

POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONRE MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in special session with the American Falls Mayor and City Council on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, at the Power County Emergency Services Building. Present from Power County were:

Commissioner Chairman Ken Estep
Commissioner Valerie Hoybjerg
Commissioner Janet S. Chapman
Clerk Christine Steinlicht
Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Jeffries

Present from the City of American Falls were:

Mayor Cecil Weisenburger
Council Member Charles Woodworth
Council Member Ray Zimmerman
Council Member Dean Weaver
Council Member Amy Wynn
Council Member Nate Covington
Council Member Kristen Jensen
City Clerk Betty Huse
Street Department Superintendent Ron Anderson
City Attorney Randy Kline

CITY/COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT: The Commissioner and City Council discussed the provisions of the City/County Law Enforcement Agreement. Both the City of American Falls and Power County officials agreed that the agreement was working well and there were no problems at this time. Chief Deputy Sheriff Jeffries reported on the progress of the Enhanced 911 system in the dispatch center.

CITY/COUNTY SUMMER PICNIC & BASEBALL: The Commissioners and City Council agreed that the purpose of the summer picnic and baseball game was to promote friendship between City and County employees and elected officials. Both City and County officials agreed after last year's game that rules should be established for the annual softball game. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Hoybjerg, seconded by Commissioner Chapman, to accept the proposed rules as presented and amended. Carried. The City of American Falls also approved the proposed rules by motion and vote. Copies of the rules will be provided to all City and County employees.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LAND TRANSFER: The Commissioners and City Council then discussed the Bureau of Land Management's decision to exchange lands in Power County. The land to be acquired by the United States is adjacent to the American Falls Reservoir, and part of the Willow Bay Recreation Area. The City of American

Falls previously agreed that the public's interest would be served by making the exchange. City Attorney Randy Kline indicated that the land transfer had not yet taken place; however, he felt that it was just a matter of time.

SOUTHEAST IDAHO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SEICOG) GRANT: Commissioner Estep reported that economic development grants were available through SEICOG to hire an economic developer in the American Falls and Power County area. The grant available would provide 60% funding for salary with the City and County matching the remaining 40%; however, given the adverse conditions facing Power County with the closure of the Astaris (FMC) plant in Eastern Power County, Power County and American Falls could be eligible to receive 75% funding on an economic develop salary grant with the City and County matching the remaining 25%. Following discussion, it was agreed between the City of American Falls and Power County to have the Commissioners contact Kathleen Lewis at SEICOG and advise her to go ahead with the application process.

CITY CURB & GUTTER FEES – TAX ROLLS: City Street Department Superintendent Ron Anderson questioned the Commissioners regarding the possibility of the City paying for curb and gutter installation on properties whose owners are unable to pay upfront and then charging those costs on the Power County Tax Rolls for the Power County Tax Collector to collect with taxes. County Clerk Christine Steinlicht, on behalf of Power County Treasurer Bobbie Mauch, reported that there appeared to be a liability problem with applying fees to the County Tax Roll and then attempting to take a Tax Deed on the property, since Tax Deeds cannot be considered on fees, only taxes. Commissioner Chapman questioned the City's ability to offer this repayment option only to certain property owners based on some type of financial need and how that need would be determined. The Commissioners then requested that this matter be tabled pending further study of this issue by Power County Treasurer Bobbie Mauch.

JUVENILE GRANT FUNDING: Commissioner Hoybjerg reported that the City of American Falls is eligible for, but not pursuing, juvenile justice grant funds through the Department of Juvenile Justice. Commissioner Hoybjerg asked that the City of American Falls allow Juvenile Probation Officer Russ Wheatley to apply for the City's share of these funds to be used at the American Falls Youth Center.

GRAIN ELEVATOR – HISTORICAL LANDMARK: Commissioner Estep discussed the possibility of the City of American Falls and Power County sharing in the costs of painting the American Flag on either side of the grain elevator partially covered by the American Falls Reservoir in an effort to promote patriotism. Mayor Weisenburger indicated that he and the Council would discuss that further.

Adjourned.


KEN ESTEP, Chairman


CHRISTINE STEINLICHT, Clerk