

*****Monday, April 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.,** Commissioners met in regular session with Chairman Dan Dinning, Commissioner LeAlan Pinkerton, Commissioner Walt Kirby, Clerk Glenda Poston, and Deputy Clerk Michelle Rohrwasser.

Blue Sky Broadcasting Reporter Mike Brown was in attendance of the meetings on and off throughout the day.

Commissioners gave the opening invocation and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assessor Dave Ryals joined the meeting.

9:00 a.m., Road and Bridge Superintendent Jeff Gutshall joined the meeting. Mr. Gutshall did not present a written report. Mr. Gutshall said he is going to put the bucket on the excavator again in order to dig a test hole in the county property next to the landfill for sand before submitting an application to the Idaho Department of Lands. This property is currently leased to Thomas Iverson of T&T Farms for farming purposes. Mr. Gutshall said he would get in touch with Ty Iverson.

Mr. Gutshall said he was watching Bonner County's bid for road oils and it was awarded to Idaho Asphalt, who has also agreed to a piggyback bid if that is what Boundary County chooses to do. Western States Asphalt has contacted Mr. Gutshall about costs and indicated to Mr. Gutshall that if Boundary County were to go to bid, the county would probably get the best price of the year at this point. The county can still decide to go with a piggyback bid if higher bids come in from advertising.

Commissioner Kirby moved to go out for bids for road oil. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gutshall discussed starting wages with Commissioners and he said one issue that came out of a discussion he had was that if he has a mechanic or operator who is not in a training situation, they should be getting the same rate of pay as other employees. Mr. Gutshall said Road and Bridge employee Terry Johnson said before the county switched to a Job Classification Committee the county used a grade table, and at that time if an employee was hired, they were at a probationary wage for six months and after the six months the employee was paid more. There had been rewards for longevity. Mr. Gutshall said that is what throws a lot of inequity into the picture. If someone was fully qualified for the job, they should get paid what everyone else who does the same thing is getting paid and then there is an award for longevity, but it may make things a lot less complicated to make it like vacation time. After five years of service an employee would get a certain pay increase. Clerk Poston said going back approximately 12 years the starting wage was not increased at the same time other wages were increased so that is also hurting the system. Chairman Dinning said for the good of the county we want to hire and retain qualified applicants right off the bat. In a lot of respects you get what you pay for. Now that Road and Bridge has Secure Rural School funds it is a good time to make that investment.

Assessor Ryals said he agrees with Mr. Gutshall is saying and his only comment is that it is twofold. The county has to get the starting wage increased, but if you have a good employee, that employee won't stay at their job if everyone is catching up to him or her. Mr. Gutshall said he would propose the longevity differential. Mr. Gutshall said he thinks this can be done in simple budgeting. Assessor Ryals said there are still some positions in which the employee who has been employed with the county one or two years still won't know as much as the employee who has been on the job five years. Assessor

Ryals said he agrees that the starting wages need to increase. Mr. Gutshall said his mechanics and operators should be receiving the same pay.

Chairman Dinning said this discussion is informational for Commissioners at this point.

Mr. Arthur said the differential creates motivational issue between employees. Mr. Arthur mentioned that a new employee had been hired who had come with a lot of certificates for training he had gone through and after three years this employee is still low on the list. Clerk Poston said she is working on her budget and has to use numbers that will fit within the budget. Clerk Poston said she arbitrarily bumped up starting wages and provided for a cost of living increase in order to see how it worked within the budget. Clerk Poston said she, too, has a hard time finding new employees at the current starting wage although the applicants most likely don't think about the benefits that Boundary County pays for. These changes cannot be done all in one year. Mr. Gutshall questioned why this cannot be done in one year. Clerk Poston said there is not enough funds to do that. Clerk Poston said the county is getting close to budget time and this conversation needs to happen over a long period of time. Chairman Dinning said Commissioners will generally look over these details.

Those present discussed the issue of longevity at the Restorium. Clerk Poston said that is something the Restorium doesn't have. Mr. Gutshall said take an employees' years of service, plug in a number to come up with a base wage in order to do just a mock up.

The meeting with Mr. Gutshall ended at 9:30 a.m. Assessor Ryals left the meeting.

Commissioners contacted County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull via telephone at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Dinning asked Attorney Hull about the easement termination agreement for the easement lease requested by the Idaho Department of Lands. Commissioners will review the lease.

As it pertains to the video surveillance contract with Jacob Bushnell Consulting, it has been the understanding that the equipment is owned by the county, according to Chairman Dinning. Attorney Hull said he hasn't researched this, but he questioned part of the agreement being excluded from public knowledge for security reasons, such as camera placement, etc. Someone might be able to maneuver around the cameras to areas not covered by the system. Attorney Hull said the type of cameras used, scope of areas covered and the number of pixels should be sealed from the public. Attorney Hull said he could draft an amendment.

Commissioners and Attorney Hull discussed a matter regarding a city ordinance and Attorney Hull responded to Commissioners' question in that this could affect the county budget.

Commissioner Kirby informed Attorney Hull the Restorium Administrator would like to remove a cabinet and a non-load bearing wall in order to gain additional space in the hair care room. A quote came in from a couple different contractors and they were both too high. The county can use its own employees as we have a former sheet-rocker at the Restorium and a good carpenter, John Buckley, who works at the Courthouse. Commissioner Kirby said the Restorium Board asked if they could utilize Mr. Buckley at a good cost to the county and is that something the county can legally do. Attorney Hull suggested rejecting the bids that have been provided. The employees doing the work will be paid and this is in the scope of employment so he doesn't see any problem at all. This project is something that has to work within Mr. Buckley's schedule.

Chairman Dinning said he doesn't know if the discussion with Planning and Zoning Administrator John Moss regarding Mountain Mafia Entertainment should be held with Commissioners as it may be an application that will come before Commissioners at a later date. Attorney Hull agreed that Commissioners should not have the discussion. Attorney Hull said he had briefly met with the representatives of Mountain Mafia Entertainment and he asked if they were still being represented by an attorney. Being that they are still represented by an attorney, Attorney Hull said he attempted to contact that attorney to get permission to talk to his clients, but he couldn't make contact. Attorney Hull said until he speaks to Mountain Mafia Entertainment's attorney, it would be inappropriate to talk with the representatives from Mountain Mafia Entertainment.

Attorney Hull said his Professional Services Agreement with the County Commissioners has been renewed by motion, but he still needs to draft the new contract.

9:50 a.m., Gini Woodward joined the meeting.

The call with Attorney Hull ended at 9:51 a.m.

Commissioner Kirby moved to approve the minutes of April 13 & 14, 2015. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners addressed Ms. Woodward's request for Commissioners to declare May as Mental Health Month.

Commissioner Kirby moved to declare May as Mental Health Month. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woodward spoke of various mental health issues. Currently people on mental holds are taken to a mental health facility for Region 1. Ms. Woodward spoke of local obstacles such as not having a Department of Health and Welfare Office available, instances when the affected person is not receiving the type of treatment they need and is released, and lack of housing. Transitional housing is needed for people who don't have to stay in a hospital, but are also not quite ready to stay in their own home.

The meeting with Ms. Woodward ended at 11:15 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to approve the Certificate of Residency forms for M. Fioravanti and C. Moore. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

10:33 a.m., Planning and Zoning Administrator John Moss joined the meeting.

Chairman Dinning informed Mr. Moss that Commissioners are not able to speak with him about Mountain Mafia Entertainment until County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull has looked into the matter.

Mr. Moss mentioned discussions he has been involved in regarding the flood plain ordinance. Mr. Moss said he has gotten the county flood plan to a satisfactory level with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As far as the Planning and Zoning Commission, they wanted to have zero feet of freeboard and FEMA prefers two feet of freeboard, but agreed that one foot of freeboard would be acceptable. Chairman Dinning said there is a base flood elevation. If the county were to put the base flood elevation at a level one, the base floor elevation of a structure would have to be above that. There

is a difference between one foot and two feet as insurance is less expensive at two feet. The additional cost of having two feet of freeboard is offset by the reduction in insurance costs and would be offset in a period of time, according to Mr. Moss. Chairman Dinning asked Mr. Moss if he could obtain that cost. Mr. Moss said this pertains only to new development, not existing structures. If there is any construction going on in a commercial area, the building has to be flood proofed. Mr. Moss said the first half of the packet of information he has provided Commissioners with is the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the second half is 20 sections of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the changes. This matter is something Commissioners will hold a public hearing on. Mr. Moss said one FEMA requirement was that plan was to be in place by May 22nd, but Mr. Moss said he told them he doesn't know if the county would have time to get through the hearings. The publications require approximately one month prior to the hearing.

The meeting with Mr. Moss ended at 10:49 a.m.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

11:34 a.m., Shane Robinson with United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services joined the meeting to provide Commissioners with an update on this program. Mr. Robinson said the number of coyotes is down in a lot of areas. Two mountain lions were removed last fall, according to Mr. Robinson. One lion was near the old highway and it was killing chickens. The property owner living at this location also has small children. Another mountain lion was killing goats near the Montana border. Mr. Robinson said his report just pertains to Boundary County and consists of one calendar year. Mr. Robinson spoke of various instances of mountain lion kills.

Mr. Robinson said he has not confirmed any wolf kills in Boundary County this year and he added that hunting and trapping has helped keep the numbers down. A snare trap cannot be used in grizzly bear habitat from March through November, according to Mr. Robinson.

Commissioners said they were in favor of continuing to fund Mr. Robinson's program. Mr. Robinson said he is restricted on what he is able to do in the Grass Creek area and the Forest Service is restricted as well. Chairman Dinning spoke of there being three packs wolves in Canada, but one pack has been eliminated. Mr. Robinson said he had heard about Canadians being authorized to fly over the United States/Canadian border to kill wolves, but then he heard that had been stopped.

Mr. Robinson said with more funding, the United States Department of Agriculture may hire four additional wolf trappers.

The meeting with Mr. Robinson ended at 12:02 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

DAN R. DINNING, Chairman

ATTEST:

GLENDIA POSTON, Clerk
By: Michelle Rohrwasser, Deputy Clerk

April 27 & 28, 2015

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