



Cassia County Board of Commissioners SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

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.

Meeting was held at the Minidoka County Courthouse, Commissioner's Chambers, 711 G Street, Rupert, Idaho.

NEW BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

Present: Leonard M. Beck - Chair, Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, McCord Larsen - County Attorney (Not voting), Sharene Ahlin - Deputy Clerk (Not voting).

Also present: Shannon Taylor – Jail Lieutenant, Jarrod Thompson – Cassia Undersheriff, Kevin Horak – Cassia Sheriff's Lieutenant, Amber Prewitt - Adult Misdemeanor Probation Director, Heather Whitehead – Auditor's Office Director, Joseph W. Larsen – Cassia Clerk, Tonya Page – Minidoka Clerk, Mitzi Ramsey – Minidoka Deputy Clerk, Dan Schaeffer – Minidoka Commissioner, Jared Orton – Minidoka Commissioner, and Wayne Schenk – Minidoka Commissioner

- 1) 8:30 AM Meeting was called to order by Minidoka's Board of County Commissioners.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

SCHEDULED ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

- 3) 8:32 AM Joint Meeting with Minidoka County to finalize FY2025 Joint Budgets
 - a) Minidoka Commissioner Schenk discussed the cost-of-living increases being considered by various counties, including: Bannock, Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding. Those increase ranged from 2.5% to 7%, with some counties considering increases beyond those percentages to fix their pay tables.
 - b) Chair Beck discussed that the 7.5% and 12% increases that they have proposed for the Cassia County employees are to try to equalize pay for the employees of Cassia County. He stated that if revenues meet the anticipated levels presented by the Auditor's Office as of 07/01/2025, that the wages would be increased an additional 2.5% and 4%, respectively, for a total increase of 10% and 16% over the FY2024 salary levels, for FY2025. It was clarified that the 10% would apply to general county employees, 16% would apply to the POST certified employees, and would include both detention officers and probation officers. Beck further discussed that when a salary study was conducted approximately two years ago in Cassia County, law enforcement wages were shown to be 5.8% behind for those employees at that time.
 - c) Schenk stated that the FY2024 budget had included \$145,000 in funding for a body scanner for the jail. He stated that he wanted that money removed from the budget for the FY2025. Clerk Larsen confirmed that it was a one-time purchase with funds allocated from a grant and never was included in the department request or the budget officer recommendation for the FY2025 budget. Schenk asserted that it had been moved to the salaries and not reduced. The Cassia budget office reiterated it was funded and expended in FY2024 and not included in FY2025 as that revenue was received in a grant and

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Instrument # 2024002552

BURLEY, CASSIA, IDAHO

7-11-2024 02:14:30 PM No. of Pages: 4

Recorded for : CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOSEPH LARSEN

Fee: 0.00

Ex-Officio Recorder Deputy

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expended and there was nothing to move. Schenk stated that he wanted to see no more than a 5% cost of living increase for non-certified employees and no more than an 8% cost of living for certified law enforcement employees.

- d) Searle discussed that Minidoka County had passed a 13% increase in August of 2023 for their law enforcement employees as well as a 5.5% increase for their other employees.
- e) Schenk responded that Minidoka had been unable to fill two patrol positions for a year, and that their larger increases were needed to be able to fill the open law enforcement positions.
- f) Schenk acknowledged that Cassia's starting wages for law enforcement are low when compared to Minidoka's starting wages, and that he could see raising the starting wages significantly.
- g) Searle reminded the commissioners that Minidoka County's contribution for FY2025, as originally presented, would amount to less than what Minidoka County is contributing for FY2024.
- h) Schaeffer stated that if they approve the increases of 10% and 16% for the joint budgets that they would have to apply those to all of Minidoka County's other employees.
- i) Searle recommended that each county should set the wages for their employees separately.
- j) It was determined to designate a commissioner and the County Clerk from each county to meet in a conference to work towards a resolution as prescribed by the detention center joint powers agreement. The agreement specified a commissioner from each county and the elected clerk from both counties to meet in the conference. That selection process included Cassia Commissioner Searle, Minidoka Commissioner Orton, Cassia Clerk Larsen, and Minidoka Clerk Page. Minidoka's Board made a motion to go into a conference, followed by a motion to recess their remaining board members during the conference.

9:07 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter into a conference for the Joint Budgets which would consist of a commissioner and the county clerk, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9:09 AM **Motion and Action:** For the Cassia Board to go into a recess during the conference, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Leonard M. Beck - Chair. Motion passed. Kent R. Searle – Member was not present for this motion.

11:08 AM Reconvene meeting

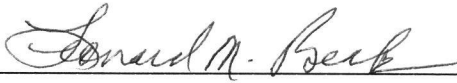
- k) The conference participants returned to report their findings. Orton stated that the budget should be redone at the 12% and 7.5% to 7/1/2025 and to also define a metric for the revenue threshold. They agreed it would be possible to lower the extra help line for the Mini Cassia Criminal Justice Center to \$100,000 for FY2025. It was discussed that they should explore a possible increase the inmate housing rates due to inflation. Lieutenant Taylor clarified that the rates are set by the legislature. The conference also concurred with lowering the amount held in reserve in the trust in an effort to lower Minidoka County contributions.
- l) Updated budget amounts based on those recommendations were requested and it was determined to meet again on Monday morning.

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4) 11:20 AM Adjourn

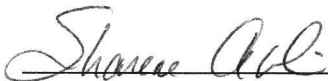
11:20 AM **Motion and Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member.
Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Leonard M. Beck, Chair

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD:



Sharene Ahlin, Deputy Clerk

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