

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CASCADE, IDAHO
May 21, 2012**

**PRESENT: GORDON L. CRUICKSHANK (CHAIRMAN)
GERALD “JERRY” WINKLE (COMMISSIONER) *Excused Absence*
RAY MOORE, (COMMISSIONER)
ARCHIE BANBURY, CLERK**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Cruickshank at 9:05 a.m. with Clerk Banbury taking minutes.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the agenda as amended by deletion of the item at 9:30 a.m. concerning indigent collections. Second by Commissioner Cruickshank and carried.

The pledge of allegiance to our flag was led by JoAnn Fly.

JoAnn Fly Elections Clerk distributed the abstracts of the results of the May 15th election and reported a 35% turnout by electors for Edwards Mosquito Abatement District Proposed Annexation, Cascade City Local Option Tax, Donnelly City Local Option Tax and the Valley County Primary Election. Chairman Cruickshank and Commissioner Moore requested information on how the voting machines were tested. JoAnn said that a test deck of ballots are run both prior to the counting and after to insure the votes are counted correctly. The deputy clerks and some poll workers did not complete the final results until 2:30 AM Wednesday.

Commissioner Moore moved acceptance of the abstracts of the May 15th elections as presented. Second by Commissioner Cruickshank and carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 14th will be postponed and tabled to be held for the Meeting of May 29, 2012 Commissioner's Meeting.

At a recent meeting of the Economic Development group it was determined that an Advisory Council will be formed. The group wants a person to representing each city, Chamber of Commerce and Vim Braak to serve as a nonvoting facilitator, two at large and a representative of Valley County. Commissioner Moore moved to appoint Chairman Cruickshank as Valley County's Representative to the Development Council. Todd Hatfield spoke concerning the representatives, objects to having too many government employees. He notes that their budget is \$61,000 whereas our budget is \$60,000 and suggests that is no coincidence. He also asserts Chairman Cruickshank, as a board member of the Idaho Council of Governments should be conflicted out. Cynda Herrick Planning and Zoning Administrator asks if it needs to be a county person and recommends consideration of Dwight Jividen and suggests he has demonstrated abilities in this area.

Other comments suggested financial support from the cities as well as the county. A discussion then was on how the funding would be used to support economic activities for our region.

Elt Hasbrouck suggested that the development of an orderly set of by-laws for the direction should allow for the selection of people to fill the directorship.

Commissioner Moore commented we do need to support economic activities and Valley County definitely needs representation on the board by someone who is there consistently, however he is not in favor of funding another paid position. He would rather see the funding used to support actual programs that put the funding where it is needed to support businesses existing or new business coming into the area. Some discussion was held on using a program similar to the McCall and Donnelly Lot funding.

Chairman Cruickshank wanted to remind everyone that the intent is to get the right folks involved and not to have more government than private on the council.

Commissioner Moore withdrew his motion and Chairman Cruickshank moved to appoint Commissioner Moore, who seconded the motion and the motion carried to appoint Commissioner Moore to the Economic Development Council.

A discussion was held on if by-laws had been created. Clerk Banbury offered the support and assistance of his office to work with a group to be selected to prepare by-laws in a draft form.

Tim Marks appeared with Greg Staley from the Gem Plan and presented the financial statements (audited) for the Gem Plan as prepared by Rudd and Company of Rexburg.

Gem Plan has a surplus of \$5.227 million, as adjusted to \$3.666 Million, unrestricted. He explained the surplus. Of the notes from the financial statement, this 5.227% is adjusted downward by \$1.303 million. Rates are not yet available as the Gem Plan Board has not met to discuss.

Pooling concepts were then discussed. The Gem Plan Board then makes the decision on reserves and the Gem Plan staff is the messenger. Commissioner Moore reminded Tim that last year 2 million was added to the reserves and this year it appears 1.77 million is being added. At what point does Valley County get some relief on rates instead of building cash reserves for the Gem Plan? Tim explained that 25% of the total amount is needed as a buffer to cover claims, which is industry standard.

Valley County, specifically, has increased their claim ratio, through March of 2012 (1/2 year) to 1.848. As a result, Valley County is being sheltered by the surplus. Last year Valley County received a zero increase in premium for the Gem Plan. Other counties paid up to a 5% increase in premiums. Tim mentioned that the Gem Plan Board will be meeting in Lewiston and that we need to contact our commissioner representative Bill Brown from Adams County to listen to our concerns and attend the board meeting if possible.

Greg Staley commented that he doesn't expect the Gem Plan board will look at anything higher than a 5% increase to counties again.

Questions were asked on the affordable health care legislation for an update. With the recent court case everyone is looking for the outcome before making any predictions.

Chairman Cruickshank asked to have Gem Plan provide some analysis to review on how we can provide benefits without bankrupting the county. Commissioner Moore asked if there was a Cafeteria type plan out there from Gem Plan.

Tim will be forwarding a version of Gem Plan's "cafeteria plan" for review. This will take about 3 to 4 weeks to provide.

Recess for Lunch

Road and Bridge Superintendent Jerry Robinson reported on a Piggy Back Bid for Dust Abatement. This will be used for 16 miles of road from the agreement with the Forest Service where they funded the gravel for the East Fork Road. North American Dust Control is the company that was successful in the original bid.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the North American Dust Abatement's bid as a piggyback situation on Custer County's bid. Seconded by Chairman Cruickshank and carried.

Not starting the opening of Secesh today as planned. The snow has not melted enough and it will be too costly to open. When the snow is down he anticipates it can be opened in three days if all goes well. The crew has been working on Coy Road near McCall. Motor Graders are working on blading roads. He has been working on the right-of-way for Heinrich Lane and is waiting for property owners to make some decisions.

Elt Hasbrouck asked about the south end of Lake Cascade on the road that goes to West Mountain. Jerry replied that after this spring that road took a beating. He will be working to complete the majority of the road maintenance created from the spring runoff by July.

Juan Bonilla, Donnelly Fire Chief and Chairman of the Valley County Fire Working Group appeared. He asked for a free month to allow woody debris to be dumped at the Transfer Site. He is suggesting the month of June. He would continue to provide Fire Department staff to oversee the disposal at the Transfer site on busy days. He is looking at Cascade and McCall and would like to set up a roll-off at each end of the county during the entire month of June. He has been discussing this with Lakeshore. The board asked Juan to discuss the matter with Ralph McKenzie, MRF Supervisor, when he returns. Stephanie Johnson spoke in favor of Juan's proposal and discussed the ongoing mapping in connection with Title III funding.

Doug Miller appeared and requested permission to expend the JAIBG funds for the remainder of FY 2012 to be used for the Youth Tracker position.

There is approximately \$4,500 in this program and requires a \$500 match from Valley County. He required the signature of the Chairman to do so. Commissioner Moore moved for approval of the expenditures from the JAIBG Gran, second by Commissioner Cruickshank, and carried.

The Commissioners requested the Budget Workshops for next Wednesday and Thursday to start at 9 AM and stop by 3 PM.

Glenna appeared with the tax bill on LR0010000190. He has sold property and the buyer defaulted. He has not paid the tax in December. The State of Idaho has granted him a hardship on not paying his lease fee. Glenna also has late and interest charges aggregating \$66.00.

She can grant his request but wanted the Commissioners to know she is doing so.

Glenna has sold one of the parcels and reported that another parcel that had two buyers is being completed as one of the buyers has backed out. She reported on the sliver of land in McCall which no one wants. It is now in possession of the County. She is going to try to contact one of the property owners to see if a solution can be found. She will try to dispose of it, and report back to the Commissioners.

Tami Bishop Rhodes emailed the information on the HR interviews for Tuesday May 29th, three candidates have been chosen and interviews have been set up.

Gordon L. Cruickshank, Chairman

Archie N. Banbury, Clerk

AB/tme 05-29-2012