



# 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)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 5:03 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:	Sharee Sprague, Clerk Flor Cardona, Deputy Clerk Anson Call, Legal Counsel	
OTHER PARTIES PRESENT:	Kristen Jensen Jeff Blauer Lillie Wright Gilbert Hofmeister Dan Hammon (Zoom) Mayor Rebecca Sorensen Police Chief Brandon Wilkinson (Zoom) City Attorney Heidi Buck-Morrison (Zoom)	Building Administrator Jeff Nelson City Clerk Terri Miller Charles Jones Jason Mclean Jim Annen Sheriff Josh Campbell Daniel Moore (Zoom) (208) 580-3806 (Zoom) Chet Taylor (phone) Justin Richardson (phone)

## III. AGENDA

### A. MOTIONS:

1. **Agenda Amended and Approved:** A motion to amend the agenda for Wednesday, February 17, 2021, to include Building & Grounds on the grounds that information was provided to the Board after the posting of the meeting and said items necessitate action prior to the next regular scheduled meeting and then approve the agenda was

presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.

2. **Building & Grounds:** Commissioner Anderson advised they are having issues cooling the server room. Commissioner Anderson advised they can try the water-cooling method. Commissioner Anderson advised he was told it takes 7 to 10 days to install the water source heat pump. Chet Taylor, Facilities Manager advised Sierra Heating, Cooling and Plumbing presented a bid for a 3-ton unit and bids from other vendors are 2-ton units. Commissioner Anderson advised smoke fans can be used to pump the air out and circulate it. Mr. Taylor advised he will look into getting one. Mr. Richardson advised 3.5 gallons of water a minute only when running the pump will be used. A motion to approve the bid from Sierra for \$8,865 for the water source heat pump was presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.

**B. POINTS OF ORDER:**

1. **City of American Falls Update:** Mayor Rebecca Sorensen advised they received Cares Funding for the police department because they are essential workers. Mayor Sorensen advised they are also using the funds to replace antiquated equipment.

Mayor Sorensen advised they have purchased cellphone forensic software equipment. Legal Counsel Anson Call advised they have had other agencies do the phone downloads for them and advised they obtain a search warrant to be able to access the cellphone. Mr. Wilkinson advised if parents can provide written consent for minors they do not need a search warrant for the cellphone. Police Chief Brandon Wilkinson advised he reached out to Sheriff Josh Campbell and Prosecutor Anson Call for contributions. Mr. Call advised he will approach them during budget time. Chief Wilkinson advised Detective Roby Engle will be certified to run the software. Commissioner Lasley advised it would be wise to have a backup employee to be certified in the software. Chief Wilkinson advised he sees no issue with having a city and a county officer trained and advised redundancy is key. Mr. Wilkinson advised the software can be used for drug court and probation. Mr. Wilkinson advised most cases for drug and sexual activity pertain to a cellphone. Mayor Sorensen advised the software will be a huge asset to the community. Mayor Sorensen advised being able to do the software downloads in house will save time and money. Chief Wilkinson advised some agencies are charging \$100 per download. Sheriff Josh Campbell advised that out of 130 sex crimes all pertained to sexting.

Mayor Sorensen advised they had the opportunity to do a broadband project with the federal money. Mayor Sorensen advised they are waiting for Steve Stringham, IT so they can go live. Commissioner Funk advised they will have a discussion with Steve Stringham on building a plan. Jason Mclean advised they would like to setup a strategic plan with the county and the city. Mr. Mclean advised the City purchased a new firewall and advised they would like it placed at the County. Mayor Sorensen advised they are seeing slow growth within the community and advised Fiber throughout the City will be a huge asset for the community. Mayor Sorensen advised

they would like to have a strategic plan of growth and advised working remotely is going to be huge in the future.

Mayor Sorensen advised they are in the process of updating the city code books to meet the community needs. Commissioner Funk advised the community has noticed cars are parked on lawns and advised they look cluttered. Commissioner Anderson inquired about establishing a program that allows the Power County residents to provide information on codes and advised utilizing people that would like to help. Chief Wilkinson advised State law is preventing them from taking care of them and advised the salvage company needs a clear title before they can demolish the vehicle. Commissioner Anderson advised addressing that issue with the legislators so it is changed. Chief Wilkinson advised the codes need updated to be enforceable and need caught up.

Commissioner Funk inquired on having a meeting twice a year. The Commission and the City Council agreed to meet in June and in November.

Commissioner Anderson inquired on a general idea on where they want to push growth. Gilbert Hofmeister advised they have discussed annexing the fairgrounds and high school area. Jeff Blauer advised the fairgrounds drainage would be an issue.

Commissioner Lasley inquired on the Landfill hours and advised if possible to adjust to a 5-day schedule. Commissioner Lasley advised he would like the City to consider eliminating one of their dump days.

Commissioner Anderson inquire on the Idaho Department of Aeronautics runway expansion. Mr. Blauer advised they should see development move in the next month. Commissioner Anderson advised he would like the runway shifted to the east. Commissioner Anderson advised Jared Turner, Airport manager is in contact with Idaho Department of Aeronautics and inquired on having the City Council and the Airport Board present a resolution to aeronautics division.

Clerk Sprague advised Senate Bill 1108 is moving forward and advised a 3% increase. Clerk Sprague advised they have to choose between new construction or annexation and limit to 75%. Clerk Sprague advised the overall forgone cap is 4%. Clerk Sprague advised that is mostly impacting fast growing places.

#### **IV. ASSESSMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:**

1. **Next Meeting:** The next regular session for the board to meet is slated for February 22, 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 Lasley. Following audible call of the Board, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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

*Ron Funk*

COMMISSIONER FUNK, Chairman

ATTEST:

*Flor Cardona*

FLOR CARDONA, Deputy Clerk