Cassia County Board of Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 18, 2025
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) 9:02 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, Ricki Tkachyk – Deputy Clerk (Not voting)

4) 9:05 AM Calendar, meetings, committee reports, and correspondence were reviewed.

9:06 AM Assistant to the Board McMurray joined the meeting

5) 9:10 AM Approve payables for 8/18/2025

9:10 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve payables in the amount of $156,687.50 as presented on 8/18/2025, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

6) 11:25 AM Approve minutes from 6/9/2025

11:25 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve minutes from 6/9/2025 as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

7) 9:12 AM Approval of Clerk's Office recommendations regarding junior college Certificates of Residency

9:12 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve 34 Certificates of Residency and one denial for a total of 35 applicants as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

8) 9:13 AM Personnel Matters - Change of Status Requests
   a) Sheriff's Office – Nolan McLerran – Certified Patrol Deputy - City – Certification

9:14 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.

9) Executive Session - held as a timed item #18 on the agenda.
10) 9:44 AM Discuss Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed competitive geothermal lease sale for lands managed by Burley Field Office – McMurray

Instrument # 2026000470
BURLEY, CASSIA, IDAHO
2-9-2026 12:40:54 PM No. of Pages: 7
Recorded for : CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOSEPH LARSEN Fee: 0.00
Ex-Officio Recorder Deputy
Index to: COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

a) The BLM sought input on 18 proposed geothermal leases in Blaine, Camas and Cassia counties, including a parcel in the Jim Sage Mountains near Almo.
b) Impacts are mainly short-term during exploration and long-term if developed. Environmental comments are due by 8/29/2025.
c) The county would receive a small portion of the proceeds of any leases entered into within the county.

11) 9:56 AM Review and approve additional funding for The Tint Shop Invoice
a) The Board reviewed an additional $200.00 on a previously approved invoice for the Tint Shop on a vehicle. The original motion on 10/15/2024 covered $3,071.70. Additional information was requested.
b) 10:55 AM Revisited the matter. The overage reflects existing tint removal on the vehicle. The work had already been completed.

10:56 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the additional $200.00 for the cost of tint removal in the Sheriff's Office as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

12) 10:58 AM Approve Southern Idaho Solid Waste Final Budget for FY2026

10:58 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the final budget proposal from Southern Idaho Solid Waste of $1,043,556.08 as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

13) 11:32 AM Cottonwood Acres Appeal Discussion
a) Prosecutor Larsen requested this item be placed on the next week's agenda so that he could have additional time to review the matter.

SCHEDULED ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

14) 9:15 AM Reports from Veterans Service Office
a) VSO Driscoll presented the July report and noted that at the County Fair they successfully engaged with a significant number of new veterans.
b) He stated that access to discharge records and Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing times had improved.
c) The Board discussed the recognition of veterans at the rodeo and plans for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Ideas included encouraging veterans' attendance and reserving special seating.
d) Driscoll also announced a Quilt of Valor ceremony on Wednesday, 8/20/2025, at 12:00 PM, where six quilts would be awarded, including one to former sheriff Jim Higgins.

15) 9:26 AM Public Assembly Permit application presentation - R.W. McEuen
a) Mr. McEuen presented plans for a 7/3/2026-7/5/2026 patriotic celebration in Albion with up to 16,000 attendees. He has coordinated with Sheriff Thompson, Kane Security, and local medical providers, and submitted letters of support from the Albion City Council and the landowner.
b) The Board asked about sanitation, law enforcement needs, camping on site, coordination with the Albion City parade, and the Minidoka 250 Year Celebration Committee. He outlined safety, sanitation, traffic control, and economic benefits, including a portion of ticket proceeds earmarked for the benefit of Albion.

c) McEuen requested a letter of acknowledgement from the Board to show investors. The Board took the request under advisement.

16) 9:41 AM Consider any reductions in published budget – Auditor's Office
   a) Elected Clerk Larsen reviewed the published FY2026 budget, noting revenues and reserves would amply cover projected expenses, including the new building project.
   b) He advised that no reductions were necessary ahead of the upcoming hearing.

17) 9:59 AM Discuss and approve purchase of replacement printer for Planning and Zoning – Ean Pigford

10:03 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the purchase of a copier for the Planning and Zoning in the amount $1,984.00 as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

18) 10:09 AM Executive Session

10:09 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel issues and Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (i) to communicate with risk manager/insurer regarding pending/imminently-likely claims, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3). **Yes:** Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, Leonard M. Beck - Chair.

10:55 AM Upon exit of Executive Session, the Board took the matter under advisement.

19) 11:34 AM Juvenile Detention discussion – Twin Falls Commissioner Reinke & K. Sandau, & N. Nakamura
   a) The Board met with Twin Falls County Commissioner Reinke to discuss juvenile detention services. He proposed using the Twin Falls detention center as a regional facility.
   b) The proposal included quarterly joint powers meetings, complete transparency on facility operations and budgeting, and active involvement from Cassia County's designated liaison and probation administrators.
   c) 11:39 AM Probation, Misdemeanor Probation and Detention Administrator Sandau emphasized the decline in detention numbers statewide and the importance of collaboration to manage costs. He highlighted the role of diversion boards and early intervention strategies in reducing the need for detention. Twin Falls officials invited Cassia to consider future participation to help sustain regional operations.
   d) 11:42 AM Juvenile Detention Administrator Nakamura described the facility's modern features, including two secure visit rooms that can be used for arraignments. He stated that the center could use mats and double-bunk rooms for overflow.
   e) 11:43 AM Cassia County Prosecutor Larsen stressed that detention should be reserved for dangerous youth. He urged Twin Falls to meet with Judge Pittard, who handles juvenile cases in both counties, to address concerns about travel burdens. He welcomed Zoom capabilities and emphasized the need for strong communication.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

20) 10:59 AM Proposed County building discussion
   a) Determination of architectural, engineering, construction management, and other related matters in advancing the building process

(i) Jason Jones of Jones Construction reported that the architect and design team had nearly completed the bid documents, and the project was being advertised in the local newspaper as required by Idaho Code.
(ii) Bid opening was set for 9/4/2025, and a special meeting was proposed for 9/11/2025 to review and award bids.
(iii) erstad Architects proposed to upgrade the generator from a 50 kVA to a 100 kVA unit for broader backup coverage. The Board discussed propane as a cleaner alternative but chose diesel for reliability. The generator specifications were updated for bidding, with the fuel type still flexible.

21) 11:12 AM Deliberation and decision on Eagle Eye Conditional Use Permit (CUP)/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) application
   a) The Board reviewed the Eagle Eye CAFO application and addressed concerns related to road capacity and water concerns. The highway district approved the road's condition, and Southwest Irrigation confirmed adherence to water regulations.
   b) Chair Beck raised questions about feed sourcing for the dairy, noting potential crop shifts and the difficulty of organic certification. The Commissioners confirmed that organic and conventional crops require similar amounts of water.

11:22 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve Resolution No. 2025-04, accepting the recommendation from Planning & Zoning on the application 2025-02 the Conditional Use and CAFO permits for the Eagle Eye Dairy, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, Seconded **by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

22) 9:25 AM Employee appreciation event related matters
   The employee appreciation picnic was scheduled for 9/12/2025 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
23) 12:06 PM Adjourn

12:06 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:

Sharene Ahlin

Cassia County Commissioner Meeting

Attendance Log

Date: 8/18/25

	NAME (Please Print)	TOWN	REPRESENTING
1.	Chuck Driscoll	Burley	VSO
2.	Ryan McEwen	Albion	Gradesul Dirt
3.	JASON JONES	Burley	Self
4.	Brandi Perry	Albion	Self
5.	Dave Perry	Albion	Self
6.	Troy Mortensen	Albion	Colton Wood Sub
7.	Ean Pigford		IT
8.	CRAIG RINEHART		Coroner
9.	Kevin Sanders		IT County
10.	Brent Reinke	Twin Falls	T+CC
11.	Neil Nakamura	Twin Falls	Snake River Juvenile Detention Center
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SUMMARY CLAIMS APPROVAL REPORT
INCLUDING BUDGET BALANCES

BOTH UNPAID CLAIMS & DEMANDS GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS **87% 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)	4,674,940.00	3,831,934.61	12,218.55	843,005.39	18%
0002 ROAD & BRIDGE	712,675.00	416,879.97	117.25	295,795.03	42%
0006 DISTRICT COURT	370,335.00	308,900.46	1,000.00	61,434.54	17%
0008 JUSTICE FUND	14,689,453.00	12,022,537.93	42,208.74	2,666,915.07	18%
0018 CASSIA COUNTY FAIR	292,280.00	235,102.00	26,154.55	57,178.00	20%
0025 WATERWAYS	84,000.00	4,398.38	1,300.00	79,601.62	95%
0028 SNOWMOBILE	32,475.00	24,653.88	25.60	7,821.12	24%
0032 PREVENTIVE HEALTH FUND	275,000.00	228,747.20	22,874.72	46,252.80	17%
0048 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND	3,894,840.00	3,011,443.49	50,788.09	883,396.51	23%
		Total Amount Paid	**156,687.50**		

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 8-18-2025

Leonard M. Beck
COMMISSIONER

Bob Kloan
COMMISSIONER

Curt L. Sleight
COMMISSIONER

Attest: Ricki Tkachyk
Signature
Ricki Tkachyk
Name
8/18/2025
Date
☒ Deputy Clerk ☐ Clerk of the Board

*** WARNING: This fund is over budget**