



January 22 & 23, 2024, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on January 16th, 2024, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 22nd day of January, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Present:	Bill Butticci	Chairman
	Kirk Wille	Commissioner
	Mark Rekow	Commissioner
	Laure McCann	Deputy Clerk

Whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

January 22, 2024

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve the agenda for Monday, January 22nd & Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 with the addition to the Consent Agenda of items C. & D. for ITD Letter of Support for Highway 16 and the U.S. Forest Service Grant Application Supporting Sage Hen Rehabilitation Letter of Support due to the fact that these are time sensitive items. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously. The documents for the added items will be created and presented for signature today.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS: Deputy Prosecutor Tahja Jensen met with the Commissioners to discuss legal matters. Tahja discussed the snow plow policy and complaints received from the public regarding snow removal. Tahja suggested that the Commissioners approve a resolution to formally adopt the snow plow policy that Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps uses. The Commissioners discussed with Tahja non-compliance of the Sweet-Montour Cemetery District with the state's annual reporting.

CONSENT AGENDA: A. Jones Minor Subdivision Findings, Conditions, Conclusions, Order B. Ratification of Mutual Assistance Compact for Law Enforcement Services Between Ada County/City of Eagle and Gem County for Avimor Signed Last Week C. ITD Letter of Support for Highway 16 D. U.S. Forest Service Grant Application Supporting Sage Hen Rehabilitation Letter of Support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow on the Consent Agenda for Monday, January 22nd, 2024 to approve items A. through

D. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes for January 16th, 2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Wille to approve the minutes for January 16th, 2024 as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

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

PUBLIC WALK-IN: Marty Fry was present to discuss new legislation that is going to be passed to give jail sentences for drug arrests. Marty doesn't believe that jail time is a deterrent for drug users. He asked the Commissioners to use their resources to research solutions and send a letter to the state that suggests alternative solutions instead of jail time.

Butch Davis with the Forest Service was present to ask for a Letter of Support for the Grant application to support the rehabilitation of the Sage Hen Camp Ground. The Commissioners told him they had approved addition of this letter of support to the agenda and would have the letter for him this afternoon.

BYPASS TO THE EAST OF HIGHWAY 16 DISCUSSION WITH IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND KELLER ASSOCIATES: The Commissioners, Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps, and Justin Walker engineer with Keller and Associates, were present to discuss the bypass to the East of Highway 16 with ITD representatives Aaron Bauges, ITD Planning Manager, Vincent Trimboli, ITD Program Manager and Jason Brinkman ITD District Engineer. Justin Walker reviewed the history of the project. Vincent Trimboli asked the Commissioners to discuss the concerns and desires of Gem County with regards to the project. Commissioner Wille stated that his concerns are with the increase in population, the 7000 house subdivision that will go in over the hill and people traveling north from that area to recreate. He feels that it should be a state highway bypass not a Gem county bypass project. Jason Brinkman said there is a process to determine state and county responsibilities that he feels we should start along with a traffic study to validate our assumptions of traffic patterns. Vincent suggested that the City be part of the discussion as we move forward. Jason suggested that ITD prepare a Draft Scope of Work to proceed with

the project and to determine what funds are available and how the city and county will be involved.

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

SWEET-MONTOUR CEMETERY DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE SERVICES ANNUAL

REPORT NON-COMPLIANCE: The Commissioners met with the Sweet-Montour Cemetery District members Kennie Lynn Klingback and Jane Dahlstrom to discuss the district's non-compliance with state reporting requirements. Kenny Lynn explained that the documentation was sent in but part of the document was not received. She said did not check her email and didn't realize the issue until last week. She believes the needed documentation has been submitted, but they have not received confirmation of compliance. Clerk Shelly Tilton reviewed Idaho Code regarding County Commissioner responsibilities with regards to districts that are non-compliant. It was verified that official notice has been provided to the county by the state of the district being non-compliant. Commissioner Butticci discussed the public notice is required to to be published in the local newspaper, the cost would be reimbursed by the Sweet-Montour Cemetery District. The Commissioners will check with Kennie Lynn and the state this week regarding compliance and then will determine what publication or other penalties are necessary and appropriate.

ADMINISTRATIVE TIME: The Commissioners worked on administrative matters.

January 23, 2024

Commissioner Butticci was absent from the meeting due to attendance at a Southwest District Health meeting.

US FOREST SERVICE UPDATE: John Wallace of the US Forest service, reported that they have a healthy agenda of projects in 2024. They have planned open houses in various locations to address questions from the public and communicate what the Forest Service has planned. He discussed projects at Sage Hen, Cartwright and Shady Ridge that will require rotating closures while work is completed. The Forest Service is working on outreach to educate the public and Cross Boundary Partnerships to coordinate with counties and build relationships to identify what communities need. Last year the Forest Service burned very few acres in Gem County because of timber and lumber sales. Last year the Idaho Conservation Core initiated a summer work

program for high school students to give them experience and education in forestry. They started with 1 crew and plan to have 2 crews next year from Emmett and Garden Valley. If that is a success they will branch out to other districts. Timber sales are expected to be high next year in Gem County. Commissioner Rekow asked about the vision for Cross Boundary Partnerships and Disaster Services, Jeff Ulmer's role. John described Jeff's role as a spokesman to get local land owners involved and introduce a program to thin their land protecting property from wild fire. Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps is concerned about residents in Ola that are not aware of what changes to expect with foresting projects, especially where traffic is concerned. Neal asked for more notice from the forest service so that residents can be notified and Road and Bridge can ensure gravel projects are completed prior to the high volume of trucks. John informed the Commissioners that he will be out of state for a portion of the year and will notify the Commissioners when a replacement has been assigned.

ADMINISTRATIVE TIME: The Commissioners worked on administrative matters.

The Board recessed at 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. on February 5th, 2024.

THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INVITATIONAL DINNER: Commissioner Butticci, Commissioner Rekow and Commissioner Wille attended the Community Schools Invitational Dinner.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk