



January 4, 2021, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on December 29, 2020, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 4th day of January 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

Present:	Bryan Elliott	Chairman
	Mark Rekow	Commissioner
	Bill Butticci	Commissioner
	Sarah Story	Deputy Clerk

Whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

January 4, 2021

Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Rekow participated in all meetings in person. Commissioner Butticci was absent throughout the day and will attend via phone for those meeting he does attend. It will be noted on the meetings when he is in attendance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE TIME: The Commissioners worked on administrative matters.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR INMATE SERVICES FOR GEM COUNTY JAIL:

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen reviewed a RFP for inmate services for the Gem County jail. She explained how financing would be handled and that the county would not be responsible for any payments. Items that she talked about included video visitation, kiosks, internet connectivity and the server. She talked about the process for the bid to be published.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to accept the RFP for inmate services for the Gem County Jail as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

(Commissioner Butticci attended the following meeting via phone.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FAIRGROUNDS BLEACHERS: Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen reviewed a RFP for fairground bleachers. Items that she talked about included open as well as wheelchair seating, size of the crosswalk and wheel guards. Commissioner Butticci spoke about the type of seating that is needed. Tahja talked about the process for the bid to be published and who needs to manage it. Commissioner Butticci agreed to be the point person for that process and he talked about timelines for the process. There was discussion about the need for demolition, a possible contract for demolition and pouring concrete footings. It was advised that demolition was not budgeted for. Other options were discussed for demolition. Tahja advised that 3 bids would be needed if it goes out for bid.

(Commissioner Butticci attended the following meeting via phone.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to recess as Board of County Commissioners and to convene as the Board of Equalization. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously. Assessor Hollie Ann Strang was sworn in.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION: Assessor Hollie Ann Strang spoke about a homeowner's exemption request that was received for Assessor's parcel MH06N02W126329 after the deadline. She also spoke of an administrative request for a value change on the parcel. She is asking that the taxable value be reduced to \$32,136.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow that on parcel number MH06N02W126329 to accept the Assessor, Hollie Ann Strang's, request for a value amount of \$32,136.00 as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to adjourn as Board of Equalization and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

(Commissioner Butticci was absent from the following meeting.)

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda included: A. Certificate of Residency for junior college tuition for Abigail Krane.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve item (A)

on the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

(Commissioner Butticci was absent from the following meeting.)

INDIGENT APPLICATIONS: At 9:58 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Rekow, seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously to go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(d) for indigent matters with a roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Rekow, aye and Commissioner Elliott, aye.

21-005 Cremation Reconsideration

Regular session reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

Commissioner Rekow made a motion on case 21-005 to approve the cremation request. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

(Commissioner Butticci attended the following meeting via phone.)

COVID DISCUSSION: Valor Health Marketing Manager Staci Carr talked about the current 30-day and 7-day trend. She talked about the number of patients seen in Urgent Care, Emergency Room and how many patients that tested for COVID. There are currently no patients on the COVID wing of the hospital. CEO Brad Turpen advised that they have administered 90 vaccine doses so far and how they are creating a priority list. Emergency Operations Manager Laurie Boston provided updates on the current positive COVID cases in Gem County and the state. She advised that there were 57 new positive cases and 3 deaths in the last week. She spoke of administration of the vaccines. She advised that she will be working with the home agencies that have Gem County residents to determine who will want the vaccine. She also advised that she should be in her new office by next week.

(Commissioner Butticci attended the following meeting via phone.)

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING: Various Department Heads and Elected Officials were in attendance in person and via phone. Commissioner Elliott spoke of the resolution that was created for 2021 in regards to Paid Administrative Leave. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen advised that the CARES ACT for 80 hours of Emergency Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave Act expired as of December 31, 2020. She reviewed the current CDC quarantine guidelines and that the

Board has authorized 50 hours for an additional quarantine period and that after that it would have to be pre-approved by the Board of County Commissioners. She advised that HR needs immediate notification when quarantined. She also talked about people working from home or working in isolation when possible. She also advised that timesheets need to identify when someone is working from home. It was advised that the 50 hours of Administration Leave is for COVID related leave and can be used prior to using Sick Time and/or Vacation Time. Emergency Manager Laurie Boston advised that there was 57 new positive cases and 3 deaths in the last week. Commissioner Butticci spoke of the need to have accurate timesheets. Commissioner Rekow reiterated of the importance to contact HR immediately when someone is out for COVID. Commissioner Butticci spoke of the new Gem County website that will be launching soon to replace the current website. Gem County IT Director Robert McCracken advised that each department will have to make some decisions on the layout and that there will be training. He advised that each department will be in charge of their own page to make updates. He also provided updates on all the new equipment that has been recently received. Rebecca Mills from the Extension Office spoke about phone challenges at the Extension Office. Commissioner Elliott expressed his appreciation to all departments.

Landfill Supervisor Martin Joyce provided updates on their brush pile burn project. Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps spoke about snow plowing and berry bush removals. Building and Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Shambaugh spoke of the disinfecting protocol that they are currently using. Rebecca Mills from the Extension Office spoke about their copy machine contract. A possible RFP for copier contract consolidation was discussed. Rebecca also talked about 4H, the Living on the Land class, in-school enrichment programs, AmeriCorps programs and that their office is open. IT Director Robert McCracken spoke of the home office equipment that he is working on and of the challenges he is having with the home printers. Disaster Manager Laurie Boston spoke of the joint Emergency Operations Center with the City of Emmett and the new office she will be moving to. She also spoke about vaccine distributions and who is currently eligible to receive them. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke about how "essential" county workers are identified for vaccine distribution. Assessor Hollie Ann Strang advised that some of her administration staff is working from home and that motor vehicles is running at capacity with an approximate 3-4 hour wait. Development Services Director Jennifer Kharrl spoke of the number of permits issued and that they hired a part-time employee. Weed Supervisor Doug Morrow spoke about weed control, cost-share programs and other various projects they are working

on. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke about trials being on hold and that they are maintaining a staggered office with half working from home. She also advised that she has been working with Valor Health on psychological care for First Responders and a grant for suicide prevention. Chief Donnie Wunder advised that they are looking for a new jailer. Juvenile Probation Supervisor Janelle Schnieder advised that they still have limitations on who comes into their office, but are still open and doing good.

(Commissioner Butticci attended the following meeting via phone.)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS: Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke on various legal matters. Items that were talked about were the Letha Sewer District, the Sweet Irrigation Board and civil land use.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:45 a.m. for lunch to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

(Commissioner Butticci was present for the following meeting via phone.)

THAYNE REZONE PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED): While being recorded, a public hearing was held for a rezone request. Due to social distancing this meeting was held virtually via Join Me. Commissioner Rekow read the Notice of Public Hearing for the virtual meeting for the ordinance amendment. Those present were Development Services Director Jennifer Kharrl, Associate Planner Michelle Baron, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen, applicant Kara Thayn, Gem County residents Joe Morton and Annette Smith. The public hearing had previously been closed, therefore there was no additional public testimony.

Commissioner Elliott advised that he was not at the original hearing but has reviewed all the written material on this rezone request including additional verbiage requested from the applicant. Commissioner Butticci advised that he supports the Agricultural Agreement that Development Services provided, but does not support the additional verbiage that was added from the applicant. Commissioner Rekow spoke about his concerns of the additional verbiage from the applicant in regards to potential parcel splits and the effects that it could have in the future. Applicant Kara Thayn advised that they are not wanting to build a subdivision, but have the opportunity in the future to possibly build a home for one of their children. She was concerned that the current Agriculture Agreement would block

that ability. Development Services Director Jennifer Kharrl advised that if they wanted another rezone or building permit on the 35-acre plot that they would have to wait one year and then they could apply again per the current process. They would have to modify the Development Agreement at that time which could have additional requirements. There was also discussion on adding addition language in the current Agriculture Agreement to clarify that. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke about the current process and the applicants' right. It was decided that it was not necessary to add that additional language into the agreement since this is already a process that is in place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve the Agriculture Agreement terms and conditions as written by Development Services as presented in Exhibit 2 in the application. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

(Commissioner Butticci was absent from following meeting.)

ZONING REVIEWS- JOE MORTON: Gem County resident Joe Morton spoke about a Gem County growth chart with statistics. Items that he talked about included land splits, subdivisions, the Capital Improvement program problems, outdated fees, zoning packets, minutes, public records requests, recorded meetings and public notices. He also spoke about challenges with Development Services working remotely, a Customer Relationship Management software for zoning applications, Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Plan, growth rate, private road names, exterior lighting on agriculture building and access to county roads. Other items that he spoke about included groundwater evaluations, desktop groundwater evaluations, well logs, public health and the 1996 Groundwater Analysis. Commissioner Elliott acknowledged his concerns.

AMBULANCE QUOTES: Chief Rick Welch spoke about quotes that he received for a new ambulance. He received 5 quotes for different ambulances which were received from Braun, Horton, Medix, AEV & Osage. Rick would like to go with the 2020 AEV for \$169,341.00, which has a chassis. He said the others did not have a chassis which would have to be ordered. He spoke of the State EMS grant that they received and that the total match would be \$49,305.69. He also spoke about a needed Striker Power Loader & Power Cot.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to accept the bid from (PSS) Professional Sales and Service, L.C. for a 2020 AEV TraumaHawk F450 4x4 V8 Gas Custom Ambulance in the amount of \$169,341.00 pending the state EMS grant in the amount of

\$135,000.00 and Striker Power Loader and Power Cot in the amount of \$39,964.69 also pending a \$25,000 state EMS grant. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on January 11, 2021.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk