

OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
 December 18, 2023
 OWYHEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MURPHY
 OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

Present during the meeting were Commissioner Hoagland, Commissioner Aberasturi, Commissioner Bachman, Clerk Barkell, Deputy Clerk Yoshikane, NRD Desmond, HR Director Fahey, Sheriff Kendrick, PA Topmiller, P&Z Director Huff, Treasurer Dygert, Engineer Cook; and residents John Stosich, David Lahtinen, and Robert & Linda Schaffer.
 Via Zoom – Assessor Nettleton and VWC Maund; Jon Brown with The Avalanche; and residents Victoria Collett and Michelle Meyers.

Commissioner Bachman motioned to approve the claims report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Department	Amount
Current Expense Fund	\$16,309
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 1,018
Fair, Grounds & Buildings	\$ 2,800
Historical Society & Museum	\$ 1,276
Revaluation	\$ 101
Solid Waste	\$ 105
Weeds	\$17,827
911	\$ 1,801
Waterways Fund	\$ 122
Capital Project Fund/ARPA	\$10,565
Interlock Device Fund	\$ 86

Commissioner Bachman motioned to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023 meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve the three (3) lot subdivision final plat for Leaning Gate Estates with the Chairman's signature for the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the current Owyhee County Historical Preservation committee members; will send letters of appointment in January 2024.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve Dr. John Tribble as the Southwest Dist. Health-Board of Health Physician Representative with the Chairman's signature for the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve a Waiver of Conflict and Informed Consent - re: Alan Schroeder's Continuing Representation of Owyhee County in Pending Appeals. Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve the homeowners' tax cancellations for the following parcels: one (1) parcel added to life estate for a total of \$197.68; one (1) correction for 2022 for a total of \$565.27; four (4) exemptions received after the July property tax abstract was published for a total of \$3450.13; and four (4) HTR credit corrections for a total of \$.Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Motion carried.

1. RP03N05W276600 - \$197.68
2. RP02S0W031150 - 565.27
3. RPA0010031015A - 1,044.34
4. RP03N04W176941 - 737.06
5. RP02N04W366162 - 737.08
6. RPA0010004003A - 931.65
7. RPA0010058026C - 117.71
8. RP02S02W049180 - 20.45
9. RPA0480002005A - 228.34
10. RP02S0W031150 - 99.68

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve certificate of residency 24-01 to the College of Western Idaho. Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Motion carried.

WATER RIGHTS - SUNSET RANCH with David Lahtinen — Mr. Lahtinen stated that their Sunset Ranch is a historic Centennial Ranch in Owyhee County and has been in their family for almost 150 years. Mr. Lahtinen stated that he lives at approximately 2700-foot elevation in Little Valley, that he has eight (8) wells and that seven (7) of the historic older wells are no longer usable. Mr. Lahtinen discussed issues he is having with Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and his irrigation water rights. He stated that IDWR has an agreement in place to deal with the Bruneau Groundwater decline that they do not enforce. An example of no enforcement is repair of leaking artesian wells is not happening and he is seeing new wells being drilled. Mr. Lahtinen stated that enforcement of the Bruneau Groundwater Management Plan could possibly be a solution to his irrigation water right issue. Mr. Lahtinen stated IDWR has issued a request for the ranch to discontinue all end gun irrigation on his pivots or buy water from the IDWR Water Bank. Mr. Lahtinen stated he is unwilling to sign an IDWR agreement to purchase water from the Water Bank as their Sunset Ranch has historic "1st in time, 1st in right" water right which gives the ranch rights to use the water on historically irrigated lands. The Board discussed sending IDWR a letter supporting Sunset Ranch/David Lahtinen's "1st in Time - 1st in Right" water rights. The Board also discussed the fact there are leaking artisan wells in the area that could possibly be adding to the decline of the aquifer. No decisions were made.

At 11:25 a.m. The Board canvassed the vote recount of the November 7, 2023 Marsing City Council, Seat 2 election.

County project updates with Engineer Cook – Opaline Tipping station will have a well dug this week; the County RV Park (located at the County fairgrounds) well house design is complete and ready to send to DEQ for approval; final numbers for the Murphy Water Update project are almost finalized and ready for public comment.

At 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Aberasturi made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-2061 (c) interest in real property. Commissioner Bachman seconded the motion.


Bachman- aye, Aberasturi – aye, and Hoagland – aye. Motion was carried. Open session was resumed at 12:04 p.m. No decisions were made.

The Board attended the County Staff Christmas Party.

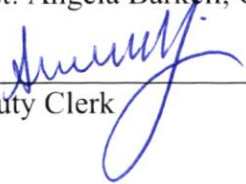
Boise District BLM coordination meeting was postponed until January.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Dated this 26th day of December, 2023.


Jerry Hoagland, Chairman

Attest: Angela Barkell, Clerk

By: 
Deputy Clerk