

**JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 9:00. Those present are Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Young, Chairman Hancock, IT Garn Herrick, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Pledge of Allegiance led by Audrey Moon. Prayer offered by Chairman Hancock.

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COMMISSIONERS – SHERIFF – STEVE ANDERSON

• **JAIL INSPECTION**

[9:02:02 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they will go to their jail inspection.

[9:02:28 AM](#) Commissioners, Colleen Poole and Audrey Moon go to the jail inspection. **(Exhibit A)** Are met by Sheriff Steve Anderson. Head into the jail. Pass through where laundry is being done. Go into the kitchen where Kitchen Supervisor Jason Orme is ordering food. Kitchen is clean and breakfast has been served. Head out to the sallyport area. Deputy Shippen is by the booking area processing two female inmates to take to Court. Sallyport area is super clean. One transport van is out on a transport. Head into control. Deputy Raymond said they have ninety-two inmates. Have twenty females and seventy-two males. Out of those they have ten local holds. The rest are U.S. Marshall or out-of-county. Head out through dispatch have two dispatchers working. Leave through the Sheriff's Office.

Open session 9:24

[9:25:05 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they are back from the jail inspection.

PUBLIC WORKS – ROB CROMWELL

• **STATE/LOCAL AGREEMENT – 2022 LOCAL HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**
○ **COUNTY LINE ROAD SIGNING – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:25:32 AM](#) Rob said they had put in for a grant for illuminated stop signs on County Line. Have to have a site survey for each stop sign. Getting this wrapped up. Sent this agreement for signature that stipulates once they receive the signs they will put up the signs, document location and send back. Chairman Hancock asked if this is with the state. Rob said yes with LHTAC. Chairman Hancock said this is a good thing they are doing. Have had several fatalities on County Line. Would like to see Bonneville County put some of these up too. Commissioner Young asked on maintaining the other half of County Line. Rob said he has been trying to work with them on keeping County Line maintained. Trying to come up with a better plan on keeping this maintained. They are working on a project on 3900 to replace the bridge and widen this up. Chairman Hancock said that was where the last fatality was. Hopes they talk about the truck traffic being a big issue. The road is not that wide. May look at a joint effort on paving this. Rob said from 3900 going east if they could widen this would improve the safety. Even with the winter if they had a wider surface the drifts might not close this as quick. Chairman Hancock asked any discussion. Commissioner Clark said he looked through this online.

[9:29:58 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the agreement with Jefferson County Road & Bridge and LHTAC for signage on County Line Road. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:30:40 AM](#) Commissioner Young really thinks the flashing lights help. Rob said this is taking so long because the State Historical Society requires a survey of each location to make sure historical sites are not affected by signs. Not sure there is anything historical in the fields that would be impacted. Is a good program there is no cost to the county besides the labor of changing out the signs.

• **UPDATE**

[9:31:38 AM](#) Rob said he has been looking at a private road ordinance. Trying to provide property owners with a path forward. This ordinance would be a way forward for them. Currently there is not anything available. Brought in a copy for everyone. Want them to be able to read through this and will discuss this later. Working with Milton on the process to adopt this.

[9:33:29 AM](#) Rob said for Road & Bridge they are going to be patching pot holes in the county this week. Also going out to Arco to take a look at a pit out there. Given some half inch chips but will have to haul these. Will go out there with Road & Bridge Foreman to see what they need to get into the pit. Will have a source of half inch chips to use on both sides of the county. Commissioner Clark asked the amount that is available. Rob is not sure right now. There is quite a bit. Worth going to get. Chairman Hancock asked if this is with the State of Idaho. Rob said yes. Commissioner Young asked if they will be using their new trailers. Rob said two are ready to go. Probably see what they can do with the belly dumps.

[9:35:49 AM](#) Rob said for Solid Waste are almost business as usual. Are restricting the access to the dead animal pit to morning while this is frozen. Looking at what they can do to keep this open after it stops freezing overnight. Need to get this dried out. Chairman Hancock asked on crushing. Rob said they started.

[9:36:54 AM](#) **Prosecutor Mark Taylor is in room**

[9:37:01 AM](#) Rob said the crushing started but will not make the timeframe that is in the contract. Planning to meet today or tomorrow to see about extending this. Chairman Hancock said it has been tough weather. Rob does not feel the deadline would be fair. Chairman Hancock said to ask them to justify the amount of days they were delayed due to weather. Commissioner Young said they need a valid reason. Rob said they want to get this done as soon as possible for other work. Does not think there is anyone that wants to drag this out. Believes they were crushing half inch last week.

[9:39:11 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said his discussion on vehicle usage needs to be done in open session.

[9:39:31 AM](#) Rob said the supervisor and management for Road & Bridge generally take a vehicle home that is so they can check roads. If they get called out for down trees or other issues from dispatch they can respond rapidly. Then they do not have to go to the shop. The foreman has been checking out west of Roberts for flooding. Thinks it is important to keep the response time down. Would like to see if they can continue to allow certain individuals to take vehicles home. Chairman Hancock asked if they all live within the county. Rob said one supervisor lives in Ucon. Chairman Hancock knows in years past the policy was to allow management of Road & Bridge to take vehicles home as long as they are not used for personal use. Knows that state code allows this too. Had some abuse to this and believes that was why this changed. This was why this was pulled back in. Asked Rebecca for anything else. Rebecca said she is reviewing the Public Works policy which is silent as far as taking vehicles home or being on-call. So, with this being silent they would defer back to county policy. Public safety vehicles are different than an elected official taking a vehicle home. If an employee has a vehicle that is taken home and can be used for personal use this is a benefit that can be taxed. Public safety is necessary for the job so is not a benefit and is not taxed. Must not be used for personal use at all. So, if they are on the way home can they stop for a gallon of milk? This is to be used for the job so feels this is not one of the areas they should mess with. If they want to change this they should write this into the Public Works Policy.

[9:44:01 AM](#) Commissioner Clark said they had different people that needed to have one. Need to have this available. Would like to stick with this if there is a need. Have different people assigned to watch and is on-call. Commissioner Young agrees with this but thinks emergencies happen in the middle of the night. Thinks these probably happen more so in the winter time. May look at leaving these vehicles at the shop during the summer. Can see having someone having a vehicle during the winter. Wants to be prudent and cost effective. Commissioner Clark said back to where they talked before if they know they are leaving might want to leave this at the shop. Hard to jump back and forth but really need to be careful. Commissioner Young said this is inconvenient. Thinks in the winter makes more sense.

[9:45:51 AM](#) Rob said in the summer they get calls for downed trees from dispatch. Commissioner Young asked how often. Rob said he was not here last summer but knows they had several calls since he started. Sometimes it is dispatch or a deputy. Commissioner Clark asked if they can take care of this or do they need other equipment. Rob said they do have some things in their pickups. Some items they assess the situation and can conduct traffic control and call in additional personnel. One that comes to mind they had a downed tree and had a call from a deputy. Went out and secured the area. Once they arrived they were able to direct traffic and the deputy was free to go about his business. Called in some personnel and they got a truck and chainsaw. Chairman Hancock is not opposed to this does see a need. Winter will be the greatest need. Maybe have one person on call for a weekend. Have four-day weeks and need someone to respond. Maybe that person would be the individual that takes home a vehicle. For him if he has to go to Solid Waste it is easier to just go out.

[9:49:02 AM](#) Rebecca said the policy states only one person on-call can receive compensation for on call with comp time at the regular rate. Chairman Hancock said they have not been given this. Rebecca said they could claim one hour of straight comp time. Chairman Hancock said maybe just having the vehicle would be something they appreciate. Rob said this is standard practice. Does not believe anyone is abusing the usage.

[9:50:18 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they need to have him draft up a policy and let them review and approve. Then they can add this to the policy. Commissioner Clark thinks this sounds good. Chairman Hancock asked if he needs anything else in the executive session.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION 74-206 (B) – PERSONNEL – (ACTION ITEM) – CANCELLED**

COMMISSIONERS

- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:51:30 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve retail alcoholic beverage license for 2023 for Off Ramp Pub and Grill. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.

- **QUARTERLY REPORT**

[9:52:02 AM](#) Colleen provides the report and the current budget. Has concern there is a few that are in the minus. Revaluation was negative when taxes came in and are back in the negative. Has talked to Jessica on this. Thinks everything else that is in the negative is waiting for transfers that are done at the end of the year.

- **APPROVE COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:54:52 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve commissioner meeting minutes from January 23, 2023 with noted changes. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.

[9:55:17 AM](#) Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve special commissioner meeting minutes from March 29, 2023. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.

[9:56:01 AM](#) Recess until 10:00 at which time they will have a public hearing if anyone wishes to testify they need to sign-up.

Open session 10:02

PLANNING & ZONING – MILTON OLLERTON

- **PUBLIC HEARING – TEXT AMENDMENT CHAPTER 112 - AM-23-02-01 – (ACTION ITEM)**
 - **GENERAL PROVISIONS – ADMINISTRATION – ENFORCEMENT – ORDINANCE #2023-05**

[10:02:23 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they will be in a public hearing. Will allow Planning & Zoning to give a description. Milton said he would like to scroll through the ordinance on the TV.

[10:03:09 AM](#) Milton Ollerton said they have updated the first thirty-six sections. **(Exhibit B)** Trying to bring this more in compliance with state statutes and LUPA. Had a long public hearing with the Planning & Zoning Commission a few months ago. Recommended some changes. As they
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recommend these they can re-hold a public hearing or send it forward with their changes. This turns this into a public hearing with the Board. Going to go over the changes to the code. In the beginning with definitions will see the red underline. No longer call this an accessory apartment is now an accessory dwelling unit. Scrolling through definitions. Have Hearing Body as an added definition. Will talk briefly in a minute the reason for this change.

[10:05:56 AM](#) Milton said moving forward have the vicinity map adding this into the code. Moving onto administration and enforcement this is a big change they have reworked this section. Again, to bring this into compliance with most zoning codes in the state are written. Outlines the establishment of the planning department, administrator and those duties. Establishes the Planning & Zoning Commission and their duties and powers. Statute allows for Boards to adopt a Hearing Examiner. These individuals can take the place of the Planning & Zoning Commission and hear quasi-judicial files such as conditional use permit, variance and could make recommendation on a subdivision and a recommendation on a citizen filed zone change. If this is a zone change the county is working on this would go to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Hearing Examiner just like Planning & Zoning Commission can approve conditional use permits and variances. Makes recommendations on the others. This individual has to be a professional or licensed planner, attorney, engineer, architect that is experienced in land use. Are appointed the same way as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner member. Several counties in the state use a Hearing Examiner. Back in January when they have eight files and went until 1 in the morning. Now only adding four files to an agenda but that makes them booked out until June. Would get some conditional use permits and variances heard sooner by the Hearing Examiner. If the Board chooses to appoint one is not being requested just asking to add this to the ordinance. On the enforcement section went over the procedure for zoning violations. Allows stop work orders and notice to people to come into compliance. Not sure how often this comes up but is better to have this well defined in the code.

[10:10:11 AM](#) Milton said they updated the appeals process. Also, the application and public hearing process. On section 112-31 number four in red Planning & Zoning Commission thought this should state "The Planning Administrator shall assign completed applications to the appropriate hearing body." If a conditional use permit or variance comes in that seems to be a controversy item they could have this go to the Planning & Zoning Commission instead of the Hearing Examiner. Public hearing process was updated to make this clear so this complies with statute. Does not think there is anything out of the ordinary. Did add three minutes as a recommended time limit for speaking and Planning & Zoning Commission recommended this be five minutes. This has a lot more detail. This is necessary when conducting public hearings. Finally, the appeal process. This brings this in line with state statute. This is taken straight out of the state statute on how an appeal process works. Anyone can appeal. The decision from Planning Administrator can be appealed. Before it stated this appeal went to the Planning & Zoning Commission now it goes to the Board. Appeal a Planning Administrator decision zoning files not building permits and that goes to the Board. If someone disagrees with a zoning decision this goes to the Board as a public hearing. Affected person is defined and they can appeal in twenty-eight days the decision of the hearing body. Once this goes to the Board they would have to file for reconsideration. This is files such as conditional use permits, variances and subdivisions. Is not for administrative files. Reconsideration they have fourteen days to apply and appeal this to Judicial Court. This is all in state statute. Added an abandonment of application. If a file is turned in and no one comes back in within 120 days they can abandon this. Moved really fast through this but can answer any questions.

[10:14:21 AM](#) Chairman Hancock has a question on the first deletion. On 112-5 definitions. Did not change the numbering system after they deleted this. Milton said that can be corrected. It looks like that is corrected in the final draft. Take out all those strikethroughs in the final draft.

[10:15:08 AM](#) Commissioner Clark said this is bringing this closer to state code. Commissioner Young does not have anything.

[10:15:18 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they will open the public hearing. Do not have anyone signed up for, neutral but do have one signed up against online.

[10:15:36 AM](#) Per Zoom have Jim Newton. Jim said he is reading through this and listening to the staff report. Biggest thing he does not understand is the fees. Anytime they appeal a decision if he is reading this right according to this chart. It is \$450 every time they appeal a decision. Is this for each person they go through? To appeal the decision is \$450 and then \$450 for reconsideration. Is that how he is understanding this? Chairman Hancock said this is not open for discussion will answer this once they turn it back to Milton. Jim said this is down in filing fees. This was a change that was made. This is in this change of language. Bringing this up because he got told when he was there no one can interpret the rules it is up to them to interpret the rules. If they did not guess right because they do not give advice. Will cost \$450 to appeal that. Will end with that.

[10:17:41 AM](#) Chairman Hancock does not have anyone else signed up.

[10:17:47 AM](#) Milton said they did change the appeal process. In the past if they wanted to appeal they had two opportunities to pay fees in the past. Pay a fee to appeal to the Planning & Zoning Commission and if they did not like that they paid a fee to take it to the Board. Was an exception if the Board did not have a hearing the fee was refunded. They are taking out the appeal to the Planning & Zoning Commission so they save that \$450 and will be an automatic hearing to the Board. This way there is not any question. Statutes says if someone files a reconsideration there is a fee. Not sure what this is does not think this is \$450 but is unsure. The fee for reconsideration the Board has sixty days to decide if they will hold another public hearing if they do they can if they choose not to they do not have to. That is how the reconsideration is written. The main reason for the fee is because the cost of a public hearing is not cheap. The time from staff to put this meeting on with legal advertising and notice to neighbors. That is what is paid for with the appeal fee. This is an average appeal fee. As he looks around the state Kootenai County their fee is \$2,100. Feels this fee is average. Changed the process to make this easier. Now only have one appeal directly to the Board.

[10:20:49 AM](#) Chairman Hancock will allow Jim to ask another question to see if this cleared up his confusion.

[10:20:56 AM](#) Jim said it does but will voice his opposition does not think this should not cost so much. The Planning & Zoning should be able to give sound advice and they should be able to act on that advice. Thanks for hearing him.

[10:21:14 AM](#) Chairman Hancock understands the costs of publishing a hearing is a few hundred to the paper. Then have costs to the administrative people getting this ready. Asked for any other questions. Commissioner Young wants to make sure he understands. There would be one filing fee now for an appeal versus two before. Milton said correct. Commissioner Young said this does save money. Commissioner Clark does not have any questions.

[10:22:09 AM](#) Chairman Hancock closes the open discussion and will move to Commissioner deliberation.

[10:22:23 AM](#) Commissioner Young appreciates Milton's effort on these things. Been awhile since these have been reviewed. Likes that they are conforming more to the state. Clearing up definitions with accessory dwellings needed to be done. Commissioner Clark said he agrees with Commissioner Young they need to get closer to the state know they had a lot of conflicting ordinances. Likes to see this aligning with the state so when they look things up they get the same information. Appreciates the work they are putting into these. Trying to make this easier for the public to look at ordinances and find the information they need.

[10:23:59 AM](#) Commissioner Young asked on the Hearing Examiner. Chairman Hancock said they have not established one this just gives them the right to establish one. Commissioner Young said a lot of things come to them that is basic is what would be reviewed. Milton said it would still be a public hearing in front of the examiner. Kootenai County has three different Hearing Examiners.

[10:24:34 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said one comment as they work on the general provisions these are not set in stone. As they find changes they can bring these back. Have that ability.

[10:25:05 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve text amendment Chapter 12; AM 23-02-01 with ordinance #2023-05. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

- **UPDATE**

[10:26:23 AM](#) Mark asks to be excused to prepare for Court.

[10:26:39 AM](#) **Prosecutor Mark Taylor left room**

[10:26:42 AM](#) Milton said briefly has the Impact Fee Study here will email this to them. Will have a hearing with Planning & Zoning Commission for them to review. Wanted to give them a chance to look this over so they can give him any direction they have when he takes this to the Planning & Zoning Commission so they are all on the same page. Will get this sent out to them. Has been an interesting ride. Is trying to update the ordinance for impact fees as this moves forward. Working on that as well. Have Vern here to discuss the software program.

[10:27:53 AM](#) Vern said they have been going back and forth. Bonneville County generously is allowing them to use a lot of what they have built. They started with five permit applications. Since then have added seventeen more this has taken them two and a half years inhouse. Spoke with Centricity and asked for an updated quote with adopting Bonneville County. Came in \$10,000 more for adopting and changing. This is \$55,000 less then the \$110,000 for the full build out. So, the build out is \$65,000 to set up the reports and converting the items from Bonneville County to Jefferson County. Cleanout the data bases and reconfiguring the valuation system because they have a different valuation system. This has to be included on each permit type. Goes into creating the fee table as set by county ordinance. Saying they could be done by the end of September so would be operational in the new fiscal year in October. Chairman Hancock said instead of \$110,000 they could be up and running for \$65,000. Vern said yes for the build out. Chairman Hancock said this is a significant decrease and will help with the startup time. Vern said they will also be able to accomplish because Mr. Ollerton contacted Bonner County had an efficient flow. Have different work flow steps. Working with them to build a system where everything will be built out on the Planning & Zoning side. Select the basics and they can track things more efficiently on applications. Milton said they will only design the work flow for one file type and they will duplicate this for the rest of the file types. The one they choose is so exhaustive in process. Vern said that is for land use applications. Chairman Hancock said this is working for Bonneville County and Bonner. Milton said Bonner County just has a good work flow. This is so they do not miss any steps with notices and publishing things on time. Helps them to make sure everything is caught on an application. Chairman Hancock asked the next step.

[10:31:51 AM](#) Vern said they are obtaining contracts. Has the contract with Cityworks will indemnify them for using the software. They do ask that the county indemnify them as well because the county is responsible for information they receive. Not allowed to keep credit card numbers or social security numbers. System does not take anything like this. Does need to get a Centricity contract. Talking about the build out. Will get ahold of them and request this and submit this to the Prosecutor for review. Chairman Hancock asked on the contract with Cityworks. Vern has this. Chairman Hancock said Mark will need to review. Vern said he was planning to send these both at the same time.

[10:33:19 AM](#) Commissioner Clark asked on the company they are using. Vern said they met last week. Went over a lot of the problems last week. Cannot do anything for them they are not compatible. Wanted to know about a termination date. Told them he would need to speak with the Board first. Did tell them they want no further implementation on this project. None of the code enforcement has been built out. May be able to request those funds back.

[10:34:20 AM](#) Milton said that is what they have going on. On May 1 has DEQ coming to discuss groundwater and septic impacts. They are bringing in their groundwater specialist. May invite the Mayors to come to this as well as the Planning & Zoning Commission. So, they get an understanding where they are. The requests to rezone and add subdivisions keep coming in. Chairman Hancock said they may want to invite Roger Warner was on the commission for area of impact. Also represents the Groundwater User Association as their technical advisor. Came to the meeting he was in on Boise. Milton said this is May 1 on a regular Monday at 1:00.

[10:36:24 AM](#) Recess until 11:00

Open session 11:01

INSURANCE – CARLOS APONTE

- **REPORTING**

[11:01:41 AM](#) Carlos apologizes for the scheduling issues. For this renewal year has some items that need signed. Blue Cross did an audit on their paperwork found out this was missing. This was old stuff. Then has a layout for what they will have for 2023. Just missed this document.

[11:03:36 AM](#) Carlos said he has some reports to go over. **(Exhibit C)** Have 2023 only one month for January. This is how they are starting out for the year. Wants to go through prior year of 2022. Going over how they ended. Some ideas they have a two-year comparison to scan through. Aggregate ended up with eighty-two percent and the previous year was eighty-five percent. This is the combination of smaller claims that are under

the \$60,000 threshold. Always do a measurement anything below eighty-five percent is considered running well. Anything above is going above expected claims. Last year they were right at the eighty-five percent. At eighty-two percent at the end of 2022. Did have a slight decrease down. This is running pretty well. Measuring the total claims against the threshold of the stop loss. Above 125 percent of the loss ratio then the plan can get reimbursed on claims above that. That is the maximum liability. Believes three years ago they hit this and got a reimbursement check back. Chairman Hancock thinks this looks pretty good.

[11:07:02 AM](#) Chairman Hancock asked if he will talk the new Teladoc program with First Stop. Carlos said he is getting an updated report will meet with Marilyn. Will have a breakdown on this report in the future. So far, the feedback is going well. Have not heard too much about it. Asked if he used it. Chairman Hancock said he has used First Stop Health with no problems. The first few times Teladoc were great but then it went downhill.

[11:08:13 AM](#) Carlos has the large claim report. This was for 2022. Had a couple of cancer claims. One was termed and one is still active last incurred month looks like was December. On the new report it does show January claim report and do have a couple of cancer claims. These will be incurring through the year. Will get updated and see where these are growing. Look back and tend to have more claims above \$10,000. Past used to fill in one page and have two pages for 2022. Need to be aware of this. Not a lot of strategy to get these down. The turnover has affected the county. Used to have a few a quarter and the last few months they had quite a bit. Have folks coming in and out with higher claim costs. Tend to see this with a lot of turnover.

[11:11:16 AM](#) Carlos said in 2022 they had four people over the spec and the stop loss paid quite a bit. Back when they had the renewal did not have two of these claims. Will have to battle this on the next renewal cycle. Do a twelve-month calculation from July to July. Chairman Hancock said they only have two that are over the premiums. Carlos said they had four. Chairman Hancock said this did not go over what the premiums were. Charging \$360,000 and covered almost that much. Carlos said look at where this trend is. Looking at two new ones for 2023. Will see where those go.

[11:12:50 AM](#) Carlos said on the medical summary. This compares two years so this will be 2021 and 2022. Have a brief overview on what the plan did. Breaks down each page and the different data points. Took a slight increase to overall employees. Shows a decrease to medical savings. This is based on the number of claims in the system. Medical benefits show a rise of 14.5 percent going from \$702 an employee to \$796. To give perspective they have some that are in the \$800 to \$900 a month for average cost. The county is below average in the state. Even though they took an increase are still below other groups and are about average with the State of Idaho. Chairman Hancock is glad they do not pay what Fremont County does. Carlos asked how much they pay out. Chairman Hancock said this is \$2,400 a month. Carlos asked if this is average. This seems high is this including dental. Tell them to take out dental and ask for the medical and pharmacy. Chairman Hancock said this is \$2,400. He knows this because 5C is under this. Carlos said this is just medical no dental is included in this price.

[11:16:09 AM](#) Carlos said in-patient declined from the prior year which is a good thing. Want this to stay down these are the highest costs to the medical plan. Helps to see they are using more out-patient benefits. Is good to see in-patient go down because the cost is greater with in-patient. Out-patient surgeries increased by 107 percent. This was a huge increase. Just more done between the years. Chairman Hancock said it says out-patient cost decreased. Carlos said not that much. The contracting may have gotten better or the claims were different between the years. The overall services rendered went up.

[11:17:59 AM](#) Carlos said professional services increased forty-nine percent. Again, have talked about this, would rather this cost be at the primary care level. Next few pages break down each year. Took an increase in the overall costs. Prescription drugs took a huge increase. That made a difference was almost double from the year before. Right now, prescription costs are high. Chairman Hancock said on this line on prescriptions he made a comment on using out of country pharmacies. Carlos said this was a different program that uses Regence Blue Shield. Blue Cross was supposed to come out with their version of that program. If they go back the county has five specialty drugs. Blue Cross is still working on this they were supposed to have this launched in March. Have not heard a date. So, does not have anything on this. Hoping to have something this summer. Pushing this hard because they have this option with Regence. Knows the competition is there. Not sure on the program if it matches what they have on the Regence side he does not know. Pull out specialty drugs and get these drugs for a fraction of the cost. Throwing out that a few groups that have been with Blue Cross but have thrown out the idea they want to look at different options. This is one weakness they have in the plan. Some of these drugs will hit the stop loss. If they can knock off some of these would make a difference.

[11:21:46 AM](#) Carlos said they have some census and demographic information. Average age is still similar to other counties. Goes through what is billed and contractual savings. Does not mean a lot. This is just Blue Cross pounding their chest on their network pricing. Next pages start to get into in-patient and breaks this down. For him it shows prior years benchmarks and the actual experience. EIRMC is the highest one. Seeing some popularity in directed networks. Blue Cross has gained access to Mountain View who created a network that includes Idaho Falls Community Hospital who has a full emergency service. Exclude EIRMC from this network and is a ten to thirteen percent difference in cost. Way it works is they have three tiers. Would go to the Mountain View network as one tier, then would have the ability to use EIRMC in the second tier, then out of network is the third tier. Can look at this if this is something they are interested in. Some believe EIRMC is the best place to go so some may fight back on this.

[11:26:08 AM](#) Carlos said out-patient Mountain View is number one on this report. This is good have EIRMC, Idaho Community Hospital, Madison and Bingham. If they could eliminate EIRMC they would save more on the plan. On this they are under the benchmark.

[11:26:45 AM](#) Carlos said on page eight they are less on the benchmark even with folks seeing doctors for cancer. Can see the difference between out-patient and in-patient professional. Silver lining, they want more out-patient costs. Next is the prescriptions. Can see the top twenty medications. Took a huge increase from 2021 to 2022. Having a lot more medications. Can see Ozempic right now this is type two diabetic medication. Can be prescribed for weight loss this is becoming an epidemic. Every plan he has he sees this. A lot think if it lowers weight it could decrease claims. Starting to see more data with this long-term use are having kidney and liver issues. Gaining the weight back and then some. On the two-year cycle on this may have some changes to this depending on how the year goes.

[11:29:45 AM](#) Colleen asked on generics and brand name are they doing better on this. Carlos said that is the next page. Have more filling generics but the brand names that are filled the cost is still more. Cost doubled from 2021 to 2022. Only went up seventeen drugs in a year and the cost doubled. Commissioner Young said this includes the cancer drugs. Carlos said that is true. Do not have a lot of mail order in that. Colleen said they can try and do this too. Carlos said mail order is not a significant savings like there was in the past. The member can save some by getting a ninety-day supply. Some of these drugs are month-to-month prescriptions. Chairman Hancock said some of the new drugs do not have a generic yet. They are stuck paying the price and they know it. Carlos asked any questions. Chairman Hancock said they are running pretty good.

[11:32:36 AM](#) Carlos said they are starting off good for 2023. Chairman Hancock said last year they stayed down. Carlos thinks the county is doing a good job. Did look at the VEBA last time and they have plenty in this fund. Thinks things are going good. Will come back on First Stop Health. Then come in June or July if they get some information from Blue Cross so they can make decisions on prescriptions.

SOCIAL SERVICES – AMY JOHNSON

- **CAT FUND PROCEEDINGS**
- **NON-MEDICAL APPLICATIONS – (ACTION ITEM)**

[11:34:02 AM](#) Amy said House Bill 735 when it passed that got rid of the CAT Board and fund. Had a zoom meeting and as of September 1 the CAT fund will no longer receive reimbursements. Controller's Office is still trying to figure this out but they will still receive the money. Asked each county to produce a report of cases owing to the CAT fund. Want to know what is settled and the deaths. All of the employees have input information in different. As they are trying to figure out where this money is going to go. Wanted to ask for clarification on this. Going from October of 1991 to 2022. As she is going through these and scanning these in. There are some turned off saying they are too old to go after. As she comes across these things from past indigent workers. Need direction on where to go with these. Talked to Mandy at Fly S Title. Asked about the liens that are put on. Most of these have a reimbursement agreement. Some of these they have some they do not. Some have state and county liens. Talking to Mandy and they handle these liens as they stick forever. Whether this is a county or state lien. They put a note on this or they are liable. With this how do they want to proceed?

[11:37:14 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they need to put forth all of them. Classify these in different categories. Have one nothing is going to happen. Once outstanding, paying, not paying. Commissioner Clark said if they are deceased. Chairman Hancock said the key is if they have property. If they are deceased should only matter if there is no property. Amy said that is what she felt but wanted to hear from them. With this also talked in the past had a lot of calls from 211 asking for help. Needing help with rent or utilities. With House Bill 735 do they want to continue assisting with one month rent and assist with utilities. Does help with cremations. On this call asked the other counties. Gem County refers these to something similar to our EICAP. Cannot afford this when no one pays back. Have had three in the last week. Let's them know they have a thirteen-page application that has to be filled out. Has to be approved. Let's them know this is not free and will have to pay this back. Had one in last two years that actually followed through with the process. Refer them to a resource list that she has put together. Either they do not follow through or they do not ever get reimbursed.

[11:40:21 AM](#) Colleen said they want to know what is paid as far as non-medical. Amy said the cremation is through Eckersell. Do they want to refer people to the resource list, provide an application and see if they submit this? Colleen has some changes to the ordinance. Will need to look this over may change the amount. Amy said they pay \$750 to Eckersell for cremation. Most pay anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,300. Colleen thinks they can up this to \$1,000 at least. Commissioner Clark asked if they have a lot of those. Amy said this comes in waves. Honestly the minute she says they have an application and are required to pay this back it is not returned. Chairman Hancock thinks that is the way to go is to provide the application and the resource list. Colleen said most think this is free. Not sure they have paid utilities mainly just rent. Amy said on the last rent that was paid never got anything back. As she goes through these cases she scans them in. Went through the efforts to find them and send them a bill. Get calls telling her this was ten years old could not go after them. Would like to talk to Mark on this. Chairman Hancock said unless they got a notice from them forgiving this they are still liable.

[11:43:25 AM](#) Amy is glad he said that. Talked to Mandy at Fly J they call the county to write up a report stating they forgive this lien. Chairman Hancock said this has to come from the Board on these. In the years he has been here have forgiven very few. Can take a reduced amount but does not let these go. Still owe these. Amy said they have reduced some of these since she has been here.

[11:44:33 AM](#) Amy said with that there is another House Bill that came out House Bill 70. With that they do not go to CAT anymore it will be their discretion. Chairman Hancock said there is no money for them to give. Amy said on the payments they take these monthly and they send a percentage to the CAT fund. County paid the first \$11,000 and then CAT went in and paid. A percentage is sent in but there will not be a CAT fund after September 1 so this will go to the Controller's Office. Colleen said they no longer need to get approval from CAT fund on reduced amounts. Chairman Hancock said people look at this as a free gift. Amy said she will continue with the application. Will continue with rent and utilities. This goes to the landlord and is only sixty percent. Utilities cannot be in the rear and this make it void because they have to be current on these. Will go forward with the cremation will look at raising this. Will continue sending out billings.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REBECCA SQUIRES

- **ARPA/LATCF UPDATE – (ACTION ITEM)**

[11:47:37 AM](#) Rebecca said they talk a lot about ARPA. This is updated with the amounts budgeted and actual amount. **(Exhibit D)** Budgeted is a placeholder and add it to actual when it is expended. Have somethings allocated that has not been spent. Asks if there is anything that has been allocated that is not on this list. Chairman Hancock cannot think of anything. They have some for public safety. The ambulance purchase was supposed to be the difference. Was told that Mud Lake got a grant. Rebecca said they have not reached out to her. Chairman Hancock heard this from one of the EMT's that they got approved for a new ambulance. Could be wrong on this. Rebecca said if they did the next question will be do

they still get some money to take care of other items. They could always come in on an alternative project. Chairman Hancock said he just heard they were approved.

[11:51:08 AM](#) Rebecca said some of these are placeholders because no decision or action has taken place. Is there anything that needs pursued further or removed? Chairman Hancock said they need to add some for Public Works. Commissioner Clark said \$2.4 million is what is left. Rebecca said the balance the budgeted amount is subtracted. Anytime a placeholder is added it subtract but is not necessarily what is expended. Commissioner Clark said one thing was the Mud Lake Park about \$15,000 or so out there. Knows they got a vaulted toilet for out there. This is something that came on top of the playground. Chairman Hancock said maybe need \$25,000. Commissioner Clark said they budgeted some so maybe \$20,000 for that park.

[11:53:08 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they have added the Treasurer/Assessor Office have talked they have \$30,000. Rebecca said they had a sketch of what they want to do. Are running the basement and starting the courts does not have room to manage another project. Do they want this pushed in there? Chairman Hancock said they may want to add this with a change order to either the basement or court addition. May want a placeholder of \$30,000. Rebecca asked if she needs to work with the architect. Chairman Hancock said they need to see how close they are on their bids to the \$900,000. Commissioner Young asked on the courts. Chairman Hancock said the plans are not finished yet. Rebecca said they had an estimate. If the bids come in lower they have some owner furnished items. Need shelving and security. Need to make sure they are furnishing the basement. Was difficult and costly to furnish the annex. Never knew what was being spent. Need to roll this in that would be helpful.

[11:55:17 AM](#) Commissioner Clark said on Road & Bridge had \$230,000 for the distributor truck. Should be here in May. Called Rob last week on this. Rebecca asked on anything else for Road & Bridge. Added the LHTAC match. Chairman Hancock thinks they can take this match out of funds because this will be asphalt they are buying. Commissioner Clark will double check the price. Rebecca asked on this update. Chairman Hancock said every few months. Commissioner Clark said it is good to have this they can keep track too. Rebecca said they need their lists to match.

[11:56:47 AM](#) Rebecca said U.S. Treasury is allowing reporting once a year. April is when she will need to report on this. Can have this money committed and not spent. If this is just out there will not set this as committed until the project is being worked on.

[11:57:23 AM](#) Rebecca said they have another fund a piece of legislation is the LATCF is \$160,000 this year and then another \$160,000 for 2023. This is reported separately and managed separately. Would like to take a smaller project out of ARPA and assign it over so she can do the reporting more accurately. Suggesting is to allocate LATCF to Community Safety Communications. Chairman Hancock said they will not start this until summer. Rebecca said they have requested \$153,090 but they could spend this. Have upgrades to towers. Chairman Hancock said they need to see what is available in 911. Rebecca said they have allocated the \$153,090 and moving this to the whole \$160,544.21. Would rather put the entire amount in this because it simplifies the reporting. Commissioners do not have a problem with this. Rebecca said the next amount that comes in wants to do the same thing. Does not want to split any projects between these two funding sources. If it is more than the allocation is it would be better to use county funds. This is to make the reporting and compliance simpler.

[12:00:03 PM](#) Colleen said back to Road & Bridge they have been struggling with their cash balance. Only have \$1,200 in there right now. Chairman Hancock said they get quarterly money from the state. Colleen said they need to watch this and keep that in mind. Chairman Hancock said they had a long discussion on this. Colleen said this was never a problem in the past. Need to keep an eye on it.

[12:00:51 PM](#) Commissioner Clark said they should get that allocation this month. Chairman Hancock said they will get another \$400,000 to \$500,000. Chairman Hancock said they were supposed to get another \$160,000 as well. Commissioner Clark said that started last year. Colleen said the cash balance will go into the negative where they have payroll coming out of this too. Chairman Hancock hopes this is short lived. Colleen said that some forget a payroll comes out of this.

[12:02:35 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to allocate the LATCF Funding of \$160,544.21 to Public Safety Communications. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[12:03:30 PM](#) Rebecca said this makes it easier to allocate, spend, report and close out. Chairman Hancock said that is all on the agenda.

[12:03:48 PM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to adjourn at 12:03. Second by Commissioner Young. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.**

David Skeneoch
Chairman of the Board

Audrey Moon
Clerk of the Board

Collin C. Role
County Clerk



6/12/23
Date

6/12/2023
Date

6/12/23
Date