



POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Monday, March 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 14, 2022, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:06 am, in the Commission Chambers of the Power County Courthouse.

II. COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

PRESENT:	Commissioner Ron Funk, Chair Commissioner Bill Lasley Commissioner Delane Anderson	
ABSENT:	None	
STAFF:	Sharee Sprague, Clerk Cathy Miles, Deputy Auditor Laura Porath, Assessor Flor Cardona, Deputy Assessor Anson Call, Legal Counsel	Traci Harbart, Legal Assist. Paul Laggis, Magistrate Judge Josh Campbell, Sheriff Deanna Curry, Treasurer
OTHER PARTIES PRESENT:	Bret Leyshon Marita Poulsen Ivan Permann George Hotz Jeff Stewart Fernando Montelongo Alexia Medel Hannely Cardona Aunikka Allen Damaris Ortiz Cruz	Jessica Hernandez Wrendon Osborne Marc Beitia Daniel Parrish Scott Hendrickson Brooke Allen Wade Dishion Lee Dille Ben Taylor
VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:	Cody Brower (Zoom) Daniel Moore (Zoom) Casey Annen (Zoom) Jared Friesen (Zoom) Patrick Sullivan (Zoom) Dawn Morrell (Telephone)	Oneida County Commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill Lewis, Chairman• Bob Christophersen• Ken Eliason• Lon Colton, Clerk

III. AGENDA

A. NOTICES/REPORTS

1. **Courthouse Remodel Update:** Lee Dille and Ben Taylor appeared before the Commissioners to present a courthouse remodel update. They reported that the roofing and brick work should be

finished this week. Along with framing on the doors and welding for the hand rails. The estimated completion date for the remodel is expected to be April 16th. Lee Dille and Ben Taylor will hold a team meeting this week to make sure everyone is on schedule to complete the project. The LVP flooring originally was expected to cost \$5,400.00 there will be a credit of \$3,260.00 due to the change of materials being used. Commissioner Ron Funk advised that he visited with Sheriff Campbell about the process to provide the City Police Department access as after the job is completed.

2. **District 28A Candidate Dawn Morrell:** Candidate for Representative District 28A, Dawn Morrell appeared before the Commissioner. Ms. Morrell reports that she grew up in Idaho and graduated from Highland High School and went into the Army active duty for 3 ½ years came back to Idaho and worked for UPS until she retired. Mrs. Morrell advised that she owns Old Town Gunslingers in Pocatello. Mrs. Morrell advised that with the shift in District changes the rural people need represented and hasn't seen as much communication and well informed as a citizen, therefore, she is choosing to venture out of her comfort zone to serve. Mrs. Morrell's Commitment would be to communicate and the Commissioners in the Counties she represented. Mrs. Morrell states that open lines of communication are essential and she wants to stand up and represent for the people that do not have a voice. Mrs. Morrell states she has concerns about what is being taught in schools and that Education is important. Mrs. Morrell expresses interest in hearing what the people of Power County have concerns about so she can better represent them.
3. **Travel Policy:** Discussion was held in regards to the County Travel Policy. Upon review of State and Federal travel rates; Commissioner Lasley recommends staying with the current Travel Policy at the rate of \$0.58 per mile. Commissioner Anderson agreed to sticking with the current State and Federal rate for the travel policy.
4. **AFHS FFA Ag Issues Forum:** The American Falls High School FFA Agricultural Issue Team appeared before the board of commissioners. They presented opposing issues in regards to US Congressman Mike Simpson's plan to remove the dams on the lower Snake River for the salmon. Alexia Medel presented facts they found for the Snake River Dam. It was built in 1975. 4 Dams were created along the Snake River. Ms. Medel advised the removal of the 4 dams were presented in Congressman Mike Simpson's bill and presented on a federal lawsuit. The teams discussed the pros and cons as to why the dams should be kept or removed. Both parties explained facts such as 800,000 homes would be left without power if the dams were to be breached. Power plants are not as effective at producing power as believed previously. They presented solutions to the board of County Commissioners as well. Commissioner Delane Anderson advised both parties did a great job at balancing the points of concern on the issue.
5. **Direct Communications Broadband Discussion:** Daniel Parrish appeared before the commission to present an update on the Direct Communications Broadband project. They are currently laying down about 1500-2000 feet of fiber a day. Due to supply issues with materials they will not be able to make the April 19th deadline. The goal for project completion by the end of the year is still feasible. Mr. Parrish advised they plan to move out of the EMS building and thanks the Commission for allowing the shared use of the building. Commissioner Bill Lasley inquired of the depth of the buried lines. Mr. Parrish advised the trunk lines are 3 foot in depth and distribution lines are approximately 12" – 18" in depth. Commissioner Anderson inquired if the micro trenching work being done on Sunbeam had been approved by the Power County Highway District. Commissioner Anderson inquired on how the road was being refinished after the completion of the project. Mr. Parrish advised that as the line is installed the trench is filled within ½ to 1" depth, after weather is consistently over 55 degrees they will come back and tar over the trench.