



January 19, 2021, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on January 11, 2021, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, at 8:15 a.m.

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

Whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Commissioners did not meet on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

#### January 19, 2021

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

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE:** The Commissioners attended this meeting electronically.

**COVID DISCUSSION:** Emergency Operations Manager Laurie Boston provided updates on the current positive COVID cases in Gem County and stated that for the past week there were 46 positive COVID tests and 2 deaths. Items that she talked about were the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of vaccine distribution that was completed, a clinic for the school district, a proposal for 65+ drive-thru clinics, a site visit at the mill, an available grant from the Healthcare Coalition and the move to the City Annex building. The Commissioners were all in approval for Laurie to move forward with applying for the grant. Valor Health was not able to attend the meeting but sent an email report that stated that the 30-day rolling positivity rate is 22.96% and the 7-day rate was 11.90%. She also spoke about the number of patients seen this past week in the Urgent Care, Emergency Room, transfers and that there were no patients in the COVID wing. They advised that 90 Moderna

vaccinations were given last Friday, including school nursing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The consent agenda included: A. Sweet Valley Homes #2 plat, B. Sweet Valley Homes #2 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Road Mitigation Agreement and C. Certificate of Residency for Haily Medley.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve items A-C on the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from December 28 & 29, 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes for December 28 & 29, 2020 as amended. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

**FUNDING FOR ELECTRONIC DOOR FOR SHERIFF'S CIVIL OFFICE:** Sheriff Donnie Wunder talked about a grant for the life scan electronic device for door access, its requirements, where it would be located and that they would like the door be electronic which would also interface with the existing software. Civil Deputy Melissa Canaday reviewed the 2 quotes that they received for hardware and labor which were for \$3165.88. They will use the current software and door. She also talked about an all-in-one system, sex offender registration process and moving the phone in the waiting area. There was discussion on the challenges with sound-proofing the walls and that this would help so others would not be able to hear other sensitive conversations. Clerk Shelly Tilton advised that funding for this could come from the General Fund Reserve. There was discussion about other possible options for funding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to move forward with the electronic door for the Civil Office, the electronic hardware and installation in the amount of \$3165.88 to be taken out of the General Fund Reserve. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT FOR FLOATING DOCKS FOR BLACK CANYON RESERVOIR:** Lieutenant Jason McIntosh talked about a Waterways Improvement Fund grant for the floating docks for Black Canyon Reservoir. He talked about the conditions of the current docks. He is requesting a grant for a total amount of \$46,042.00 with a matching from out of the Waterways account in the amount of \$4056.00. He also spoke of the cost of hardware which would be in the amount of \$4461.00 with a match of \$496.00 and labor in the amount of \$533.00. He is also asking for money for chain to secure the docks in the grant. Sheriff Wunder advised that the new docks would require very low maintenance.

He talked about the kind of docks that would be installed and their lifespan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to authorize the Sheriff's Department to move forward with the Waterways Improvement Fund grant for the floating docks for Black Canyon Reservoir. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT SALARY REQUEST:** Sheriff Donnie Wunder spoke about employees that he would like to give a pay increase to due to their new role and greater responsibilities and the amounts he proposed for the increases. He advised that after the requested pay raises there would still be available funds in that line item due to his Deputy position having been paid at a higher rate than a new employee would be hired at. There was discussion on the years of service of the current employees. Clerk Shelly Tilton discussed the need for higher salaries to drop out occasionally to allow on-going funding and salary increases of the other positions within the fund. Without those positions dropping out and not re-allocating those salaries, it would be difficult to continue to provide overall raises and provide for new employee positions. She advised that she understood the Sheriff's request but asked the Commissioners to realize how difficult budgeting for future salary increases would be if higher salaried employees leave and the funds are re-allocated each year. She also discussed the county salary increase structure and past requests of significant increases that had been denied and also spoke of overall county equality. She discussed the Chief Deputy line that is separate from the employee's regular salary line for elected officials in all of the other departments. Donnie discussed how he came up with the proposed amounts. Chief Deputy Dave Timony spoke of the increase of responsibility over the years and the lack of compensation for that responsibility and why they are asking for the pay increase at this time. The Commissioners discussed the substantial amount being requested and said they will review the information provided and bring it back to the table for further discussion and possible decision for next week.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS:** Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke on various legal matters. Items that were talked about were the jail phone bid, a walk-thru with the jail, timelines for the bid packet and updates on a previous Valor Health malpractice suit. There was also discussion on the fairgrounds bleachers. Tahja also talked about vaccine administrations for key county employees and the need to have a secondary vaccination site in addition to Valor Health. She

advised that Valor is rolling out a new notification system for the vaccination administration to help with tracking and appointments.

Commissioner Butticci was not in attendance for this meeting due to attendance at an off-site meeting.

**INDIGENT APPLICATIONS:** At 12:15 p.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 Elliott, aye and Commissioner Rekow, aye.

21-007	Medical Emergency
15-046	Release of Lien
15-046	Pay of Letter

Regular session reconvened at 12:18 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion that on case 21-007 to deny because the applicant is not medically indigent, the county is not the last resource and unable to determine if all services are medically necessary, on case# 15-046 to sign release of lien and on case# 15-046 to sign a Pay Off letter. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**The Commissioners recessed at 12:20 p.m. for lunch to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.**

**IDAHO FISH & GAME ACCESS ROADS:** Southwest Regional Fisheries Manager John Cassinelli spoke about wanting to work with Gem County to maintain river access along the Payette River, Sawyer's Pond and Dick Knox Pond. He spoke about challenges with keeping up with site maintenance and is looking for a partnership with Gem County for maintenance. He spoke about road maintenance, a possible maintenance fee to the county, ponds within Gem County and Star Lane access road. Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps spoke of his concerns of material needed for certain areas. John talked about cost sharing for material or the Idaho Fish & Game possibly covering the cost. Commissioner Rekow spoke of his concerns of time and resources with taking on this responsibility. Commissioner Elliott spoke about his concerns of the county being able to keep up on the maintenance on their own county dirt roads in regard to personnel and cost. Commissioner Butticci spoke about concerns with upcoming City & County Tax Reform and the effect it may have on the county. He advised that he is not comfortable in

supporting this until the Legislature finalizes their decision on the City & County Tax Reform. John advised that they would continue to try and keep up on the maintenance as best as they can for the time being. He also spoke about some grant money to help with some of the other areas of the river corridor, such as Plaza river access area.

**LEGISLATION REGARDING HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION DEADLINES:** Assessor Hollie Ann Strang spoke about the legislation regarding homeowner's exemption deadlines. She spoke about House Bill 562 that went into effect January 1, 2021 which effects the budget that starts in October 2021. She advised that verbiage was removed which effects occupancy dates, the homeowners exemption deadline and the effects that it will have. She spoke of the effects of the verbiage being removed which now does not allow pro-rating of the homeowner exemption and also about homeowners tax credit. Items that she also talked about were a Gem County Resolution that protects the county, tax cancellation, challenges with predicting the future effects, properties that have applied for homeowners exemption after the current deadline, that this is not an error on the assessment side and that there has been no time limit given for these changes. Hollie Ann advised that they are working on corrective legislation and also that there would be expected tax cancellations due to this. She also talked about how this would affect new construction.

**The Board recessed at 2:40 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. on January 25, 2021.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk