

February 20, 2024

The Board of Garfield County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20th, 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.

Road Supervisor Steve Gormsen gave the Board the weekly maintenance report. Last week, the crew patched holes on Peola Road. The graders ran on Falling Springs and cleared some ditches, they fixed potholes on Elsensohn Road, and grader E127 had maintenance done. They hauled rock last week. The chipper had new knives and blades installed. They plowed snow on Mountain Road and Peola Road on Thursday. Steve informed the Board that they did have five trucks run on Friday on the paved roads to take care of slick spots. In the shop, they worked on graders E127 and E121, they are putting a water tank on roller E174, truck E252 had a hydraulic leak that they're working on, and they serviced pickups E206, E219, E221. They repaired signs throughout the county. Steve was able to get the numbers for stripping together and he will be reaching out to a few companies for quotes. This week, the crew will be working on a few guardrails that need repaired and they will haul rock weather permitting.

Engineer Wege joined the Board to give them his weekly update. Engineer Wege stated that the phones and internet are down at County Road and have been since last Tuesday due to the switch going out. They have a temporary fix that will hopefully be in place by the end of day today, but the permanent fix won't be here for a month or two. He is working on the road levy certification that is due at the beginning of March. He informed the Board that the RFQ advertisement for the consultant design portion of the project was published. He has been getting many questions from various firms who seem interested in the project. He finished closing out the Ecology Shoreline grant and reached out to the consultant that submitted an SOQ that the project is no longer going to take place. He attended a meeting last week regarding the Appaloosa project and reminded the Board that there will be an informational open house tomorrow. He informed the Board that he received the contract for the grant for the parking lot pavement project for the Ag Museum. They plan to put an advertisement in the paper for bids. He informed the Board that they are taking bids for concrete or asphalt for the project. He continued that there was an EWAM (Eastern Washington Agriculture Museum) meeting last night and the committee decided that they are fine with asphalt or concrete. Engineer Wege stated that his preference for this situation is concrete due to the 'scrub' which is caused by vehicles coming in and using the area for a turn around and concrete holds up better to that especially in the heat. Engineer Wege stated that they are following Washington DOT standards for this project. Engineer Wege explained that concrete can be placed now whereas the hot mix plant won't start mixing asphalt until May. Chairman Dixon reminded Engineer Wege that this is a prevailing wage project, and it needs to

be included in the advertisement. There was discussion regarding where the asphalt will be laid, and the potential for it to meet the asphalt at the top of the hill down to the second ag museum building, but after the conversation Engineer Wege had with a potential contractor there isn't enough room in the budget for that to be done.

Engineer Wege also spoke to the Board about a sidewalk project that is being funded by a grant received from the Shepherd Foundation. He stated that because this money goes through the County, he must follow the procurement process which includes reaching out to three companies off the small works roster or soliciting bids which will push the project back some. If there is money left over, they may put more concrete under the hangover of one of the buildings. There was discussion about a triangle piece of grass between the two ag museum buildings and the possibility of putting gravel there. Commissioner Ledgerwood asked about a walkway on the far end of one of the buildings and why that's not being considered, and Engineer Wege stated that the Ag Museum Committee is discussing potentially expanding that building. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that there might be funding available through Washington State Department of Agriculture Capital Funding Grant, especially if there are matching funds available. Engineer Wege wrapped up his weekly update stating that he does not have a contract yet for Keller and Associates due to waiting on WASHDOT's acceptance. Once it's reviewed and approved by them, there will be a contract available for the Board to sign. Chairman Dixon stated that the Board will have an executive session regarding contract negotiations before they make any decisions regarding Keller and Associates.

The Board discussed a quote they received from Chris's Professional Electric LLC to expand the jury room. Katie Magill, District Court Administrator, has reached out to three different contractors but has only received a quote from one in the amount of \$10,584.99. Chairman Dixon stated that the expansion of the jury room has been discussed for the last few years. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the quote and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that he will be attending a fair board meeting tonight and the Appaloosa Solar open house tomorrow. Commissioner Nelson stated that he would try to attend the Work Force meeting on Thursday in place of Commissioner Ledgerwood's absence.

Chairman Dixon reminded the public that there will be a swap meet put on by the Ag Museum June 29th and 30th. He stated that the Ag Museum is renting the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that Shaneice received one quote for the bleachers, and it was \$15,000-\$20,000 higher than the original quote. Engineer Wege stated that they will be lower on the deconstruction of the bleachers because the top half has already been removed.

The Board went into executive session at 9:35 a.m. to discuss contract negotiations. They expect to be in executive session for 15 minutes. The Board got out of executive session at 9:55 a.m. No decisions were made. They recessed from 9:55 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

The Board met with the Public Health Board from 10:00 a.m. until 10:36 a.m.

The Board went back into regular session at 10:36 a.m. Chairman Dixon stated that the Katie Magill, District Court Administrator, asked the Board if they came to a decision on the two dutch doors (one for District Court and one for the Auditor's Office) that need installed to finish the door badge system. Katie joined the Board and provided them with the previous quotes that had been received; one from Commercial Entry Systems for \$7,404 and the other from Chris's Professional Electric LLC for \$2,346.83. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that CPE's bid was considerably less, but the door company is the company that is installing the door readers. Commissioner Ledgerwood stated that it would make the most sense if Chris's Professional Electric is doing the jury room expansion, that they might as well do the doors too. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the quote from CPEC and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Nelson asked if there was a timeframe on the jury room expansion, and Katie said they sound like they will be able to get to it soon but will have to work around the jury trials.

Chairman Dixon stated that he met with Judge Burns and Commissioner Whitman, regarding court costs, court time, and the position of the Court Administrator. He stated that Commissioner Whitman was very receiving of the case load and Columbia County Prosecuting Attorney Dale Slack provided additional information to Judge Burns regarding case load. Chairman Dixon went on to talk about the job description and the items that didn't pertain to Garfield County but stated that there were additional items that were not listed in the job description that Judge Burns stated the administrator does do for the county. Judge Burns is going to rewrite the job description and there will be another discussion. Chairman Dixon stated that he's in favor of paying Garfield County's fair share, but also wants it to be reasonable. Asotin County is going to get back to him when the job description is updated.

Katie updated the Board on the court's jury system. She attended a demo with Tyler Technology and stated that the product was amazing but it's going to be a Cadillac price. The sales representative is going to speak with Steven's County about hosting Garfield County which would cut down on costs. Commissioner Nelson stated that he liked that idea because we don't have a lot of jury trials. The sales representative is hoping to have an answer back to Katie by the end of this week, or the beginning of next week. Katie stated that this is something the courts have to have. She is going to reach out to the company that Columbia County uses to get a quote from them as well.

Commissioner Nelson asked if the Board has heard back from Walla Walla County regarding the jail contract. Chairman Dixon stated that he will reach out to them this week as we have not heard back from them.

The Board met with the County Transportation Authority from 11:00 a.m. until 11:24 a.m.

The following voucher payments were approved for payment:

Claims Clearing Fund

Numbers: 71238 Through: 71239 Totaling: \$290.11

The Commissioners regular meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m. with the next regular meeting set for Monday, February 26th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

/s/ Nikki Smith
Attest: Clerk of the Board

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

Adopted