



# POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Commission Chambers**  
**543 Bannock Ave.**  
**American Falls, ID 83211**  
[www.powercounty.id.us](http://www.powercounty.id.us)

**Monday, March 11, 2019, 9:00 a.m.**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 11, 2019, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:09 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 Flor Cardona, Deputy Clerk Maureen Schelske, Deputy Auditor Anson Call, Legal Counsel Chelsy Fehringer, Payroll Specialist
OTHER PARTIES PRESENT:	Daniel Moore Pat Sullivan (Via phone) Steve Wieland (Via phone) Seth Meyer (Via phone) Deanne Coffin Juan Ramirez Josue Morales Guadalupe Murillo Stace Gehrhart Connie Shepherd Blaine Udy Judge Paul Laggis Keri Pritchett Craig Heward Jeff Rankin Ray Henry Marc Beitia Rosa Mata Alyiah Pedraza Marializ Barrera Matt Waldrum Carlos Cervantes Sheriff Jim Jeffries

## **III. AGENDA**

### **A. NOTICES/REPORTS**

1. **Legislative Updates:** Pat Sullivan appeared telephonically and updated the Commission on Legislative issues. Anson Call asked for update for House Bill 170. Mr. Call expressed

his concern to Pat Sullivan, no update was given. An update was given on Senate Bill 1041 allowing for enforcement of Ground Water District regulations by the Idaho Department of Water Resources the bill has not passed Senate and headed to the house. Commissioner Lasley asked about Senate Bill 1074 clarifying the obligations of a county sheriff in providing medical care to individuals no longer in the sheriff's custody. Pat Sullivan has not tracked that bill he will follow up on the March 25, 2019 meeting. Pat Sullivan is scheduled for the Commissioner meeting on March 25, 2019, via conference call.

2. **Potential Opioid Industry Litigation:** Attorneys Steve Wieland and Seth Meyer appeared telephonically advising that they are working on assembling county and city governments to join current Ohio litigation against pharmaceutical companies for damages resulting from the opioid crisis. Trial is scheduled for Oct. 21, 2019. Mr. Wieland reports that they will be meeting with Bingham and Bannock County Commissioners on March 14, 2019. Mr. Wieland explained the number of Opioid deaths has quadrupled in Idaho and that there is an Opioid prescription written for every 2 out of 3 people (including man, woman and child) in the State of Idaho and that prescription rates are much higher in Idaho than surrounding states. The economic burden associated with the opioid crisis for investigating overdoses, lost employee productivity with drug addiction, increased health insurance cost and rehabilitation. Mr. Wieland reported on the numerous false statements that the industry presents to the medical profession claiming the safety of prolonged and increased use of Opioids. Mr. Wieland advises that in the State of Idaho it is a \$10 billion dollar a year industry and the number of prescriptions could kill an estimated \$2.3 million people. Mr. Wieland said they will be drafting all legal work in Boise for the Multidistrict Litigation. Seth Meyer explained the global settlement process that allows cities and counties to opt in for assistance. Mr. Meyer advised that the more cities and counties that sign on the stronger the case and provides for a better chance of settlement of the case.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Funk Mr. Wieland advises that the counties are expected to receive 40% of any award given by the Court. Upon inquiry of Commissioner Funk Mr. Meyer advised that deposition of county personnel is extremely unlikely. Anson Call inquired about timelines and possible attorney fees. Mr. Wieland advises that there are not specific timelines, however, entities that join prior to decision have a better chance and higher rate of compensation. Mr. Wieland advises that should the entities lose the case, the county would not be obligated to any attorney fees and if an award is given, the attorney fees would be satisfied from the judgment prior to distribution to the remaining parties. Commissioner Lasley inquired of the possibility of bringing physicians into the litigation in the state of Idaho. Mr. Wieland reports that there is no anticipation to join physicians into the litigation and their view is that the physicians are viewed as potential victims. Commissioner Funk requested any proposed engagement letter and a resolution draft be forwarded to legal counsel Anson Call for consideration and clarified that two taxing districts are involved. One for the Ambulance District and the other for the County. Mr. Wieland agreed to email necessary documentation to Mr. Call and the matter is continued for further discussion to March 25, 2019.