Cassia County Board of Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024
Cassia County Courthouse ▪ Commission Chambers
1459 Overland Ave ▪ Room 206 ▪ Burley ID 83318

9:00 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) 9:03 AM Call to order
2) Pledge of Allegiance and prayer
3) 9:05 AM Roll call

Roll Call.

Present: Leonard M. Beck - Chair, Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, Cally Velasquez - Deputy Clerk (Not voting).

4) 9:05 AM Calendar, meetings, committee reports, and correspondence were reviewed.
   a) 3/26/2024 - Joint Public Defender's and Joint Justice meetings - Searle
   b) 3/27/2024 - Solid Waste meeting - Beck
   c) 3/29/2024 - Annual Vietnam Veterans' Dinner at the Rupert Senior Center
   d) Searle reported on the meeting he attended last week with Commissioner Hough from Bannock County regarding the new Eastern Idaho Pathology Center. Two Commissioners from Minidoka County and the Coroner from Twin Falls also attended. Hough gave a lot of information from the Office of Performance and Evaluations on county coroners and death investigations. They also think they found a pathologist to hire. Searle thought there was a month or two before Cassia County would be asked to sign any agreements.
   e) Searle reported on his meeting with a representative from Motorola and the Sheriff's Office regarding their CAD system. Motorola needs to provide information regarding break down costs separating the jail as well has needed connections to be installed between servers.
   f) Beck reported on his attendance at a meeting in Jerome for District IV officials regarding wind production at Lava Ridge, which included representatives from the FAA. The main topic of discussion was the height of the proposed windmills. The FAA did not object to the project with regards to the proximity of the Jerome airport; they would adjust for the height and length minimum requirement needed for an airplane's descent onto the runway. They also mentioned seeing more interaction with solar farms and aviation. Beck clarified that the FAA did not have any problems with solar farms yet. During that meeting there was also talk of a multiple county task force to draft an ordinance directed at preserving air space. He expected Jerome County or another county would make contact once that had been formed.
   g) 10:32 AM Beck reported that at the last Fair Board meeting there was a comment made about changing the name of the Cassia County Fair and Rodeo for advertising purposes. Someone felt the name was too long and asked them to consider changing the name to The Burley Stampede. Beck requested the board to delay such discussion because Cassia County Commissioners needed to be involved with that decision

Instrument # 2024000924
BURLEY, CASSIA, IDAHO
4-1-2024 02:47:46 PM No. of Pages: 14
Recorded for : CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOSEPH LARSEN Fee: 0.00
Ex-Officio Recorder Deputy EV
Index to: COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

as it is county facilities and funding that maintain the fair. He felt Cassia County needed to be a part of the name.

9:08 AM Kerry McMurray, assistant to the Board, entered the meeting.

5) 9:12 AM Approve payables for 3/25/2024

9:12 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve payables as presented on 3/25/2024 in the amount of $165,023.54, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

6) 9:14 AM Approve minutes from 3/11/2024

9:14 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve minutes from 3/11/2024 as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

7) 9:15 AM Approval of Clerk's Office recommendations regarding junior college Certificates of Residency

9:16 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve Clerk's Office recommendations to approve three junior college Certificates of Residency as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

8) 9:17 AM Personnel Matters - Change of Status Requests
   a) MCCJC - Andrea Bennett Maestas - Admin Secretary - voluntary resignation
   b) MCCJC - Norma Calderon - Certified Deputy - certification
   c) MCCJC - Morgan West - Certified Deputy - certification
   d) MCCJC - Jakob Howell - Certified Deputy - certification
   e) Snowmobile - Mason Zimmerman - Seasonal Snow Groomer - new hire
   f) CCSO - Preston Zaver - Corporal Investigations - County - transfer
   g) CCSO - Ruben Juarez - Corporal Patrol Division - City - promotion

9:21 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve Change of Status Requests as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9) 10:36 AM Executive Session

10:36 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel issues, Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (c) to deliberate acquisition of an interest in real property, and Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (d) to consider records that are exempt from public disclosure, **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.

11:03 AM Upon exit of Executive Session, the board took the matter under advisement.

11:04 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve recommendations of the Social Services Director regarding indigent matters, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Leonard M. Beck - Chair. . Commissioner Kunau had not yet reentered the meeting for vote. Motion passed.

10) 9:22 AM Consider appointing Chair Beck to serve as an alternate on the executive board of the Middle Snake Region Water Resource Commission

9:23 AM **Motion and Action:** Appoint Chair Beck to serve as an alternate on the executive board of the Middle Snake Region Water Resource Commission, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

11) 9:24 AM Consider appointments to represent Cassia County on the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission
    a) McMurray reported that his term to serve on the board has expired and another member's term, Dean Edgar's, will expire in a month. The board is requesting a ballot be submitted with respect to filling those positions.
    b) McMurray would accept a reappointment to that board but it is unknown if Mr. Edgar would also be willing to continue or if the irrigation districts wanted to put forth a different person.
    c) Beck will reach out to Burley Irrigation District and Southwest Irrigation District for their input.
    d) This item will be placed on the agenda for consideration during the next meeting.
12) 10:34 AM Consider appointment of Michael Darrington to serve on Mini-Cassia Commerce Authority

10:35 AM **Motion and Action:** Appoint Michael Darrington to serve on Mini-Cassia Commerce Authority, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

13) 11:13 AM Consider Coroner Office Remodel bid - Kunau
    a) Kunau reported that he and Chet Jackson looked at the newly acquired Razor's Edge building to obtain a remodeling bid for the east half of the building for the Cassia County Coroner's office. Adaptations like installing an overhead door so a vehicle could be backed in and making room for the coroner's refrigeration unit were considered as well as a heavy door to separate it from the west half of the building for future use. The total of the bid was $33,900.00.
    b) Searle requested that the City of Burley building inspector and the fire department also inspect the building to determine if the building adequately met code requirements or if there were things that needed to be addressed to bring it into compliance. They also discussed whether a building permit would need to be obtained from the city to do the work.
    c) Kunau will reach out to the city inspector for more information and report next week on this.
14) 11:20 AM Schedule FY2025 County Road and Bridge Budget Hearing for 8/26/2024 at 9:30 AM

11:20 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve holding the County Road and Bridge Budget hearing on 8/26/2024 at 9:30 AM, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

15) 11:21 AM Schedule FY2025 County Budget Hearing for 8/26/2024 at 9:45 AM

11:21 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve holding the County Budget hearing on 8/26/2024 at 9:45 AM, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

16) 11:23 AM Rescind motion to Renominate Mr. Doug Pickett to serve on the District #3 Animal Damage Control Board, as made on 3/11/2024
    a) This is a housekeeping item to address a mistake made during the BoCC meeting held on 3/11/2024 in which a motion had been made and voted on but was withdrawn instead of a rescinded. A motion cannot be withdrawn once voted on; it must be rescinded.
    b) The erroneous motion used the word, renominate. The correct motion, which was immediately submitted and voted for approval, used the word, reappoint, instead.

11:24 AM **Motion and Action:** Rescind the previous motion to renominate Doug Pickett to serve on the District #3 Animal Damage Control Board, which we made on 3/11/2024, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion and second were withdrawn.

11:25 AM **Amended Motion and Action**: Rescind the previous motion to renominate Doug Pickett to serve on the District #3 Animal Damage Control Board, which we made on 3/11/2024, at which time the Board also appointed Doug Pickett, which was the correct action, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

17) 2:46 PM Discuss County harassment policy and possible amendments
    a) Upon review with a department of the county harassment policy, it was learned that another department has included a harassment policy that is separate and distinctly different from the county's policy. There are some out-of-date things in the county policy that need to be corrected to remedy the situation. One item that needs to be addressed is the proper chain of authority if an employee needs to report such an incident. The current policy directs the employee to contact the county administrator, a position that no longer exists.
    b) McMurray relayed what he understood Prosecutor Larsen's position was with the recently published ICRMP harassment policy template and also his own perspective, which differed from Larsen's.
    c) Beck reviewed the ICRMP guidelines and compared it to the county's policy. He felt there were good directions from both policies that needed to be incorporated to produce a good policy for the county.
    d) The commissioners will individually review the materials and provide input to McMurray about what they feel should be included in the county's policy.
18) 2:56 PM Consider County fuel tank status at old BHD building and formulate plan to move forward
    a) Searle reported on recent DEQ inspection of the fuel tanks. With the changes to rules that no longer allowed for certain types of wraps around pipes coming out of the tanks into the pumps, the tanks are no longer in compliance.
    b) The inspector provided a few different options to remedy the problem, depending on what the Board intended to do with the tanks. Their options were to either make the adaptations needed to render the tanks operable and usable or to decommission them. They could also put the tanks into a temporary status until they decided the final outcome, but that also required expenditures. They would need to drain the tanks of the current fuel in order to put it in a temporary status.
    c) Searle estimated a cost of $1,500.00 to drain the tanks as there was still about 500 gallons of fuel between the two. He didn't know the cost to install the required anodes if they decided to use the

tanks. He also didn't trust that the fuel in the tanks was still serviceable so they would need to consider draining them no matter whether they wanted to make the tanks operable or remove them from the premises.

d) Kunau observed that the hassle of maintaining those tanks might not be worth the costs but the costs to remove them would also be steep. He suggested getting an above ground tank for the Noxious Weed & Pest department's use.

e) Searle will gather as much information as he can for next week and emphasized that a decision needed to be made as soon as possible because of fast approaching reporting deadlines required by the DEQ.

19) 3:05 PM Discuss BLM Draft Sage Grouse Environmental Impact Statement and consider formulation of comments on draft

a) The Environmental Impact Statement from the BLM has been made available and the county has until June 13, 2024 to provide a response.

b) McMurray reminded the board about the meeting on 4/18/2024 that District Ranger Mark Mazza from BLM mentioned. It is from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Silverstone Amenity Center in Meridian.

c) Searle and McMurray referenced their virtual attendance of a meeting sponsored by the Camas County Commissioners that involved a presentation from a lawyer that specializes in wildlife management and federal legislation. They recalled that Camas pays approximately $40,000.00 per year to keep her on retainer and were inviting other counties to share in the costs and benefit from her expertise.

d) Beck will contact Commissioner Kramer to see how Cassia County could take advantage of the offer and report next week on the matter.

20) 3:11 PM Discuss Gateway related matters and formulate plans to move forward - this will be addressed next week after Beck has contacted Camas County Commissioner, Travis Kramer.

21) 3:12 PM Deliberate regarding contract of investigative services with M. Love - hold for next week.

SCHEDULED ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

22) 9:29 AM Consider Animal Damage Control Report and request for funding

a) Billy Conant, the wildlife specialist assigned to Cassia County, and Jared Hedelius, the State Director for Wildlife Services in Idaho appeared to discuss the operations of the Animal Damage Control Board and the activities they've engaged in pertaining to Cassia County.

b) They reviewed two brief reports summarizing their activities for calendar year 2023 and calendar year 2024-to-date. In 2023 they worked on 203,848 acres of public land and 17,063 acres of private land for a total of 220,911 acres covered. The redacted information was the identification of the private land owners and identification of all of the employees that worked the total acres reported.

c) The report also showed the types of animals dealt with, where those animals were located, and the methods employed in dealing with those animals. The agency also has three fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters to use in the removal of these species.

d) The majority of the funding for the program is from federally appropriated dollars, which amount has not changed in several years.

e) The Director of Fish and Game is on the board as co-chair with the Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture also acting as co-chair. Each ADC district #1 through #5 have a representative to serve on the board.

9:42 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the payment of $6,000.00 for the Idaho Animal Damage Control Board and the ADC District #3 for FY2025, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member.

f) There was discussion to amend the motion to correct it to reflect the proper fiscal year.

9:43 AM **Amended Motion and Action:** Approve the payment of $6,000.00 for the Idaho Animal Damage Control Board and the ADC District #3 for FY2024, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

23) 9:47 AM Designate Mail Ballot Precincts per I.C. 34-308 - Keck

a) Elections Director Susan Keck presented the six mail ballot precincts eligible under statute for designation for the next two years. This list does not include precincts that at certain times may be designated temporarily during a specific election in which not all registered voters of that precinct would be eligible to vote for a race such as a school district contest.
b) Designating these precincts as mail ballot precincts saves the county tax payers approximately $10,000.00 per election. Also, statistically, election turnout remains a solid 75% for these precincts each time as it affords convenient access for rural communities to participate in voting.
c) The population of the Almo precinct has been approaching the statutory limit and will continue to be monitored.

9:54 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the presented mail ballot precinct designations, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

24) 9:54 AM Department Head Reports

a) 9:54 AM Extension Office - Grace Wittman
   i) Ms. Wittman reported swine weigh-in and registrations are coming up in April.
   ii) She also reported the new assistant secretary they just hired is working out well in the office.
b) 9:56 AM Treasurer - Laura Greener
   i) Greener reviewed the statement of treasurer's cash for February 2024 report. She also reviewed the interest earned on county accounts.
   ii) Six warrants of distraint have been issued to the Sheriff on mobile home collections. The Treasurer's Office has received payment on four of those warrants. She is hoping to get a payment for a fifth but expects to see the sixth one go to the Sheriff's Sale.
   iii) There are still twelve parcels with eight owners on the third-year-tax delinquencies list. There is one owner with five parcels expected to go to sale because the owner has passed away and no family can be found.
   iv) The expense line for the processing and publications of the tax deed notices will be over budget this time due to the volume of parcels on the list.
c) 10:06 AM Assessor - Martin Adams
   i) Adams reported that his department is busy with their responsibilities. They ran an ad in the newspaper this year with regards to circuit breakers and are experiencing a high volume of communications as people call in with questions or try to submit their applications for homeowner's exemptions.
   ii) He said he is monitoring the status of some legislation still pending that will affect counties as far as Board of Equalization (BOE) goes.
   iii) Lincoln County is hosting BOE training April 4, 2024 at 8:30 AM. Adams will send the commissioners the link for registration so that they can attend.

d) 10:11 AM Coroner - Craig Rinehart
   i) Rinehart was unable to attend the meeting last week with a Bannock County commissioner involving the new pathology center. Searle said he would get with him after the meeting to share information he learned. Rinehart had nothing else to report for now.
e) 10:13 AM IT Department - David Burgess
   i) Burgess reported on the help desk tickets for the month. He said there were 75 new tickets for the month: five currently open, and six open project tickets, bringing the total of open tickets to 11.
   ii) He reported on his recent attendance at a four-day FEMA cybersecurity training class. He informed the board of a service offered by Boise State University in which they will conduct an on-site penetration test for free to counties and school districts in the state. They are scheduled three months out at this time.
   iii) He is still trying to collect estimates for a new server and stated that it has been difficult trying to get Dell to lower their prices for the county.
f) 10:18 AM Law Enforcement - Captain Thompson
   i) Thompson reviewed the current jail census.
   ii) Patrol is down one position, and they are awaiting a reply on a conditional offer of employment.
   iii) The jail is down four deputy positions and a secretary position. They had 13 applications for the secretary position and were able to convince three to apply for the deputy positions. They hope to extend conditional offers in the next few days.
   iv) They were able to punch through the false ceiling successfully at the jail to install the new body scanner where originally planned.
g) 10:23 AM Building & Zoning - Kerry McMurray
   i) McMurray reported on his department's statistics for February. There were two ag siting permits and 10 building permits issued. Of the 10 building permits, the total valuation was $4.3 million and three of them were for commercial permits.
   ii) He also reported on the decisions of the Planning & Zoning hearing last Thursday. Items they considered included a replat of a one-lot subdivision and the request to install a gas transmission line that would run from East Valley Dairy to up north towards I-86 and hook into Williams' pipeline.
   iii) Revenues are lower than expected for year-to-date and he is unable to determine if it will be made up by fiscal year-end. Building permits are up but zoning permits are down.
h) 10:26 AM Prosecutor - McCord Larsen
   i) Larsen reported his office continues to work on the many filings submitted by the Sheriff's Office, Idaho State Police, and Fish & Game officers.
   ii) He stated that he was handling some conflict cases for Twin Falls County, Jerome County, as well as Minidoka County. It was discussed that the trading of conflict cases is common for his office and Minidoka Prosecutor Stevenson's office.
   iii) From all indicators, he expects the date for the upcoming Murphy murder trial will still hold for July. They are still waiting to see who the Fifth Judicial District will assign as judge for that trial as that position is vacant at the moment. Judge Wood has been filling in as needed.
   iv) He has procured two interns for his office and is now working on finalizing the method of compensation for them, whether it be through scholarship, stipend, or employee wages. Things should be ready for them to start by mid-May. One is coming from LSU Law School and the other is coming from the University of Idaho.
i) 10:29 AM Clerk - Deputy Clerk Susan Keck filling in for Clerk Joseph Larsen

i) The FY2023 audit is close to conclusion with full details forthcoming in the next week or so.
ii) They are also waiting to see who will be appointed as the new district judge. They've had quite the rotation of district judges filling in for the seat.
iii) Preparations for the upcoming May 21, 2024 Primary election are underway. It will involve all of the precincts. Locally, there will be contested races for Legislative District 27 Representatives seats A and B, a contest for the Sheriff's position and seven contested precinct committeemen races. Early voting will open on May 6, 2024.

25) 11:04 AM **Hearing** to consider request to increase DMV County title administration fee and registration administration fee.

11:04 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter Hearing to consider request to increase DMV County title administration fee and registration administration fee, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Leonard M. Beck - Chair. Commissioner Kunau had not yet reentered the meeting. Motion passed.

a) Assessor Adams stated what the proposed fees would become, pending the outcome of the hearing. They propose to introduce a county title administration fee of $6.00 on top of the state's $14.00 to bring that total to $20.00 per title. Secondly, they proposed to raise the registration fee from $7.00 to $8.00. Increasing these fees is expected to help the department come closer to covering their operating costs.
b) No testimony was offered from the public either in favor or against the proposal.
c) A resolution reflecting the decision of the Board to increase those fees will be presented next week.

11:11 AM **Motion and Action:** Allow the Assessor's Office to raise the registration fee from $7.00 to $8.00 and the title fee, that is presently all state at $14.00, to an additional increase of $6.00 for the county share, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

11:12 AM **Motion and Action:** Exit the Hearing, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

26) 11:28 AM Approve and sign Cassia County Employee Benefit Plan #1317, Restated January 13, 2023
a) McMurray contacted Heidi Jensen and Phyllis Merrill from MBA Administrators by phone to answer questions from the board. The board wanted to understand the changes made from the last benefits plan.
b) Many of the changes were just language updates and contact information updates but there were also updates to include legislative changes affecting insurance benefits and changes to address the ending of the COVID-19 pandemic.
c) The Board requested more time for them and Prosecutor Larsen to review the changes before approval. Item will be placed on the agenda again for the next meeting.
27) 11:42 AM Approve and sign Amendment No. 1 to Employee Benefit Plan #1317 -
a) The Board will review the matter further.
b) Matter will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
28) 11:43 AM Reports of USFS and BLM
a) 11:43 AM US Forest Service - Kevin Draper

i) Draper said they will probably have their fire people come in to brief the board either the end of next month or first part of May. The recent late storms are affecting the prognoses of the coming fire season.
ii) Magic Mountain Ski Resort closed last week. Pomerelle Ski Resort has about another week.
iii) He is putting together a plan for the removal of dead or hazardous trees around a few select campsites in the near future. The Bostetter site remains at the top of the priority list. He is also considering submitting paperwork to conduct a commercial firewood sale immediately after the cleanup.

b) 11:51 AM BLM - Mark Mazza
i) The South Hills Motorized travel closure has been extended two more weeks due to late snow.
ii) They have noticed an uptick in law enforcement activity with reports of vandalism at the Milner Recreation area.
iii) With regards to the Gateway West Project, he acknowledged their office received the letter from the Board with the list of questions and they are working to respond to those questions in the time frame requested.
iv) He also noted that the Environmental Impact Statement has been released and they should have received an invitation to participate during the public comment stage. It is open for comments from March 15th to June 13th.
v) On April 18, 2024 there will be a public meeting in Boise where the people that write the actual document will be available for answering questions.

29) 11:55 AM Review accounting of Opioid Funds - Deputy Auditor Wallace
a) Deputy auditor Michelle Wallace reviewed reports on the settlement funds the county has received thus far. A trust account was created to receive those funds. She also briefly discussed the approved expenditures of those funds based on the various structured settlement agreements. She created a shared google folder and deposited several documents for their individual review.
b) It is expected that the county will continue to receive installments in various amounts over the course of 18 years.
c) Due to the restrictions, detailed spending reports are required by the government to account for how those funds are being spent by each county. If they are not accounted for properly or allocated appropriately, the Attorney General's office will require the county to pay back those funds in full.
d) Prosecutor Larsen said he gets reports almost quarterly with guidelines on how these funds can be spent depending on the source of the settlement agreement. County attorneys and the Attorney General continue to discuss legal interpretations of the many settlement agreements.
e) The two main focuses of these agreements target prevention and treatment. Despite the restrictions, there are good opportunities available. Larsen suggested considering obtaining more Naloxone, commonly called Narcan, which is administered in emergency situations to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose.

12:12 PM Lunch Recess

1:26 PM Reconvene

30) 1:26 PM Discussion with Greg Cameron of Idaho Fish and Game
a) Greg Cameron, Region IV Fish & Game Commissioner, Craig White, Region IV Magic Valley Regional Supervisor, and Mike McDonald, Magic Valley Regional Wildlife Manager were present for discussion

b) Beck iterated their purpose today was in regards to the challenges the board has encountered in regards to the Gateway West transmission lines and the corridor that Cassia County had established in 2012 no longer being acceptable by BLM.
c) The Board wanted to understand how the various wildlife agencies worked together and what their different responsibilities were.
d) It was explained that the BLM is charged with the protection of the land and the habitat of sage grouse, whereas Fish & Game are charged with the management of actual population of the birds. Later in the discussion it was said that Office of Species Management handles more of the policy making aspect.
e) McDonald, who was also involved in the gateway planning project and negotiations for land, was not aware that the BLM had recently reconsidered their position on the lands designated for the project.
f) The gentlemen also explained the process by which they set the number of hunting tags allowed each year for hunting sage grouse. Several years ago, an analysis of the declining sage grouse population indicated that hunting by humans was not a significant contributor to their decline. It placed hunting by humans at the bottom of a long list of identified threats. White recalled it was something like number 17 out of 19 identified threats.
g) Each spring wildlife specialists and biologists estimate the bird population expected for the fall from data constantly collected in monitoring reports. They also take into consideration the natural mortality rates of the birds each year with regards to weather and natural predators as part of their calculations. The number of hunting tags issued is conservatively set between 5%-8% of that population. Actual harvest rates are always less than the tags issued and come in at about 5%.
h) The Governor's 2021 Sage Grouse Plan is the guide for management in the state.
i) They suggested getting the three agencies, Office of Species Conservation, BLM, and Idaho Fish & Game, together in the same room to have more successful communication and understanding of how each group operates in relation to each other.
j) The Board requested data reports from Fish & Game reflecting their calculations and actual harvest over the previous five years to compare with BLM's data. It seems that Fish & Game data points to an increase in the sage grouse population while the BLM is claiming a decrease.

31) 2:03 PM Proposed County building discussion with erstad Architects via Zoom
a) Josh Moser and Katrina Kulm participated in the discussion over Zoom. Kunau referenced their latest version, version 5, and his own recent general footprint plan. He insisted they get rid of any proposed landscaping and extend the footprint of the building to the right-of-way. His sketch increased their original 90' width to 108' and reduced their 180' length to 150'. He calculated this would give each floor 16,200 square feet.
b) He reviewed the department placement modifications for the Assessor's office, IT Office, Treasurer's Office, and Auditor's Office. IT Director Burgess added input for his departmental needs relative to networking and storage location and space.
c) The additional costs for a basement and the number of parking spaces available were discussed in relation to Kunau's changes.
d) Ms. Kulm assured the board that this is a typical design process and there are ways to save money on the expected construction costs. She said it was easier to get real time estimates when a general contractor is brought in on the planning. She also said there were options such as phase development that could help.

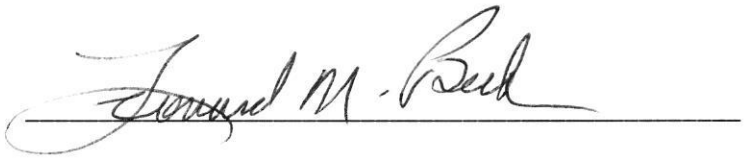
e) She explained that, relative to their purpose in this project, their contractual obligations for this phase of development had been met. If the board wants to continue working in the direction of the new sketch offered, then a new contract would need to be signed.
f) The firm needs every department involved to agree on the footprint of the building, the square footage of each department, and whether to include a basement or not before they can offer enough of a package to get initial pricing from some of their contractor contacts.
g) Beck requested a week or two for the Board to finalize what everyone wants and get back with them. In the meantime, Ms. Kulm will examine the details of the agreement and provide information on the current position and possible changes to the contract in order to continue working on the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

32) 3:12 PM Geotechnical survey discussion
   a) The report was received along with the invoice.
33) 3:13 PM County Fair grandstands construction matters including but not limited to payment requests
   a) Beck reported the work is progressing.
   b) He stated that they decided to not put bathrooms under the grandstands but rather extend out and expand the bathrooms that are already by the food booths.
34) 3:15 PM Adjourn

3:15 PM **Motion and Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Leonard M. Beck, Chair

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD:



Cally Velasquez

SUMMARY CLAIMS APPROVAL REPORT INCLUDING BUDGET BALANCES

BOTH UNPAID CLAIMS & DEMANDS GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS **47% OF FISCAL YEAR ELAPSED**

*** UNAPPROVED DEMANDS APPEAR IN ACTUALS AND ALSO AS AN INVOICE .**

Fund	Budget	Actual	Demand/Claims Amt	Budget Remaining	% Budget Remaining
0001 GENERAL FUND (CURRENT EXPENSE)	5,736,912.00	2,414,908.68	15,686.53	3,322,003.32	58%
0002 ROAD & BRIDGE	754,095.00	170,755.10	2,852.56	583,339.90	77%
0006 DISTRICT COURT	377,630.00	113,460.44	144.48	264,169.56	70%
0008 JUSTICE FUND	13,922,579.00	5,703,858.64	42,007.69	8,218,720.36	59%
0012 M-C MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	1,184,800.00	542,741.43	2,012.27	642,058.57	54%
0013 911 COMMUNICATIONS	866,250.00	79,807.41	50.00	786,442.59	91%
0016 SOCIAL SERVICES-ASSISTANCE	537,550.00	66,997.79	14,535.74	470,552.21	88%
0020 REVALUATION	356,180.00	150,098.21	544.48	206,081.79	58%
0028 SNOWMOBILE	86,425.00	14,270.41	1,667.95	72,154.59	83%
0029 PHYSICAL FACILITIES	12,041,300.00	797,315.32	7,040.00	11,243,984.68	93%
0048 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND	3,873,550.00	1,599,330.76	78,481.84	2,274,219.24	59%
		Total Amount Paid	**165,023.54**		

STATE OF IDAHO
CASSIA COUNTY

WE, THE CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BEING DULY SWORN DO HEREBY CERTIFY AND DECLARE THAT WE HAVE REVIEWED THE DEMANDS ENUMERATED AND REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING REGISTER, AND THAT THE SAME ARE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE ACCURATE AND ARE JUST CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY, AND THAT THERE ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENT THEREOF IN THE COUNTY TREASURY.

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION AS OF 3-25-2024

Edmund M Beck
COMMISSIONER

Bob Kunau
COMMISSIONER

Kent L Clark
COMMISSIONER

attest: Cally Velasquez deputy clerk

* WARNING: This fund is over budget

Cassia County Commissioner Meeting

Attendance Log

Date: 3-25-2024

	NAME (Please Print)	TOWN	REPRESENTING
1.	Craig Rinehart	Burley	Coroner
2.	J. Thompson		CCSO
3.	Grace Wittman	Burley	Extension
4.	Susan Keck	Almo	Elections.
5.	Martin Adams	Burley	Assessor
6.	Laura Gruemer	Burley	Treasurer
7.	George Warrell	Oakley	Sheriff
8.	David Burgess		IT
9.	Kevin Bingham	Burley	FS
10.	Mark Mazza	Burley	BLM
11.	Michelle Wallace	Rupert	Auditor's office
12.	Mike McDonald	Jerome	IDFG
13.	Craig White	Jerome	IDFG
14.	Mitella Mancias	Burley	Assessors
15.			
16.			
17.			
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