

OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

April 27, 2020

OWYHEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MURPHY

OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

\*\*TELE-CONFERENCE MEETING\*\*

Present during the meeting were Commissioners Hoagland, Merrick and Aberasturi, Clerk Barkell, Chief Bowman, Jail Commander Vincent, Deputy Crawford, Deputy McCormack, Deputy McJunkin, Judge Darrington, Assessor Gruenwald, Sheriff Grant, via teleconference – Planning and Zoning Director Huff, 911 Supervisor Kipper, U of I Extension Educator Jensen, Natural Resources Director Desmond, Treasurer Dygert, Prosecuting Attorney Phillips, Juvenile Probation Supervisor Cardenas, Coroner Tines, Museum Director Garsvo, Neal Timmerman and Brad Soule with M2, David Blood with Speedy Quick Networks, Brody Miller with Idaho Farm Bureau, Michael Clarke and Todd Kleppinger with the Owyhee Avalanche.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to set the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi and carried.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi and carried.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve the Disbursement Agreement with the Idaho State Department of Ag for the benefit of the Northwest Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to an agreement between Owyhee County and Canyon County for use of refrigerated trailers in the event additional morgue space is needed due the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion was seconded and carried by Commissioner Aberasturi.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve a Fair Housing Proclamation, declaring April as Fair Housing Month in Owyhee County. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi and carried.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve sending a comment letter to Lance Okeson, Boise District Bureau of Land Management, regarding the Tri-State Fuel Breaks Project. Motion was seconded and carried by Commissioner Aberasturi.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve rehiring of part time dispatcher K. Lathrop at the rate of \$16.74 per hour. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi and carried.

Commissioner Merrick made a motion to approve a Road Use and Maintenance Agreement for Silver City Road with Earll Excavation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi and carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi made a motion to approve a certificate of residency to the College of Western Idaho for student 2020-07. Seconded by Commissioner Merrick. Motion carried.

Neal Timmerman and Brad Soule with M2 Automation appeared by teleconference and made a presentation to the Board referencing a new Jail Control System. They will provide all the equipment and maintenance for the completed electronic system including a control station, cameras and labor for installation. The annual price is \$19,000 for a period of 10 years. The only exclusion is the physical locks. They are not yet certified to service those but are in the process of obtaining that certification. Jail Commander Vincent stated that the old system is antiquated, more than 20 years old and held together with patches. He is concerned about what might happen if the system were to fail. The Board inquired about the leasing process and when the payments would be due. Neal will research and report back. No action was taken.

Treasure's Tax Deed Sale for 10:30 am was cancelled.

At 10:30 a.m. a discussion was held regarding the public opening of the courthouse and services. Deputy McCormack outlined the protocol for court hearings, requiring two deputies, a hand sanitizing station at the front door, citizen questioning, proper signage and the requirement for the public to don a mask before being admitted to the court. They will also be monitoring the number of people admitted to the Courthouse at one time to allow for proper distancing. Judge Darrington stated that by Order of the Idaho Supreme Court, hearings and arraignments will be limited but will still be held in some situations and expanded from the previous order. Assessor Gruenwald stated that they will decide what day to open after Canyon and Ada have announced. She will also consider opening by appointment only and with PPE precautions as recommended, including purchasing and installing plexi-glass germ shields. Treasurer Dygert stated that her office will be back to full staffing on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> and they will be preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax notices for mailing. Museum Director Garsvo said the Museum will open to the public on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. He will do his best to maintain social distancing and instruct visitors. Clerk Barkell stated that both the Court and Clerk offices will be open for business and full staffed on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> as well. Probation Administrator Cardenas stated that the Homedale Probation will open with the same precautions. All citizens visiting the courthouse for business in the courts or elsewhere, will be required to wear a face mask and sanitize their hand prior to being granted access. Prosecutor Phillips stated that his office will also be fully staffed and that he will prepare a directive from the Sheriff to be released publicly. The Prosecutor stated that Sheriff is responsible for the welfare of the courthouse and the directive should come from him.

Michael Clarke with SolarPro appeared by teleconference and requested a variance for a solar project he will be installing. He is asking for a reduction in the CUP fee for the solar project as he feels it is too high. P & Z Administrator Huff stated that the P&Z Commission is currently working on the ordinance modification to reduce the fee for certain sized projects for residential properties. The Board asked Mr. Clarke to please present his proposal in writing for consideration on a future agenda.



At 11:30 a.m. a teleconference was held to discuss the recreational traffic in the Owyhee's. Those present on the call included the following:

David Claybom, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation  
Ben Esplin, Mountain Meadow Adventure Rentals  
Rhannon & David Kamo, SIDRA – Southwestern Idaho Desert Racing Association  
Nathan White, Idaho Off Road  
David Claiborne, Idaho State ATV Association  
Rusty Faircloth, Mountain Home ATV/ UTV Club & ISATVA  
Cliff Hoisington & Jenne Girdner, High Desert Off-Road  
Christian Dahlstorm, Idaho Off Road  
Donn Christiansen, Bureau of Land Management  
Sandra Mitchel, Idaho Recreation Council  
Brody Miller, Idaho Farm Bureau  
Troy Elmore, Idaho Parks – OHV Program Manager  
Brenda Richards, Idaho Rangeland Resource

Highlighted points from today's conversation:

“Do the right thing” seemed to be the popular phrase for the campaign.

We are not trying to get recreationalist to stay out of the Owyhee, but to recreate responsibly and safely.

SIDRA has access to develop graphics and produce some campaign materials for us to blast to social media.

David Claycomb, IDPR committed to funding up to \$5,000 for sanitation and signage. He will also work with PIO to start a campaign from their organization.

All groups represented are willing to help put up signs, work with ranchers and help repair any damages created.

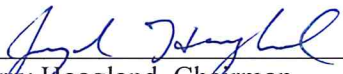
The general theme of the message should be less COVID related and more on the topic of educating users on proper usage of trails and how to identify private property, through maps and/or other means.

This should be a regular meeting, perhaps quarterly once this messaging is established and released.


A follow up meeting should be held within the next couple of weeks. Tentative next meeting date will be May 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
Jerry Hoagland, Chairman

Attest: Angela Barkell, Clerk

By:   
Brook Russell, Deputy Clerk