

POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 24th, 2005. Present were Commissioners Ken Estep, Chairman, Vicki Meadows and Ray Zimmerman. Also present were Power County Clerk Christine Steinlicht and Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis.

POWER COUNTY EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFIT PLAN – GEM PLAN: Commissioner Estep reported that he and Clerk Steinlicht had met with Ron Ramirez to discuss the Gem Plan, the self-funded employee group medical insurance plan available to County governments in the State of Idaho. Mr. Ramirez is in the process of putting together a quote for Power County to participate in the plan. Mr. Ramirez has further suggested that Power County discuss the transition process from Power County's current plan to the Gem Plan with Mark Semons to prevent any misunderstanding or lapse in coverage. The Commissioners then contacted Mark Semons d/b/a Semons Financial by speaker telephone to discuss re-insurance coverage and Administrator responsibilities in the event Power County were to transition from the current self-funded medical insurance benefit plan to the Gem Plan. Mr. Semons will provide the Commissioners with a draft proposal of a "Gem Plan Participation Agreement" that he has prepared, which details specific terms and conditions that Mr. Semons feels should be included in any agreement between Power County and the Gem Plan.

IDEACOM (ECSI EXECUTONE) -- TELEPHONE SERVICE PLAN: John Roberts of IdeaCom/ECSI appeared before the Commissioners to report that the current telephone service plan between Power County and Qwest, which includes CENTREX PLUS, will expire on February 2nd, 2005, and that Power County will be forced to explore new options for service. Following discussion, and a review of available options, the Commissioners authorized Mr. Roberts to review Power County's current telephone service system and Qwest account, and submit an appropriate proposal for a new telephone service plan. This matter was tabled until February 14th, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

POWER COUNTY TRANSFER STATION/LANDFILL: Power County Transfer Station/Landfill supervisor Craig Heward appeared before the Commissioners to discuss landfill fees for wood chips accumulated at the Power County Landfill. Following a review of Power County Resolution #2001-04, the Commissioners agreed that the Power County Landfill should sell wood chips on a first-come, first-serve basis at the rate of \$1.00 per yard; and, further, that the \$1.00 per yard also includes the loading fee. Following further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to authorize Power County Transfer Station and Landfill Supervisor Craig Heward to serve on the Southern Counties Cooperative Committee. Carried.

CITY OF AMERICAN FALLS – BICYCLE/WALKING PATH: City of American Falls Parks and Recreation Department Supervisor Jason Hess appeared before the Commissioners to discuss his efforts to obtain grant funding to get a bicycle/walking path constructed through the City of American Falls, and presented a copy of a City map depicting the intended path of travel. Mr. Hess indicated that he had received the required right-of-way easements along that intended path and requested that Power County submit a general letter of support for the project to accompany the grant application. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to offer a letter of support to the City of American Falls to accompany their grant application to fund construction of a bicycle/walking path through the City of American Falls. Carried.

GERALD FEHRINGER YOUTH CENTER – 20TH CENTURY GRANT: Commissioner Meadows reported that the Gerald Fehringer Youth Center, in conjunction with American Falls School District #381, will be applying for a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant in the amount of \$160,089 to provide after school tutoring and activities, which lessens the opportunity for children to become involved in crime and drugs. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to offer a letter of support to American Falls School District #381 and Gerald Fehringer Youth Center supporting their efforts to obtain a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant to provide staff for after school programs. Carried.

POWER COUNTY SNOWMOBILE BOARD – HOUTZ CANYON PARKING LOT: Power County Snowmobile Board member Linda Morris appeared before the Commissioners to deliver the original Quitclaim Deed from Alan Permann and Merrill Permann d/b/a Excalibur Ranches to Power County, transferring ownership of the Houtz Canyon Parking area. Ms. Morris reported that the \$350 purchase price was paid by the Cassia-Power Grooming Board. Ms. Morris further indicated that the Power County Snowmobile Board will continue to maintain and improve to the parking area.

THREE RIVERS RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT – CLOUD SEEDING: The Commissioners hosted a luncheon meeting to discuss the cloud seeding operation in Power County. Present were:

Paula Jones, Three Rivers RC&D
David Hallinan, Bannock County Weed Department Supervisor
Curtis Munk, Power County Weed Department Supervisor
Roger Whitnah, Power Soil Conservation District Supervisor
Ivan Permann, Power Soil Conservation District Supervisor
Lynn Andersen, Power Soil Conservation District Supervisor
Debbie Tiede, Power Soil Conservation District Administrative Asst.
Jerry Kress, Power County Resident
David Burt, Power County Press

Following discussion, and a demonstration of the cloud seeding generator by Mr. Hallinan, the Power Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors agreed to assist Power County by helping locate optimum sites within Power and Cassia Counties for placement of the five cloud seeding generators. This matter was tabled until January 31st, 2005.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (I.C. #63-501): The Board of Commissioners then met as the Power County Board of Equalization pursuant to I.C. #63-501. There being no business to come before the Board, the Power County Board of Equalization recessed until February 28th, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Estep, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the claims as presented and supplemented. Carried.

General	\$ 22,357.30
Ambulance	3,488.12
District Court	2,069.13
Justice Fund	13,156.66
Indigent	467.49
Junior College	47.36
Revaluation	485.47
Solid Waste	858.40
Tort	440.72
Weeds	375.99
Waterways	149.90
PILT	7,031.12

COURTHOUSE EXPANSION/REMODEL: The Commissioners reviewed the original site plan prepared by Snake River Land Surveyors which locates the existing buildings, trees, parking areas, sidewalks, curb and gutter and all utilities which cross overhead and underground on the County's property on the West side of the alley of Block 49. Clerk Steinlicht reported that a copy of the site plan has been provided to Architect Keeven Shropshire, and that Mr. Shropshire is scheduled to meet with the Commissioners and other Power County Elected Officials on January 31st, 2005.

COUNTY INVENTORY: Clerk Steinlicht reported that the Weed Department Clerk, Barbara Burge, is working on updating the Power County inventory; however, several County Board, i.e. Airport, Fair and Waterways, has not yet reported as requested. Commissioner Zimmerman will contact the Airport and Waterways Board and Commissioner Estep agreed to follow up with the Power County Fairboard. This matter was tabled until February 28th, 2005.

JUNIOR COLLEGE – CERTIFICATES OF RESIDENCY: Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Estep, to approve the Certificates of Residency submitted by the College of Southern Idaho as presented. Carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – VITA NUOVA/FMC SITE (WEB SITE PROPOSALS): Elaine Richardson of Vita Nuova, LLC, appeared before the Commissioners via speaker telephone to discuss the web page proposals received for the purpose of developing an economic development website promoting the economy and lifestyle of Power County. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to accept the Website proposal submitted by Teton Multimedia, contingent upon a productive meeting between Elaine Richardson of Vita Nuova and Peter Jensen of Teton Multimedia scheduled for February 8th, 2005. Carried. This matter was tabled until February 14th, 2005.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (I.C. #67-2345): Moved by Commissioner Estep, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to move into executive session pursuant to I.C. #67-2345 for the purpose of taking up personnel and potential legal issues. Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (I.C. #67-2345) – INDIGENT APPEAL: (#2:46:20) Moved by Commissioner Estep, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to move into executive session pursuant to I.C. #67-2345 for the purpose of taking up an appeal proceeding on an indigent medical application. Carried.

INDIGENT CASE #2005-01-I: Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Estep, to continue the appeal hearing on Case #2005-01-I until March 14th, 2005, at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

HARMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – BUILDING OWNERSHIP TRANSFER: Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis reported that the ownership of the Hospital Building from Power County to Harms Memorial Hospital District needs to be done by Resolution of the Power County Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed to table this matter until February 14th, 2005, to give Prosecuting Attorney Laggis sufficient time to prepare an appropriate Resolution.

POWER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ANNUAL REPORT: Power Soil Conservation District Supervisors Roger Whitnah, Ivan Permann and Lynn Andersen appeared before the Commissioners, with their administrative assistant Debbie Tiede, to present their Annual Report for the period ending June 30th, 2004. Mr. Whitnah then requested that the Commissioners submit their letter of intent to fund the Power Soil Conservation District for their 2007 fiscal year, which letter needs to be provided prior to April 1st, 2005. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to submit a letter of intent to provide the Power Soil Conservation District \$5,000 from Power County's fiscal year 2006 budget. Carried.

POCATELLO AIRPORT – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: The Commissioners reported that the signatory ceremony on the Memorandum of Agreement has been cancelled. The City of Pocatello has requested additions or corrections to the Agreement and the Commissioners agreed to table further discussion until February 14th, 2005.

PER DIEM RESOLUTION – COMMISSIONER TRAVEL: The Commissioners agreed to further discuss the possibility of Power County adopting a Per Diem Resolution with Dan Chadwick and Tony Poinelli and the Idaho Association of Counties. The proposed resolution would allow the Commissioners to receive additional compensation for attending meetings. This matter was tabled until February 14th, 2005.

Adjourned.



KEN ESTEP, Chairman



CHRISTINE STEINSICHT, Clerk