insurance. The 2023 rate increase has been set at 9%. Everyone understood that the rate of inflation is rising fast and not slowing. The history of payments and claims for Custer County was provided and the Loss Ratio explained. All agreed it has been a very difficult year for medical insurance nationwide and thanked Tim for the Gem Plan Insurance reliability.

**Certificate of Residency:** Clerk Lura Baker provided the application from Felton for review. Commissioner Corgatelli made a motion to approve the application for Felton. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Smith then moved that Resolution #2023-07 – Funds transfer/Building & Grounds be approved. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 Noon. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 PM with Commissioner Steve Smith, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins attending.

**Agencies:**

Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District: Heath Perrine reported on the Hayden Creek fire. They have a solid fire line on the Lemhi River side, but not on the Pahsimeroi River side in Moose Creek. It is very high elevation and mostly surrounded by rocks, mainly just smoldering along. There have been a few other small fires that were quickly put out. The Chilcot Fire is just being monitored because it is within the wilderness area. Heath is still considering the prescribed fire schedule in Wino Basin, perhaps in late August or early September, weather permitting. There have been large mud/rock slides triggered by the recent heavy rains, along the Middle Fork and the Salmon River. The river has been closed for safety, but is now reopened for boaters with warnings. The Sea Foam Road was closed for a bit, but has been repaired and is open again. Those that were trapped have gotten out OK and the contractor is cleaning up the project. The Boundary Creek Road job is moving forward and going well.

Lost River Ranger District: Jonathan LeBlanc reported that the prescribed fires schedule in his district is still being considered for late August or early September. Notification to the Cities, commissioners and such will be given before any ignition is made. There are some dispersed camp sites near the Wildhorse camp ground that they will be closing to minimize resource degradation. There are also some at the Iron Bog trail head that will be closed. Commissioner Smith inquired about progress on the Mt. Borah campground project. He personally witnessed 100 vehicles parked in and around the campground and all along the access road this past weekend. The area has been discovered and needs to be expanded to hold the users. Jonathan expressed his thanks for the gravel from ITD that was available for USFS use when the Mt. Borah project begins.

BLM: Dave Hilliard reported to the Commissioners that the Herd Lake Road has been re-opened. It is still rough but passable, and additional work will be done on the washouts next season. BLM had done a fuel reduction project in Bayhorse, using cut and stack. The wood that is removed will be stacked along the roads for public consumption. The restoration project at Cottonwood campground is nearing completion. They are still building fence and putting in a water system for the plantings that were done. The F.E.R.C. (Federal Energy Resource Commission) project in the Mackay area is ongoing. Chris Herr, former BLM employee has transferred to the Fish & Wildlife Administration as a Project Manager. He will still work out of the BLM office and be working on landscape restoration and range improvements, such as weed control, water lines and cheatgrass mitigation projects. The BLM is still hiring in their Fire Resource Department, having difficulty filling the positions. The 2023 Rally-N-The Pines is over. The BLM has sent out letters and are awaiting the lawyer's responses. Commissioner Smith requested the BLM weed crew work on the knapweed infestation on Willow Creek Summit. Commissioner Smith asked Ranger Heath Perrine if he could locate the grazing study that was done by USFS Faith Ryan in past years? The Commissioners would like to have a copy of her work.

After review of the Public Defender Agreement, Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Agreement with David Brown as Public Defender for Custer County. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. The requested letter of support to the North Custer Hospital District for their application for CHAC Grant funding was reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the letter be sent. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it carried. Minutes from past meeting were then reviewed. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes for the 6/26/2023 Commissioners meeting be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes for the 7/10/2023 Commissioners meeting be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes for the 7/17/2023 Commissioners Special Budget Workshop meeting be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes for the 7/26/2023 Commissioners meeting be approved as presented, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed for South Custer Ambulance Board at 2:20 PM, and reconvened at 2:25 PM. Clerk Lura Baker returned to the meeting.

The Law Enforcement Agreement for 2023/2024 has been received from the City of Challis. Clerk Lura Baker has gotten it to Sheriff Stu Lumpkin who has approved the agreement and signed it. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the FY2024 Law Enforcement Agreement with the City of Challis in the amount of \$59,482.00. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

**Idaho Transportation Department:** Representatives Jason Minzghor/District Engineer, Jeff Sneddon/Project Manager, Jeremy Johnson/Challis Division, Brenda Elordi/Public Information Officer and Wade Allen/Planning & Scoping all attended the meeting. Wade Allen began the meeting with an invitation to the ITD District 6 Board Outreach Workshop on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM, at the Marriott Hotel in Rexburg. Wade also provided a listing of upcoming projects that will be done in the Custer County area. The local ITD road crew will be repairing the large frost heave on Highway 93 near Shiloh Ranch as time allows this summer/fall. He also informed everyone that the Salmon River Bridge in the town of Salmon will be replaced within the next two years. Jeff spoke on the strategic initiatives grant program. The grants do not require any matching monies and you can submit multiple applications. The grant window opened July 1<sup>st</sup> and will close September 1<sup>st</sup> and you will have 6 months to get it completed. He offered to send the e-newsletter listing all Federal Grants that are available to Custer County. Clerk Lura Baker asked to be placed on the list for monthly updates. Cory Rice/Challis Mayor spoke on the agreement that the ITD and City of Challis have arrived at for the city to take over the lower section of Main Avenue currently under ITD jurisdiction. Idaho Code was reviewed, but the ITD felt they couldn't transfer ownership of roads to Cities with populations under 5,000 people. It was decided to have the County Prosecutor and the Attorney General discuss this issue. Custer County does NOT want to be the middle man and would like to see the ITD and the City of Challis work directly with each other.

**Civil Defense:** County Director Levi Maydole provided the Board with his monthly status report. The Custer Counter Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Memorandum of Agreement is ready for approval and signature to commence Phase II. Commissioner Smith made a motion that Civil Defense Director Levi Maydole be the Custer County point of contact for the IPAWS system. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Levi inquired about the status of the reimbursement of \$6,300,000 from LUMA? She has not seen it as yet. The Federal BRIC Grant through FEMA has been approved by the Governor's Office and is now awaiting Congressional approval. Levi reported that the new generator has been installed on the Flat Top Repeater site and is fully functional. The old generator has been removed and completely gone through by Bernie Judges with Intermountain Power Source. It now runs like a top and is ready for installation. Levi would like to have it at the Search & Rescue Building. The total fee for Bernie to check out all the emergency generators was under \$1,000.00 and Levi was very pleased with the work that he did for Custer County.

**Sheriff:** Deputy Chris Harvey, Deputy Greg Pitts and Sheriff Stuart Lumpkin attended the meeting. Stu is needing a place to store Stanley Search & Rescue items and Water Way items that are currently in the Stanley Sheriff's office. Greg has talked to the City of Stanley and they were offering a place for the Search & Rescue items. It was thought that the ambulance should be parked at the city also. Stu thought the empty desks could be put out in the lean-to on a short-term basis. Discussion revealed the use of an empty bay in the Old Challis Firehall for all the Water Way items and files. Levi Maydole offered the Search & Rescue trailer to haul those items from Stanley back to Challis. John Haugh will work directly with Levi. Commissioner Smith has talked to Damon Burk about getting a signed contract for the remodeling job before work commences. A letter from the USFS has been received concerning the use of USFS radio frequencies by the Search & Rescue in the Mackay area. It will be referred to the Prosecutor for advice on the county response. The Law Enforcement contracts with the different cities were then discussed. Challis has accepted and completed their contract, but nothing is forthcoming from Mackay or Stanley to date.

Commissioner Chairman Wayne Butts arrived at the meeting to everyone's surprise. ALL were very pleased to have him back.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jessica Clemenhausen/Administrator came before the Commissioners to discuss road naming and how things work in regards to "lanes".

Commissioner Smith moved to go into executive session for Legal at 4:30 PM under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f), the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Corgatelli and the roll call yes vote was unanimous. Those attending this session were Clerk Lura Baker, Commissioner Butts, Commissioner Corgatelli, Commissioner Smith, Jim Hawkins and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made during this session. Returned to regular session at 4:40 PM.

Commissioner Butts moved that the minutes of the 4/10/2023 Commissioners Meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Butts then moved to approve the 4/10/2023 Board of Equalization Minutes as presented. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Liquor Licenses:** A motion from Commissioner Smith was made to approve the following 12 liquor license applications. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motions and they passed. On behalf of:

Sammy's Mini Mart	Stanley RV Camp, LLC	Sawtooth Luce, LLC
RW Stanley Co. Inc.	9 Peaks Restaurant & Lounge	DDL & J Inc. (Lamb's)
Ivie's Foodliner	Tea Cup Café & Bakery	Casey D. Fonsbeck
Sawtooth Hotel, LLC	TBCI, LLC	Papa Brunies, LLC

**Clerk:** Clerk Lura Baker brought a credit card use request for Kim Wiederhold to have access to Idaho Public Safety on-line 911 training by August 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the use of the credit card. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed.

**NRAC:** Chairman Jim Hawkins attended and reported on the Lemhi County Commissioners meeting that he attended this AM. He got the Lemhi Board of Commissioners signatures on the joint letter to the Regional Forester stating the wishes of the Board of Commissioners from Custer County as well, for desired qualifications in a new Forest Supervisor. He has made reservations for the Stop 30 X 30 Summit in Irving, Texas that is being sponsored by the American Stewards of Liberty, and inquired about getting reimbursed. Information has been received that there will be an EIS done on the grizzly bear reintroduction process. Commissioner Smith moved that a letter be sent to the Fish & Wildlife Service to request "co-ordination" during this process. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded the motion and it passed. Jim agreed to assist with authoring the letter.

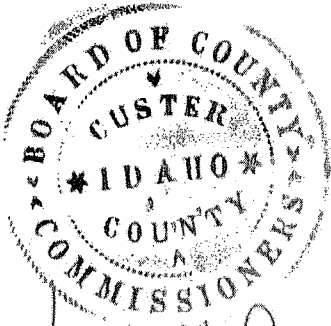
**Claims:** Discussion was held on the Burdge Architects invoices. It was decided to pay for the Courthouse remodel invoice of \$5,147.44 and the Sheriff Office/Jail invoice of \$10,212.79. The Court Annex invoice of \$31,263.30 will be held for clarification. The Commissioner Smith moved that the following claims be approved and paid with the addition for Burdge Architects of \$15,360.23. Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	48,411.74
Road & Bridge	299,751.33
Battleground Mosquito	8,936.27
Election Fund	46.41
District Court	1,997.72
County Fair	2,500.00
Rodeo Grounds	180.31
Revaluation	9,124.44
Solid Waste	2,198.19
Weeds	465.16
Water Ways	2,480.21
ARPA	3,518.45
Emergency Communication	1,648.89
C ID Trans. Comm.	2,978.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>384,237.92</b>

Chairman Wayne Butts discussed his concerns with Burdge Architects and asked for the Boards feedback if further action should be taken. Treasurer Allicyn Latimer reviewed her e-mail conversations with Doug Burdge and the Board members.

Brandon Jones/R&B Superintendent returned to the meeting and was updated on the information received over the afternoon. Clerk Lura Baker gave him the Strategic Initiatives Grant Program information she received from the ITD delegation.

With no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.



Attest:

Lura H. Baker  
Lura H. Baker, Clerk

Randy Corgatelli  
Randy Corgatelli, Vice Chairman  
Custer County Commissioner