

August 29, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Idaho, does hereby meet this 29th day of August 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF ROLL CALL)

Donna Atwood, Clerk, called roll call: Kirk Chandler, present; Lyndon Haines, present; and Nate Marvin, present.

Nate Marvin opened the meeting and Donna Atwood led the Pledge of Allegiance. Kirk Chandler gave the invocation.

Also present was Sheriff, Matt Thomas; Prosecuting Attorney, Delton Walker; Weiser Ambulance Director, Luke Smith; Weed Superintendent, Bonnie Davis; Chief Deputy, Brady Johnston; Treasurer, Sabrina Young; Information Technology Director, Robert Peterson; Gordon Wilkerson and Larry Boots.

IN THE MATTER OF CORRESPONDENCE/MEETINGS AND REPORTS)

Correspondence received by the Board was reviewed and disseminated as required.

Kirk Chandler moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to approve a demand warrant payable to Edge Performance in the amount of \$4,838.20 for jet ski repair. Motion carried.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Kirk Chandler to approve a Certificate of Residency for Dillon Houser. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the matter of the odor from Intrinsic Organics and the possibility of issuing a citation to the company with Sheriff, Matt Thomas and Prosecuting Attorney, Delton Walker. Thomas stated he cannot cite the company per an Administrative Order.

Chandler stated the State needs to address the matter under the Administrative Order.

Walker stated this is a new Agricultural Operation that may not be addressed under County Code.

Thomas and Walker will meet with Planning and Zoning Administrator, Bonnie Brent, to determine how to move forward.

Weed Superintendent, Bonnie Davis, presented quotes for replacement windows at the Weed Department and for trimming trees on the property line to the Board for consideration.

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Kautz Construction submitted a quote in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the replacement of five windows at the Weed Department. Coleys Glass Company, LLC submitted a quote for replacement windows in the amount \$3,417.34.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Kirk Chandler to accept the quote from Coleys Glass Company, LLC in the amount of \$3,417.34. Motion carried unanimous.

The Board reviewed quotes for trimming trees submitted by Natural Tree in the amount of \$3,500.00 and Shippy Land & Tree, LLC in the amount of \$3,730.00.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Kirk Chandler to approve the quote from Natural Tree in the amount of \$3,500.00. Motion carried unanimous.

Treasurer, Sabrina Young, requested permission to open a separate Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) fund with the State Treasurer Office in order to earn additional interest on the ARPA Funding that the County received. Young presented an Additional Funds Application to the Board for signature. Young stated the funds would be readily available within a three-day period. Marvin signed the application.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

The minutes of the Board not heretofore approved of August 22, 2022 and August 26, 2022 were approved as written.

IN THE MATTER OF AMBULANCE DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING)

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to recess as the Board of Washington County Commissioners and convene as the Board of the Weiser Ambulance District. Motion carried unanimous.

Nate Marvin opened the hearing at 9:12 a.m. and read the Public Notice on the record.

Members of the public present were Ronald Weber, Gene Wyss, Lloyd Roberts, and Randy Bergquist.

Ambulance District Director, Luke Smith, reviewed the proposed Ambulance District 2022-2023 fiscal year budget in the total amount of \$1,117,888.00 with the Board.

No public comment was received.

Hearing closed at 9:16 a.m.

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Nate Marvin read Resolution No 22-01 regarding the intent to use forgone funds in the amount of \$10,827.00 for the 2023 budget.

Kirk Chandler moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to approve Resolution 22-01 to include \$10,827.00 of the forgone amount in the 2023 fiscal year budget for the Ambulance District. Motion carried unanimous.

Nate Marvin read Resolution No. 22-02 on the record adopting the 2022-2023 Ambulance District proposed budget in the amount of \$1,117,888.00.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Kirk Chandler to approve the Resolution No. 22-02 adopting the 2023 fiscal year budget for the Weiser Ambulance District in the amount of \$1,117,888.00. Motion carried unanimous.

Order No. 22-42 for general expenses in the amount of \$7,479.67 and Order No. 22-0024 for payroll expenses in the amount of \$25,081.03 was presented to the Board for review.

Lyndon Haines moved, seconded by Kirk Chandler to approve Order No.22-0024 for payroll expenses in the amount of \$25,081.03.

Kirk Chandler moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to approve Order No. 22-42 for general expenses in the amount of \$7,479.67. Motion carried unanimous.

Nate Marvin moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to recess as the Board of the Weiser Ambulance District and reconvene as Board of Washington County Commissioners. Motion carried unanimous.

Donna Atwood, Clerk, called roll call: Kirk Chandler, present; Lyndon Haines, present; and Nate Marvin, present.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY BUDGET HEARING)

Nate Marvin opened the hearing and read the Public Notice on the record at 9:30 a.m.

Those present were Sheriff, Matt Thomas; Weed Superintendent, Bonnie Davis; Treasurer, Sabrina Young; Prosecuting Attorney, Delton Walker; Assessor, Debbie Moxley-Potter; Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor, Jerod Odoms; Juvenile Probation Supervisor, Dahlia Stender; Information Technology Director, Robert Peterson; Deputy Sheriff, Brady Johnston; Planning and Zoning Administrator, Bonnie Brent and Ambulance Director, Luke Smith. Members of the public present were Gordon Wilkerson, Ronald Weber, Gene Wyss, Lloyd Roberts, Randy Bergquist, Josh Dolton and Nancy Williams.

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Nate Marvin provided an overview of the proposed County budget of \$18,896,172.12 including revenue sources and proposed property taxes of \$6,099,582.00. The proposed levy rate for the 2023 budget is .00458133707 which is a decrease of the current levy rate of .005643169.

Clerk, Donna Atwood, reviewed the 2023 fiscal year proposed County budget.

Randy Bergquist inquired if the information regarding salaries was available. A copy of the itemized budget was provided to Bergquist.

Ronald Weber addressed the Board. Weber stated that he has been in the County for eight years. Weber discussed the assessed value of his property and stated the increments of increase had been reasonable until the last couple years. Weber informed the Board that his assessment increased \$111,000.00 for the current year. Weber stated the increase of property values should be in line with social security increases. Weber discussed the increases to the County budgets.

Marvin stated County officials are working with the legislature in hopes of getting some property tax relief for citizens.

Weber stated assessments should be calculated on the inflation rate.

Chandler stated assessments are calculated based on the market value.

Randy Bergquist re-addressed the Board. Bergquist stated many of the citizens within the County are senior citizens. Bergquist inquired if the Board would consider more of a fee-based budgeting process. Bergquist inquired if the 3% cap is sufficient to keep up with inflation.

Marvin stated that there is a turn-over of employees. Marvin stated that the County has to be competitive in order to retain staff.

Chandler stated each fund within the County budget has a set levy limit. Chandler stated the Justice fund is funded partially with PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds. Chandler discussed funding provided to groups such as Rose Advocates and Veterans Services through the county budget.

Weber readdressed the Board. Weber discussed the value of property and assessments.

Haines stated the assessment increased by 23%, taxes will not go up 23%. The State limits counties to 3% plus new growth.

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Chandler stated the mill (levy rate) has dropped for the past three years. The assessed values have increased. Chandler stated that the mill rate for the 2023 budget has decreased \$82.99 per \$100,000.00 in taxable value.

Marvin reminded those present that there are other taxing districts within the County that will receive a portion of tax dollars from the taxpayer.

Lloyd Roberts addressed the Board. Roberts stated he knows the assessments are governed by the legislature. People should contact our local representatives to help address property valuations. Lloyd Roberts read a statement on the record.

Hearing closed at 10:08 a.m.

Chandler stated we need to consider the items Roberts discussed such as the sale of livestock and that current prices will not cover expenses. Chandler thanked those in attendance for all the work they have done on behalf of the County. Marvin also thanked the staff.

Lyndon Haines read Resolution No. 22-05 and moved to approve and adopt the 2022 - 2023 fiscal year budget as presented in the amount of \$18,896,172.12. The motion was seconded by Kirk Chandler.

Chandler stated inflation is hitting everyone. Chandler informed the group that it is hard to keep employees. We are a small county with limited resources. Chandler stated the Canyon County submitted a proposed budget of \$157,000,000.00. Chandler discussed the raises that are to be given in Canyon County due to turnover. Chandler informed the group that the County is short on staff. Chandler stated the proposed wage increase in the budget is the highest that has been given of up to 7%. Chandler discussed wage increases for State employees ranging from 7% to 11%. Chandler stated elected officials and department heads have been careful with the funding provided during his time as commissioner. Chandler stated assessments have increased and the levy rate has been reduced but in the end the taxpayer may not feel the County has done anything for them because the taxpayer is paying more taxes. Chandler informed the group that the State will be going into a Special Session to review taxes, school funding, etc., because there is approximately a \$2 billion surplus in the State budget. Chandler encouraged those present to reach out to the legislature and encourage cutting income tax and property taxes. Chandler stated one legislator in Boise wants to provide the excess funds to schools. Chandler informed the group that none of the County funds are at the levy limit at this time.

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Haines agreed. Haines stated that the County has tried to do their best to retain employees and try to keep taxes as low as possible. Haines stated his home has tripled in value since it was purchased. Haines stated that those paying the taxes are friends, family and neighbors and the Board is doing their best to not increase taxes too much.

Marvin discussed Federal Funding to be received for Road & Bridge. Marvin stated the County is trying to do the best we can.

Marvin inquired for a roll call vote on Resolution No. 22-05 to adopt the proposed 2023 budget as presented.

Clerk Donna Atwood called roll call vote: Kirk Chandler, Aye; Lyndon Haines, Aye; Nate Marvin, Aye.

IN THE MATTER OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY)

Delton Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, met with the Board. Also present was Sheriff, Matt Thomas; Deputy Sheriff, Brady Johnston, Gordon Wilkerson, Nancy Williams, Josh Dolton and Robert Peterson.

Marvin discussed entering a contract with the City of Weiser for attorney services for misdemeanors and infractions. Marvin stated the 2023 budget would remain the same as presented. If the County were to approve the contract, the prosecutor's budget would be reviewed in six months to consider a budget adjustment.

Walker discussed the cost of increasing wages for the deputy prosecutors' wages if the Board agrees to approve the contract for services with the City of Weiser. Walker informed the Board that the current deputy prosecutor would receive the increase allowed in the 2023 budget. Walker stated there would not be an increase to his wage to cover the contract services.

Walker requested the Washington County Prosecutor be allowed to enter into a contract with the City of Weiser for attorney services.

Kirk Chandler moved seconded by Lyndon Haines to allow the Prosecutors office to enter into a contract with the City of Weiser for criminal and misdemeanor work. Motion carried unanimous.

Walker requested that he be able to add Josh Dolton as a Deputy Prosecutor in Washington County to begin October 1, 2022.

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Kirk Chandler moved, seconded by Lyndon Haines to appoint Josh Dolton as a Deputy Prosecutor for Washington County effective October 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimous.

Motion by Nate Marvin, seconded by Lyndon Haines and unanimously carried to recess at 10:40 p.m. until September 6, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk

A full audio recording of the Commissioner Meeting is available at the Clerk's Office upon request.