

## POWER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Board of Power County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. 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 ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING: Present for the Power County Elected Officials Meeting were:

Ken Estep, Commissioner  
Vicki Meadows, Commissioner  
Ray Zimmerman, Commissioner  
Paul Laggis, Prosecuting Attorney  
Christine Steinlicht, Clerk  
Bobbie Mauch, Treasurer  
Doug Glascock, Assessor  
Mark Rose, Coroner

RURAL ADDRESS SYSTEM: Power County Disaster Services Director Di Armstrong attended the Power County Elected Officials Meeting to discuss the Rural Address System used by Power County. The Commissioners and Elected Officials agreed that the Power County Rural Address System should be maintained by the Power County Building Department; however, that system may no longer be needed. Ms. Armstrong, who managed and maintained the Power County Sheriff Office Enhanced 911 Emergency Rural Address System, reported that the Sheriff's program cannot be shared with other County department because of restrictive copyright laws which prohibit use outside the E911 system. Clerk Steinlicht reported that the Rural Address System software, purchased through Computer Arts, Inc., costs Power County \$1,136 per year. The Commissioners then reviewed the Power County Rural Address System Maps, which has not been revised since 1991 and agreed that those maps should be updated by the Power County Building Department within a reasonable time. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Estep, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to backup the Rural Address System software information onto a data cartridge and then delete it from the County's server and discontinue the Rural Address System software agreement with Computer Arts, Inc. Carried.

HARMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – BUILDING OWNERSHIP TRANSFER/LEASE EXTENSION: Harms Memorial Hospital Board Trustees Teri Kendall, Sheldon Kovarsky and Tim Mauch appeared before the Commissioners with Hospital Administrator Bob Brummond to discuss ownership transfer of the Hospital Building from Power County to the Harms Memorial Hospital District. Following discussion and

a review of the evidence and testimony submitted at the public hearing on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to table discussion of this matter until Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Carried.

CITY/COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION AGREEMENT: The Commissioners reviewed the letter from City of American Falls Mayor Cecil Weisenburger advising the Commissioners that the American Falls City Council has voted to discontinue negotiations with Power County for a joint Building Inspection Agreement, since they have determined that the City Building Inspector would not have sufficient time to cover both positions on a part-time basis. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to publish help wanted advertisements in the Power County Press and the Idaho State Journal. This matter was tabled until December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

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

POWER COUNTY EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFIT PLAN – SEMONS FINANCIAL: Mark Semons of Semons Financial appeared before the Commissioners to present a Regence Blue Shield fully insured option comparison for the Commissioners review. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to continue with the current partially self funded plan until they can get a quote from the Gem Plan. Mr. Semons reminded the Commissioners that the County's renewal date for the current Plan is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. This matter was tabled until December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

PIONEER TRAVEL COUNCIL – ADVERTISEMENT: The Commissioners reviewed and approved the full page advertisement presented by Pioneer Travel Council for use in their Southeast Idaho Travel Guide.

HEPATITIS SHOTS – POWER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to offer updated hepatitis shots to the Power County Sheriff's Office and Jail personnel at County expense. Carried.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT – PER DIEM: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to increase Power County's mileage reimbursement to the State of Idaho's rate of 37.5 cents per mile. Carried.

WATERWAYS BOARD – OFFER OF SETTLEMENT (JIM FITZGERALD): Commissioner Zimmerman reported that he had discussed Jim Fitzgerald's damage claim with Power County Waterways employee Alma Nelson. Mr. Nelson reported to Commissioner Zimmerman the need to keep the steel pipe in place to mark the steep drop off at the Snake River Access; however, the Waterways Board will meet before the end

of the year to discuss this matter further. Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis then indicated that Mr. Fitzgerald had accepted Power County's written offer of settlement.

PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACT – GEORGE SOUTHWORTH: The Commissioners contacted Power County Public Defender George Southworth by telephone to discuss the fiscal year 2005 Contract. Mr. Southworth indicated that section 3(i) of the contract should be amended to exclude all cases involving first-degree murder, and agreed to obtain additional information from Power County's previous Public Defender Rob Naftz. This matter was tabled until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

500 POCATELLO AVENUE – RENOVATIONS: Architect Ken Douglass appeared before the Commissioners to discuss renovation plans at the 500 Pocatello Avenue building. Also present was Power County Extension Office Supervisor Stan Gortsema who presented his drawings for renovation of the upstairs portion of the building at 500 Pocatello Avenue to include offices and meeting rooms for the Extension Office and Weed Department. Mr. Douglass will continue working on specifications for finishing the area. This matter was tabled until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to approve the Power County Commissioner Minutes for November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004, as presented. Carried.

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

INDIGENT CASE #93-026-I: Moved by Commissioner Meadows, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to forgive the balance owing on Indigent Case #93-026-I in the amount of \$1,185.00 and release any and all medical indigent liens. Carried.

COURTHOUSE EXPANSION/REMODEL – SOUTHEAST IDAHO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SEICOG) GRANT: Kathleen Lewis of SEICOG appeared before the Commissioners to discuss grant funding available to County governments to install handicapped access elevators and agreed that Power County might qualify for partial funding of the Courthouse expansion and remodel project. Ms. Lewis will gather more information and a grant application for the Commissioners review.

THREE RIVERS RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT: Project Director Paula Jones from Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development appeared to update the Commissioners on the Cloud Seeding operation being done in the Southern Idaho Counties of Caribou, Bear Lake, Oneida, Franklin and Bannock, and presented the Commissioners with a copy of the Southeast Idaho Cloud Seeding Consortium detailing budget alternatives for funding. Ms. Jones also presented the Commissioners with a topographical map depicting those areas within Power County which are optimal for Cloud Seeding Generators. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Meadows, to authorize Three Rivers RC&D to

set up five Cloud Seeding Generator Stations in Power County, at optimum points to be determined by the Power County Commissioners. Carried. Ms. Jones will place an order for the generators and related equipment and will contact the Commissioners when installation is ready to proceed. This matter was tabled until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

VACATION/COMPENSATORY ACCRUAL/CARRY-OVER: The Commissioners reviewed the County's accrual register of compensatory time, vacation time and sick time being carried over to the new 2005 calendar year by each Power County employee. The Commissioners instructed Clerk Steinlicht to send a memorandum to each County employee reminding them of the maximum accrual carry-overs allowed under the Power County Personnel Manual. This matter was tabled until January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

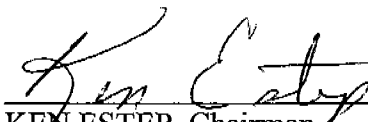
TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS – COUNTY POLICY: Commissioners Estep suggested that the Power County Commissioners request Power County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Laggis to prepare a formal legal opinion on the County's unwritten policy to grant tax exempt status on residential parcels owned by Native Americans living within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The Commissioners agreed to table discussion on this matter until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

SHERIFF RETIREMENT PARTY: Clerk Steinlicht reported that Sheriff Sprague will be available for the Retirement Party scheduled on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The Commissioners instructed Clerk Steinlicht to send a memorandum to County employees advising them of the retirement party.

YOUTH CENTER LEASE: The Commissioners reviewed the Lease Agreement between Power County and the American Falls Youth Ministry, Inc., to lease a portion of the 500 Pocatello Avenue Building, which expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The Commissioners instructed Prosecuting Attorney Laggis to draft a renewal or extension of the Lease Agreement. This matter was tabled until December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY: The Commissioners reviewed the party buffet menu from Melody Lanes & Café. The Commissioners agreed to serve ham, potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert and a beverage for \$9.95 per person. Commissioner Zimmerman will make the arrangements with Melody Lanes & Café.

Adjourned.

  
KEN ESTEP, Chairman

  
CHRISTINE STEINLICHT, Clerk