

**Jefferson County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 9:00. Those present are Commissioner Farnsworth, Commissioner Hancock, Chairman Raymond, HR/Emergency Management/Park & Rec. /Commissioner Assistant Rebecca Squires, Sheriff Steve Anderson, Deputy Mike Miller, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Pledge given by Colleen Poole. Prayer offered by Mike Miller.

Sheriff's Office – Mike Miller

• **Homeland Security**

[9:01:12 AM](#) Mike Miller is here for the 911 radios. Have been using Homeland Security Network to link their radios with Bonneville, Madison, Fremont and Clark. This is a yearly agreement have to pay a user fee monthly and they take care of the maintenance. Now with the fiber being installed will move toward linking radios through Fremont Telco. This is the only connection they have for now and will keep this to be used for backup. Commissioner Hancock asks if this agreement has changed any. Same agreement with a different year and a 2% increase each year.

[9:03:26 AM](#) **Robin Dunn is here.**

[9:03:29 AM](#) Mike explains since this is a contract he needed to come before the board to sign. This has been the main line for years will switch to Fremont Telco who will eventually be the main carrier. This contract will be held for backup services. Only problem is sometimes Homeland Security did not let them know when would be down for maintenance. Feel that Fremont Telco will be more consistent will still need a backup system. Mike mentions the fiber is up and running for the phone lines all of this is switched over and seems to be working well.

[9:07:03 AM](#) Robin asks about the 2% increase go over this says the contract is straightforward. Mike believes they add around \$2 a year. Mike says they have been using this for years just need the renewal signed.

[9:07:29 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Hancock to accept Memorandum of Agreement between Idaho Military Division and Eastern Idaho Interagency Data Network (EIIDN). Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:09:19 AM](#) Recess

Open session at 9:10

Keller Williams Realtor – Kevin Murray

• **Lack of Zoning for Mobile Home Parks**

Canceled appointment will reschedule.

Planning & Zoning – Naysha Foster

• **Discussion on Flood Plain Training**

[9:11:01 AM](#) Naysha is here on March 22 from 8:30 to 4:30 in the Commissioner Meeting Room will be holding some flood plain training. The handout has the topics that will be discussed. Anyone can attend this it will be open to the public. Chairman Raymond asks to publicize this so others are aware. Will have Rebecca put this on the county website. Naysha said they did have eleven residential permits in a flood plain last year. Naysha will be asking that builders and surveyors come and get some education. March 23 will be their community assistant review. Naysha has everything ready for this.

[9:12:34 AM](#) Recess

Open session at 9:14

[9:15:36 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Hancock to amend agenda and move executive session 74-206 (B) -Personnel and executive session 74-206 (F) – Legal up. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

Attorney – Robin Dunn

• **Executive Session 74-206 (F) - Legal**

[9:15:59 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to move into executive session 74-206 (F) – Legal. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

Open session at 9:41

[9:41:26 AM](#) Updated on pending legal issues.

[9:42:17 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Hancock to ask their Attorney Robin Dunn to issue a letter to Cable One for record of termination on account. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

Commissioners

- Executive Session 74-206 (B) – Personnel

[9:43:03 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to go into executive session 74-206 (B) – Personnel. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

Open session 10:06

[10:06:46 AM](#) Discussed personnel. No decision made and no action taken.

Weed Department – Mitch Whitmill

- Review Construction Plan for Shed Over Loading Bay

[10:07:06 AM](#) Mitch gives the commissioners a plan for a shed over the loading and mixing bay. Mitch says the chemical they use needs to be contained. This loading bay has a trap door for spills. Had installed the concrete pad last year. Did put this in the budget to get this area covered. This is necessary so the rain does not become a problem. Mitch has a bid from Yellowstone Lumber and BMC West. They were given the plans to get the bids for materials.

[10:10:52 AM](#) Mitch feels to have someone else construct this would cost too much. Feel they have a month's time to have his crew and himself construct this.

[10:11:23 AM](#) Bid from BMC West for material including roofing for a 25X40 structure is \$4,102.43. Yellowstone Lumber's bid is \$5,437.28. Provided these plans to the building department as well as the City of Roberts. They have no issues. Did have engineering standard on the beams as well as the BCI and TGI structures.

[10:12:30 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock asks about existing wall how are they going to connect. Mitch says there is a plate that will go through the cinderblock wall. This wall has ball beam and rebar through it. Mitch said they have not had any issue with the plans. Commissioner Hancock asks Mitch if he plans to completely enclose this in the future.

[10:17:12 AM](#) Mitch says they may possibly cover the other side of this in the future. Mitch brings up a possible chemical containment room may be put out in this area at some point in the future. Have considered this in the long term plan.

[10:18:53 AM](#) Go over the budget for the Weed Department. Have put in 1/3 of their budget in their trust. In the capital building line of the budget has around \$8,000. Mitch had budgeted \$6,500 for this project.

[10:20:27 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to approve material bid of \$4,102.43 for BMC West for the Weed Department. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

Public Works – Dave Walrath

- Proposed Policy for 129,000 Pound Routes

[10:21:58 AM](#) Dave mentions the State is now allowing 129,000 pounds on the Interstate this has been approved. The way the legislation reads is that if the hauler comes to an entity with this much weight there has to be some type of investigation done on how to handle the roads. ITD has said that counties that do not have a policy in place will be responsible to do some type of investigation. To avoid that the law reads if the county has a policy in place it puts the burden on the hauler to do the investigation. Dave wants to propose to have a policy on this so the hauler will have to hire an engineer and possibly do a core drilling. May be unlikely but since the State has approved this these problems may arise. Several counties have already implemented a policy. Especially counties that are adjacent to I-15, Highway 33 and some of Highway 20.

[10:25:55 AM](#) Dave had Paragon put together a policy for the commissioners to review.

[10:26:20 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock said he is on a Transportation Committee. Goes over they had discussed these limits in a meeting. Commissioner Hancock says there is money available out there to help upgrade county roads. Dave was not aware of this. Bring up county line road have Anheuser-Bush on one end and the grain elevators on the other end.

[10:27:28 AM](#) Dave says on county line has a lot of accesses. Commissioner Hancock thinks the same as Highway 48. Dave mentions they have limited speed on county line due to all of the accesses and accidents. Commissioner Hancock said they had a term for this rural freight corner. Dave said this is good to know he tries to stay away from Federal money because there are a lot of strings attached.

- **Discuss Equipment and Vehicles**

[10:28:42 AM](#) Dave is also here for a budgeted new sign truck. Have a state bid for the truck from Smith Chevrolet and a bid for the bed. The sign pickup they have currently will be taken to the landfill to help move the trailer from Circular Butte landfill. Looking at maybe splitting the extra cost of this vehicle with the landfill.

[10:30:16 AM](#) Dave says the total will be looking at around \$49,000. Colleen mentions in Road & Bridge vehicle line have budgeted \$46,000. Dave goes over what will be included on this flatbed will have compartments to help hold signs. The company for the flat bed bid is through Smith Chevrolet. Have a Duramax now which has been a good vehicle it currently has over 300,000 miles on it.

[10:34:58 AM](#) Dave mentions did look at the bid numbers on the web link the Fords and Chevys were similar prices. Commissioner Hancock asks about what the transfer amount between Road & Bridge and Solid Waste will be. Dave feels just the difference of what he had budget for. Commissioner Hancock says would be around \$3,000. The landfill will not be putting as many miles on this truck. Discuss another bid on the bed of the truck.

[10:35:44 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to approve the purchase of a 2016 Chevy Silverado for \$32,619.71 for Road & Bridge. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

- **Snow Removal Policy**

[10:38:28 AM](#) Had received a complaint from Deputy Melanese about people pushing snow into the road. They do have an ordinance against putting snow in the road and right-of-ways. This turns into a barricade and causes problems if not immediately plowed. The concern is on how they would enforce this. Were wondering if they needed something to connect the ordinance and the snow removal policy.

[10:39:52 AM](#) Dave reads from the ordinance No. 09-03 - Obstruction upon a County Road: A. Any person or firm, business, or corporation shall be prohibited from obstructing, injuring or damaging a County road, right-of-way, easement/ street or highway, by moving or causing to be moved, pushed, or plowed across any County maintained public road, street or highway. Any debris dropped or spilled on a county road that may cause damages or injuries to other motorists or pedestrians are also prohibited. Some examples include, but not limited to hay bales, straw bales, rocks, beets, potatoes, excessive manure that may create a slick surface, snow and hazardous liquids.

[10:41:51 AM](#) Can the Sheriff's department enforce the snow ordinance? Robin says usually they have warned people. The issue comes down to the penalty. Chairman Raymond asks if they have enough authority. Dave mentions had been asked about mentioning the snow removal policy in the ordinance. Goes over the ordinance.

[10:43:50 AM](#) Chairman Raymond suggests that Public Works Administrator, Planning & Zoning department head, the Sheriff and Legal counsel work on this issue.

[10:45:28 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth asks where the snow policy had come from. Dave says this ordinance was used in other counties and was adopted years ago. Commissioner Farnsworth feels it was a dig at him since he had texted the supervisor about the snow plows and then this policy was brought into the very next meeting. Dave says he feels he should have been contacted not the supervisor about the issue. Commissioner Farnsworth mentions that he had six calls from citizens wanting to know when the plows would be out since the state plows were already out. Dave feels sometimes it's better to wait the storm out and hit the roads early in the morning. Feels sometimes he has to judge if it's worth sending out the crew or not. Dave may have been complacent with this policy with the mild winters they have had. This should have been brought forward sooner.

[10:49:06 AM](#) To reduce comp time will be looking at sending crews home this week that are in the 50 to 60 hour comp time range. With the warmer temperatures will also be able to slush some of the snow off of the roads. Commissioner Farnsworth was not disagreeing with the policy he just wanted to know when the plows would be out so he could tell those calling him.

- **Executive Session 74-206 (B) – Personnel**

[10:50:56 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to go into executive session 74-206 (B) – Personnel. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

Open session at 11:04

[11:04:38 AM](#) Discussed personnel issue with Public Works administrator. No decision made and no action taken.

Kathryn Hitch – (Senator Crapo's Office)

Amy Taylor – (Senator Risch's Office)

Ethan Huffman – (Congressman Simpson's Office)

- **Updates**

[11:05:34 AM](#) Kathryn Hitch with Senator Crapos's Office, Amy Taylor from Senator Risch's Office and Ethan Huffman from Congressman Simpson's Office. These individuals work in the region.

[11:06:23 AM](#) Amy has a pamphlet showing their constituent services that each office provides. As federal issues come up they are here as a reference for those issues. Ethan mentions are also here to help others when they feel they are having federal issues.

[11:07:20 AM](#) Kathryn asks of any issues that they would like to discuss. Commissioner Hancock mentions his concerns are the sage grouse and what the EPA is doing on the clean water act. There had been a bill placed to do away with this which was vetoed by President Obama. Chairman Raymond says the issue on sage grouse will really affect the county. Chairman Raymond mentions he had seen these individuals also at the BLM RAC meetings. They had missed part of the sage grouse discussion. Idaho public lands held a committee and the frustration level on this is very high. Very few answers from BLM and Fish & Wildlife services. Have been involved as commissioners from the very beginning. There were cooperative agency status with conference calls then the alternatives were out the window and the window was closed. This is not a workable program. Not answering questions that are being asked feel they are being side stepped.

[11:11:14 AM](#) **Robin Dunn left the room.**

[11:11:21 AM](#) Ethan asks of any specific questions they would like some answers to. Chairman Raymond says they have public that use public lands to graze on and are not sure what is going on. Mentions if they mandate a minimum stubble height he feels this will never be reached even if the areas were irrigated.

[11:12:24 AM](#) **Robin Dunn is here.**

[11:12:28 AM](#) Amy mentions they had missed this during the RAC meeting but had been briefed on this the Friday before. They have filed a lawsuit and were annoyed with the last minute changes and their bosses have let Fish & Wildlife Services know about this. In their BLM meeting were fairly positive issues with grazing were being resolved. Ask how many acres they are going to have to shut down. Still early on in the process. Chairman Raymond mentions he has been contacted with 30% to 48% less land to graze on with the new land use plan.

[11:13:38 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock says they didn't put the sage grouse on endangered species list but did come up with new regulations to control this. BLM has come up with regulations and have stacked the sage grouse on core levels. Chairman Raymond says the greatest threat is wildfire and the best way to fix this is grazing. The best habitat for the sage grouse is area that has been grazed. Commissioner Farnsworth says they prefer that habitat that has been grazed they do not live in tall brush. Amy says the legislation is working on this. Amy asks if people say their grazing has been cut this much how can the BLM be taking this much away from them. Does want to mention they are all fighting this as well. There is a lawsuit on this and they will continue to fight this. Chairman Raymond mentions the regional offices are shaking their heads as well even the State director.

[11:16:09 AM](#) Ethan mentions after they first met they also had a lot of confusion on how this went from a collaborative effort to being the final rule. Have been surprised on how this ended up. Amy wants to track this so if they could let her know the impact of grazing with individuals. Chairman Raymond says they are fighting this battle locally. Chairman Raymond's personal belief is that our food supply needs to be part of the national security. If they take the sage grouse and remove livestock from an area where they convert dry unusable grass to protein. Will take a lot of sage grouse to feed the world will not take nearly as many cows. When you think about our food supply as national security to feed a hungry world. The food comes from somewhere not just a store. When they start limiting the ability to supply food to the world it won't take very many generations until they will not be able to get back to this.

[11:19:02 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentions other concerns are they want to keep sheep experiment station open. There was a political ploy to shut this down. They do a lot of research. Discuss trade. We are great at doing trade agreements. These are supposedly free trade where they ship agriculture commodities in but there is a lot of restricted trades going out. Supposed to be free but they are taxed to send things back out. Need to be careful with the federal free trade agreements because they are not necessary free trade agreements. Commissioner Farnsworth mentions they were looking at ships coming in full and leaving empty. Commissioner Hancock feels they are letting too much in but nothing can get shipped out from here due to regulations. Commissioner Hancock mentions a prime example goes over chemicals that cannot go on crops here but in Mexico they do not have the regulations and then these things are shipped in for us to eat. Need to protect our agriculture.

[11:22:57 AM](#) Amy says that they are represented by other ranchers and farmers. Keep going back and fighting cannot give up. Ethan brings up this is not just Idaho fighting this but the entire west is fighting this. Rebecca mentions understanding of other areas that do not have public lands to use for grazing. Some do not seem to understand how BLM lands are used in the west. Ethan mentions trying to deal with government that is based off of population and sometimes do not understand what public lands are so it does make this difficult. Chairman Raymond says he had received a map on all of the public lands. Goes over the area of BLM land the west has compared to other areas. Chairman Raymond thanks the individuals who are here today he sees them out being involved wherever he goes as well. Appreciates them being involved and listening to concerns. Ethan says they all enjoy their jobs and enjoy getting out of the office and meeting with individuals who have been affected.

[11:28:53 AM](#) Amy asks about any problems with FEMA. Chairman Raymond says that will be having some flood plain training on March 22 and will be going over the flood plain and the modified ordinance. The certification on this has backed off. Chairman Raymond mentions have not heard anything for a few years. Ethan suggests if they feel it would be helpful for them to attend this

meeting in March. Chairman Raymond says they have updated the flood plain ordinance in the last meeting cleaning up the language. Discuss keeping the sheep research station open. All over the U.S. had people calling in about the sheep station and the value of the data they receive. Can contact any of them if they have any other issues. Someone will try and attend the meeting in March.

Social Services – Gail Robbins

- **Executive Session 74-206 (D) – Records Exempt from Disclosure**

[11:40:17 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to go into executive session 74-206 (D) – Records exempt from disclosure. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

Open session at 12:04

[12:05:05 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth on case #2016-9 to approve with contingency of a signed reimbursed agreement, on case #2016-10 to deny on possible ability to pay and on case #2016-13 to deny on lack of cooperation and possible ability to pay. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

Open session at 1:00

[1:02:59 PM](#) Commissioners are reviewing claims and minutes.

Commissioners

- **Sign Certificates of Residency**

[1:03:37 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth that for College of Southern Idaho to approve certificates of residency for Brittany Buchanan, Kutler Byington, Brenna Lofthouse, Hunter Robins, and Kinsley Sorenson. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

[1:04:52 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to deny certificate of residency for Sarah Clements from the College of Southern Idaho and the College of Western Idaho. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

[1:05:15 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Hancock to accept certificates of residency from the College of Western Idaho for Braden Erickson, McKayla Graham, Rebekah Grover and Brenna Lofthouse. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

- **Approve Claims**

[1:48:27 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to approve claims from 1/25/2016 to 2/5/2016 for \$313,592.61. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

- **Approve Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

[1:49:06 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Hancock to approve special commissioner meeting minutes from January 4, 2016. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.

[1:54:18 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Hancock to approve commissioner meeting minutes from January 25, 2016 as amended. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.

- **Discussion on Prosecuting Attorney Position**

[1:55:28 PM](#) Colleen has sent out emails to the other county clerks. Have not heard back from all of those. Explains the color coding on the graph she has given the commissioners. Most of these are full-time. Jefferson County is one of the lower paying areas. Robin mentions that Jerome is the best comparison.

[1:58:00 PM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentions that Cassia County is around \$80,000, Fremont is \$88,000, Jerome is at \$68,000 and Minidoka is at \$83,000. Colleen questions if they wanted an idea of an amount so when budget time comes around they have some guidelines and can set this then. Robin mentions they will need to decide if the position is going to be full-time or part-time but do not have to set an amount today.

[2:00:07 PM](#) Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to make the Elected Prosecuting Attorney a full-time position starting January 2017. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Does not want to set a pay range at this time. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.

- **Resolution #2016-12 – Disposal of Data Hardware**

[2:02:29 PM](#) Chairman Raymond reads resolution #2016-12 for disposal of data hardware.

[2:02:54 PM](#) Robin Dunn left the room.

[2:03:01 PM](#) Have a computer monitor from Probation and the rest are from the Sheriff's office most of these are computer monitors.

[2:04:02 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Hancock to accept resolution #2016-12 for disposal of data hardware. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

- **Great Feeder Discussion**

[2:05:05 PM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentions he has been contacted by the Great Feeder Board. The Great Feeder Board has approved the proposed amount unanimously. Have been discussing things that will be included for the in-kind work. Removal of the coffer dam, north and south approaches, hauling bentonite and various other items. . Did have the public hearing in the discussion most of the citizens were in favor of this. Went over the total cost and the county will provide 50% of the cost of the bridge with a lease/agreement on the bridge for the life of the structure.

[2:07:43 PM](#) Dave and Commissioner Hancock are going up to the area later today. Will be working on agreements with the Great Feeder. Did have Farmer's Friend and Enterprise Canal come in during the public hearing and voiced some concerns. Commissioner Farnsworth mentions a concern is more weight on their bridges may need to have a weight restriction. Dave mentions may want to put some sort of a length restriction as well.

[2:10:20 PM](#) Dave and Commissioner Hancock will be working with the Great Feeder to establish the in-kind work. Will also work with Attorney Robin Dunn to get the agreements together.

[2:11:26 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to amend agenda to add a discussion on High Country RC&D dues that are due before the next meeting. Second by Commissioner Hancock. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.**

[2:12:32 PM](#) This is for High County sponsorship of RC&D. Discuss if this has been completed for the 2016. There is an invoice for 2016 sponsorship. Commissioner Farnsworth said for the cloud seeding will be doing some testing in areas that do not usually get as much snow. May begin doing an aerial spray now before storms. Discuss the invoice. Colleen checked they have paid the 2015 dues not the 2016 dues.

[2:18:18 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to pay invoice amount of \$350 for High Country RC&D, Inc. that has been previously budgeted for annual sponsorship. Second by Commissioner Hancock. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

[2:18:51 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to adjourn at 2:18. Second by Commissioner Hancock. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.**

Chairman of the Board

Clerk of the Board

County Clerk