

COMMISSION MINUTES
October 12, 2015

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this twelfth day of October, 2015. Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Garth ‘Tooter’ Ogden and Gary Mason in the Commission Chambers of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. Clerk/Auditor Steven C. Wall was also present.

Commissioner Gordon Topham and Executive Director Malcolm Nash were excused.

Minutes of September 18th Commission meeting approved:

Minutes of the September 28th Commission Meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Mason, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

Claims approved:

Claims for the month of September were then reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Mason, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

CIB list to be updated:

Russell Cowley, Administrator Six County AOG, reviewed with the Commissioners the current proposed capital improvement list for CIB for 2016. He reported that Emery Polelonema will begin meeting with the Cities and Towns to verify their needs, and modify the list as needed. Mr. Cowley said they would meet with the Commission during the first part of the year to finalize the list for their approval for submission to CIB.

Regional Management Plans to be developed:

Mr. Cowley then reported that Six County AOG and other Association of Governments throughout the State had received some funding to help the Counties develop Resource Management Plans on regional levels. He reported that they cannot forward the money to a specific county, but they can help gather data and get the necessary data available to the Counties that they can use to help develop their Regional Management Plans. Discussion followed concerning the 27 point plan the Legislature is asking the Counties to develop. He also discussed with them having their own Regional Management Plan Development Committee to get their plans developed, as well as having someone on the Six County AOG Committee to help Six County gather data and prioritize things that they can do to help the Counties develop their plans. Mr. Cowley indicated that some of the AOG’s are hiring consultants with the money they are getting, but he feels they can do a lot of the work in-house to help the Counties. He asked that the Commissioners get together and appoint someone to be on that Six County Committee.

Tentative budget presented, public hearing set for tax increase:

Clerk/Auditor Steven Wall then presented a tentative budget for the Commissioners to begin work on for the 2016 year, and reported that included in the budget there is a request for increase of approximately \$2.4 million in general property taxes, which relates to a 71% increase. The Commissioners then noted that there would be a public hearing required on the budget, as well as for Truth in Taxation. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to set the public hearing for Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

The Commissioners then discussed the proposed tax increase. Commissioner Mason highlighted the fact that this increase is not on the total taxes, but only on the County portion of the taxes, which does not include the school, city or towns. Discussion followed concerning some of the reasons for the increase, that some of the revenues that we have had in previous years are no longer available, as well as the increase of ongoing costs. Clerk/Auditor Wall noted that in previous years the County has had some

surplus monies they have been using to work through some of the lean years with the hope of new growth or other sources of monies. Further discussion followed concerning why the large amount of the raise at this time, and that the County was trying to avoid raising taxes as long as possible, but should have raised taxes a few years ago. Commissioner Ogden noted that there have also been some additional requirements placed on the County by the State for services. Commissioner Mason noted that the County had been receiving some SITLA mineral lease monies, but those monies were no longer being paid to the County. He then said that this is just the beginning of the process, and the Commission will be meeting with all of the Department Heads to go over the budgets line by line to see if there are some expenses that can be cut. The Commission then noted that the County has some good Department Heads who have only purchased what was needed, and turned back part of their budgets at year end.

Refund approved:

Assessor Amy Garren-Clark reported that there had been a state audit on the Subway restaurant at Walmart, which showed that the owners had overpaid on some of their taxes. Ms. Garren-Clark recommended a refund of \$283.24 to the Subway at Walmart. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to approve the refund as recommended, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

New Hires for Sheriff and Jail:

Human Resources LeighAnn Wheeler and Sheriff Nathan Curtis reported they had completed the hiring process for an LPN, noting that they had advertised the position to begin part-time and move to full-time after one of the nurses retires within the next year. The individual that had been selected was Melissa Hendricks who began on September 21, 2015, at the rate of \$16.14 per hour on a part time basis that would move to full-time as needed. They had also hired an administrative assistant at the Sheriff's Office, Jade Murdock with a hire date of September 14, 2015 at a rate of \$12.92 per hour; and Jered Hansen was hired to fill the custodial position at the Sheriff's Office beginning September 15, 2015 at a rate of \$17.82 per hour. The Commission noted that Mr. Hansen does have a journeymen's license in industrial maintenance, which will save the County money as he will be able to do a lot of the repair work, etc. instead of having to call independent contractors. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to approve the three hires as recommended, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

Agreement with Smith Hartvigsen approved:

The Commission then reviewed an agreement with Smith Hartvigsen, Attorneys at Law, for legal representation to analyze and create, if necessary, a Sevier County Community Development and Renewal Agency at a fee of approximately \$10,000. The County will be reimbursed for these expenses by Sigurd Solar. After discussion, Commissioner Mason moved to approve the agreement with Smith Hartvigsen, second Commissioner Ogden. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.