

## POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in special session with the American Falls Mayor and City Council at the City Council Chambers on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Present were Commissioners Vicki L. Meadows and Ray Zimmerman. Also present were Power County Clerk Christine Steinlicht and Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis. Present from the City of American Falls were:

Cecil Weisenburger, Mayor  
Kristen Jensen, Council Member  
Stuart Pankratz, Council Member  
Norman Wright, Council Member  
Amy Wynn, Council Member  
Chuck Chadbourn, Council Member  
Dean Weaver, Council Member  
Randy Kline, City Attorney

### IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL GRANT: American Falls Council Member Stuart Pankratz advised the Council of his meeting with the Commissioners on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, to discuss the Rural Economic Development grants available through the Idaho Department of Commerce, which would allow Idaho cities and Counties to access state funds for job creation and business expansion. Commissioner Meadows advised the Council that Power County has initiated the Rural Economic Development Grant process as lead agency on behalf of the municipalities with Power, Southern Bingham and Southern Bannock Counties, excluding the Cities of Pocatello and Chubbuck. Councilman Pankratz indicated that he has contacted the Mayors of the municipalities within Southern Bannock County and the City of Aberdeen as agreed on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and reported that the feedback was generally positive. Commissioner Meadows reported that she is scheduled to meet with the Rockland Mayor and City Council at their next regular meeting to discuss this grant. Following discussion, Commissioners Meadows and Zimmerman agreed to meet with Councilman Pankratz to coordinate a time to schedule a joint meeting for all the entities to meet and discuss this grant application with a representative from the Department of Commerce. This matter was tabled until June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

### POWER COUNTY/CITY OF AMERICAN FALLS – LAW ENFORCEMENT

AGREEMENT: Power County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Jeffries and American Falls Chief of Police Jerry Hubbs appeared to discuss the Cooperative Agreement between Power County and the City of American Falls Re: Law Enforcement Services. At the outset, Clerk Steinlicht reported that she has completed an audit of fiscal year 2003 salaries and fringe benefits of the Power County Dispatch Center and has provided the American Falls City Council with a copy of the audit report summary. Deputy Sheriff Jeffries and Chief Police Hubbs reported that the agreement has been successful and no

problems have been reported. The Commissioners and City Council agreed that the Cooperative Agreement should continue as previously mediated through fiscal year 2008. This matter was referred to Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis to prepare an updated agreement. This matter was tabled until June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

VEHICLE TOW POLICY: Power County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Jeffries and American Falls Police Chief Jerry Hubbs appeared to discuss the towing/impound policy for abandoned vehicles. Also present were Mike and Linette Speers d/b/a M&L Towing to discuss the financial burden created by storing junk vehicles in their private impound lot. Following discussion, it was agreed that Prosecuting Attorney Laggis and City Attorney Kline should draft a proposed towing and impound policy for abandoned vehicles, whereby the vehicles could be categorized or classified and those vehicles classified as "junk" could be immediately towed to the Power County Landfill for the specified impound period. The Commissioners agreed that they would also need to discuss this issue with Power County Transfer Station/Landfill supervisor Craig Heward. This matter was tabled until June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

DISASTER SERVICES – HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT (COMMUNICATIONS): Power County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Jeffries appeared before the joint group to discuss the recent Motorola Engineering Study prepared by Bannock County which shows coverage areas with a frequency of 400 frequency band to a 700 frequency band. Power County is currently at 150 frequency band coverage. Commissioner Meadows indicated that Power County has also discussed the Motorola Study and frequency band coverage with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council, and that a Federal Study on the areas communications will also be completed. The Commissioners and City Council agreed that any and all communications upgrades being planned by Homeland Security Grant funding should be a coordinated effort.

CITY OF AMERICAN FALLS LAW ENFORCEMENT – INFRACTION CITATIONS: Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis requested that the American Falls Police Department discontinue the practice of issuing infraction citations using City Ordinances rather than existing State Code as violations, since Mr. Laggis is of the opinion that violations of City Ordinance only prevail when there are no State laws on point. In the alternative, Mr. Laggis indicated that he might file an action with the District Court to interpret statute.

MAGISTRATE COURT – CITY REIMBURSEMENT (I.C. #1-2218): Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis then advise the joint group of the Decision dated April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004, issued in Twin Falls County Case # 2004-001151, wherein the District Judges of the Fifth Judicial District, sitting *en banc*, ordered that certain cities shall reimburse Twin Falls County for their use of the Magistrate Court facilities in Twin Falls County. Power County Clerk Christine Steinlicht reported that she had followed the Court's formula in making that decision and that it appears that the City of American Falls would owe Power County approximately \$16,000 under that Decision. Prosecuting Attorney Laggis further advised the joint group that the appeal period had not yet expired and that


the Cities may pursue an appeal. The Commissioners agreed to keep the City Council advised on this matter.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Debbie Rudeen of the American Falls Economic Development Board appeared before the joint group to request that the City and County Economic Development Boards join forces in their common efforts to promote economic development in the American Falls/Power County area. Commissioner Meadows suggested that Ms. Rudeen contact the Power County Economic Development Board Chairman Kent Rudeen directly to discuss this matter.

GEM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT: Commissioner Meadows advised the American Falls City Council that Power County is working toward obtaining a Gem Community Development Grant to promote economic development at the FMC site. Commissioner Meadows then reported that the next meeting of the Idaho Optimum Initiative (IOI) Committee has been scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and requested that a representative of the American Falls City Council attend that meeting.

Adjourned.

  
VICKI L. MEADOWS, Commissioners

  
RAY ZIMMERMAN, Commissioner

  
CHRISTINE STEINLIGHT, Clerk