

COMMISSION MINUTES

March 22, 2021

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this twenty-second day of March, 2021. Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Garth 'Tooter' Ogden, and Ralph Brown in the Commission Chambers of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. Clerk/Auditor Steven Wall, County Attorney Casey Jewkes, and Executive Director Malcolm Nash were also present.

Commission Business:

Commissioner Johnson reported he had met with the Balloon Festival Committee in Salina, and they have been getting plans in order for the Balloon Festival June 18-20th. They are planning on a full festival and several activities.

Commissioner Brown reported he would be retiring from the Hospital Board as he had served for 12 years, which is the limit on that Board. He also gave an update on the CoVid 19 Virus, reporting there are 22 active cases in Sevier County. We have moved from the High to Moderate Classification.

Commissioner Ogden updated the Commissioners on the last Inland Port Committee Meeting, noting there has been a lot of discussion with the public in their meetings, as well as requests from the public, concerning the activities of the Board. He noted that there is still a possibility of satellite ports because the passage of House Bill 243 would allow for the continued work with satellite ports throughout the State.

County Attorney Casey Jewkes reported they are looking at starting to open the courts up for trials, so it will become really busy for him as they have been stacking them up for the past year without being able to have trials.

Executive Director Malcolm Nash reported that the Indigent Defense Council has the possibility of increasing resources throughout the State to provide more support to the Courts, which could possibly increase resources to our area and add to the number of defenders.

Commissioner Brown reported he had also been on a conference call with Snow College regarding student housing. He said the Committee has done the work they need to do here up to this point, and the proposal is now moving onto the Building Board.

Minutes of the March 8th Commission Meeting and March 15th Worksession approved:

Minutes of the March 8th Commission Meeting and the March 15th Worksession were reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Agreement with Red Hills BMX for track improvement approved:

The Commission then reviewed an agreement between Sevier County and Red Hills BMX Inc. to provide assistance in developing the BMX track at the north end of Richfield. The Commission noted that the agreement had been previously signed by Commissioner Ogden. Commissioner Johnson moved to ratify the agreement, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Cooperative Agreement with Utah State University for Extension Services approved:

Kim Chapman and Marie Reese met with the Commission to discuss the annual Cooperative Agreement between the County and Utah State University providing USU Extension Services. The agreement matches what is in the approved budget, and also had been reviewed by the County Attorney Casey Jewkes. They discussed it is a slight reduction from last year's agreement because the budget did not

contain as much equipment as last year. Mr. Chapman then indicated that there has been a move in the urban counties to move the budget to USU and have USU administer the extension program, rather than having the Counties administer the program. He recommended the Commission oppose this move if it is suggested in our area because he feels that for our area, the funds would be better administered by the County than the University. The Commissioners welcomed Marie to the County Program, noting that she is still in the process of moving to the area. Mr. Chapman then reported that he will be retiring and there will be an interim director from up north for awhile until they replace him. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the updated Cooperative Agreement, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Public Hearing to consider opening the 2021 Budget:

Commissioner Brown then moved to recess Commission Meeting for a scheduled public hearing to consider opening the budget, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

At 1:48 p.m., the Commission opened the meeting for comments from the public as they consider opening the current budget to provide funds in excess of those provided for in the 2021 budget. Clerk/Auditor Steven Wall provided information that the Public Defender manager had requested an increase to the Public Defender Budget for \$2,400 for additional monies received from the State to purchase computers for the Public Defenders to use on current court cases, and to increase the Fund 22 Recreational Tax by \$50,000 for the Extreme Million Barrell Racing Event that inadvertently got left out of the budget this year and needs to be included. There were no comments from the public.

At 1:50 p.m. the regular meeting resumed.

Budget opening approved:

The Commissioners then discussed the proposed increase to the budget of \$2,400 to fund 10 and \$50,000 to fund 22. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to increase the budget as requested, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Ownership of Family Support Building being transferred from State to County:

Commissioner Johnson then updated the Commissioners on the Family Support Center Building where the Children's Justice Center is housed just northeast of the Administration Building. He said that they have been in discussion with the current tenants and the State of Utah, where the property was originally County property that was given to the State for use specifically for youth programs, and at this time the State of Utah is willing to quit-claim the deed back to the County with no reversionary rights in it with the understanding that the County would continue to use the property for family support services and the CJC program. The State feels that it would be mutually beneficial to transfer the property back to the County. CJC Director Karen Ashby said she is excited about the ownership being transferred back to the County to allow them to continue offering CJC services and expanding those services. County Attorney then stated that the current reversionary clause in the deed would not be included in the quit claim deed from the State. He noted that the building has been designated as an emergency housing for children with CoVid. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to accept the State's offer and take the property back as a County facility and authorizing the County Attorney to develop the deed for the transfer as agreed, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Oldroyd Family Farm Minor Subdivision and Miller Minor Subdivision approved:

The Commission then reviewed the proposed Oldroyd Family Farm Subdivision and the Miller Subdivision, both minor subdivisions. The Commission asked if the properties had requested annexation into the nearest cities. Zoning Administrator Jason Mackelprang noted they both had requested

annexation and had been denied. He also said that the Planning Commission had recommended both minor subdivisions for approval. Recorder Jason Monroe said he had questions, but had only seen the preliminary information, and after reviewing the final drafts his concerns had been addressed. Discussion followed concerning the size of the properties, noting they had been approved by the public health as far as having enough room for the septic and water with both parcels ranging from 2 to 3 acres. Commissioner Brown then noted that the owner of the Miller Subdivision is a distant relative and wished that to be on the record. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve both the Oldroyd Family Farm Subdivision and the Miller Subdivision as requested, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

New Hires approved:

HR Director Craig Blake reported they had interviewed to fill a vacant position as a Correction Cook. He said they had hired an Emma Johnson on March 8, 2021, Grade 8, at \$13.06 per hour as a Correction Cook to replace Andrew Douglas who had resigned. He also reported hiring Kaitlyn Hansen as a part-time exempt employee in the Tourism/Events Office effective March 15, 2021, Grade 8, at \$13.19 per hour to replace Amy Myers. He then reported hiring Bodee Wells as a Correction Officer effective March 29, 2021, Grade 15, at \$18.21 per hour. All positions were vacant positions, there were no new positions. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the hires as stated, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

County personal property declared surplus, authorized for disposal:

The Commission then reviewed a list of surplus personal property owned by the County. After review, Commissioner Brown moved to declare the list of property surplus and authorize its disposal as noted, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Refund for overpayment of taxes on parcel 1-55-21 approved:

Treasurer Cheryl Buchanan then reported that Leisha Farnsworth had paid her taxes, and her mortgage company had also paid on the parcel. Ms. Farnsworth is requesting a refund of the overpayment of \$400 rather than applying it to future taxes. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to authorize the refund of \$400 on parcel 1-55-21 to Ms. Farnsworth, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Resolution 2021-3-1 for USDA Grant Application adopted:

The Commission then reviewed Resolution 2021-3-1 to Support an application to the USDA Rural Business Development Grant Program. Executive Administrator Malcolm Nash reported that this would allow Sevier County to apply for funds with USDA on behalf of Richfield and Salina cities for developing strategies to increase economic activity on their main streets, noting that this would be strictly grant funding of approximately \$22,000 with no matching funding from the County. After review and discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt Resolution 2021-3-1, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.