

REGULAR SESSION, APRIL 12, 2021

Commissioner Bolduc opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Buhler, Commissioner Bolton, Prosecutor Misseldine and the Clerk, Denise Gill were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Commissioner Bolton moved to amend the agenda to authorize payment on the EMS Building. Commissioner Buhler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMS BUILDING

Commissioner Bolton moved to make the final payment, application nine, to Gary D. Jones Construction. Commissioner Buhler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

INDIGENT

Commissioner Buhler moved to go into an executive session pursuant to IC§31-874 to consider indigent matters. Commissioner Bolton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bolton-Yes, Buhler- Yes, Bolduc-Yes. Director, Kathy Ball joined the meeting. The board recessed executive session and returned to regular session at 9:10 a.m.

REVIEW PLANNING AND ZONING ORDINANCES

The Board continued their work on Ordinance 102.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Bolton and Buhler moved and seconded to approve the March 2021 Claims. Motion carried.

General \$244,532.45	Road and Bridge \$-0-	Consolidated Elections \$2,387.31
District Court \$2,860.91	Fair \$1,533.94	Public Health \$7,233.83
Hagerman Police \$1,686.01	Wendell Police \$2,617.84	Public Defense \$12,392.29
Indigent \$1,175.00	Jr. College \$-00.00	Landfill \$20,000.00
Revaluation \$-00.00	Veterans Memorial \$-00.00	Weeds \$10,374.98
Waterways \$139.88		
TOTAL \$223,467.41		

Ambulance \$21,017.23

**DECISION ON COUNTY HOURS OF OPERATION
FOUR TO FIVE DAY WORKWEEK**

Commissioners Bolton post to Facebook encouraged members of the public to join the meeting in regards to the county switching back to five days a week. Eight members of the public joined the meeting. Three former employees and many current employees joined the meeting. Chairman Bolduc asked for comments on a five-day workweek with a two-minute time limit. Gayle DeSmet, former educator, explained her complaints on the county being open four days. Mrs. DeSmet stated that “Fred McDowell made it real clear to me, the other day, when he as out, he’s the electrician, local electrician, said he could not get help because his future employees from this community felt that they should not work, five days a week”. She implied that the four day a week was the European model and was taking over. She felt that it was time to go back to a five-day week. She has gone to the Jerome County assessor’s office. Mrs. DeSmet feels the County needs to hire more people there. Dennis Rogers, formerly ran an automobile body shop, worked a four-day week at Glanbia and did not find it beneficial. Citizen, Dennis Koyle, objected to listening to county employees, that it was a conflict of interest. Chairman Bolduc explained the employees could let them know when people were in their offices. Mr. Koyle has gone to Jerome County to register a vehicle. He explained he did not have much of a wait time in Jerome County. Shanna Koyle, had an instance where she had to go to Twin Falls County to registered a vehicle they had just purchased with plans for the weekend with their new vehicle. Tim Pierson, says it’s still a five-day commerce town. Linda Cheney, stated the county needs to be business friendly by being open a five-day workweek or pick a different day of the week to be closed. Jerry Pierce, former employee, in support of the four-day workweek. Mr. Pierce explained the four-day work week is much more efficient and that the schools have gone to four days. Many employees have children that are in school. He said that the employees put in more time and it is a way to retain employees. Walt Nelson, retired, he worked five-days a week, his understanding the four days was to save energy. Cody Turner, business owner, described his business; he has 30 plus employees that rotate days in a week that they have off, because his company works seven days a week. Those employees that have Friday’s off are continually asking for a change to get drivers licenses. There are pros and cons for both sides. Karen Smith, driver’s license clerk and a tax payer, explained there are five counties in Idaho that are closed on Friday and two that are half day on Friday. There are twenty counties that are by appointment only. Sheriff Gough explained the wait is not the fault of Gooding County, the State of Idaho’s driver’s license and DMV new systems are slow. Assessor Baldwin explained that Gooding County is open more hours than several other counties in the area. The new system requires the DMV Clerks to contact ITD programmers in order to get records fixed and when that happens it’s one hour. He further commented changing to five days will cost more than they are charging now. Employee Deanna Lenker explained that the recorder’s office does everything from marriage license to passports to recordings. Deanna stated two Fridays ago, we saw two people, one of them asked for directions. Mrs. Lenker said that they have not seen an increase on the Fridays with people coming in. The recorders office has been open five days since January 2020.

Taunia Labat, DMV employee, stated the State is pushing more online and less in the county offices. Gooding County is the only county in area that does Park and Rec stickers. Shelly Bates, Sheriff’s Office, stated the hours 7:30-5:30 are handy for people. People were hired at four days a week. Chairman Bolduc asked for comments from the Board. Commissioner Bolton commented, “everybody knows where I stand”. Commissioner Buhler stated “I’m not opposed to five days, but really don’t want to give up coming in early and staying late”. He expressed he likes the extended hours and we don’t have the budget to do five days at this time. Commissioner Bolduc, stated he values the elected officials on what works for them. It will take a tax increase to pay for it, five days with extended hours. Commissioner Bolduc said, “We have proven that the public uses the extended hours on a regular basis”. Prosecutor Misseldine explained that the county was nine to five organization before the switch and now to 7:30 – 5:30 extended hours. Commissioner Bolduc commented he had received four phone calls for five days a week, one for four days a week, the calls came from the Facebook post. Assessor Baldwin commented he is 19% understaff and with five days a week he will be 23% understaff. He would have to close down during the lunch hours. His employees will earn comp-time. Mr. Rogers spoke again on the matter. Employee, Taunia Labat, stated that they will need to

hire a third person. Commissioner Bolton moved to have offices open five-days a week, times to be established within the next month. Motion dies, due to the lack of a second.

ANNUAL REVIEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Assessor Baldwin joined the meeting to review property tax exemption at the request of the Board. He presented the statute that outlines the criteria. Currently they do not have to be applied for each year. Presently Gooding County has 904 exempt parcels out 11,000 parcels, excluding state and federal land. The Board looked through the print out that Assessor Baldwin provided of the exempt properties.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

Commissioner Buhler moved to approve the financial statement for March 31, 2021. Commissioner Bolton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SAFELINK PROPOSAL

Jamie Lancaster, Fair office, Mario de Haro Marti and Teri Dorchuck, from the Extension Office, suggested to wait until they get proposals from Safelink and Whitecloud. Mario de Haro Marti said there might be some grants to help with the service expense.

POLLING PLACES FOR MAY 18, 2021 ELECTION

Commissioner Buhler moved to approve the polling places for the May 18, 2021 election. Commissioner Bolton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wendell Highway District- Sub-Districts 1 & 2 Commissioner Elections

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTING	GOODING COUNTY COURTHOUSE 624 Main St., Gooding
#4 WENDELL CITY	AMERICAN LEGION HALL 610 W Main St, Wendell
#5 WENDELL RURAL	WENDELL SENIOR CENTER 380 1 ST Ave E, Wendell

Jerome Jt. School District #261 Bond Election

#5 WENDELL RURAL	WENDELL SENIOR CENTER 380 1 ST Ave E, Wendell
------------------	---

GIVEN under my hand and seal this 12th day of April 2021.

/s/Mark Bolduc

Mark Bolduc
Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Buhler reported that the Weeds Superintendent is considering on retiring next fall.

MINUTES

Commissioner Bolton moved to approve the minutes from April 5, 2021. Commissioner Buhler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUILDING

The Board discussed the new office building and how they would accommodate the various offices in the new building. They considering moving Planning and Zoning there. They took a tour of the of the building at 12:41 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

Commissioner Bolton adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

/s/Mark Bolduc

Mark Bolduc, Chairman

/s/Susan M. Bolton

Susan M. Bolton, Commissioner

/s/Ron Buhler

Ron Buhler, Commissioner

Attest: /s/Denise M. Gill

Denise M. Gill, Clerk