

POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 28th, 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 TRANSFER STATION/LANDFILL: Power County Transfer Station/Landfill Supervisor Craig Heward appeared before the Commissioners to review the applications submitted for the full-time position available at the Power County Transfer Station/Landfill. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that employment interviews should be scheduled for Friday, December 2nd, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Gerald Fehringer Youth Center, and this matter was tabled until December 5th, 2005.

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

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT – ANNUAL REPORT: Southeastern District Health Department Director Ed Marugg appeared before the Commissioners to present the Health District's annual report for Fiscal Year 2005 as well as the quarterly report for the Power County Health Department for the quarter ending October 31st, 2005.

POWER COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING – PUBLIC HEARING (BUFFER ZONE AMENDMENTS): Commissioner Estep announced that it was the date and time scheduled for the purpose of obtaining written and/or oral comments from persons concerning a proposed amendment to Title 10 of the Power County Development Code, specifically setbacks and buffer zones as they apply to all Zoning Districts within Power County. Following public comment and a review of the exhibits presented at said hearing, it was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Estep, to take this matter under advisement until Monday, December 5th, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. Carried.

SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE – ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING: Sandra Ortiz, a bi-lingual Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor with Solutions for Life appeared before the Commissioners to introduce herself and report that Solutions for Life has secured Federal grant funding to provide alcohol/drug counseling to the citizens of the American Falls area on a sliding fee basis, with their business offices at 239 Idaho Street. Ms. Ortiz indicated that she is also scheduled to meet with Power County Probation Office Supervisor Russ Wheatley to discuss the services that will be available.

POWER COUNTY EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFIT PLAN – GEM PLAN DOCUMENTS: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to approve and execute Trust Agreement, Joint Power Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Power County and the Board of Trustees of the Gem Plan. Carried.

POWER COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION/REMODEL PROJECT: Following a discussion of the Power County Courthouse expansion and remodel project, it was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Estep, to approve and execute the four change work orders dated November 21st, 2005, as presented by Brennan Construction Co., Inc. Carried.

POWER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – SICK LEAVE ACCRUAL BENEFITS: Power County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jackie Morris appeared before the Commissioners to request that they consider allowing minimal compensation to be paid to employees whose sick accrual balance is reduced to the maximum allowable. Mr. Morris and Power County Sheriff Jim Jeffries are looking into incentive options that could be offered to compensate healthy employees. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to table further discussions on this request until December 19th, 2005.

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT: Power County Commissioner Ken Estep reported that he had been contacted by Greg Olson d/b/a Olson Excavation who is still planning to provide snow removal to Power County again this year. The Commissioners agreed that the 500 Pocatello Avenue Building would need to be included for all future snow removal and Commissioner Estep will so advise Mr. Olson.

FAIRGROUNDS ROAD – HIGHWAY DISTRICT RIGHT-OF-WAY: Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to allow the Power County Highway District a right-of-way across the Weed Department parking lot area located adjacent to the Power County Fairgrounds, to change the angle of the roadway on the Northerly side of the Airport (South of Fairgrounds) and to oil the entire road.

500 POCATELLO AVENUE – RENOVATIONS: Clerk Steinlicht reported that Power County Building & Maintenance Supervisor Gary Thomsen has expressed concern about birds getting caught in the attic area of the 500 Pocatello Avenue where the brick has pulled away slightly from the outer wall. Mr. Thomsen has indicated that he could fill the gap with insulation unless the Commissioners had a different idea on how this gap could be corrected. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this matter with BGM Builders. This matter was tabled until December 5th, 2005.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (I.C. #67-2345): Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Estep, to move into executive session pursuant to I.C. #67-2345 for the purpose of discussing pending tort claims and potential litigation. Carried.

POWER COUNTY PERSONNEL MANUAL: The Commissioners discussed proposed changes to the Power County Personnel Manual regarding workplace loyalty and

possibly imposing mandatory pre-employment and follow up random employee drug screening and testing. The Commissioners agreed to look into what other counties and ICRMP would recommend and tabled further discussion of this matter until December 19th, 2005.

POWER COUNTY SHERIFF – BAILIFF AGREEMENT: Power County Sheriff Jim Jeffries appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the Bailiff position which Sheriff Jeffries maintains should be removed from the Power County Probation/Court Services Department and reinstated fully under the direction and supervision of the Power County Sheriff. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that this transition was not addressed and is not supported in the fiscal year 2006 budget; however, the Commissioners agreed to review funding options and table further discussion until December 5th, 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 issues. Carried.

POWER COUNTY PROBATION/COURT SERVICES – PARENT PROJECT: Power County Probation/Court Services Department Supervisor Russ Wheatley appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the parent project courses that need to be conducted pursuant to Court Order, and requested additional funding to operate a session in Spring, 2006. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to fund an additional session of Parent Project during the Spring of 2006, to be paid with the unanticipated Juvenile Justice Lottery revenue received in August, 2005. Carried.

COUNTY BOARDS: Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that the January, 2006, appointments to the various County Boards could be made by the Commissioners without the necessity of publication. The Commissioners will continue to discuss any vacancies directly with the various County Boards and this matter was tabled until January 9th, 2006.

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

General	\$ 23,263.76
Ambulance	5,065.05
District Court	3,516.78
Justice Fund	28,480.73
Indigent	597.47
Solid Waste	21,523.71
Weeds	739.20
Waterways	410.24
PILT	4,975.82

POWER COUNTY – CHRISTMAS RECOGNITION: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Estep, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to give \$15.00 gift certificates from local markets to Power County employees rather than host a Christmas Party. Carried. Clerk Steinlicht will arrange to purchase half of the gift certificates from Ken's Market and the other half from Cardinal Market to be placed with employee payroll checks on December 9th, 2005.

Adjourned.


KEN ESTEP, Chairman


CHRISTINE STEINLICHT, Clerk