



March 13 & 14, 2023, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on March 7, 2023, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Present:	Bill Butticci	Chairman
	Mark Rekow	Commissioner
	Kirk Wille	Commissioner
	Sarah Story	Deputy Clerk

Whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

**March 13, 2023**

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

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS:** Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen discussed various county legal matters including Avimor, the Area of City Impact Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan and private roads.

**INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE RESOURCE PROPOSAL FOR COUNTY PROPERTY ON SOUTH**

**JOHNS DISCUSSION:** Building and Grounds Supervisor Chuck Schambaugh talked about the testing that is going to be done for the air on the South Johns property. The cost for this testing is \$6320.00 with Industrial Hygiene Resources. Chuck will find out how long it will take to get this test completed; he will also check on natural gas and radon testing. Funding was discussed. Commissioner Butticci advised that Intermountain Gas can check for natural gas. Chuck will contact them and advised that it's an additional \$250 to check for radon.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to approve the Industrial Hygiene Resources contract at the Extension Office at the cost of \$6570 which will include radon and to be paid out of the professional services line item. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**SCHEDULE COUNTY SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION:** Commissioner Butticci

advised that IT has items for the surplus auction and that each department manages their own list. He will reach out to the departments to ensure that they compile their list.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** A. Statewide copier and printer contract equipment replacement form with Sharp Electronics c/o Valley Office Systems for a copier for the jail, B. Assessor's surplus equipment request, C. Information Technology (IT) surplus equipment request, D. Payroll claims approval for 3/7/2023, E. Gem County Ordinance 2023-03 Roethle Rezone, F. Roethle Rezone Findings, Conclusions, Conditions, Order, G. Orizaba Minor Subdivision Findings, Conclusions, Conditions, Order, H. Jordan Farms Minor Subdivision Findings, Conclusions, Conditions, Order and I. Award of 2023 state general fund cost share funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve items A-I on the consent agenda as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH BATHROOM REPAIR:** Commissioner Butticci advised that the linoleum needs to be repaired. The estimated cost is \$1200 for flooring removal and installation of an epoxy finish. This is a safety issue due to it buckling.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wille to approve the repair for the Community Bible Church bathroom and to not exceed \$1500. This is a county owned leased property. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** The minutes for March 6 & 7, 2023 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve the minutes for March 6 & 7, 2023 as amended. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WALK-IN:** There were no members of the public present.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:** Commissioner Butticci talked about online training and phishing emails. He also talked about the surplus auction, stating that a list needs to be sent to him for a notice to be published. He stated that if there were things of no value, they can be taken to the landfill. Information Technology (IT) Support Specialist Corbin Vickery talked about the server upgrade, an off-site backup and camera upgrades. Commissioner Butticci advised that Rich is the point person for printers. Corbin advised that the county does not need additional equipment to be added on the Idaho Regional Optical Network project for fiber network. Noxious Weed Supervisor Larry Shippy talked about a certification that he got for certifying hay. He also talked about, various work they are working on and

that he is hoping to start spraying this week. Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps provided updates on the Co-op bridge, roads in Ola, snow in High Valley, roadway signs, a grant from Idaho Transportation Department, Avimor and road painting at Tom's Cabin Road. Juvenile Probation Supervisor Shannon Carter talked about workload. Rebecca Mills from the Extension Office talked about their building. Commissioner Butticci advised that Intermountain Gas is going out there today and that they signed the contract today to get the other company out there for further testing. Rebecca also talked about programs and services that they provide, an upcoming fundraiser, an upcoming training for them, the Gem County Business Expo, upcoming events for 4-H and mental health 1<sup>st</sup> aid training. Emergency Operations Manager Jeff Ulmer talked about tabletop exercises, emergency plans and grant money. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen advised that any items with a value less than \$250.00 can be disposed of.

**INTERVIEW WITH RANDALL BARNUM FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE CONFLICT**

**COUNSEL:** The Commissioners conducted an interview with Randall Barnum for Public Defense Conflict Counsel for Gem County. Commissioner Butticci talked about the contract, pay rate and travel time. Randall expressed concerns with wording in the contract in regards to case assigning and balancing his caseload. Commissioner Wille talked about the assignment process. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tahja Jensen will change the wording in the contract. Randall advised that he has accepted the contract with Gem County because he likes working with our courts and the ability to work remotely. He provided background information and his experience.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to move forward with conflict counsel with Barnum Law PLLC. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

**The Commissioners recessed at 12:00 a.m. for lunch to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/AMBULANCE SUSTAINABILITY WITH AN EMS PLANNING CONSULTANT WORKING ON A PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE IDAHO**

**BUREAU OF EMS AND PREPAREDNESS:** Tim Nowak, EMS Planner for Public Consulting Group met with the Commissioners to review a project sponsored by the Idaho Bureau of EMS and preparedness for counties throughout the state. He advised that the end goal is to have a County EMS plan that identifies the needs and the gaps for essential services for EMS. Items that he will identify and recommend in the report are staffing, strengths/gaps and allocation of funds. Commissioner Rekow advised that they

struggle with money partially because Gem County is not an ambulance taxing district, which makes it difficult to pay the market rate for staff and needed equipment.

Commissioner Butticci advised that the service is very good, but has concerns on how long they will be able to maintain the same level of service. Commissioner Rekow talked about levy rates, the budget, transferring patients to other hospitals outside of Gem County and the expectation of fast service. Commissioner Butticci talked about the public expecting a top rated service and it is a no-fee service. Commissioner Rekow talked about the difference between an EMT and a paramedic, the challenges with paying for equipment replacement and that EMS is an essential service. He explained the different areas of Gem County and the combined services of EMS, Fire and the Sheriff's Department. Tim talked about how ambulance service is not required. The Commissioners talked about the importance of having that service remain and that the public would not be happy if it went away. Tim asked about the public paying more. Commissioner Rekow talked about the families on fixed incomes. Commissioner Wille advised that any recommendation that the county receives will have to address funding. Commissioner Butticci talked about the loss of money from having to write-off bills from indigent patients. Commissioner Rekow talked about the challenges with insurance companies paying the patients instead of EMS directly. Tim talked about Medicaid patients and possible options for minimizing the gap of payment to EMS. He also talked about the possibility of intercepting tax returns. Commissioner Rekow talked about the challenges with programs when trying to get additional pay for the payment gap for reimbursement from Medicaid.

**JMH FARMS FINAL PLAT:** Development Services Director Jennifer Kharrl reviewed the JMH Farms final plat. She advised that all conditions were met, including the fence. She advised how the fence was built.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve the JMH Farms final plat as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IDAHO CODE 74-206(1)(c):** At 3:30 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Rekow, seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously to go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c) for matters of real estate with a roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Butticci, aye, Commissioner Wille, aye and Commissioner Rekow, aye.

Regular session reconvened at 3:37 p.m.

**PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to direct staff to move forward with the documents for acquisition of real property for the South Slope bridge project. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

**OLA COUNTY PROPERTY REAL ESTATE AGREEMENT TO KEEP AN OUTSIDE DOG ON THE PROPERTY:** Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps advised that the occupant is asking for 1 outside pet for the family and that there is a chain link dog run already on the property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wille to approve the modification of the current lease agreement at 11300 Schoolhouse Road to allow 1 outside dog with a \$200 pet deposit. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**EXPENSE CLAIMS APPROVAL:** The claims presented were reviewed. Commissioner Rekow made a motion to approve the claims as presented and as initialed on the individual claim forms. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille. The motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM D&G CONSTRUCTION AND DEADWOOD CONSTRUCTION LLC FOR METAL INSTALLATION OF THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUILDING:** Neal Capps is asking for approval for D&G Construction for \$24,000 for a metal roof to be installed. They do have the funds to cover the cost and this was the lowest bid received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wille to approve the proposal from D&G Construction in the amount of \$24,000 for the Road Department. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER EMPLOYEE EVALUATION IDAHO CODE 74-206 (1) (A):** At 4:00 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Rekow, seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously to go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) for personnel matters with a roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Butticci, aye, Commissioner Wille, aye and Commissioner Rekow, aye.

Regular session reconvened at 4:16 p.m.

**CHANGE OF TITLE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SUPPORT SPECIALIST TO IT DIRECTOR:** Commissioner Butticci advised that this position is already in the new matrix and the compensation will be the same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to move Corbin Vickery to Gem County IT Director effective immediately. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

**The Board recessed at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on March 14, 2023.**

**March 14, 2023**

**ADMINISTRATION TIME:** The Commissioners were in and out of the office during the day working on various administrative items.

**The Board recessed at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2023.**

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

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