



POWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, June 27, 2023, and called the meeting to order at the hour of 9:04 am, in the Commission Chambers of the Power County Courthouse.

II. COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

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| PRESENT: | Commissioner Ron Funk, Chair Commissioner Delane Anderson Commissioner Bill Lasley | |
| ABSENT: | None | |
| STAFF: | Sharee Sprague, Clerk Lissette Aguirre, Deputy Clerk Cathy Miles, Deputy Auditor Nate Cuoio, Legal Counsel | |
| OTHER PARTIES PRESENT: | Judge Paul Laggis Assessor Laura Porath Chief Deputy Assessor Flor Cardona Deputy Assessor Yolanda Rosales Treasurer Deanna Curry Chief Deputy Treasurer Terri Kendall Building Administrator Andi Higgins Jennifer Thaxton Scott Nash Dereck Ray Mark Wynn Jon Schutte Holly Cortez Larry Hunter Kathy Hunter Wendy Hoey Ann Wheeler | Eric Fehringer Andrew Porath Sean Ellis Wade Povey Gilbert Hofmeister Linda Sonnen Lynden Porath Patty Porath Paula Laggis Randy Jensen Dallas Clinger Mary Annen Kathy Pennel Fehringer Kristen Jensen Bill Curry Linda Annen James Annen |

III. AGENDA

A. NOTICES/REPORTS

1. **Treasurer Budget Hearing:** Clerk Sharee Sprague presented the Treasurer Office fiscal year 2024 budget on behalf of Treasurer Deanna Curry. Clerk Sprague advised that Treasurer Curry is available by phone should the commission have any changes. Treasurer Curry came in after the presentation to verify if there were any questions or concerns.
2. **Assessor/Revaluation:** Assessor Laura Porath appeared before the Commission and presented budget requests for the Assessor and Revaluation Office Fiscal year 2024. Assessor Porath provided a full budget proposal to the Commission. Clerk Sprague requested a copy be filed for the Master Budget book. Assessor Porath agreed to send it later. Assessor Porath is asking to equal out pay for elected officials across the state and am requesting that the Elected Officials all make the same wage and requesting her Chief Deputy make the same as well. Assessor Porath shared that outside of the Sheriff's Office, they work the most with the public on a face to face process. Assessor Porath reports that her research shows that cost of living allowance increases is running at 8.5%. She is requesting that there be a COLA and requests some merit funding be built into the employees' line for implementation at the direction of the elected official. Assessor Porath reports that they will need to look into a full-time mapper in the future.
3. **Building Administration/Planning and Zoning/Weeds:** Building Administrator Andrea Higgins appeared before the Commission and presented budget requests for the Building Administration, Planning and Zoning and Weeds Office Fiscal year 2024. Ms. Higgins advised that the planning and zoning budget is the same as last year, moving forward they may need some laptops or something that would allow access to the County Code book virtually instead of using the books all the time. Ms. Higgins reports that she left the Pictometry pro rata obligations the same pending decision and/or changes by the Commission. Clerk Sprague advised that she put in \$1000.00 in her Elections budget to go toward Pictometry as they will be utilizing it more. Ms. Higgins reports that they have requested a 5% COLA, but would defer to Commission on viability of wage changes.
4. **Extension Office:** Extension Office Administrative Assistant Jennifer Thaxton and Scott Nash appeared before the Commission and presented budget requests for the Power County Extension Office Fiscal year 2024. Ms. Thaxton advised she is asking for a 5% COLA and suggests the Commission begin looking at purchasing a new truck for the Extension Agent. Ms. Thaxton also suggested moving the Extension Office to the fairgrounds.

B. MOTIONS:

1. **Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.
2. **Lamb Weston 63-602NN Exemption Application Public Meeting:** Commissioner Funk opened the meeting. Commissioner Lasley explained the process. Mark Wynn of Lamb Weston advised that Lamb Weston has been a part of this community for over sixty (60) years and hopes that partnership would continue on for infinity. Mr. Wynn introduced

the cold storage facility explaining the cold storage would be a capital investment of one hundred eighty (\$180) million-dollar investment that would support the new french fry line and is expected to be fully completed in the first half of 2024, the same as the french fry line. Mr. Wynn explained that thirty-five (\$35) million-dollars of the investment is for site work to the real property which does not qualify for the exemption and would come on the rolls at the completion of the project. The remaining investment would be part of the exemption request. Mr. Wynn explained that the new line would create an estimated fifty-five new jobs. Mr. Wynn reported that they estimate that by 2029 Lamb Weston would be responsible for 42% of the tax base in Power County. Lamb Weston Plant Manager Jon Schutt explained the project layout, employment impact, advising that the cold storage will house up to fifty (50) million dollars in spuds and that Lamb Weston has invested \$2.5 million dollars to build a new road. When asked how long Lamb Weston planned on staying in Power County, Mr. Schutt confirmed that they have been here for sixty (60) years and hope to be here for another sixty (60) plus years.

The Commission received testimony in favor of the exemption from Kristin Jensen and Eric Fehringer.

The Commission received testimony against the exemption from Linda Sonnen on behalf of the American Falls Rural Fire District, Larry Hunter, Patty Porath, and Mary Annen.

The Commission received neutral testimony or comments from Randy Jensen, Gilbert Hofmeister on behalf of the Power County Highway District, Linda Annen, Bill Curry, Ann Wheeler, Wendy Hunter Hoey, Wade Povey, Treasurer Deanna Curry, Andrew Porath and James Annen.

Upon conclusion of executive session, a motion to take the matter under advisement and table decision to July 10, 2023, was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Funk. Following audible call of the Board, motion unanimously carried.

3. **Treasurer Update:** Chief Deputy Treasurer Terri Kendall presented the Board of Commissioners with a LGIP monthly statement, Treasurer's Cash, Joint Quarterly Report ending May 31, 2023. Ms. Kendall advised there are no major changes, with the exception that on May 17, 2023, the US Treasury bond was replaced with a bond thru Idaho 1st Bank expiring on May 17, 2024. Ms. Kendall reports that they have collected roughly five (\$5) million in tax revenue. Reports were discussed and reviewed by the Board and following discussion, a motion to accept the reports was presented by Commissioner Lasley with a second by Commissioner Anderson. Following an audible call of the board, motion unanimously carried.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **Executive Legal Advice Session pursuant to I.C. §74-206(1)(f) 11:04 am:** A motion to enter into executive session pursuant to I.C. §74-206(f), to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated was presented by Commissioner Anderson with a second by Commissioner Funk. Clerk Sharee Sprague conducted roll call on the motion;

- Commissioner Funk, AYE
- Commissioner Lasley, AYE
- Commissioner Anderson, AYE

Following roll call of the Board, motion unanimously carried. Upon conclusion of discussion, Commissioner Funk declared the meeting open at 11:38 am.

V. ASSESSMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:

1. **Next Meeting:** The next regular session for the board to meet is slated for July 10, 2023.
2. **Adjourn:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was presented by Commissioner Funk with a second by Commissioner Lasley. Following audible call of the Board, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Board of County Commissioners during the Regular Board Meeting held July 10, 2023.

ATTEST:



SHAREE SPRAGUE, Clerk



COMMISSIONER FUNK, Chairman