**Franklin County Commissioners**

**May 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Attendance: Commissioner Chair Robert Swainston, Commissioner Zan Bowles, and Commissioner Zach Stewart, County Attorney Vic Pearson, and Clerk Camille Larsen.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Adopt Agenda.** Zan Bowles made the motion to adopt the agenda. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Bills.** Zach Stewart made the motion to pay the bills. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Review Courthouse Addition/Remodel and Other County Buildings.** Randy Henrie, Building Maintenance, reported that the bullet proof window is installed at the Juvenile Service Building and the divider will be in today. The roof of the Juvenile Service Building needs to be replaced. To replace with asphalt shingles it would be $22,000 and to install tin, the cost is $4,000. Commissioners agreed to install the tin. Robert Swainston asked to have the building painted to match the District Health Building. The Courthouse remodel is still waiting for the State to approve the fire suppression system. The steel building will be delivered in June at the fairgrounds. Randy Henrie will be framing the entrance this week and have it completed prior to the steel being delivered. Power is in and the trench has been filled back in. Zan Bowles said the trees are gone and thanked Randy Henrie for cleaning up the site. Robert Swainston asked Randy Henrie to research a good tree to replace the pine trees with.

**Steve Bennett Appeal to Commissioners for Variance**. Randy Henrie, Planning and Zoning Administrator, reported that the Planning and Zoning Board denied the variance. Randy Henrie said that Steve Bennett was going to appeal and has now decided to go back to the 80'.

**5. Rifle Range Discussion**. Kevin Olsen, Manager attended. Paul Purser submitted an email (attached to these Minutes) with a proposal and he requested it be read into the minutes. Camille Larsen, Clerk, read the email. Commissioners discussed the options to add another area for metal targets. Vic Pearson, County Attorney, reminded the Commissioners that back in 2012 the County was sued by an individual that owned property around the Rifle Range which dealt with steel targets ricocheting. The case ended up going to the Supreme Court. The case was resolved with requiring the County to continue to improve the berms each year and use the range as it is currently designated. Vic Pearson recommended not to deviate from current use and to continue to improve the range and the safety of the range. ICRMP did not assist with the law suit. Commissioners agreed to not add metal targets to the Rifle Range. Kevin Olsen, Manager, requested the Road Department Crew build up the berm in the pistol area. Kevin Olsen has been requested to extend the .22 rifle area to 100'.

**6. Four-County Commissioner Meeting Wednesday, June 18.**  The meeting will be held at Oneida County. Please provide any agenda items to Camille Larsen.

**7. Westside Highway Speed Limit Discussion**. Christina Povey contacted Zan Bowles. She lives on a blind corner on Westside Highway between Weston and Dayton. Zan Bowles explained to her that it was a State Highway. Christina Povey said the State Highway Department referred her to the Commissioners. She is worried about the school bus picking up her child for school on the busy highway. Commissioners will ask Sheriff Stoker to patrol and enforce the speed limits and request a school bus sign.

**8. Agreement with Senior Citizen Center - Discussion**. Camille Larsen, Clerk, reported to get the grant from the Idaho Community Development Block Grant, the Center and County need to have an Agreement in place. Commissioners reviewed the proposed Agreement. Camille Larsen has sent the Agreement to the Senior Citizen Board and is waiting to hear back.

**9. Canvas May 20, 2025 Election**. Commissioners reviewed the Canvas for the Franklin Cemetery proposed levy of $65,000 for two years. The levy did not pass, 37 voted yes and 44 voted no. Zach Stewart made the motion to canvas the election results from May 20, 2025. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**10. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget - Prosecuting Attorney**. Vic Pearson, Prosecuting Attorney, presented the proposed budget to the Commissioners. It is straight forward and asked for a new line item for Subscription for Axon to process the discovery. The company is willing to split the fee with the two surrounding counties. Axon will save his office time.

**11. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget - Ambulance.** Mark Gilbert, Administrator, said the budget is self-explanatory. Discussed the repairs needed to get the Ford ambulance useable and the two older Chevy ambulances may need repairs. Requested an increase for the hourly pay for the part-time office help. Commissioners asked about the status of Gold Cross Billing. Mark Gilbert said they are waiting to request a rate change and the Commissioners have to approve it. Commissioners stated to use the current rate for now to get the billing started. Billing has not happened since January 2025. Zan Bowles said he has received notifications from the Gold Cross Representative stating he has not been unable to contact Kallin Gordon. Mark Gilbert will followup with Kallin Gordon.

**12. 2025 Department of Health and Welfare Grant**. Travis Ashby, Supervisor, presented the Grant to the Commissioners. It is from the State Department of Health and Welfare that the County receives annually. The amount is $4,000 which is spent on testing equipment to see if the West Nile virus is in the County. Zach Stewart made the motion to accept the 2025 Department of Health and Welfare Grant. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**13. Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding between Idaho State Department of Agriculture and Franklin County**. Travis Ashby, Supervisor, presented the Amendment. Travis Ashby explained that the previous year the Idaho State Department of Agriculture did not request the $37,003.90 be returned. This Amendment notes the amount of $37,003.90 to be the first payment for the 2025 year. Zan Bowles made the motion to accept the Amendment of Memorandum of Understanding between ISDA and Franklin County. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**14. Idaho State Department of Agriculture Utah and Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area Disbursement Agreement State Cost Share Funds**. Travis Ashby is the Chairman of Cooperative Weed Management Area and Sarah Layland is the Fiscal Agent so they are responsible to get signatures for the Agreement. Franklin, Oneida, Caribou, and Bear Lake County are involved. The money cannot be spent on the Utah side of the border. The County has hired a helicopter that will be starting today to spray for dyers woad and leafy spurge. Travis Ashby lines it up with the land owners to pay for the helicopter cost and this grant covers the chemical cost. Zach Stewart made the motion to the sign the ISDA Utah and Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area Disbursement Agreement. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**15. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget - Road and Bridge, Solid Waste, Special Highway, Weed, Abatement**. Troy Moser, Director, and Lance Geddes, Supervisor, presented the Road and Bridge Budget to the Commissioners. Requesting more money for chip sealing and asphalt. Commissioners had put some asphalt money in the reserve. Requesting to purchase new tractors, belly dump, and roller, and this could vary depending on prices. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has now completed round three of grants to purchase environmentally safe trucks. The County will be requesting a grant to purchase a new truck.

**Solid Waste Budget**. Troy Moser, Director and Wes Fellows, Supervisor, presented the Solid Waste Budget. The Solid Waste is based on fees instead of property taxes. They requested to increase the fees by 4%. They are asking for a skidster and will share with the Road and Bridge. The Solid Waste has purchased a used water truck. Troy Moser recommends to surplus the old water truck. Wes Fellows is willing to let the rodeo and the fair use during their time.

**Weed Budget**. Troy Moser, Director, and Travis Ashby, Supervisor, presented the Weed Budget which includes the Boat Inspection Budget. Travis Ashby would like to purchase a 4-wheeler in the next couple of years.

**Abatement Budget**. Troy Moser, Director, and Travis Ashby, Supervisor, presented the Abatement Budget from the Abatement Board. The Board is concerned about using the same chemical for 18 years and the mosquitos might be acquiring resistance to it. Would like to add a budget line to find if there is resistance and to purchase a new chemical. This will increase the cost for chemical.

**Solid Waste Crew Hauling Gravel for the New Scales**. Troy Moser, Director, and Wes Fellows, Supervisor, proposed to the Commissioners to allow the Solid Waste Crew to haul gravel on their days off, and be paid overtime, to prepare the site for the new scales. It is planned to use a County Road truck and to use the gravel from the Smith and Treasureton pits.

**Discuss Changes to the Highway Standards Development Procedure**. Troy Moser, Director, stated the current Highway Standards Development Procedure was adopted in 2021 and updated in November 2022. Troy Moser is requesting to change the Approach Plan #5 Pave Intersecting Approach 3' or to right-of-way line whichever is less to no longer require to pave. Troy Moser is requesting to change to 3061.020 Driveway Spacing Policy: Major Collector No New Direct Access to present an option to allow direct access.

**Lean Addition to the Salt Shed**. Troy Moser, Director, has talked to Jorgensens, who built the Salt Shed, and received a quote of $75,000 for the lean addition and $6,000 for concrete. The building is 125' and want to come out 60'. It would be used for housing the snow trucks and equipment. The Commissioners requested Troy Moser to obtain additional bids.

 **Wetland Mitigation on East Oneida**. DEQ is requiring more acreage of mitigated wetland. The tribe is willing to sell. It will be purchased with the future reimbursement monies. Zan Bowles made the motion to move forward with the Wetland Mitigation on the East Oneida Project. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**16. Franklin County Soil District Contribution**. Clinton Aston and David Nelson requested the $6,500 from the County. It will be matched by the State at 1.4 times. Zach Stewart made the motion to approve the Franklin County Soil District Contribution of $6,500. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**17. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget - Auditor, Elections, District Court, Court Facilities, and Election Consolidation**. Camille Larsen, Clerk, reviewed the proposed 2026 budgets. No new line items requested.

**18. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget - Commissioners, Coroner, Sundry, Airport, District Health, Historical Society, Tort Insurance, War Memorial, Waterways, Health Insurance, Parking Lot**. Camille Larsen, Clerk, reviewed with the Commissioners. It was agreed to increase the Solid Waste fee by 4% and to continue to transfer funds to Capital Projects, Snowmobile, Parking Lot, Cannery, and Board of Guardians.

**19. Executive Session.** At 11:32 a.m. Zan Bowles made the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (b) to consider personnel matters and (f) potential/imminently-likely litigation. Zach Stewart second. A roll call vote was taken, and voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Attending the Executive Session: Robert Swainston, Zan Bowles, Zach Stewart, Vic Pearson, Randy Henrie, Camille Larsen, Paul Fitzer, via zoom, Nichole Spencer via zoom, and Shauna Geddes via zoom.

Out of Executive Session 12:15 p.m.

Zan Bowles made the motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous. Next meeting will be Monday, June 9, 2025.

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Attest, Camille Larsen Robert Swainston, Chair