

April 22, 2024

The Board of Garfield County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday April 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Garfield County Courthouse.

Present were Chairman Justin Dixon, Member Jim Nelson, Member Larry Ledgerwood, 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. The crew broomed Gould City, Hastings Hill, and Kirby Mayview Road. They flagged for test holes on Kirby Mayview for CRP 449. They graded the following roads: Bratcher, Washboard, Rice Bar, Neber, Fairview, Darland, Columbia Center, Pataha Spur Road, Tatman, Kimes, Upper Hutchins, Lewis, Bosley, and Linville Ridge. The crew built a pad to store oil rock on. Steve stated the crew was busy loading rock for customers as well as hauling rock to Rice Bar and Pataha Creek last week. He also stated that there was a washout on Rice Bar, so the crew fixed that and installed a culvert on Pataha Creek. They sprayed Gould City Road. In the shop, they serviced truck E251 and worked on trailer E159 and trailer E161. They fixed signs that were damaged from wind throughout the county. Steve informed the Board that there were two crew members that would be going to Grouse Flats this week to dig out cattle guards because they were full of mud. The crew is expecting it to take two weeks to get the oil rock hauled. They will start patching holes on May 6th.

Kevin Poole joined the Board to execute a contract to act as Interim Engineer for Garfield County for 12 months. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the contract and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the contract was executed.

The Board reviewed a Notice of Award for the EWAM parking lot project to 2 Cannon River Construction. Chairman Dixon stated that this bid was awarded two weeks ago, and they started pouring concrete for the project last week. Chairman Dixon signed the award letter, and the Board executed the contract for the project.

James Wege joined the Board to give an update from EWAM. He stated that they had a meeting yesterday and said that 2 Cannon River Construction had started the parking project and once that is finished, they will begin working on the sidewalk project. James stated that the EWAM Board appreciated the Board of County Commissioners moving forward with these projects. James stated that the parking project is being done in sections. Chairman Dixon asked Wege to remind the contractor about the sprinkler lines so there aren't any concrete trucks that are backed over the lines.

Commissioner Ledgerwood brought up discussion regarding another project at the fairgrounds that 2 Cannon River Construction quoted. This project includes pouring additional concrete near the covered grandstands to make the area ADA compliant. This will be paid for by the Path's and Trails fund. The quote from 2 Cannon River Construction was \$11,962.62. Commissioner Ledgerwood made a motion to approve the quote and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dixon stated that there are currently three projects taking place at the fairgrounds; the parking area being resurfaced near the Ag Museum which is funded by a grant and any overage of that project will be paid by EWAM's budget, the seconded project is additional sidewalks put in near the Ag Museum which is funded by a Shepherd grant, and the third project is an additional pad of concrete and sidewalk being poured by the covered grandstands area to help make that ADA compliant, and that is funded by the Path's and Trails fund.

Chairman Dixon stated that there would be no meeting next week and the next meeting will be May 6th.

Commissioner Nelson stated that Bruce Barkhuff has accepted the vacancy on the Civil Service Board.

Chairman Dixon stated that he attended an insurance board meeting last week and the big topic was the compensation paid to the agents that work for the counties, which are set salaries. The risk pool wants each county to discuss with their agent what would be fair compensation. The pay is currently 6% of the insurance premium and is built into the counties' bills. Chairman Dixon stated that the discussion with the insurance board right now is that there could be a decrease in the agents' pay. He continued that the next meeting is in July and the preliminary numbers will be out in June.

Chairman Dixon stated that he has a Salmon Recovery Board meeting tomorrow in Dayton.

Commissioner Ledgerwood has a Raising the Blues on Wednesday and a Garfield County Habitat Committee Meeting for a grant with Puget Sound Energy in Dayton on Thursday.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he has a meeting on Wednesday for the Clean Energy focus group. He stated that this is supposed to be a one-time meeting.

The board reviewed an Interagency Agreement between WSU Extension and Garfield County for providing an Extension Agent Chairperson to Garfield County. McKenzie stated that this is an annual agreement, but WSU has updated the language and one of the primary changes is the billing; WSU is changing from billing monthly to billing quarterly.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2024-08 in the matter of 2023 inventories. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to sign the resolution and Commissioner Ledgerwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the board signed the resolution. Chairman Dixon stated that the Board would select one item from each department to audit. The audit requires

department heads to submit a picture of the item selected by the commissioners for verification that it is in the county's possession.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2024-09 in the matter of temporarily modifying overtime compensation for emergency communication officers. Commissioner Nelson stated that Cyndi Holbert, E911 Coordinator, joined the Board last week to discuss the multiple vacancies her department was facing at this time. He stated that the department is losing another full-time dispatcher at the end of the month, bringing their fulltime positions down to only three being filled. This is causing an issue for them being able to cover shifts while still allowing their full-time positions to take vacations. The Board discussed the situation, stating that last year they were in a similar position and passed a resolution to allow for overtime to be compensated based on the shift versus the work week. Commissioner Nelson stated that the department is working on remedying the situation, but it takes time. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to pass resolution 2024-09 and Commissioner Ledgerwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed resolution 2024-10 in the matter of a one-time vacation cash-out for a dispatcher that had a preplanned, preapproved vacation in May that had to be cancelled due to lack of coverage of shifts. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to pass the resolution and Commissioner Ledgerwood seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, and the board signed the resolution.

The Board reviewed a Proclamation to make May 31, 2024, Eric Brian Johnson Day. Chairman Dixon explained that Eric has served as the Executive Director for Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) for 16 years as Executive Director but has been with WSAC for 19 years all together. He continued that this proclamation is in recognition of Eric being such an asset to counties across the state for the term of his service with WSAC. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to sign the proclamation and Commissioner Ledgerwood seconded it. The Board signed the proclamation.

The Board recessed from 9:45 a.m. until 9:55 a.m.

The Board went into executive session at 9:55 a.m. with Prosecutor Newberg to discuss three items: qualifications of an employee, potential litigation, and contract negotiations. The Board expected the executive session to last 20 minutes without any decision at the end. Executive session ended at 10:34 a.m.

The Board continued with executive session regarding qualifications of an employee from 10:40 a.m. until 11:52 a.m.

The following voucher payments were approved for payment:

Claims Clearing Fund

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Numbers: 71821 | Through: 71851 | Totaling: <u>\$89,307.10</u> |
| Numbers: 71852 | Through: 71872 | Totaling: <u>\$80,269.80</u> |

The Commissioners regular meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. with the next regular meeting set for Monday, May 6th, 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