

**Special Jefferson County Commissioner Meeting
January 4, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 9:00. Those present are Commissioner Farnsworth, Commissioner Hancock, Chairman Raymond, Planning & Zoning Naysha Foster, Public Works Dave Walrath, Weed Department Mitch Whitmill, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Pledge given by Commissioner Farnsworth. Prayer offered by Chairman Raymond.

West Side – Jeff Siddoway

• **West Side Citizens Group**

[9:03:29 AM](#) Jeff Siddoway - 1764 E 1200 N, Terreton, ID. Jeff is a State Senator for District #35 that includes Jefferson, Fremont, Clark and Butte Counties. Last spring after the legislative session three constituents had asked Representative Romrell, Representative Burtenshaw and Senator Brent Hill to attend a meeting to split the county. Jeff says they had listened to their proposal. Kent Miskin is in the audience today who was a part of this meeting. No commitments were made in this meeting. Had several other meetings held in the ACL building in Terreton. The discussion was conducted by Ken Hall on how to proceed with splitting the county. Had been asked what the legislators thought of the proposal to split. Jeff was opposed to splitting the county at that time as well as Representative Burtenshaw.

[9:06:30 AM](#) Before the meeting was over Jeff had asked folks in the audience what they were upset about. The majority of the issues are maintenance and lack of paved roads in the western part of the county. The other issue is some Planning & Zoning issue. Mr. Miskin had called Jeff for a meeting again Jeff had told Mr. Miskin why he was not in favor of this. His analogy is of his sheep business. He runs 10,000 head of sheep has sixteen men that work these sheep. Goes over if he has two guys that cannot get along he would have to build another facility, get more equipment and also hire more men. Jeff does not see the savings. The county could be split and they could afford this but unsure if the levies would change. Representative Burtenshaw had concerned about what the levies were and if these would go up.

[9:09:18 AM](#) Jeff asked during this meeting if anyone had met with the commissioners about their concerns. Suggested coming up with ideas to bring forward. Had seventy to eighty people in this meeting and no one had come to the commissioners with a complaint or a plan. Jeff pledged that he would draft a bill for this upcoming legislative session. Representative Burtenshaw and Representative Romrell have been sent this draft and that is as far as it has gone. Will share this draft with anyone who wants to see it.

[9:12:10 AM](#) Had told Mr. Miskin that he would come to the commission to try and influence them to spend some more money in the west side of the county. Since 2008 Jeff realizes that things have gotten tough financially. Understands that the cost of gas and asphalt has increased. Realizes the pressure of the costs. Jeff is one of the few guys out there that would support an increased levy to help with the roads. Knows the citizens already feel they are paying more than their fair share of taxes and don't have as many paved roads.

[9:14:42 AM](#) Jeff proposes to come up with a plan and start paving a little bit each year. Start with the roads that are used the most first. Chairman Raymond had spoken with him on the Planning & Zoning had already been taken care of building on their corners. Jeff does not know what the specific changes are.

[9:16:01 AM](#) Chairman Raymond mentions that Representative Burtenshaw will likely be here sometime later in the meeting. Chairman Raymond goes over the three meetings that were held on this issue. Had a meeting in Hamer, Monteview and Terreton. Chairman Raymond attended the meetings in Hamer and Monteview and Commissioner Hancock attended the meeting in Terreton. Chairman Raymond says the west side is the district he lives in. Feels like as a commissioner he has not been perfect but has tried to listen to all of the concerns they have on roads. Other commissioners also are responsive to calls they receive in their districts. They are aware have been responsive trying to handle these concerns. Chairman Raymond says he spent most of Saturday driving in the west side to look at the roads to help address this concern. While the roads are not perfect his travels took him through Fremont and Madison County and the road conditions were similar. May need to re-evaluate this once the snow is gone.

[9:19:58 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentions that he has addressed making an advisory group for the west side. Has this ready to start has four individuals who are ready to participate in this group. The idea is to sit down with Dave and plan what they can dedicate to the west side. Three have already agreed to participate trying to have an individual from Monteview, Hammer, Terreton/Mud Lake and then one from any area. Thinks this can be started this month. Need to know that if the money was there they would pave more but they have to consider what funds they have. Also need to understand how much paving will cost.

[9:23:14 AM](#) Public Works Dave Walrath come up to speak. Dave says that over the past year on the west side roads they have done eight miles of chip sealing. County wide they did twenty-one lane miles. Did a blade overlay of around twenty-one miles in Hamer. Had around 3,500 tons of chips out in the Monteview area. Have done shoulder work out in Hamer and Mud Lake. Did around 1,000 miles of grading on the gravel roads. Have been doing the mag chloride treatments to help with the maintenance. Have four employees

that work out of the Terreton area. Discuss highway user fees had received less than two million expects to get half million additional this year due to increased fuel costs and registration.

[9:27:09 AM](#) Discuss cost of oil. Dave thinks this problem is universal are actually turning paved roads back to gravel. So the notion of paving roads right now is farfetched. When a lot of these were paved in was \$0.10 a gallon is over \$2 a gallon now.

[9:28:28 AM](#) Before when roads were being paved this was a waste project they were giving it away since they didn't want to deal with. Go over costs. They are struggling just maintaining the paved roads they have. It is a universal issue. Do try to keep the gravel roads as good as they can. They are going to be rough during the dry time.

[9:30:08 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock asks estimated cost of BST for one mile? Dave said around \$50,000 for one mile. Then you are neglecting the paved roads already out there that are falling apart. Biggest tool now is chip sealing. If they can chip seal a road before it needs to be rebuilt this will buy them five to six years. Hot in place recycle project is \$65,000 a mile, would be looking at \$80,000 after doing an inch overlay. Dave goes over what the hot in place recycle process is. Can only do this process with four inches of plant mix or less. Dave personally has never done a hot in place project; he has done a cold in place project.

[9:34:25 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth says one mile is roughly \$50,000 is this to handle heavy traffic. Dave says BST is not meant to handle a lot of heavy traffic. Commissioner Farnsworth's concern is with all the heavy equipment, truck traffic the BST road will not last. Dave says they do have some BST roads out there. Dave said they do not have a paver and a lot of counties are similar in that aspect. Crews are putting overlays on with a grader or building BST roads. Chairman Raymond asks Senator Siddoway if he has any questions for Dave.

[9:36:17 AM](#) Jeff says that have some different priorities out in the west side. Jeff says on hauling of the sand does not feel that should be the county's responsibility. Could put this off onto the farmers and ranchers that are having this take place. Jeff does not feel this is a high priority. Dave says they do this as a maintenance issue with the road where they don't have a place for water to run off of the road. Had hauled this to the slope on Highway 33. Discuss ways to help stop the sand from blowing.

[9:39:15 AM](#) Jeff says sometimes they want to farm from fence post to fence post. If the farmers realized they had an obligation to take care of this since they have the equipment to take care of this issue.

[9:40:55 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentions this advisory committee will be able to help so they can receive input on these situations. Dave thinks that if they can acquire a lay down machine that they have talked about. They will be able to start doing some paving once they can get caught up on the maintenance of existing roads.

[9:41:52 AM](#) Jeff says six to eight years ago his neighbor had partnered up with the county to put in some pavement. Was told that this was no longer available when Jeff wanted the opportunity. If the land owner would put up half and the county would pay half. Believes there were years when this was an opportunity was wondering why this was discontinued. Dave is unaware of this program. Chairman Raymond said this was going on and for legal reasons this money was reimbursed to the land owners. With the law it is hard to co-mingle money. Dave goes over subdivisions have to be up to county specs then are dedicated to the county.

[9:45:46 AM](#) Dave does look forward to being part of this committee. Communication is key. Mentions he had contacted the code enforcer sixteen times because of water on the roads. Nothing destroys a road faster than having water saturating the roads. Dave wants to work with the landowners to help minimize the damage of water on the roads.

[9:47:13 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock asks about the amount of the total road & Bridge budget that gets spent on the west side would be 30% to 40%. Did chip sealing and overlaying. Planning on doing an overlay on 2600 this road gets a lot of traffic. Have four full-time employees out at the landfill.

[9:49:00 AM](#) Chairman Raymond mentions that he was not being defensive on responding to the citizens in the west side. They will dig in and try and help them out. Commissioner Farnsworth said they address these calls as soon as they come.

[9:50:35 AM](#) Kent Miskin-1556 N 1000 E Terreton, ID. Kent feels that pavement is not always the issue. Some are only graded maybe once a year. He lives on a paved road but when it rains or the sprinklers hit this water sits in the middle of the road. They are not crowned very well his road is very flat and down in the center. The gravel of Jeff's road was crowned and as soon as they hit the asphalt it flattens out. The roads do get hit by the sprinklers. The way the roads are built they hold onto the water. Knows when it's dry it's hard to grade roads. Kent thinks some good gravel would add to the improvement and make the dust not fly off. Agrees that sand hauling should be the responsibility of the farmers. Had once seen nine county trucks involved and he believes they could have been reduced to only two trucks. Thinks they are on the right track with getting a committee together.

[9:57:33 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock goes over ways to fix roads.

[9:59:54 AM](#) Kent brings up that on the west side he knows there are a lot of roads. Kent discusses roads in other areas of the county. When they see money spent in the other side of the county on paved roads less than 300 yards apart it's frustrating. Some say going over on the east side can't find a dirt road; on the west side can't find a paved road.

[10:04:37 AM](#) Had met with commissioners when he was with the fair board. Was told they couldn't find funds in previous years because they had to pay off the courthouse then would put money into this the next year. He is not blaming current commissioners. Just seems to always get put off. Chairman Raymond says he understands hollow words.

[10:05:58 AM](#) Chairman Raymond asks about any Planning & Zoning issues. Thought these had been addressed. Kent was not really involved in that. He has heard around that they can now divide off one acre for a home for a relative if they choose. Chairman Raymond says they have resolved this issue on September 14, 2015 the text of the ordinance was changed. They do have three Planning & Zoning commissioners from the west side. Any additional problems with that they do have Chairman Raymond would suggest going to the Planning & Zoning board.

[10:08:33 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock wants everyone to know they are concerned about their needs. Will give them their fullest attention.

[10:09:12 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to adjourn at 10:09. Second by Commissioner Hancock. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.**

Chairman of the Board

Clerk of the Board

County Clerk