

COMMISSION MINUTES

December 9, 2019

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this ninth day of December, 2019. 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 C. Wall, Executive Director Malcolm Nash, and County Attorney Dale Eyre, and Deputy County Attorney Casey Jewkes were also present.

Commission business:

Commissioner Ogden reported on a presentation they had been to with the Forest Service, and signing of the Pinyon and Juniper Project in the forest of the Six County and Five County area to allow them to treat the forest and regenerate pinion and juniper growth.

He then reported on the recognition banquet held by the Six County AOG, noting they awarded Barrett's Food Town as the business of the year in the Six County area.

Minutes of November 25th approved:

Minutes of the November 25th Commission Meeting were then reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Payment Approval Report for November approved:

The Commission then reviewed and approved the Payment Approval Report for November on a motion by Commissioner Johnson, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Resolution 2019-12-1 approved adopting 2020 Budget:

The Commission then reviewed the tentative 2020 budget, noting that a Public Hearing was held during the December 9th Commission meeting with no comments from the public. The Commission noted there had not been any changes. Commissioner Johnson moved to approve Resolution 2019-12-1 adopting the 2020 Budget, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous. Commissioner Johnson then commended the Department Heads for their work in keeping within their budgets and keeping their departments in good shape.

MOU with Rural Public Lands County Council and Robert Weidner approved:

The Commission then reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rural Public Lands County Council for lobbying services from Robert Weidner in Washington DC. Mr. Weidner lobbies for the rural counties for PILT, SRS, etc. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agreement between Sevier County and Mr. Weidner at a fee of \$16,000 to be paid out of next years budget, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Refunds for overpayment approved:

Treasurer Cheryl Buchanan then reviewed with the Commissioners the number of properties that had overpaid taxes for the 2019 year. Most of them were due to re-financing where both the mortgage and title companies had paid the taxes, for a total of \$25,562.41. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to authorize the refunds as recommended by the Treasurer, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

2020 Fire Warden Budget and Commitment Agreement signed:

Brion Terry, County Fire Warden who works for the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands met with the Commission to review the 2020 Budget and the Commitment Agreement for Fire Mitigation in Sevier County. After review and discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agreement for the

budget as well as the Commitment for Mitigation throughout the year, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

MOU approved for CSC:

Recorder Jason Monroe met with the Commission concerning a Memorandum of Understanding between CSC and Sevier County. Mr. Monroe reported that this would be another E-recording vendor, and fees would be charged to the submitter so there would be no charge to the County. He also stated that because we are already set up for E-recording, there should be little or no cost to the County to set up CSC as another vendor. He said the E-recording process substantially helps the Recorder's Office, and he felt this would be good. After further discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between CSC and Sevier County, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Late fee on parcel 2-S10-44 abated:

Recorder Jason Monroe then discussed with the Commission the abatement of a \$21.17 late fee on parcel 2-S10-44, noting that there had been an error in the recording of the property earlier this spring, and that the home that should have remained on the original parcel had not, and due to a late notice, the error was not changed until after the deadline. He said the parcels have been corrected for the upcoming 2020 year. After review and discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to abate the late fee of \$21.17 on parcel 2-S10-44 as requested, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Resignation of County Attorney accepted:

Commissioner Ogden read a letter from County Attorney Dale Eyre submitting his resignation as County Attorney effective today, noting that he has accepted another position and has moved out of the area. The letter also stated that it had been a great honor to serve Sevier County as the Attorney. The Commission thanked him for his service, and said Mr. Eyre would be missed. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the letter of resignation from County Attorney Dale Eyre, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

Interim County Attorney appointed:

The Commission discussed the replacement procedures for the office of County Attorney. Mr. Eyre reminded the Commission that the process for replacing County Attorneys differed from other elected officials, and noted the procedure for Counties with 15 or more Attorneys in good standing with the Utah State Bar. He noted that the Commission has a list of Attorneys that the County Clerk's Office had verified with the Utah State Bar Association, and Sevier County had 15 attorneys from which the Commission could select a replacement, then the position would be placed on the next regular election cycle next year. He said that whoever was placed in the position would have to take part in the upcoming election. He then recommended that they appoint one of his deputies to ensure continuity with what had been going on in the County Attorney's Office, and recommended appointing Casey Jewkes in the interim. After noting that continuity was important, Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Casey Jewkes as the acting County Attorney, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous. The Commission noted that Casey Jewkes would be sworn in after the regular Commission meeting.

Personnel changes approved for County Attorney's Office:

LeighAnn Wheeler, Human Resources, then discussed with the Commission that due to the personnel changes in the County Attorney's Office with Mr. Eyre resigning and Mr. Jewkes being appointed the interim County Attorney, she recommended moving Mandy Larsen from a part-time position to a full-time position at her same salary at this time and she would work with the interim County Attorney to determine her status and salary for the next budget year as a full-time employee. After discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the change from part-time to full-time at the current wages for

Mandy Larsen as recommended by the Human Resource Department with any adjustments to be made at the first of the year, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Voter Participation Areas set:

The Commission then discussed the proposed Voter Participation Areas. Discussion followed concerning what the designation means, that the State Law requires four voter participation areas of substantially equal size, that the areas would be utilized in the case of a local initiative or referendum petition started by a resident, that the law would require signatures from 75% of those areas so they could not just get signatures from one area. Clerk/Auditor Wall noted that this would only affect local initiative or referendum petitions, and that the boundaries used were currently precinct boundaries, and any changes would be made in a couple of years with the 2020 census. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the voter participation areas as recommended, second Commissioner Johnson, unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.