



January 25, 2021, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on January 19, 2021, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, at 8:30 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.

**January 25, 2021**

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

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT SALARY INCREASES:** Sheriff Donnie Wunder spoke of his new proposal for pay raises for some of his employees that have been given additional responsibilities. He advised that he worked with Clerk Shelly Tilton in regards to a Chief Deputy line that is a separate line item from the employee's regular salary line. Commissioner Butticci reviewed the proposal and spoke of the changes from the original proposal and that he was in support of the new proposal. Chief Deputy Leandra Rountree explained how the budget works in regards to salary increases. Sheriff Wunder advised that these changes would be effective as of February 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve the proposed Sheriff's Department salary increases as presented on the email dated January 21, 2021. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The consent agenda included: A. Confirmation of Washington County Commissioner Lyndon Haines as the Washington County Representative to the Southwest District Health Board, B. Confirmation of Canyon County Commissioner Keri Smith as the Canyon County Representative to the Southwest District Health

Board, C. Gem County Mosquito Abatement District's 2020 year end report, D. Gem County Mosquito Abatement District's 2021 Comprehensive Mosquito Surveillance and Control plan, E. Certificate of residency for Junior College tuition for Cade Peterson, Jolene Webb andCarolynn Scruggs and F. NORCO service agreement for cylinder lease for Road Department

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve items A-G as presented and noting that items D & E are the same item, Gem County Mosquito Abatement District's 2021 Comprehensive Mosquito Surveillance and Control plan. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE:** Commissioner Butticci suggested to keep the meetings scheduled and to wait to see if the Governor is going to make any changes to the restrictions on size of public gatherings. Commissioner Elliott spoke about social distancing at the Sweet location. There was discussion of the exception for political gatherings in regards to the Governor's restrictions. There was discussion on the timelines for giving notice if there are changes to the scheduled meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to leave the Open Public Forums for Sweet and Ola as scheduled. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**RECOVERY CENTER REQUEST FOR TRASH BIN:** Assessor Hollie Ann Strang advised that a dumpster was delivered to the Recovery Center, but will be picked up pending the Commissioners decision. Commissioner Elliott expressed concerns as to why they are needing a dumpster. Commissioner Butticci advised that the building is for office use only and does not warrant the extra expense for a dumpster. Assessor Strang spoke of a previous agreement that was in place and that they have not been paying for garbage up to this point. She spoke of the additional cost to the county if their request is approved. Commissioner Butticci recommends to provide the standard residential service for the Recovery Center. There was discussion on what services the other county offices use. Commissioner Butticci will contact the City Clerk to understand the requirements, City Ordinance and to make sure the county is in compliance with the city. This topic will be tabled until next week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to table this topic until next week and that he is in support of the normal canister and not the dumpster. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**VALLEY COUNTY REQUEST FOR FUEL FOR GROOMING SNOWMOBILE TRAILS:** There was discussion on a current Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) for snow plowing and that Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen was not sure if there is an MOU for fuel for grooming snowmobile trails. Commissioner Rekow advised that they are asking for 500 gallons of fuel. There was discussion on how this has been handled in the past and what line item it comes out of from the budget. There was also discussion if the fuel would come out of Emmett or Cascade. Tahja spoke about the current fuel contract with B&W Fuel. The Commissioners would like to use B&W if they are willing to fulfill this need. Tahja will research to see if there is a current MOU, and if not will work on creating one.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to move forward with the request for fuel for Valley County for grooming snowmobile trails in Gem County and that the Road and Bridge Supervisor, Neal Capps, will verify with the Clerk's Office that the funds are available and then place the order. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**COVID DISCUSSION:** Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager Laurie Boston provided updates on the current positive COVID cases in Gem County and that there was 1 death. Items that she talked about was the hard work that Valor Health has been doing, the number of vaccinations given, upcoming clinics for vaccine distributions and other locations for vaccine distributions. She also spoke of a Bill that is currently in front of the Legislature and how that could affect funding to the county. She also spoke about a Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition grant that she applied for. She advised that she requested a medical tent from Southwest District Health and was approved for it. She also advised that there is now direct ship to Valor Health for vaccines. She talked about their current stock for personal protection inventory, but that they are running low on masks. Valor Health Marketing Manager Staci Carr provided updates on the current 30-day trend and 7-day trend, which is declining. She advised of the number of patients seen in the Urgent Care, Emergency Room, non-related COVID transfers and that there are no patients in the COVID wing. Valor Health CEO Brad Turpen advised that they are redeploying staff to focus on providing vaccines. He talked about billing and his concerns with the Bill that Laurie spoke of. He advised that the trend is moving in the right direction, but is concerned of spikes as people go back to not taking necessary precautions. There was discussion on the substantial growth within the county. The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Valor Health with all of their hard work.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS:** Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja

Jensen talked about various county legal matters. Items that she discussed included a jail pre-bid meeting for inmate phone service, updated bid-opening date, Trump Lane in Sweet, a post-conviction release case she is working on, an inmate update, a summer intern for their office and that they are working on a jury trial process when it opens back up. There was also discussion on having public walk-in again, and how that would be set up. Commissioner Elliott spoke of a public concern in regards to a local property.

**FAIR GROUNDS BLEACHERS BID PACKET DISCUSSION AS TO FORM:** Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen spoke of the fairgrounds bleachers bid packet. Commissioner Butticci spoke of the demolition bid and the need for a bleacher bid. There was discussion on timeframes for publishing and the bid deadline.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve the Request for Bid for the Gem County Fairgrounds Bleachers as to form. The matter to be published on February 3 and February 10, 2021 with all bids being due by 3:30pm on Friday, February 19, 2021. Sealed bid opening to be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at a time to be determined by the Clerk based upon schedule. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and carried unanimously.

**EXPENSE CLAIMS APPROVAL:** The claims presented were reviewed. Commissioner Elliott made a motion to sign the claims as presented and as initialed on the individual claim forms as well as the Indigent claims. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

**DIRK MENDIVE WITH RUSS FULCHERS OFFICE:** Dirk Mendive stopped in to check in and provide the Commissioners with calendars, not realizing he could stop into the meeting he left them in the Clerk's office.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from January 4, 2021 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes for January 4, 2021 as amended. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

The minutes from January 11, 2021 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes for January 11, 2021 as amended. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

The minutes from January 19, 2021 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes for January 19, 2021 as amended. It was seconded by Commissioner Butticci and carried unanimously.

**INDIGENT APPLICATIONS:** There were no Indigent applications to review.

**The Board recessed at 11:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on February 1, 2021.**

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

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