



# Cassia County Board of Commissioners SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 22, 2023

Cassia County Courthouse ▪ Commission Chambers  
1459 Overland Ave ▪ Room 206 ▪ Burley ID 83318

8:30 AM

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met today at the place and time as posted by agenda pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-204 for Open Meetings Law.

## ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) 8:30 AM Call to order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance and prayer
- 3) 8:32 AM Roll call

### **Roll Call.**

**Present:** Leonard M. Beck - Chair, Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, Kerry McMurray - Assistant to Board (Not voting), McCord Larsen - County Attorney (Not voting), Cally Velasquez - Deputy Clerk (Not voting),  
**Also present:** Wayne Schenk - Minidoka Commissioner, Dan Schaeffer - Minidoka Commissioner, Mitzy Ramsey - Minidoka Deputy Clerk, Lance Stevenson - Minidoka Prosecutor, Tim Schneider - Joint County Public Defender, Richard Randklev - Waterways, George Warrell - Cassia County Sheriff, Jennifer Gee - Cassia Emergency Management Coordinator

8:33 AM Chair Beck requested Prosecutor Larsen explain the reason for the meeting being called this morning. Prosecutor Larsen briefly explained the matter that has come up in consequence of hiring a particular attorney who is currently contracted with the County to handle juvenile cases under a private practice.

- a) The matter to consider would be the effects of the current contract and necessity of obtaining a new contract. Mr. Schneider also wanted to discuss the salary of the new hire. Time was of the essence in relation to the completion of the hire and adequate representation coverage for the juveniles in both counties.
- 4) 9:55 AM Personnel Matters - Change of Status Requests
  - a) CCSO - Cameron Prewitt - Certified Patrol Deputy (County) - new hire

9:56 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve Change of Status Request as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) 10:29 AM Additional Changes of Status were presented that were related to the FY2024 Cost-of-Living increase for the Law Enforcement Department

10:29 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the Cost-of-Living Change of Status Requests as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL SESSION  
Friday, September 22, 2023

**Instrument # 2023003121**

BURLEY, CASSIA, IDAHO

9-25-2023 01:27:34 PM No. of Pages: 5

Recorded for : CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOSEPH LARSEN

Fee: 0.00

Ex-Officio Recorder Deputy

Index to: COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

*EV*

5) 9:58 AM Executive Sessions

9:58 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel issues, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

**Yes:** Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, Leonard M. Beck - Chair.

10:29 AM Upon exit of Executive Session, the board took the matter under advisement.

6) 8:56 AM Hiring of new attorney for Public Defender's Office

- a) Public Defender Schneider presented the matter as previously introduced by Prosecutor Larsen. If Mr. Schneider hired this attorney, the juvenile public defense contract in place with this private practice would be dissolved.
- b) Prosecutor Larsen pointed out that the County's obligation for juvenile defense will not go away when the State takes over public defense in October of 2024. The county will still be responsible for the defense of some cases such as juvenile defense and child protection.

9:41 AM **Motion and Action:** Authorize Tim to continue with this process and hire Mr. Atkins at \$100,000 as his salary for the year and that he signs a contract of employment for one year, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

- c) Minidoka County Commissioners made a similar motion. Before the vote was taken, there was discussion on the enforcement of an employment contract. Minidoka Commissioner Schaeffer amended his motion to say that Mr. Schneider was authorized to offer \$95,000 as a salary and a \$5,000 bonus would be given at the end of Mr. Atkins' one year service as incentive to stay with the county until the dissolution of public defense so that it equaled \$100,000 for the year. Their motion passed.

9:52 AM **Motion and Action:** Rescind the previous motion made by Cassia County, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9:52 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve \$95,000 for the hire for a year with a \$5,000 bonus at the end of the year, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

7) 9:53 AM Deliberation on Juvenile Public Defender Contract

- a) It was requested that consideration be given to the Joint Powers Committee and any contracts that may come before the Boards in the near future be brought before the Joint Powers committee for review and recommendation beforehand.
- b) Minidoka County participants left the meeting shortly after.

- 8) 8:39 AM Quagga Mussel discussion and consider issuance of written support for BLM related closures
- a) This matter was placed on the agenda because Chair Beck received communication from Ken Crane, our regional BLM representative regarding requests to close the Milner recreation site in response to Twin Falls' recent discovery of the invasive mussel larvae in a local park. But such action could not be taken without considerable challenges from federal entities. Mr. Crane requested that both Boards draft some letter of support for the action as proactive steps to mitigate a potential crisis.
  - b) Sheriff Warrell reported that the Oakley Reservoir requested police enforcement for closure of that part of the reservoir under Oakley Canal Company's ownership.
  - c) The potential ramifications of the spreading of this invasive species were discussed. Also, possible steps and actions that could be taken to help raise awareness and education on the potential seriousness of the crisis were discussed at length.
  - d) Beck felt a meeting with City of Burley Officials needed to be set up.
- 9) 10:30 AM Adjourn

10:30 AM **Motion and Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



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Leonard M. Beck, Chair

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD:



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Cally Velasquez

CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL SESSION  
Friday, September 22, 2023

# Cassia County Commissioner Meeting

## Attendance Log

Date: 9-22-2023

NAME (Please Print)	TOWN	REPRESENTING
1. <i>Lana Stevenson</i>	<i>Reupert</i>	<i>Minidoka County Prosecutor</i>
2. <i>Dan Schaeffer</i>	<i>Reupert</i>	<i>Minidoka County Commis.</i>
3. <i>Mitzi Ramsay</i>		<i>Minidoka County</i>
4. <i>Samuel Lee</i>		<i>Cassia</i>
5. <i>George Warrell</i>	<i>Cookley</i>	<i>Sheriff</i>
6. <i>Heather Whithead</i>	<i>Burley</i>	<i>Auditor's</i>
7. <i>J. Thompson</i>		<i>CCSO</i>
8. <i>JOE LARSEN</i>	<i>Burley</i>	<i>CLERK</i>
9. <i>Tim Schneider</i>	<i>Burley</i>	<i>P. D.</i>
10. <i>Tori Chesley</i>	<i>Burley</i>	
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