

OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES  
December 22, 2025  
OWYHEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MURPHY  
OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

*Present during the meeting were* – Commissioner Bachman, Commissioner Holton, Commissioner Aberasturi, Clerk Barkell, Deputy Clerk King, Treasurer Dygert, Sheriff Kendrick, HR Director Fahey, R&B 1 Supervisor Fuquay, County Staff Coordinator Desmond, PA Topmiller, Engineer Cook, representing Clearwater Financial – Christine Stoll; citizens - Trenton McRae, Randy Johnson, Dale Van Es, Phillip Smith and Anna Price.

*Via Zoom* – P&Z Director Huff, Museum Director Eriks Garsvo, Victim Witness Coordinator Maund, Fair Board Director Crifffield, Probation Administrator Ivy Smith, Probation Officer Miller, Deputy Treasurer Arrellano, representing Owyhee County Historic Preservation Committee – Anne VanWassenhove; citizens – Michelle Meyers, Amanda Snyder, Mitch Hipwell, Lorrie Bugin, Carroll Dodd, Aileena Richardson, Peter Zullo, Melissa McRae, Robin Aberasturi, Andrea McRae, Alan McRae, Holly Reynolds, Kali Yakana and Shelby Cloward; Canyon County resident - Jo Dee Arnold.

Public comment was taken from citizens Phillip Smith and Anna Price regarding concerns about the residency of the county prosecutor. The speakers stated why they feel it is important for the prosecutor to reside in the County they serve.

Commissioner Holton motioned to amend the agenda to include a discussion and action item regarding a residence that was flooded on Nevada Street in Homedale next to the Fairgrounds. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Commissioner Holton motioned to approve the claims report as presented in the amount of \$67,567.83. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Department	Amount
Current Expense Fund	\$ 51,297
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 5,354
District Court	\$ 363
Fair, Grounds and Buildings	\$ 282
Probation	\$ 77
Historical Society & Museum	\$ 139
Indigent and Charity	\$ 950
Revaluation	\$ 124
911	\$ 8,227
Waterways Fund	\$ 55
Taxing District Election Fund	\$ 99
Search & Rescue - Sheriff	\$ 600

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve the minutes from the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve a ballot confirming the appointment of Commissioner Kirk Wille who will serve as Gem County's representative to the Southwest District Board of Health. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Holton motioned to approve the signing of an application for Owyhee County Historic Preservation Commission to apply for a grant from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office with the Chairman's signature for the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve the Annual Road and Street Financial Report. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve Ordinance 25-03 and Summary – Establishing an Area of Impact Around the City of Marsing. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve Ordinance 25-04 and Summary – Establishing an Area of Impact Around the City of Homedale. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve the tax cancellation on parcel MH01N04W12255F in the amount of \$150.87. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve certificate of residency 25-24 to the College of Western Idaho. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to approve certificate of residency 25-25 to the College of Western Idaho. Seconded by Commissioner Holton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bachman motioned to approve a bid from KCG Excavation for a drain to be installed at the Homedale fairgrounds parking lot not to exceed \$8,000. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board met with Christine Stoll representing Clearwater Financial to reflect over the 2025 years' projects and to discuss the projects the Commissioners would like to start for the next year. An ongoing project that was discussed was the Murphy water system and some ideas for navigating grant opportunities. The Commissioners asked to meet with Christine in the near future to discuss projects that they would like to start for 2026.

Commissioner Holton motioned to approve an annual retainer for Clearwater Financial in the amount of \$12,000. Seconded by Commissioner Aberasturi. Motion carried.

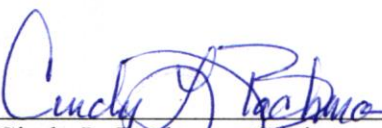
At 11:12 a.m. Commissioner Holton made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (a) personnel. Commissioner Aberasturi seconded the motion. Aberasturi – aye, Holton – aye, and Bachman - aye. Motion carried. Open session was resumed at 12:23 p.m. No action taken.

At 1:00 p.m. the Board conducted interviews for the prosecuting attorney position.

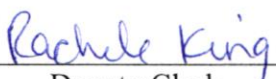
Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to contract with Chris Topmiller as the County's prosecuting attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Bachman. Aberasturi – aye, Holton – nay, and Bachman – aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2026

  
Cindy L. Bachman, Chairman

Attest: Angela Barkell, Clerk

By:   
Deputy Clerk