



October 10, Emmett, Idaho

Pursuant to a recess taken on October 3, 2023, the Board of Commissioners of Gem County, Idaho, met in regular session this 10th day of October, 2023, 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:

October 10, 2023

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Wille to approve the agenda for Monday, October 9th and Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MATTERS: Deputy Prosecutor Tahja Jensen met with the Commissioners to discuss legal matters. Tahja discussed finalizing the Impact Fee agreement with the City of Emmett. Tahja discussed the extension of services agreement along Substation Road between the developer and the city. That topic is on the agenda for the meeting tonight with the city. The Idaho Hospital Authority is finalizing the lease/lease back agreement.

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY 16, 44 & 52 ENVIROMENTAL RE-EVALUATION PROJECT: Mark Wazzel, Ben Burk and Kate Wallace of the Idaho Transportation Department met with the Commissioner to discuss the Environmental Re-evaluation Project for State Highways 16, 44 and 52. The last evaluation was done in 2004. It is outdated and is currently being re-evaluated with a goal for final approval in the summer of 2025. Mark Wazzell stated that currently, Highway 16 is being developed in 3 separate projects to extend between Highway 44 and Interstate 84. Commissioner Butticci expressed the concerns of the county regarding the roads. He discussed the increase in accidents and fatalities on Highway 16 stating that the truck passing lane heading south up the hill is short and dangerous. He also pointed out that Highway 16 near Firebird Raceway needs better turn lanes. Commissioner Rekow suggested slow lanes for trucks on Highway 16. Deputy Prosecutor Tahja Jensen said that many of

the accidents are at Cherry Lane where it is difficult to go out onto the 16 for residence commuting from the subdivision to the north. The Commissioners discussed the need for a Bypass road to alleviate traffic through town. Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps mentioned that Keller and Associates that is looking into options for the bypass road. Commissioner Rekow pointed out that it is getting more difficult to plan a bypass road with the increase in development. Tahja stated that there is a terrible issue when there is an accident on Highway 16 because there is only one way in and out of Emmett over freezeout. Neal is looking for a way to stream line road closures and a place to redirect traffic. Commissioner Butticci stated that a third lane up the hill would alleviate detours. He also asked about the Eagle Rodeo that was held on Highway 16 this year and commented on the mess it caused. Commuters were backed up to Chinden and terribly inconvenienced. The ITD staff discussed the possibility of an overpass at the Avimor development on Highway 16. ITD announced that they will host a public meeting on Wednesday, December 6th to hear comments and suggestions from the public. Tahja stated concern for the corridor in front of Albertsons and the commercial development that is expected there, as well as the High School that brings minor drivers. Commissioner Wille mentioned that if Highway 16 becomes a four-lane, development will increase exponentially. Neal said that there is a Safety Improvement Grant in the works near Mill road to 52. Road and Bridge is also researching the possibility of a turn lane at Bowman Road and solutions to the intersection at Tom's Cabin.

CONSENT AGENDA: A. Idaho Transportation Department Office of Highway Safety Traffic Enforcement Grant Project Agreement (TEGPA) B. DMB Investments LLC Development Agreement C. Payroll Claims Approval for 10/6/23 D. Avimor Road Maintenance Agreement.

Commissioner Rekow made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 items A. through D. as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The review of the minutes will be postponed until next week.

PUBLIC WALK-IN: Dale Frost believes that EMS has overbilled him. Initially at the time of service EMS said it was free and Mr. Frost gave the drivers a tip. (This was later discussed with the EMS Director and Lead Paramedic and found that Mr. Frost made a donation to the department Christmas Party fund rather

than tips to the EMTs.) After 5 visits to Mr. Frost's home, EMS said that they would have to bill him. The last visit was on March 29, 2022. He feels that the bill has overstated mileage. Mr. Frost also stated that the people on the phone with the EMS billing service were rude. Commissioner Butticci said that insurance should cover part of the cost and that the Commissioners would reach out to the EMS department to work with Mr. Frost.

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.

DEPARTMENTS HEADS: Commissioner Butticci advised department heads that Building and Grounds Supervisor Chuck Shambaugh has a new pager number. He also notified department heads of the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) and the Family Medical Leave Act(FMLA) compliance training that will be held at the next department head meeting in November. Weed Control Supervisor Larry Shippy said that the new building is about two weeks away from completion. No one has been hired to replace the part-time position that has been vacated. He has concerns that it will be a difficult position to fill and is feeling the strain of being shorthanded. The weed crew has been spraying as much as possible before the cold weather. Juvenile Probation Director Shannon Carter and two other staff members went to the Idaho Juvenile Justice Conference and said it was very informative. There are 49 juveniles currently in the system which is the highest Gem County has seen. The new late hours during the week are working out really well for parents to get help with paperwork and be involved in the process. Shannon is working with Information Technology(IT) to get the new electronic notebooks to access the system remotely. Information Technology Director Corbin Vickery stated that he is working on updating servers and getting security cameras at the Island and the Skate Park. There is no power at the skate park so they are working on a cost-effective way of getting power to the cameras, possibly solar. Corbin is also working on getting Road and Bridge and the Weed Department onto the county network so they can share our resources. The new laptops at Juvenile Probation require domain accounts and network permissions is being established for the sheriffs. IT services toured the network racks at the Emergency Operations Center(EOC) and were very impressed. It should be a great option as an alternate site for the dispatch center and backup servers because they have

infrastructure in place including generators. We have a signed arrangement with EOC already in place. Back up to the cloud is also an option, but not ideal. Disaster Services Manager Jeff Ulmer reviewed various emergency exercises that are scheduled, including a multi-agency exercise in place involving Valor health and The Great Shakeout. Jeff stated that on September 26th Disaster Services had an exercise that involved IT setting up and testing laptops and software with the EOC and it was very informative and successful. Jeff will attend the Conference for Emergency Management at the end of October. Commissioner Wille asked if there are any updates on connectivity in Ola for emergency services? Corbin said there are no updates. We have access to the school's system but are currently looking for other options for our own network. Commissioner Wille stressed the importance of having a system in the interim until a permanent solution is found. Corbin mentioned Starlink as a temporary solution. The Commissioners asked Jeff to contact Road and Bridge Supervisor Neal Capps for landing pad coordinates to share with life flight.

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

INTERVIEW WITH SUSAN MORGAN FOR THE HOSPITAL BOARD: The Commissioners interviewed Susan Morgan for the Valor Health Board.

EMS/AMBULANCE RATES AND RATE NEGOTIATION DISCUSSION: Linda Jones with OccuNet contacted the Commissioners to request that the Gem County EMS policy be adjusted to allow negotiation of rates established rate can be established for service self-funded policies. Commissioner Butticci asked for input from Fire District #1 Chief Mike Welch and EMS Lead Paramedic Len McCaulou. Len stated that the Gem County rates are standardized and set to cover costs, negotiating would make it difficult for budgeting as well as absorbing the amount that would be shifted. Len stated that rates are average when compared to other service providers in our area and that rates are negotiated for one major insurance provider at this time. Commissioner Rekow said that he is not in favor of offering a negotiated rate. Len mentioned that he has researched an application process for assistance for those that fall into the low income/poverty level. The Commissioners are interested in researching the option for low income assistance but are not inclined to negotiate a rate at this time. They will respond to OccuNet.

Commissioner Butticci asked Len and Mike if they were familiar with Dale Frost who came in during Public Walk-In.

They are familiar with him and his situation and will assist him in finding a solution.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BIG SKY ESTATES FINAL PLAT: Commissioner Butticci discussed the Big Sky Estates Final Plat. He has spoken with Development Services Director Jennifer Kharrrl and said all conditions have been met and any issues have been worked out with neighbors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rekow to approve the Big Sky Estates Final Plat as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Wille and carried unanimously.

INDIGENT APPLICATION - EXECUTIVE SESSION PER IDAHO CODE 74-206(1) (D) - INDIGENT MATTERS: At 3:00 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)(d) Indigent Matters with a roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Rekow, aye, Commissioner Wille, aye, Commissioner Butticci, aye.

Regular session reconvened at 3:11 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butticci to deny request #2024-1 for utility assistance. It was seconded by Commissioner Rekow and carried unanimously.

INTERVIEW WITH MATTHEW TUCKER FOR THE HOSPITAL BOARD: The Commissioners interviewed Matthew Tucker for the Valor Health Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE TIME: The Commissioners worked on administrative matters.

JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING: The Commissioners attended a Joint City/County meeting at Emmett City Hall. Topics discussed included the Idaho Transportation Department Environmental Plan, an update on the development of city services in the area of Substation Road and Highway 16 and the frequency and location of joint city/county meetings.

The Board recessed at 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. on October 16th, 2023.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk