

February 5, 2024

The Board of Garfield County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 5th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Present were Chairman Justin Dixon, Member Larry Ledgerwood, Member Jim Nelson, Clerk of the Board McKenzie Lueck and the public.

The Board started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes for the previous meeting.

Chairman Dixon called for public comment. There was none.

Chairman Dixon stated that Qcells will put on an open house on February 21st from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Spinners Maple Hall in Pomeroy. Chairman Dixon stated that the purpose of this open house is to learn about the project, but it is not a public input session.

Road Supervisor, Steve Gormsen, gave the road report. Last week, the crew worked on patching holes on Peola Road. The graders ran on Rice Bar, Eureka, and Smith Gulch Road. One of the graders is being worked on in the shop due to mechanical issues. The rest of the crew worked on cleaning culvert heads, burning weeds, and trimming trees. They have been repairing and replacing signs throughout the county as needed. Steve informed the Board that they are borrowing Asotin County's bucket truck to trim trees that overhang the road on Kirby Mayview. Chairman Dixon stated that North Meadow Creek has had some complaints, and weather permitting, asked Steve to have someone address the issues. Steve finished his weekly update stating that they also serviced pickups E220 and E208 in the shop.

Danika Gwinn, Clinical Director of Quality Behavioral Health, met with the Board to give them her biannual update. The following programs are offered in Garfield County by Quality Behavioral Health; Substance Use Disorder Program, Mental Health Outpatient, Psychiatric Medication Management, Community Sexual Assault Program, Crisis Program, Recovery Navigator Program, Needs assessments-intensive case management, Prevention Program, Wise Program-Intensive Wraparound for Youth and Families. Danika provided the Board with the number of community members that each program is servicing and also gave them an update on a new program, Youth Mobile Crisis Team, which consists of four certified peers that will respond to crisis situations for ages 3-21 anywhere in the community. Commissioner Nelson commented that luckily Garfield County doesn't get many ITA calls. Danika shared with the Board some reorganizing that QBH is going through with local counselors but stated that until all patients/clients are assigned a new counselor during this transition, they will be served with the Youth Mobile Crisis Team. Danika stated that there is a large lag in getting counselors certified due to the state being so far behind in processing applications. Lauren Price, Student Assistant Profession at Pomeroy Jr./Sr. High School, questioned if the referrals for the Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) were the pain point of getting clients in or if there was another reason for the low numbers. Danika stated that schools and law enforcement are their biggest referrals for RNP, but

the referrals are down. Commissioner Nelson stated that he invited Kelly Ryan, Juvenile Probation Coordinator for both Garfield and Asotin Counties, and Lauren Price to hear Danika's update as well as the YARP discussion so everyone could be on the same page of how to handle a situation when something arises. Commissioner Nelson stated that he would like Lauren to get more involved with the RNP because they could both think of youth that could potentially benefit from this program. Danika stated that there aren't a lot of referrals being made, so they have the availability to take more referrals. She did state that participants do have to be willing to enter into the program. The Board thanked her for her time and the update.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he sits on the board for Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH). He introduced two individuals that he invited to come and present to the Board today, Zachary Roddy and Gordon Cable, both of whom work for GCBH in the tri-city office. Gordon is the Program Administrator and oversees the Youth Access and Research Program (YARP), and Zachary is the Community Navigator for the YARP program. Gordon stated that the program was launched in Benton and Franklin Counties last January. He continued that YARP is a statewide program known as the Youth Navigator Program. They formed a steering committee to identify gaps and barriers to see who they were serving and where they could provide additional support. Zachary continued that they have two main priorities: teen mental health and destigmatization. He stated that one of their tools is to refer people to their website which has a service availability hub that consists of the mental health providers in the area, tells you the population they serve, the insurance they take, and their availability to take on new patients. Gordon stated that Benton and Franklin Counties are much larger, but they're able to tailor the program to the community. Gordon stated that they offered to launch the program first, so they had input on how the program looks moving forward. Zach informed the Board of a flexible fund that will help kids that don't have resources. This fund has been used to purchase a child a bed, it can be used to help pay dues to be involved in sports, etc. He continued that this fund doesn't have any strings attached and that typically in these situations there are a lot of hoops to jump through in order to provided resources to youth, but this isn't one of those. They're looking to get representatives from counties that they're expanding into on the steering committee so there is a broader representation of needs on the committee. There was discussion regarding destigmatization and how to do that in each community; everywhere is different and trying to get rid of the stigma related to mental health is a challenge. Gordon stated that they want YARP to be a program that's flexible and allows them to make partnerships with existing resources within the community. Commissioner Nelson stated that if there are gaps in services that are not otherwise available this is a great resource for the county. Gordon informed the Board that they expanded into Walla Walla County and Columbia County this January. There was discussion on how to bring this program to Garfield County and how it can complement the current programs serving the county. The Board thanked Zach and Gordon for their time.

Commissioner Nelson presented Tom Milspaugh with a certificate in appreciation of his service to Garfield County. Commissioner Nelson stated that Tom served as the Civil Service Examiner for many years.

The Board recessed from 9:52 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

The Board went back into regular session at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Dixon stated that if anyone had questions regarding this morning presentations to reach out to Commissioner Nelson.

The Board discussed the Intergovernmental Agreement Apportioning Salary of Court Administrator. Chairman Dixon stated that this has been a point of contention between Asotin's Board of County Commissioners and Garfield's Board of County Commissioners for the last few years. He continued that the Board has never had a conversation with Judge Burns regarding this position/pay and that conversation needs to be held before the Board is willing to move forward. Chairman Dixon stated that he spoke with Judge Cox about this position and Judge Cox said that the position is needed and used but he also understands the Board's problem with the case load being so low and them trying to appoint the same portion as the Superior Court Judge's salary. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that Court Clerk, Marie Gormsen, provided caseload data for 2018, 2022, & 2023. Commissioner Nelson stated that he knows they've invited the judge to come sit down with them to discuss this and if Mondays didn't work offered for her to pick a date. Chairman Dixon stated that he would reach out to Judge Burns to schedule a meeting. They want to discuss this before making any decisions.

The Board reviewed a request from Monica Bartlow, WSU Extension Agent Secretary, to surplus a copy machine from the agent's office to the fairgrounds due to it being replaced. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the surplus and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the WCSO/GCSO Contract for Jail Services. Chairman Dixon stated that Prosecutor Newberg had made edits to the draft, and they were approved by Whitman County. Commissioner Nelson moved to sign the agreement and Commissioner Ledgerwood seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board signed the contract. Commissioner Nelson asked Chairman Dixon if there was an update from Walla Walla about their contract and Chairman Dixon stated that he had not heard back from Walla Walla yet.

The Board reviewed two county credit card requests for Sheriff's Office employees and approved them.

Engineer Wege joined the Board to give them his weekly update. He attended a field review for the Kirby Mayview project with the consultants, Grant and Ron. They don't have a new scope yet, but he is hoping to have it by the end of this week. The meeting was very productive. He is going to try to place ads for the other upcoming projects this week. He stated that ads have to run for three weeks. He is hoping to do consultant interviews the week of March 4-7 and is hoping to do it with the same panel that conducted interviews for the Kirby Mayview consultants. He gave the Board an update on the Shoreline grant, stating that the Department of Ecology is no longer in favor of providing grant funds due to the lack of shorelines in Garfield County. He will be working on the proper closeout of that request this week. He is also still working on the insurance recommendation remedies. He stated that the crew will be working on the eye wash/shower station and will hopefully get that addressed soon. He informed the Board that Nick Waldher reached out again regarding his situation. Engineer Wege is going to reach out to Prosecutor Newberg this week regarding that and the ag exemption policy. He's been working

on a 'to-do-list' for the transition, stating that CRAB has annual submissions in March and April due. Commissioner Ledgerwood asked about the fairgrounds grant and who the main point of contact is for it and Engineer Wege stated that Monica was. He said that he would reach out to her to make sure nothing slipped through the cracks. He gave the Board an update on the bleacher project, stating that they were in the historic preservation stage; the state has given the 'all clear', and Department of Ag will contact the tribes to see if they have any concerns. At this time, we are in the 30-day response window. Engineer Wege stated that generally speaking, no expenditures are allowable in the response window, but Engineer Wege asked Department of Ag if they could purchase bleachers during this window and he's waiting to hear back. He continued that the 30-day period will expire and then they will have to get the contract between the county and the Department of Ag for the grant. He also gave an update on the Clean Building Act; he met with the school building superintendent and went through their plans. The school will be affected by the second tier of the Clean Building Act as both school buildings are about 40,000. Engineer Wege stated that the rules for this act will be adopted in December 2030, but we have to report to commerce by 2027 regarding what buildings will be affected. Chairman Dixon asked if it is the county's responsibility to report to commerce and Engineer Wege confirmed that he believes it will be the county's responsibility. He continued that some of the rules haven't been written yet. He stated that the Port building is also over 20,000 sq. ft. but it will also most likely be exempt. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) is lobbying for funds to help meet these requirements but at this time it is an unfunded mandate.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2024-03 regarding Salary and Wage Schedule Amendment. This amendment is due to two positions needing amended after the adoption of Resolution 2024-02 Salary and Wage Schedule. The two positions that are amended by this resolution are the Sheriff's Chief Deputy position to be increased to reflect the negotiated raise given to the Employees' Group and the Auditor's position to reflect the increase previously voted upon by the Board due to increased duties related to the Clerk of the Board position. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Nelson seconded it. The resolution passed unanimously, and the Board signed it.

Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that Greg Sharp, IT Coordinator, emailed him a draft Cyber Incident Plan. Commissioner Ledgerwood sent it to Prosecutor Newberg and Adam Hodges to review. Mark Sherwood with the County's risk pool made a few suggestions to the draft. The Board is waiting for feedback from Prosecutor Newberg before moving forward.

Commissioner Nelson informed the Board that he is going to meet individually with three civil service applicants this week. He expects that the Board will have a recommendation next week for an appointment for the vacant position.

Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that he's going to the city council meeting this week. He also informed the Board that he will be unavailable on the 22nd, which is when the next workforce development meeting is. Chairman Dixon isn't available to attend this meeting either. Commissioner Nelson is going to see if he's available to attend the meeting remotely.

The Board discussed an email received from Monica Bartlow, Board of Equalization Secretary, regarding the pay for this position and how other counties are increasing it. McKenzie stated that she would put together some numbers for the Board including the number of meetings BOE has annually and the current pay for this position so they can revisit it next week.

The Commissioners regular meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. with the next regular meeting set for Monday, February 12th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

/s/ McKenzie Lueck
Attest: Clerk of the Board

/s/ Justin Dixon
Chairman, Board of Garfield County Commissioners

Adopted