Cassia County Board of Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 23, 2026

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) 9:01 AM Call to order
2) Pledge of Allegiance and prayer
3) 9:03 AM Roll call

Roll Call.

Present: Leonard M. Beck - Chair, Kent R. Searle - Member, Bob Kunau - Member, Kerry McMurray - Assistant to Board (Not voting), Sharene Ahlin - Deputy Clerk (Not voting)

4) 9:03 AM Calendar, meetings, committee reports, and correspondence were reviewed.
5) 9:08 AM Approve payables for 2/23/2026

9:12 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve payables in the amount of $105,574.08 as presented on 2/23/2026, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

6) 9:13 AM Approval of Clerk's Office recommendations regarding junior college Certificates of Residency

9:13 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve Clerk's Office recommendations to approve one junior college Certificate of Residency as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

7) Executive Sessions

12:26 PM **Motion and Action:** Enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel issues, Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (d) to consider records that are exempt from public disclosure, and Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (i) to communicate with risk manager/insurer regarding pending/imminently-likely claims, **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.

12:59 PM Upon exit of Executive Session, the board took the matter under advisement.

8) 9:15 AM Approve Frontier Community Resources invoice for dues

Instrument # 2026000845
BURLEY, CASSIA, IDAHO
3-10-2026 02:09:27 PM No. of Pages: 8
Recorded for : CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOSEPH LARSEN Fee: 0.00
Ex-Officio Recorder Deputy
Index to: COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

a) Commissioner Kunau discussed that Frontier Community Resources was formerly known as Region IV Development. He explained that the county has participated each year. He noted that their assessment is based on the population of each of the participating counties.
b) They were requesting $2,737.00 for FY2026 annual participation.

9:17 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the payment to Frontier Community Resources in the amount of $2,737.00, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9) 9:18 AM Discuss and approve increased funding for Howell Canyon Road
   a) The Board is currently awaiting contract proposals from the Burley Highway District on the matter.
   b) Matter will be removed from the future agendas until a contract has been received.
10) 9:20 AM Review and approve Burley Lion's Spudman Triathlon Special Event Resource Request

9:21 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the Burley Lion's Spudman Triathlon Special Event Resource Request as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

11) 12:59 PM Consider seasonal comp time payout

1:00 PM **Motion and Action:** Approve seasonal comp time payout in the amount $2,377.81 as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

12) 10:32 AM Discuss current vehicle management vs. Enterprise Fleet proposal - Sheriff
   a) Sheriff Thompson presented his analysis of the Sheriff's Office vehicle replacement program. He noted that the county would save money if they continued to purchase vehicles outright as they have been doing. He estimated a total ten-year cost savings of $910,635.00.
   b) 11:41 AM There was additional discussion on the matter from Matt Pryor with Enterprise Fleet Leasing. He noted that their proposal would cost approximately $500,000 to $600,000 more over the course of a ten-year period. He stressed that they would be driving newer vehicles.
   c) It was discussed that the Enterprise lease agreement would include interest to be paid by the county. The interest is based on the three-year T-bill rates, currently around 6.2%.
   d) Searle discussed the importance of being able to retain older vehicles for reserve deputy use.
   e) 11:57 AM Sheriff Thompson stated that managing the fleet purchases in-house will be cheaper than leasing, by approximately $55,000 per year.
   f) 1:12 PM Commissioner Searle discussed that he did not recommend moving forward with the leasing proposal, noting that the Enterprise representative had admitted that over ten years that the cost to the county would be higher.
   g) Chair Beck recommended that the Sheriff's office work with Enterprise to see if there is another option.
13) 9:23 AM Discuss and consider plans for furnace units at the Assessor's Office - Kunau
   a) Commissioner Kunau discussed that three HVAC units on the Assessor's building are approximately 25 years old. There is a need for repairs or replacements in the coming season.
   b) He recommended that they have Ramsey's heating and cooling look at the units that were removed from the Public Defender's Office to see if they may be compatible to be used at the Assessor's Office.

SCHEDULED ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

14) 9:30 AM Discuss public lands impact on Cassia County with Idaho Business for the Outdoors - H Eastman
    a) Heather Eastman appeared before the Board to discuss Idaho Public Lands. She discussed that they are going to meet with all county commissioners in Idaho to discuss the impact of public lands.
    b) She stressed that they are not an environmental group and that they have mining and timber companies on their rolls. She explained that they need to look at the balance in the use of the public lands for the benefit of the residents as well as economic growth. They were noted to be concerned about any proposed sale of public lands. She explained that she is gathering information about the concerns and challenges each of the counties are facing.
    c) Commissioner Searle discussed the challenges of road maintenance across the public lands, in particular the Howell Canyon Road. Federal funding was discussed.
15) 9:50 AM Schedule Tax Deed Hearing date and time for 2022 Delinquent Properties - Treasurer
    a) Treasurer Greener discussed that there are several properties on the delinquent list.
    b) The tax deed hearing was scheduled for 7/27/2026 at 11:30 AM.
16) 9:53 AM Review and file Designation of Depositories - Treasurer
    a) Treasurer Greener explained that the designation of depositories is done annually.
    b) Greener explained the various documents being presented to the Board for signatures.

9:54 AM **Motion and Action:** Accept the documents from D.L. Evans as a depository for Cassia County as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9:55 AM **Motion and Action:** Accept documents from Zions Bancorp as a depository for Cassia County as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9:56 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the documents from Northwest Bank as a depository for Cassia County as presented, **Moved by** Kent R. Searle - Member, **Seconded by** Bob Kunau - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

9:56 AM **Motion and Action:** Approve the documents from Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) as a depository for Cassia County as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

17) 9:57 AM Department Head Reports Including Budgetary Updates
    a) Reports were received from Treasurer Laura Greener, Assessor Mart Adams, Sheriff Jarrod Thompson, Undersheriff Kevin Horak, Coroner Craig Rinehart, Extension Educator Grace Wittman, Deputy Auditor Sharene Ahlin, Building and Zoning Administrator Kerry McMurray, Adult Misdemeanor Probation Director Amber Prewitt, Building and Grounds Supervisor Pete Hernandez, Noxious Weed Control Supervisor Michael Ottley,
    b) General matters were reported. Items of note included:
        i) Treasurer Greener noted that the 2025 occupancy and sub rolls have been billed and will have a single payment due date of 6/20/2026. She noted that there were interest earnings for January in the amount of $41,315.17.
        ii) The Assessor's Office is accepting property tax reduction applications as well as requests for exemptions. Assessor Adams noted that they have seen problems with DMV software which has resulted in some limited office closures while they've worked on correcting the matters.

18) 10:43 AM Executive Sessions pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(b) to discuss personnel matters, (d) to consider records exempt from public disclosure and (i) to communicate with risk manager/insurer regarding pending/imminently-likely claim

10:43 AM **Motion and Action:** Enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel issues, Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (d) to consider records that are exempt from public disclosure, and Idaho Code § 74-206 (1) (i) to communicate with risk manager/insurer regarding pending/imminently-likely claims, **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.

11:25 AM Upon exit of Executive Session, the board took the matter under advisement.

19) 11:25 AM Construction project status report and items for consideration - Gary Jones Construction
    a) Don Christopherson from Gary Jones Construction appeared before the Board to present the latest update. He explained that the compaction tests that have been completed and were successful, with additional compaction tests to be conducted today.
    b) Commissioner Searle mentioned that there may need to be some additional conduit included for IT when the building site work is being completed.
20) 11:28 AM Discuss available resources through local congressional offices - Senator Risch Office
    a) Mike Matthews from Senator Risch's office appeared to provide an update on the services they provide.
    b) Samantha Marshall with Senator Crapo's office assured the Board that they will follow up with the agencies related to funding for weed control efforts.
    c) The funding for the Howell Canyon Road maintenance was discussed. Mathews discussed that he would take the concerns expressed by the Board for the road maintenance costs to the USFS and the BLM.
21) 12:05 PM Reports of USFS and BLM
    a) 12:05 PM BLM
        i) BLM field manager John Elliott introduced Birk Roseman as the new BLM Twin Falls district manager.
        ii) The separation of assets to the Wildland Fire Service from the BLM has occurred. The BLM and the Dept. of Interior will report to a geographic fire manager with fires and recovery efforts to be administered regionally.
    b) 12:24 PM USFS
        i) Daniel Fisher, USFS recreational manager appeared to present an update to the Board.
        ii) He noted that there are currently four open positions for our area and explained that they would hope to fill those positions with local candidates. Those positions are listed on USA Jobs.
22) 1:00 PM Consider request to purchase two law enforcement vehicles with trade-ins - Sheriff Thompson
    a) Sheriff Thompson discussed that he would prefer to purchase the two Dodge Durango vehicles.
    b) He suggested that they could continue to discuss leasing with Enterprise possibly for the next budget year, noting that for some entities that leasing could make sense.

1:05 PM **Motion and Action:** Authorize the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Pursuit Durango for the Sheriff's Department, with a list price of $43,305.00 less a $9,000.00 trade in value for a balance due of $34,305.00 as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

1:07 PM **Motion and Action:** authorize the chair to sign title for the 2018 Dodge Charger which is being traded in **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

c) 1:08 PM There was discussion that the second vehicle being traded in has had $1,000.00 allowed as a trade in allowance. That vehicle is a 2018 Dodge Charger that had a mechanical failure which resulted in damage to the transmission.

1:09 PM **Motion and Action:** Approve the purchase of the second Dodge Durango Pursuit in the amount of $42,305.00 which does reflect a trade in value of $1,000.00 as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

1:10 PM **Motion and Action:** Authorize the chair to sign the release of the title for the 2018 Dodge Charger as a trade in as presented, **Moved by** Bob Kunau - Member, **Seconded by** Kent R. Searle - Member. Motion passed unanimously.

23) 1:15 PM Adjourn

1:15 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:

Sharene Ahlin

Cassia County Commissioner Meeting

Attendance Log

Date: 2/23/2026

	NAME (Please Print)	TOWN	REPRESENTING
1.	Jason Jones	Burley	Self
2.	Trevor Rene	Burley	Self
3.	Michael Oakley	Elba	CCNWC
4.	Heather Eastman	Boise	IBO
5.	Kevin Horan		CCSO
6.	Pete Hernandez	Burley	Building and grounds
7.	Laura Grenier	Burley	Treasurer
8.	Amber Prewitt	Burley	Probation
9.	Craig Bischart		Coroner
10.	Grace Wittman		Extension
11.	Matt Adams	Burley	Assessor
12.	J. Thompson		CCSO
13.	Don Christopherson		Gaytons Construction
14.	Samantha Marshall	Twin Falls (Work)	U.S. Senator Mike Crapo's Office
15.	Jessica Hammond	Twin Falls	Congressman Simpson
16.	Mike Mathews	Twin Falls	U.S. Sen. Risch
17.	John Elliott	Burley	BLM
18.	Daniel Fischer	Burley	MRD
19.			
20.			
21.			
22.			
23.			
24.			

SUMMARY CLAIMS APPROVAL REPORT INCLUDING BUDGET BALANCES

BOTH UNPAID CLAIMS & DEMANDS GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS **39% 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)	5,093,499.00	1,812,487.13	8,020.88	3,281,011.87	64%
0002 ROAD & BRIDGE	712,150.00	117,382.57	47.68	594,767.43	84%
0006 DISTRICT COURT	399,326.00	147,937.30	9,318.34	251,388.70	63%
0008 JUSTICE FUND	15,639,677.00	5,325,634.56	29,817.64	10,314,042.44	66%
0013 911 COMMUNICATIONS	954,840.00	45,297.78	11,943.58	909,542.22	95%
0016 SOCIAL SERVICES-ASSISTANCE	99,000.00	38,678.52	500.00	60,321.48	61%
0029 PHYSICAL FACILITIES	12,531,140.00	947,840.68	18,707.60	11,583,299.32	92%
0048 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND	4,295,615.00	1,419,764.71	27,218.36	2,875,850.29	67%
		Total Amount Paid	**105,574.08**		

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 2-23-2026

COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER

Attest: Sharene Ahlin Signature
Sharene Ahlin Name
2-23-2026 Date
☒ Deputy Clerk ☐ Clerk of the Board

* WARNING: This fund is over budget