

POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in special session with the American Falls City Council on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, at the American Falls City Hall. Present from Power County were:

Commissioner Ken Estep, Chairman
Commissioner Vicki L. Meadows
Commissioner Ray Zimmerman
Clerk Christine Steinlicht

Present from the City of American Falls were:

Council Member Kristen Jensen
Council Member Amy Wynn
Council Member Nate Covington
Council Member Charles Woodworth
Council Member Afton Jacobson

SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD – BIKE PATH: Gary Aldous of American Falls High School appeared at the joint City/County meeting to discuss his efforts to get a bicycle/jogging path constructed along the South Frontage Road right-of-way from American Falls City Limits at Teton Street to the American Falls High School. The American Falls School District would like the project to be a multi-entity endeavor. Mr. Aldous advised the City Council that the Board of Power County Commissioners had submitted a letter of general support for the project and requested that the City of American Falls likewise submit a letter supporting the project, which letters could be beneficial in securing grant funding. City Council President Kristen Jensen indicated that Mayor Cecil Weisenburger would submit a letter of support for the project on behalf of the City of American Falls. Mr. Aldous indicated that he would also be contacting the Power County Highway District regarding this project.

CITY OF POCATELLO – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Pocatello Mayor Roger Chase appeared at the joint City/County meeting to discuss economic development potential on the City of Pocatello property in Eastern Power County. Mayor Chase, in an effort to develop that area, has requested that Bannock Development Corporation expand its services into Eastern Power County. Mayor Chase then advised the group that the City of Pocatello officials have been discussing the benefits of creating a tax increment financing district (TIF) in the area of the Pocatello Municipal Airport to construct the infrastructure required to increase development. The Commissioners agreed to discuss economic opportunities in Eastern Power County with Bannock Development Corporation and the City of Pocatello.


CITY/COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT: Commissioner Estep reported that he had discussed the Law Enforcement Agreement with Power County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Jeffries who was unable to attend the joint meeting. Commissioner Estep indicated that the Power County Sheriff's Office has been very satisfied with the terms of the agreement. American Falls Chief Police Jerry Hubbs also indicated that he has been satisfied and could not report any problems or concerns. Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis will be preparing an updated Agreement for fiscal year 2004. This matter was tabled until August 11, 2003.

COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL POLICY: Commissioner Estep reported that the Commissioners are still discussing the benefits and/or concerns with implementing an animal control policy for Power County. City of American Falls Police Chief Jerry Hubbs reported on the City's animal control policy; however, the Commissioners agreed that any policy adopted for Power County would probably be funded on a "per animal" basis with the owner of the animal, if known, to reimburse any costs. Commissioner Meadows expressed her concerns with the City pound being large enough to accommodate the possible influx of animals if the County should adopt a policy for stray animal control. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that any policy would initially be adopted for a trial period only. This matter was tabled until August 11, 2003.

POWER COUNTY JAIL ALLEY WAY: The Commissioners discussed the possibility of vacating the alley way between the Power County Courthouse and the Power County Sheriff's Office. City of American Falls Street and Sanitation Supervisor Ron Anderson advised the Commissioners that his department utilizes the alley way on a regular basis, and if the alley were vacated he would need to re-route the garbage truck to pick up those household and commercial containers located in that alley. The Commissioners agreed that they would not seek to vacate the alley way at this time, but possibly future consideration may be necessary.

CITY/COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION: The Commissioners discussed the possibility of the City of American Falls and Power County jointly funding a Building Administration and Inspection office, which would be a cost savings to both entities. The Commissioners indicated that they might submit a proposal for consolidation to the American Falls City Council at a later date.

Adjourned.


KEN ESTEP, Chairman


CHRISTINE STEINLICHT, Clerk