

REGULAR SESSION, JULY 26, 2021

Commissioner Bolduc opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Buhler, Commissioner Bolton and the Clerk, Denise Gill were present.

INDIGENT

Commissioner Buhler moved to go into an executive session pursuant to IC§31-874 to consider indigent matters. Commissioner Bolton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bolton-Yes, Buhler- Yes, Bolduc-Yes. Director, Kathy Ball and Case Worker Kaitlin Leguineche joined the meeting. The board recessed executive session and returned to regular session at 10:22 a.m. Commissioners Buhler and Bolton moved and seconded to approve 3844, 2826 and 3844. Motion carried.

BROADBAND GRANT

Jake Goddard and Georgia Dimick, Region IV Development and Jasen Herr, Anthem Broadband joined the meeting. Jake and Georgia explained to the Board and Jasen Herr the details that is needed to apply for NTIA Broadband grant. NTIA Broadband has no required match for this grant. Georgia explained the NTIA grants are gap grants where the other projects have not met the needs of the underserved and unserved. They further stated that they are very open for extensions. Anthem Broadband main focus is on fiber. The group discussed areas that could accommodate Anthem towers. Jasen Herr will scan Gooding County for useable sites. Georgia Dimick suggested obtaining additional underserved and unserved cities to strengthen the current footprint. Mr. Herr stated their ultimate goal is get fiber to the home and as many places as they possibly can. The group is going to work diligently on the requirements for this grant. They will meet again Thursday, August 12, 2021 to review the grant prior to submission.

SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Helen Edwards, Gooding County representative on the South Central Public Health District, explained that South Central Public Health has received \$400,000 and would like to build a new building to house their vaccines. During the height of pandemic, they were storing stuff in the hallways. Mrs. Edwards stated she would probably be back for a letter of support for this project.

The South Central Public Health District is reorganizing the Board. Twin Falls County, Commissioner, Don Hall has expressed a desire to serve as Chairman. They have had a vote resulting in a four to four tie. They are waiting for one more member to vote. The District is trying to set up youth ambassadors to encourage vaccinations. Vaccinations will be available at the County fairs.

IDAHO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO

Brian Darcy, Superintendent of Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind, Dr. Dean Fisher, College of Southern Idaho President, and Dean of Students at CSI, Dr. Jonathan Lord, joined the meeting. Dr. Fisher reported that they are anticipating record enrollment and they will be face to face. They did not surrender to COVID. They did some online alternatives during the last session. They will be keeping the Gooding round building with other locations, such as the high schools for classes. Financial planning and educational choosing classes will be held at the high schools. They are not requiring vaccines and masks are not required. They are not changing anything because of the Delta variant at this time. They have seen a 20% increase in enrollment. Their Career Technical Education programs are busting at the seams. Their CTE programs offer an automotive technology program, a welding program and nursing. Superintendent Darcy explained, they run an 18-21 age program enrollment and has had a large enrollment.

JAIL KITCHEN AIR CONDITIONING

Clerk Gill explained that Karl Souza, Building and Grounds, reported the need of an air conditioning unit for the jail kitchen. He has had other companies look at the kitchen and was told that BSR is who we needed. BSR is in the area today and will stop by.

BSR said that an air exchanger is needed in the jail kitchen. They will get an estimate to Karl for next week's meeting.

MINUTES

Commissioner Bolton moved to approve the minutes from July 19, 2021. Commissioner Buhler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Bolduc recessed the meeting 11:59 a.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Buhler discussed with Twin Falls County Commissioner Reinke, the dairyman's plan to consolidate their dairies to one location. Commissioner Reinke reminded Commissioner Buhler that these dairies will need to get a conditional use permit and we should be requiring them to upgrade the roads going to their digesters.

Commissioner Bolduc let the neighboring County Commissioners know, when they discuss the dairy consolidations and digesters, Gooding County would like to be included.

Commissioner Bolduc was asked to take a flight to view an area where new windmills are going to be built. The place is barren and nothing but rocks.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The Board discussed the ARPA fund uses that the advisory group had come up with. The Clerk, Denise Gill and Deputy Clerk, Lorri Robb advised them that the funds need to be used for things that fit the ARPA criteria.

PUBLIC DEFENSE

Jared Ricks, Public Defense Commission, joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Ricks explained they are offering continue education to public defenders. The Public Defense Commission has started a Public Defense College offering continuing education for the public defenders online and will do in person next year. They are considering making changes to allow the ability to have funds available for when they are needed. This year they received about twenty-two million in requests for financial assistance and had under ten million to give out. They are looking at the average for multiple years, taking regards for the Covid year, in their future grant funding.

They are in the negotiating in the rulemaking process. Legislators wanted a few areas discussed. They will have comment period on the proposed rules.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Jim Hawkins and Ann Hawkins, Columbia Benefits, joined the meeting. Mr. Hawkins explained that we have received a \$7,200 rebate check for the fourth quarter on our prescription plan. Fourteen people have high prescriptions that could be lowered with generics. This year at the Health Fair some employees were not able to attend. North Canyon Medical Center has offered to do blood draws on those eleven employees that were not able to attend the health fair.

NORTH BUTTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Roy Prescott, from the established Notch Butte Fire Protection District. They have twenty-seven members, some from Gooding County. They are requesting support for the Notch Butte Fire Protection District in next year's budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

Commissioner Bolton adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

/s/Mark Bolduc
Mark E. Bolduc, Chairman

/s/Susan M. Bolton
Susan M. Bolton, Commissioner

/s/Ron Buhler
Ronald Buhler, Commissioner

Attest: /s/Denise M. Gill
Denise M. Gill, Clerk