



POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes
Commission Chambers
543 Bannock Ave.
American Falls, ID 83211
www.powercounty.is.us

Monday, April 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 10, 2017, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:03 am, in the Commission Chambers of the Power County Courthouse.

II. COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

PRESENT: Commissioner Ron Funk, Chair
Commissioner Delane Anderson
Commissioner Bill Lasley

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Sharee Sprague, Clerk
Linda Annen, Indigent Director
Carolyn Anderson, Deputy Clerk
Laura Carlon, Indigent Clerk
Maureen Schelske, Deputy Auditor
Ryan Petersen, Legal Counsel
Anson Call, Legal Counsel

OTHER PARTIES PRESENT: Assessor Mary Annen
Chief Deputy Assessor Kim Olsen
Treasurer Deanna Curry
Sheriff Jim Jeffries
Judge Paul S Laggis
Elisha Suldán (telephonically)
Amanda Collins
Ann Wheeler
Curry Andrews
Dave Bethke
Doug Balfour
Emma Nye
Gabriel Rivas
Gloria Whiteside
Karl Mauch
Kelly Packer
Kerry Hong
Korey Morenes
Kristen Jensen
Maria Campbell
Max Sprague
Michael Morrissey
Mindy Benedetti
Stephanie Heaton
Teena Rhoads
Sheriff Deputy Troy Smith
Wanda Davis (telephonically)

III. AGENDA

A. NOTICES/REPORTS

1. **ISU Adult Education Update:** Korey Morenes and Teena Rhoads appeared and provided the Commission with an update on the Idaho State University Adult Education program within the community. Mr. Morenes explained that currently there are fifteen (15) students working through the English as a second language course. More students enrolled, however, with seasonal work in the area, the attendance above fifteen (15) students fluctuates. Mr. Morenes advised that the following elements have occurred since the last report to the Commission;
 - Added career advising for students at American Falls Outreach Center
 - Adult Education staff attended the community TruFit affair in Aberdeen
 - Met with Superintendent & Principal for how to better serve English Language Learners
 - Met representatives from Conagra Lamb Weston and Driscoll Farms. They are now receiving our weekly Adult Education Newsletter.
 - VISTA Grant awarded to pay for VISTA Volunteers in American Falls. VISTA volunteers continue to communicating with businesses in American Falls
 - Classes are 1-7 pm on Monday through Thursday.
 - The Adult Education program submitted multi-year grants to the state that includes both state and federal funding. These grants prior were year-to-year, however, S243 of SB241, changes grant to a 2 year process instead of annually which will give state authority to renew grant upon submission of update.
 - Continuing to work with Alejandro at the Department of Labor with outreach representative and seeking to have representative to go to farms and work with employers to assist parties with improving English skills including providing services at employment sites.

The Board discussed options for reaching out to the seasonal workers and inquired about the building structure. Mr. Morenes explained the ceiling damage caused by a leaky roof and some other concerns regarding the building.

Mr. Morenes reported that they project to expend the full \$7500.00 provided by the County and presented budget request for FY18.

2. **Legislative Update:** Representative Kelly Packer appeared before the Commission on the recent Legislative Session. Representative Packer advises that health care was not addressed at all. Education and transportation are making positive strides, however, are not where they need to be at present. Registration fees increased on hybrids and electric vehicles to offset fuel revenue losses, however, it was later determined that hybrids should not be assessed at the rate determined. The Legislation approved a tax force to evaluate the appropriate measures in which changes should move forward. Representative Packer explained her stance on the grocery tax. Commissioner Anderson inquired on the revenue versus rebate differences. Representative Packer explained that the rebate program is benefiting the incorrect tax bracket and her opinion is the grocery rebates should be removed and the tax should be reduced to offset.

3. **Sixth District Court Administration:** Clerk Sprague addressed her concerns about the operation of the Public Defense office, noting that an administrative assistant would be very helpful and set hours that someone can be reached. Judge Laggis also commented that it has been a struggle to coordinate communication with Mr. Morrissey as well. The past two months have been better. Mr. Hong suggested a performance evaluation survey be done by the invested counties/department supervisors. Judge Laggis also offered to have a conversation with Mr. Morrissey if the need arose. Clerk Sprague informed the Board that we are at the time for a six (6) Month review of the position and services, and that it would be a good discussion in our Budget reviews. A meeting with Oneida County will be scheduled in the near future. Mr. Hong advised that he would be happy to research ways other counties have found to help utilize the public defense commission in a more efficient manner, and what performance expectations are realistic for the County. The Clerk will coordinate an initial meeting with Oneida County and then continue discussion during Budget hearings.
4. **Jail Inspection:** Commissioner Lasley reported on the jail inspection he conducted on April 7, 2017.

B. MOTIONS:

1. **Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda for Monday, April 10, 2017, was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Funk. Commissioner Lasley was absent. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.
2. **HealthWest Update and Community Block Grant Discussion:** Mindy Benedetti, Health West CEO, provided the Commission with an update of services provided by their facility. Board member Doug Balfour explained the structure, requirements and processes of Board for HealthWest. Board member Gloria Whiteside explained that she is a retired RN who serves in the Aberdeen Clinic and is also a client. Ms. Whiteside explained the benefits to the improvements made to the Aberdeen Clinic. Amanda Collins explained that the Aberdeen clinic was one of their first clinics, built in 1976. HealthWest collaborated with the community in fundraising efforts and remodeled the structure in 2010. Board member Gabriel Rivas explained that he is from American Falls and shared his experience with the services and benefits perceived from a remodel of the American Falls site. Mr. Balfour explained that presently the clinic has one (1) provider. Ms. Benedetti clarified that the current facility only allows for one (1) provider, however the remodel would allow for additional providers and improved services to the community. Stephanie Heaton presented grant opportunities to remodel the current structure. Ms. Heaton explained that they had previously approached the Commission last fall, however, the time constraints were too restrictive to move forward at that time. Ms. Heaton explained that much of the groundwork completed for the Senior Center grant could be utilized toward this grant application and the counties administrative component would be solely to receive funds and utilized such funds as payment to the contractors. The Commission explained community perception concerns with all the recent tax impact to the taxpayers. HealthWest representatives explained that there would be no fiscal impact to the taxpayers and that HealthWest would be proactive in disseminating information to the community and fundraising to cover anything that would not be covered by the grant. Following discussion, a motion to move forward