



POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session Thursday, January 7, 2021, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 1:34 pm, 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: Flor Cardona, Deputy Clerk

OTHER PARTIES PRESENT: Senator Jim Guthrie
Treasurer Deanna Curry
Daniel Moore

III. AGENDA

A. MOTIONS:

1. **Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda for Thursday, January 7, 2021, was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.

B. POINTS OF ORDER:

1. **Legislative Discussion:** Senator Jim Guthrie presented before the Commission on the upcoming Legislative Session. Senator Guthrie advised the Legislature is discussing funds held in reserve by counties as they specifically related to property taxes. Senator Guthrie advised the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) fund is not up for discussion, as long as the funds are used properly. Senator Guthrie advised some taxing districts have reserve funds that are high. Senator Guthrie advised they have discussed if there should be a limit on what is taken in one year of forgone. Commissioner Anderson inquired if it's allowed to roll over funds as unexpected funds from the general funds, so they don't have to levy as much. Senator Guthrie advised he does not see that

changing. Commissioner Funk advised that before the end of the fiscal year Clerk Sprague asks the departments what money they can freeze from their budget. Commissioner Funk advised they use that as a management tool. Senator Guthrie advised the amount held in reserve is about 2 million. Senator Guthrie advised he will meet with the bill drafter to get clear information to relay back to the Commission. Commissioner Lasley advised they forgave 5 years of taxes for the Lamb Weston expansion to benefit the community.

Senator Guthrie advised the main focus at the start of the Legislative Session will be on separation of powers between the legislative branches.

Commissioner Funk inquired about the excess funds that the state will have. Senator Guthrie advised that is a really good question and weird situation and advised he is unsure of how those will be used. Senator Guthrie advised there will be pressure to use the funds for tax relief.

Commissioner Lasley inquired on how they can support Senator Guthrie this legislative session. Senator Guthrie advised he would like the Commission to continue being forthcoming. Senator Guthrie advised he would like to stay in touch and will try to forward drafts relating to property tax. Commissioner Funk advised he would like to meet with the Legislative team on a bi-weekly basis or as needed either during lunch or an evening meeting. Senator Guthrie advised he would like participant questions before hand. Commissioner Funk advised Deputy Flor Cardona can forward the questions before the meetings.

Commissioner Funk inquired about the Health District Board and how counties feel it should be a Commissioner on the Board. Commissioner Funk advised the Commission has appointed Ken Estep to represent Power County and advised Mr. Estep has been a Commissioner in the past and communicates with him before the meetings. Commissioner Funk advised he is not in favor of changing the setup of the Board.

Commissioner Anderson advised he would like to be reengaged with Pat Sullivan on information provided by Senator Guthrie.

IV. ASSESSMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:

1. **Next Meeting:** The next regular session for the board to meet is slated for January 11, 2021.
2. **Adjourn:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the Board, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 pm.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Board of County Commissioners during the Regular Board Meeting held April 12, 2021.



COMMISSIONER FUNK, Chairman

ATTEST:



FLOR CARDONA, Deputy Clerk