

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman James J. Eardley at 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2014, in the Commission Chambers, Washington County Administration Building, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Chairman James J. Eardley, Commissioner Dennis Drake, Commissioner Alan Gardner, Administrator Dean J. Cox, Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke, and Deputy County Clerk Christine S. Hall.

Commissioner Drake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the Commission for approval. The Consent Portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any Commissioner wishes to remove an item from the Consent Portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the Regular Agenda.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for January 22, 2014, through February 4, 2014
- Consideration of Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2014
- Consideration of Application for Settlement or Deferral of Property Taxes: Virgin Utah Properties/Tom LaCosse, S/N V-2-1-21-2112
- Consideration of Applications for Property Tax Abatement: Darrell and Barbara Holck, S/N DDE-2-80; Everett Shepherd, A/N 0339997
- Consideration of Ratification of 2013 Blind and Veterans Personal Property Exemptions (attached)
- Consideration of Ratification of Abatement Summary for 2013 (attached)

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH / CAROL HOLLOWELL

Volunteer Center Director Carol Hollowell said that the Volunteer Center recently conducted a canvass of homeless people in Washington County, with over one hundred (100) volunteers participating. Two of those are Tom and Regina Angstadt, who received

the Volunteers of the Month award this month. They are new to Washington County but still covered a great deal of ground during the three-day canvass. The volunteers counted eighty-nine (89) homeless people.

PURCHASE REQUESTS: MARK BLANCH

- Emergency Services, Supermicro servers for data storage \$31,275.00

All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Approve the Purchase Request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

PRESENTATION: JIM MILESTONE, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, ZION NATIONAL PARK

Mr. Milestone said that the former Park Superintendent, Jock Whitworth, has retired but is still living near Zion National Park. Mr. Milestone will be in his current position until May, when a permanent Superintendent will be selected.

- Zion had nearly three million (3,000,000) visitors last year, with three point eight million (3,800,000) riding the shuttle buses. The shuttles will begin operating April 1st. Some buses, nearly fourteen (14) years old, will be replaced.
- A ten (10) year planning effort is underway to improve Park facilities, including the shuttle system, entry roads, and access to the Visitors Center. A consulting firm is designing transportation models for increased efficiency.
- The federal government shutdown in October 2013 was devastating to Zion Park.
- The Bighorn Sheep population is estimated to be around eight hundred (800), up from one hundred fifty (150). An Environmental Assessment is being conducted to explore relocating some of the sheep population.
- Bidding will soon commence for a contract on guided horse rides through the Park.
- A comprehensive recycling program is in place throughout the Park.
- Last year the Virgin River and its tributaries were designated as “wild and scenic,” and an attempt will be made to reintroduce some native fish species.
- It is predicted that visitors to Zion National Park will approach four (4) million by the end of the next decade.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-1780, A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE EXECUTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY-NRCS 2012 EWP AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND WARDELL

BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION, INC., IN ORDER TO RELIEVE HAZARDS AND DAMAGES CREATED BY A FLOOD IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

Public Works Director Ron Whitehead said that Wardell Brothers was the apparent low bidder for this contract, which represents the County's latest river repair work through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This job consists of three (3) sites: Grandpa's Pond in Hurricane, Shoal Creek Subdivision in Toquerville, and LaVerkin Creek/Confluence Park. This is a fifty-eight (58) day contract.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Adopt Resolution No. R-2014-1780, A Resolution To Ratify The Execution Of The Washington County-NRCS 2012 EWP Agreement Between Washington County And Wardell Brothers Construction, Inc., In Order To Relieve Hazards And Damages Created By A Flood In Washington County, Utah. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Gardner reported that as of 2:30 this afternoon, Senator Hatch voted for, and Senator Lee voted against, the Farm Bill which contained a provision for the PILT payment the County has been waiting for. The bill will now move to the President's desk for signature.

PUBLIC WORKS OR ROAD BUSINESS

Mr. Whitehead updated the Commission on current road projects:

- The NRCS project will begin in three (3) new sites in Hurricane, LaVerkin, and Toquerville areas, along with finishing up work along the Virgin River at the Conservancy District pipeline site and the River Road Bridge site. Mitigation work will follow, with some plantings.
- The next job will be either at the Santa Clara River or the Fort Pierce site.
- Work also continues on the access road near the Southern Parkway that connects the Washington Fields Dam Road with the Turf Sod Road coming in from Hurricane. Roads are already roughed in, with some dirt already moved.

Request a Closed Session

None.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

CHRISTINE S. HALL
DEPUTY CLERK

JAMES J. EARDLEY
CHAIRMAN