

IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023

Minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. March 13, 2023 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Paul Cozzens	Commission Chair
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Marilyn Wood	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Chad Dotson	County Attorney
Lucas Little	County Auditor
Richard Wilson	County Chief Engineer
Sam Woodall	County Deputy Attorney
Cherisha Lister	County Deputy Auditor
George Colson	County Emergency Management
Danny Stewart	County Economic Development
Ryan Riddle	County Fire Warden
Wade Adams	County Fleet Manager
Jennifer Bradbury	County HR Director
Mike Worthen	County Natural Resources
Reed Erickson	County Planner
Bruce Anderson	County Public Works
Ken Carpenter	County Sheriff

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INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Lucas Little.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by Wade Adams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held February 27, 2023. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from February 27, 2023 to March 12, 2023. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chad Dotson, Iron County Attorney, reported that there were 328 referred for prosecution cases from January 1st which was up 10% from the same time last year. Chad reported about an officer-involved shooting that had occurred in February. The Critical Incident Task Force handled the investigation and after the review and findings, it was found to be a justified shooting. The suspect was charged and the case was proceeding through District Court. He reported that there was an attempted murder case on 200 North in Cedar City in February and they were screening another case from last week that may become an attempted murder case. Chad reported that Calleen Mason would be retiring at the end of April after 37 years working in the Attorney's Office. He continued to work with Wendy Jessen, CJC Director, with adjustments and improvements. Chad reported that there was a position open for a Forensic Interviewer in the CJC and was optimistic about receiving funding from the State Legislature. Sam Woodall, Iron County Deputy Attorney, would be receiving an award from the Salt Lake City Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for his participation in poaching cases. He expressed his appreciation for the work Sam does for Iron County. The courts were doing well in decreasing the backlog of trials. Marilyn Wood expressed her appreciation for Chad Dotson posting positive results of trials for public information.

Jonathan Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, reported that the Clerk's Office ended 2022 slightly under budget. Overall, the Clerk budget ended at 0.5 over (wages), the Non-Departmental budget ended at 94% used, and the Election budget, with the exception of Agents & Judges, ended at 5% under. Jon noted that sewer service expenses ended over budget on utilities as a result of more growth than projected. Solid Waste accounts were up by 71 accounts from the end of 2022; Marriage Licenses were down from the same time last year by 18; Certified Marriage Licenses were down by 11 from last year; Passports were up by 41 and

Passport Pictures were up by 35. Jon reported that his office was requiring passport applications to be in the office by 4:00 p.m. because passport forms could no longer be submitted with any cross-outs and it was sometimes taking applicants 3 or 4 applications to get it correct. It was not required to make an appointment for marriage licenses or passports so there had been many applications coming to the Parowan office from our surrounding counties that do require appointments, as most were booked approximately 3 to 4 weeks out. The revenue between pictures and passports was \$17,830. Processing time for standard passports was currently at 8 to 11 weeks, so most applicants were using the expedited process time which was 5 to 7 weeks.

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, reported that the HR finished 2022 under budget and did not foresee any current or anticipated budget issues or concerns for 2023. Since the last HR report, there had been posted, interviewed, and hired 8 Full-Time and 4 Part-Time Employees. There had been 13 internal promotions/transfers and they were in the process of recruiting/hiring for 12 Full-Time positions and 2 Part-time positions. Jennifer noted that turnover for 2022 was 17.74% (44 positions) and currently there were 4.03% (10 positions). The Workers Compensation Experience Modification rating (E-mod) had increased this year from .82 to .94. She explained that E-mod figures under 0.80 were ideal and resulted in a 20% decrease in premiums and above 1.0 resulted in a 20% increase. Many of these claims were repeat claims. Blomquist Hale's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) utilization was at 8%. Jennifer reported that Iron County's health insurance provider, PEHP utilization was currently over 100% for the first quarter of 2023. Employee milestone Anniversaries were: 5 Years for Bryan Aguayo, Zakkary Coons (Corrections), LaTonya Heaton (Assessors) and Michael Hillegar (Patrol); 10 Years for Shaneal Bess (Clerk); 15 years for G'Ne Bartholomew (Clerk), and Mickelle Croft (Patrol); 20 years for Henry Armbruster (Corrections) and Wade Adams (Fleet); and celebrating 25 years was Aaron Cheney (Corrections).

George Colson, Iron County Emergency Management Manager, reported that 2022 ended under budget. There were over 700 volunteer hours in 2022. George reported on events of 2022: He held two emergency communication exercises; participated in a Beaver Hazmat exercise; participated in the Enoch Preparedness Fair; Crisis Track (an application for faster assistance after a disaster, etc.) training with the Cedar Fire Department; held a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class; took part in a Rocky Mountain Power Tabletop exercise; attended a State Energy meeting in Beaver; participated in a Utah National Guard Intelligence briefing; presented an Iron County Safety class for Iron County Elected Officials; participated in a Southwest Utah Public Health Tabletop exercise; attended a Homeland Threat briefing and Public Gathering Security workshop; attended a Holly Energy Tabletop exercise; participated in a 2-day Federal Dam Sectors exercise; attended a 2-day Governor's Public Safety Summit; presented at the Utah Counties Indemnity Pool (UCIP) Conference; participated in a "Test" Rocky Mountain Power Shutdown Command Post exercise; coordinated a state and local response to Old Iron Town with a well water issue; participated in the Cedar City Airport Tabletop exercise; took the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on a tour of Iron County (and Channel 5 News); supported the Iron County Fair with light sets, a tent, hand washing trailer, and command trailer; participated in the Cedar City Regional Airport full-scale disaster exercise; participated in the Crisis Leadership training on the Southern Utah University (SUU) Campus; assisted the Alzheimer's Association in preparing for their annual fund raising walk; supported SUU Homecoming with light sets and attended the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) Conference. George reported that he and Richard Wilson (Iron County Chief Engineer) put a questionnaire together and sent it out to Iron County residents regarding information on flooding needs. There was a great response from Enoch City, Paragonah, and Kanarraville. He ordered an additional 85K sandbags for approximately 130 to 140 thousand bags on hand. During the flooding in 2021 between 110 and 120 thousand sandbags were used. Mike Bleak expressed his appreciation for all that George Colson had done, and continued to do, for Iron County. Paul Cozzens noted that Jon Whittaker prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for canopies to cover Iron County equipment and Conex boxes and asked George if he would review it. It was discussed to order 2 for George Colson, 1 for Bruce Anderson (Iron County Public Works) for a salt pile, and 1 for Ryan Riddle (Iron

County Fire Warden) for fire equipment. George Colson reported that he had 3 Highboy Conex boxes and had just ordered one more for a total of four available for Emergency Management.

Wade Adams, Iron County Fleet Manager, reported that the Fleet budget was on track. Wade reported that he had received all the vehicles on the 2021 order except diesel trucks, and he had reordered those trucks. The 2022 vehicles had been ordered and he hoped to have them delivered around June. Wade explained that he had been working on getting Iron County vehicles listed in the new Fleet Management Program with all the necessary data and triggers set up for service reminders (Lube, Oil and Filter, and Tire Rotations). Service and repairs continued to increase on the older vehicles. He reported that an older floor lift had been removed and a new one was being installed and should be completed by the end of the week. Wade explained that new lights had been ordered for the shop and he was participating in a rebate program with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) which would help save on power and increase visibility in the shop. Wade closed by noting that he had been assisting the Sheriff's Department with retrieving stolen vehicles.

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that the commissioners continued to move forward with plans for the new Correctional Facility. Mike noted that he had the opportunity to participate in the "Wired Wednesday with McKennan Hansen" radio talk show and talked about the progress of the new jail. He met with the Tourism Board and discussed the Transient Room Tax (TT) grant proposals. The Cedar City Hospital held a "Colon Cancer Awareness" event last week. The hospital brought in a giant inflatable colon and people could walk through it. Mike reported that he spoke at the Republican Women's meeting. The theme of the meeting was Human Trafficking and there were 2 other speakers that were experts on human trafficking. Mike noted that he talked about the resources that were available at the Children's Justice Center (CJC). He attended the "Best of Cedar City Awards Gala on March 9th. Commissioner Bleak congratulated the Southern Utah University (SUU) women's Basketball team as the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Champions. They were headed to the NCAA playoffs and their first-round game would be against Notre Dame in Indiana on St. Patrick's Day. He noted that there had not been an SUU team at the NCAA Playoffs since 2001.

Marilyn Wood, Iron County Commissioner, noted that she was a member of the Republican Women's group and expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Bleak for the speech he gave at the meeting. On March 1st the Iron County Council of Governments Council (ICCoG) met with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and discussed the different challenges with roads. On March 1st Mayor Green held a meeting regarding water and agriculture issues. Marilyn reported that she was involved with the agriculture community and everyone needed to remember that water was their livelihood. We all need to work together to make water challenges work. She noted that every Wednesday there had been a meeting held with the architect to discuss the design of the new Sheriff complex. At the March 8th meeting the discussion went into greater depth than the previous meetings. It was interesting to listen to the discussion between the architect and the jail staff that expressed their needs to be included in the new facility. Marilyn reported that on March 8th the Commissioners met with Richard Wilson, Iron County Engineer, and Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, to discuss Iron Springs Road and funding that Representative Chris Stewart had received. Reed and Richard were working on a proposal to be awarded some of those funds. Commissioner Wood reported that she participated in a zoom meeting with Stephen Lisonbee and Michael Mower from Governor Cox's Office. Part of the discussion was the possibility of Governor Cox attending a Town Hall meeting in Parowan on April 3rd, and touring the Iron County Fairgrounds.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he had received calls from the Community Impact Board (CIB) regarding funding information that might be available for the new Correctional Facility. He attended the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) meeting in Salt Lake City last week. Paul explained that the 5 County Association of Governments (AOG) received approximately \$5M for projects and the most that could be applied for was \$350K per project. The requirements for those projects were very stringent. Cody Christensen was a new member of the 5 County AOG and had been very helpful in that process. Paragonah and Newcastle could possibly apply for funds from the CDBG for water

infrastructure improvements. Paul reported that he met with the Behavioral Health Steering Committee and they reported that the new Washington County & Southwest Behavioral Receiving Center. The center would be available for use by Iron County, but the distance was the only disadvantage for transport. He noted that the Steering Committee prepared an emergency CDBG request for the purchase of a Fire Truck for the Newcastle Fire Department. CDBG approved \$380K and Iron County had a match of \$380K. Jon Whittaker expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Cozzens and Ryan Riddle (Iron County Fire Warden) for preparing the grant request. Paul explained that in 2019, Iron County placed approximately 9,000 acre-feet of water into the Western Rock 12 acre recharge pit. He met with Cedar City and Staker & Parson Company (parent company of Western Rock) and Cedar City owned the pit to the south of the Western Rock pit. The Staker & Parson Company purchased the Phil Schmidt pit and they continued to allow Iron County to use the pit. In the meeting, there was a discussion of Cedar City moving to another pit to mine gravel and allowing Iron County to use the recharge in the south pit. It was a very productive discussion of ways to mitigate ground water challenges. Commissioner Cozzens closed by reporting that the Inland Port project had great leadership to move that project forward.

PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE IRON COUNTY JAIL FACILITY SITE LOCATION AND PROPERTY PURCHASE

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, explained the process that had been taken towards a new Correctional Facility. Areas covered in the last year included looking at many site options; input from the community, many public hearings held; the formation of a Jail Selection Committee, the design of the facility, and contractors for the facility. Mike noted that the 25 members of the Jail Selection Committee were well-represented in all areas including neighborhood representatives. That committee had recommended that the focus of the jail site be located in an Industrial Park area. The current site recommended for the Correctional Facility had been determined by the committee, staff of the current Correctional Facility, and all Law Enforcement in Iron County to be the best site. Babcock Design and Layton Construction were approved (through a Request for Proposal-RFP) for the construction and design of the Correctional Facility. Both companies had a lengthy history in designing and constructing correctional facilities. Mike reported that there had been 3 previous Public Hearings held on this specific site. The Public Hearing today was based on this site location and purchase of the property.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the Public Hearing open regarding the proposed Correctional Facility site and purchase.

Rob O'Brien, a citizen of Iron County, noted that he and his wife had moved from Chicago to Cedar City, were very glad to be here, and were very involved with the community. Rob stated that he had been blindsided by this location and understood that the location had previously been approved to be in the Fiddlers Canyon area. He had been advised that most of the 25 members of the Jail Selection Committee were either Iron County employees or Cedar City employees and only 3 were residents of the location sites. Mike Bleak noted that there were more citizens than officials on the committee and there was representation from Equestrian Point to the West and The Cove to the South. Rob stated that he was alerted of the Public Hearing being held today by Facebook last Thursday. He had spoken with a city official about the previous public hearing and he was not aware of the hearing. Rob personally felt like this Public Hearing was being held intentionally off the radar screen. Mr. O'Brien asked how the information was communicated to the public regarding the public hearings. Jon Whittaker reported that Iron County used the Public Notice website, Iron County website, radio, social media, email, and the press. Rob reported that everyone he had talked with in his community had no idea that the current site was being considered. He noted that Commissioner Bleak reported that the intent of this public hearing was to review and approve the current site location, which indicated that the site had been approved, and the property had been purchased so the public hearing was to be able to mark the box that a public hearing was held. Was that true? Commissioner Bleak reported that there was an offer on the land. He explained that the site and

construction of a new Correction Facility was an Administrative decision on the part of the Iron County Commission. Legally, the commission was not required to hold a public hearing or public meetings, but they opted not to go that way because it was not the way they wanted to interact with the community. Within the last 2 weeks, there had been 2 evening meetings, and 1 daytime meeting, and this was the 4th meeting regarding the current jail site. All of the meetings were public meetings and advertised as public hearings. There was attendance and public input at each of the meetings. The commissioners had agreed to always be open and transparent on any issues the commissioners were presented with. Mike reported that at this point, the commission had moved forward with the site selection and purchase of the property. They, once again, were not required to hold a public hearing but they wanted to hear any public input. Rob O'Brien asked if the attendance at the other meetings was similar to who was in attendance today. Mike replied that it was. Rob noted that half of the 25 in attendance today were county employees and there, once again, was a lack of communication or the citizens did not care, and he asked if there had been an Economic Study performed. Mike Bleak reported that the Iron County Chief Economic Development Director had been involved since the beginning of the process. Rob stated that Iron County advertised as "Festival City USA" and it was hard to believe that the Cedar City Chamber would advocate having a jail by the airport. Commissioner Bleak explained that the design for the Correction Facility looked like an office building and Cedar City Chamber and the CEO of the 5 County Big Chamber had attended all the meetings and were in support of the site. Mr. O'Brien noted that his understanding was Iron County owned the property. Mike answered that they did not own the property. Rob then inquired who owned the property and who would profit from the sale of the property. Jon Whittaker explained that the property was under contract or Line of Credit (LOC), and the Iron County Commissioners had made an offer on the property. Rob asked who was involved with the LOC and who would benefit from the sale. Sam Woodall, Iron County Deputy Attorney, reported that he would have to wait until the closing of the contract for that information. Rob noted that he thought it might be interesting to the community who would benefit, or profit, from the sale. Commissioner Bleak reported that the current property was purchased by an Industrial Company and Iron County participated in negotiations with that company directly through a realtor. Marilyn Wood asked Mr. O'Brien if he had attended any of the previous meetings that were held last year or watched any of the meetings on the Iron County website. Rob replied that he was aware and was peripherally involved and assumed that the decision was made for the previous site and thus he moved on. He stated that it did not make sense to place a jail where there was rapid growth. Marilyn Wood reported that it was important to have the jail centrally located to the hospital and courts which was one of the reasons to have the location at the industrial site and because residents were not close to the site. Jon reviewed the map of the proposed site. He reported that County Jails were mandated by the State of Utah in a county where a sheriff operated. Another inference was that the Correctional Facility was a state prison, which it was not. The building design was based on a Correctional Facility located in Wayne County where several agencies were housed in the building, and it was located in an industrial area. It was a balancing act to find the right location to fit all the needs. Rob O'Brien reported that he stood behind Law Enforcement and a new facility 100%, but he was concerned that communication between the Iron County Commission and residents in the Cove Subdivision was poor and he was against the chosen location. He then asked if there had been any communication with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints regarding the location. Commissioner Bleak stated that it would not be appropriate to reach out to any religious organizations for their opinion. Jon Whittaker asked Mr. O'Brien what he thought the commissioners should have done differently. Rob stated that from his own experience that the lack of communication was his main issue. Mike Bleak reported that unfortunately there was a serious lack of apathy in Iron County and he applauded those who were involved in the community and participated in events. As this process moved forward there had been a list of e-mails collected at each of the public hearings and each of those had been notified of any progress and meetings. Paul Cozzens reported that at the last public hearing, he was concerned that not enough knew about the meeting because of the low attendance, which was the reason behind a 4th public hearing. He knew that it had been advertised in the local

newspaper, the Spectrum Newspaper, the radio, and on social media. Paul noted that he still preferred the north location and the one advantage of the current site would be in utilities which would save Iron County close to \$5M. Mr. O'Brien commended the Commissioners for their research, but they failed in communication. Discussion continued on the ownership of the property and who would profit from the sale. Marilyn Wood reported that the residents of Iron County and staff at the Jail would benefit from the purchase of the property to build the new facility. It would be safer for the Correction's Commander and her staff and because of the high tech in the construction, the community would also be safer. Commissioner Bleak explained that the Commission had been committed to the property on the north interchange. That property was in the Cedar City incorporated area and the Cedar City Planning Commission would not recommend a zone change to the Cedar City Council, thus access to that property was denied. It was no longer a viable property and the commission had to move forward in finding another location. The current location was available for purchase and the Commissioners would not back down from the purchase opportunity. Paul Cozzens reported that the current property was located in Unincorporated Iron County and did not require a Conditional Use Permit from Cedar City. Commissioner Bleak noted that Iron County could have protested the decision but respected the Cedar City Planning Commission with their decision. Rob O'Brien stated that if this community was going to continue to be what it was then the citizens needed to stand up and do the right thing and not allow greed or corruption to overrule common sense and justice. Paul Cozzens asked Mr. O'Brien what he was inferring by "greed or corruption," and how were greed or corruption a part of this process. Rob stated that the more people who were involved, Mr. Cozzens, you get perspective from those that do not have financial gain. He was not suggesting that any of the commissioners have financial gain. Paul asked Mr. Obrien, "So you believe that there was greed and corruption in making this decision?" Rob stated that he did not believe that the community was as aware of the issue as the commissioners were and that was a problem. Commissioner Cozzens stated that this Correctional Facility issue had been going on for years. Southern Utah University (SUU) did a study on 4 different possible sites for the facility and none of the sites were recommended. Paul noted that he did not feel that Mr. O'Brien fully understood all that this commission, and prior commissioners, had gone through to get to this point. Rob closed by saying that somehow there needed to be continued improvement in communication because what was happening now was not working.

Cory Estes, a resident of Sunset Canyon, agreed with Mr. O'Brien in the fact that he also felt blindsided and that there was a lack of communication between the commissioners and the community, and he also understood that the site had been approved for the Fiddler's Canyon area. The lack of communication was not the main issue, but people were busy and had their personal lives just as the commissioners did. Cory explained that he respectfully disagreed with the assertion that having the Jail near residential areas would make the area safer, basing that belief on his 25 years of Law Enforcement (LE) experience. A county jail was a revolving door. When the inmates were released and walked out the door it was not as if they had been in prison for 5 years and had a family member that was excited to come and pick them up. Most of these people walk out on foot. When it was inferred that there were no adjacent homes in the area, there were adjacent homes in the area. Those released would have no other way to walk out other than up Hwy 56 or south down Cross Hollows through his neighborhood. There was no LE Officer or you that could tell him that this was going to make his neighborhood safer. Commissioner Bleak asked Mr. Estes if he understood the population of a County Jail. Mr. Estes noted that it depended on the population of the county. Mike Bleak explained that people who were incarcerated in county jails were there for less than 365 days. He noted that he was a current LE Officer and Detective for 27 years for Iron County. The only inmates released into Iron County were residents of Iron County. No inmate that was not a resident of Iron County was released here. Cory Estes stated that recently there was \$500K of marijuana seized by the Utah Highway Patrol and asked if that person was a resident of Iron County, and if they were, when they were released from jail where were they going to go. Mike stated that that was not someone who would be sentenced and serve time in the Iron County Jail, and if they were sentenced they would serve time in the Utah State Prison. Mr. Estes stated that his concern was the proximity of

the jail to residents just as the residents in the Fiddler's Canyon area were concerned. He pointed out that he recognized that the commissioners could not please everyone. Everyone agreed that a new facility was needed but no one wanted the jail in their backyard. He felt that his property value would go down as a result of the jail site, and he would not want to continue to live in his neighborhood if the jail was built at the selected site. His neighborhood was already dealing with the unbelievable noise that continued to increase from Genpac. Commissioner Bleak reported that before he moved, from Meadow Street, his deck was directly above Genpac for 20 years. He explained that the new Jail was designed as a Dark Sky facility, looked like a professional business building, and had all the latest technology for security. He has many friends that live on Meadow Street (his previous residence) who would be more affected by this site than anyone else. Currently, those residents look down on a stockyard and a junkyard. This Jail would improve their view, which was what he had been told by his friends and neighbors on Meadow Street. Mr. Estes explained that his concern was not the view but literally the people that were going to be released into the community and where they were going to go. He stated that in the last 5 to 10 years of his LE career, he had seen an increase in crime, an increase in the bold and brazeness of criminals, and the violence that occurred. It would only take one guy to get out of jail and walk through his neighborhood and do something before it bites somebody. Everyone says that it won't happen in their neighborhood until it does. He stated that it was his right to come before the commission and voice his opinion as a concerned citizen.

Sheriff Carpenter noted that everyone needed to keep in mind that only inmates from Iron County were released and they already lived in the community. They were members of Iron County and had every right to be released back into the county. When they do their time according to what the Judge ordered then they have to be released back into the community. Cory Estes stated that once a person was booked they may not stay in jail and still be released into the community. Sheriff Carpenter explained that that was their right. They were already a resident of Iron County and were free to go where they wanted to go in the county. Cory said that he was not disputing that they could be released into the community, or the need for a new jail, just the location of the jail site was not a good spot and needed to be in a place away from residences. He felt as though he was being attacked for voicing his opinion. Sheriff Carpenter reported that they were at the point where there were no other locations in Iron County to build the Jail. There were certain things that had to be included in selecting a site. It had to be close to the courts, and a hospital, and have utilities. The site options had been worn out and this was the last option for the jail site. Sheriff Carpenter reported that the neighborhood around the current Jail was the safest neighborhood in Iron County and had been at that location for 35 years. Cory asked if the Sheriff could say that those criminals that had been released did not migrate into the neighborhoods to steal cars or break into them or burglarize homes. Sheriff Carpenter replied that it was not happening any more than it was now by someone that was not in jail. The crime was not going to increase just because someone was booked into jail and then released. Chad Dotson, Iron County Attorney, asked Mr. Estes if he would feel better if there were facts or a case study of residential neighborhoods adjacent to a jail to prove that it did not have these types of crimes when an inmate was released. Cory replied that he would be open to that. Chad Dotson reported that there was one now with the neighborhoods around the current jail. The issues that Mr. Estes was concerned with did not exist in the neighborhoods. The Correctional Facility had been at the current location for 35 years and inmates were not just walking out the door and victimizing the neighborhoods surrounding it. Sheriff Carpenter noted that the neighborhoods were closer to the current jail than they would be at the new site. Commissioner Bleak reported that for over 27 years he had patrolled the Fiddlers Canyon area and he could not think of an incident where someone got out of jail and went on a spree in that neighborhood or any others around the jail. Most crimes committed in those areas were committed by locals or crews passing through Iron County. Sheriff Carpenter reported that he had worked in LE for over 40 years and had worked across the nation and had not seen anywhere where someone was released from jail and went straight into neighborhoods. Chad Dotson reported that this was not just a jail, but Sheriff Carpenter and his staff would be housed in the same building. Cory Estes asked that regardless of the Jail location, would the Cedar City Police and the Sheriff's Office increase

patrols through the neighborhoods. He was still concerned with those that were booked and released. Mr. Estes closed with a quote from the movie “No Country for Old Men.” “The crime you see now, it’s hard to even take its measure. It’s not that I’m afraid of it. I always knew I had to be willing to die to even do this job, not to be glorious. But I don’t want to push my chips forward and go out and meet something that I don’t understand. You can say that it’s my job to fight it but I don’t know what it is anymore. More than that, I don’t want to know. A man would have to put his soul at hazard. You’d have to say ‘Okay, I’ll be a part of that world.’”

Blaine Nay, a resident of Iron County, noted that he had known the Iron County Commissioners and the Clerk for many years. He acknowledged that each of them was people of intense integrity. The citizens elected each of them because they trust them. Blaine reported that he had been impressed with the due diligence that was made in selecting this site and he was satisfied with their communication. He noted that he knew that the Auto Mall (a.k.a Fiddlers, a.k.a. North Interchange) site was off the table months ago. He was not surprised today because he was aware of this current site for 3 weeks. Mr. Nay stated that it was time to move on, buy the property and get the jail built. We need it, our prisoners need it, and our Sheriff needs it. We need to get it done and he believed the right spot had been chosen.

Darin Adams, Cedar City Police Chief, reported that he was not aware of a case when an inmate left the jail and went into the neighborhoods and committed a crime. He understood the inherent fears and concerns. As was stated, “We need a jail, but not in my backyard.” Chief Adams noted that there were areas in Cedar City with a high crime rate and maybe this site was the right one as he hoped to lower the crime rate. He expressed his appreciation for those who had voiced their concerns. It was difficult to get the message out to everyone and he believed that apathy was part of that, as Mike Bleak stated. Chief Adams reported that he had spoken with Mr. O’Brien and explained to him his view and that he preferred the north side, but now agreed that this site was perfect. He noted that between Monday and Friday of last week, the Police booked 12 people into the Iron County jail. They were extremely busy and getting busier. It was important to the Cedar City Police to have the jail in a close location because they were there often. It was now routine policy that before transporting inmates there needed to be a medical check, which was why the proximity of the jail to medical was so important. Chief Adams explained that the Own Recognizance (OR) Rule of Law was true as mentioned by Commissioner Bleak. If someone was booked into jail and released pending trial or they had done their time, they had every right to return to their city of residence. The state inmates that were in the Iron County Jail would remain there. It was a temporary holding until their trial and would not be released into our community. They would only be transferred to the State or Federal Prison. There had been many who said that they were glad to have the jail in their community because they were quiet neighbors and it made the community safer. Jon Whittaker reported that he had received a message from Babcock Design, the architect for the jail, that said, “It might be important to point out that the new jail would have the capacity to keep those who need to be in jail, and would not be released because of lack of capacity.” This had also been expressed by Shalon Shaver, Iron County Corrections Commander, and she also asked, “What would be worse, an escapee or someone that had never been booked because of lack of capacity?”

G’Ne Bartholomew, a resident of Cedar City, reported that she had lived in the Sunbow Subdivision across from the current jail for 37 years. She had never experienced any concerns about inmates that were released coming into her neighborhood. Her four children had attended the three schools in proximity to the Jail. Not once had any of the three schools been on lockdown because someone escaped from the jail or had the Sheriff/Police Departments come down in her neighborhood to tell everyone to lock their doors. G’Ne noted that she sometimes forgets that the jail was there. She was looking forward to the jail being built at the north end of town and was disappointed when the site was denied. She had always felt safe and it had never crossed her mind not to feel safe.

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, read the emails that he had received. Commissioner Cozzens explained that they wanted the emails included in the minutes.

Candace Palmer wrote, "Hello, I would like to strongly voice my opinion against the building of a correctional facility in the proposed location near the airport. My family lives in Sunset Canyon Subdivision, literally within a mile or two of the proposed location and the proposal concerns me greatly. Cedar City had been such a wonderful place to raise our family. We moved here 10 years ago from Oklahoma. We loved the feeling of safety, the small town feel, and the benefits of living near the college. I think as a community we are smarter than this. I can't fathom why this proposal even exists. The idea of building a jail within a mile or two of hundreds of small children seems reckless and uninformed. With the huge areas around us of barren land, why on earth would an area so close to residences even be considered? Just my two cents. I would hope that the managers of the city and the offices in consideration here would use common sense to protect the defenseless minors of our community. WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER THAN THIS. If my voice would be heard with a petition I have no doubt that I could raise hundreds of voices within hours of citizens that share my strong opinions. Thank you so much for your consideration."

Devon Claffey wrote, "The new site you have selected is ridiculous. It's closer to homes than the last place you selected which was at least outside of the city. This one is right in the city. Also, why isn't the meeting here in Cedar City and at night so people can attend? You're trying to pull a fast one on us and this isn't right. Have the meeting in the city you propose it in and at night so we can attend."

James Howls wrote, "I thought this issue was settled and the new jail was approved to be built just north of the North Cedar I-15 Interchange. When did this change happen without any notice? I support the North Interchange site and do not support the Horse Alley site. It is not convenient to any transportation routes, particularly I-15 or Main Street."

Jane Hawkes wrote, "As a county resident of the county, I am in support of the proposed location for the new Sheriff/County Jail complex near the airport. There seems to be a lot of property along Airport Road that is not developed as productively as it could be and this would be an appropriate use of that location."

Heater Stonely wrote, "Thank you for finding a place for the county jail that is zoned appropriately. While giving the police access to the sources they need. I truly appreciate the diligence the county has given to this issue."

Paul Cozzens explained that the reason some had thought the location of the jail on the north end of town was approved was because an individual had put up signs during the election that a jail was going to be built there. At that time the commissioners had not even made an offer on the property. So there was a lot of miscommunication among different residents during this whole process.

Jenny Hendricks, a resident of Iron County, asked Sam Woodall if there was any legal requirement for notification of surrounding property owners. Sam replied that the only requirement for notifications was for public hearings and Mr. Whittaker handled those. There were no mail requirements either. Jenny reported that according to public records, the property was purchased by the current owner on December 2, 2022 by Candor Development, Inc. and they were an LLC that was formed on November 15, 2022.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the Public Hearing closed. Paul reported that this had been an exhausting process and the commissioners had done their due diligence with multiple public hearings and multiple sites had been considered. When considering the north Auto Mall site there was not good access or utilities. Iron Springs was the first site that was looked at and there were no utilities or sewer available. That infrastructure needed to be in place in order to build a jail. It had been a difficult process and they had worked very hard on it. He expressed his appreciation to all those who had been involved in the process. Marilyn Wood reported that when she ran for the Iron County Commission she had toured the current jail. From that moment on, if she did nothing else as a commissioner, a new jail and Sheriff complex needed to be built. This new Correction Facility was very important to make our community safe and have a facility that kept our employees safe.

Michael Bleak reported that as the commission took action on this item today, it was not the end of discussions and as they moved forward on the process they would continue to hold

public hearings. He reported that the Iron County website, ironcounty.net, would be updated with past and current information regarding the jail. Marilyn Wood encouraged everyone to look at the past information and listen to the public hearings. Commissioner Bleak stated that the commissioners were committed to being upfront with all the information. He suggested that everyone add their name and email to the list through the Iron County Clerk. If you want to stay informed add your name to the list. The commissioners were always open to listening to citizens.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the Iron County Jail Facility site location and property purchase. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were offered.

REPORTING ON COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT FOR INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTH CARE (IHC)

Becky Bronson, Marketing Communications Public Relations Manager Cedar City Hospital, explained that she would not be presenting the report, but Jordan Merrill, Regional Community Health Area Improvement Specialist, would be presenting.

Jordan Merrill reported that he would be speaking on Intermountain Health as an organization. Every three years IHC conducts a Community Update Assessment looking at the needs of the community. This report was an update on what had been done in the last 3 years. IHC based their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) evaluations on the following criteria: Affordability, Alignment, Community input, Health Equity, Size, Feasibility, Seriousness, and Upstream. Areas that were looked. From this market assessment and prioritization process, they identify the most pressing health needs. The top needs were mental health and mental well-being. Jordan explained that the report was on what was happening in the community and not in the hospital. One area that had been addressed was the number of opioids prescribed by IHC Hospitals and Clinics. They had worked hard to distribute naloxone kits to the public which included training on how to reverse an opioid overdose. Held training for other mental health needs. He reported that IHC was involved in prevention-oriented partnerships that were vital to implementing prevention, intervention, and harm reduction strategies. They had worked to improve access to timely, quality care for low-income and uninsured populations. IHC donated \$100K to the new Southwest Behavior Receiving Center in Washington County. IHC worked with many nonprofit organizations to connect a closed-loop system (referral system). Jordan reported that another issue that was addressed was the social determinants of health. Social determinants were the non-medical, personal circumstances that included education, employment, financial stability, social inclusion, non-discrimination, affordable housing, internet access, neighborhood safety, transportation services, nutritious food, clean water, air, and health services that could influence an individual's health and well-being. Other areas that were addressed were: hiring and supporting a diverse, local workforce; Impact investing; inclusive, local, and sustainable purchasing, and environmental sustainability. The check-in screening process was changed in regard to intake questions. Mr. Merrill reported that everything included in the Community Health Impact Report was focused on improving health. Marilyn Wood explained to Mr. Merrill that through the opioid litigation, all Utah Counties had received a settlement that was very specific to opioid use and prevention. She would like to meet with Jordan to discuss options and combine efforts concerning opioids.

PRESENTATION ON PAROWN FRONT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Stan Gurley, Habitat Biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources-Southern Region, explained that the Parowan Front WMA was land owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and was managed for certain purposes and, in this case, Mule Deer.

Each WMA, through Utah State Code, was required to have a Habitat Management Plan drafted and presented through a process, so there was a plan to base activities on the management areas. Stan reported that the UDWR Habitat Management Plan review process under Utah State Code (23-21) followed in this order: UDWR Southern Region office staff, UDWR Habitat Council, Resource Development Coordinating Council (RDCC), County Commissions (optional), Regional Advisory Council (RAC), and the Wildlife Board (Optional). Stan reviewed Utah Code 23-21-2.1 – Management Plans (2) (a through F) and 23-21-2.2 Preparation of Management Plans-Participation by interested persons and local and tribal Governments-Compatibility with local government plans and existing rights (2)(a) (i through iv). He reported that the local Habitat Management Plan (HMP) Committee members were: Donnie Hunter (Local sportsman), David Hulet (Livestock permittee), Evan DeHamer (Mule Deer Foundation), Marilyn Wood (Iron County Commission), Mike Worthen (Iron County Natural Resource Management Specialist), Dustin Schaible (Bureau of Land Management), Jacob Benson (E&I Conservation District), and UDWR personnel. Mr. Gurley reported on WMA General Information, the purpose of the Parowan WMA, Wildlife species in the area, Current WMA conditions, Habitat concerns, Habitat improvements, Annual maintenance, and Access management. Commissioner Bleak expressed his appreciation for all the hard work put into the Parowan Front WMA Habitat Plan that was presented. He also appreciated the relationship between the Iron County Commission and UDWR. Marilyn Wood reported that this was a great WMA Plan and it was close to town for everyone to enjoy.

RATIFICATION OF A CONTRACT FOR GIS ASSISTANCE FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV) TRAILS BETWEEN WILSON GEOSPATIAL, LLC, AND IRON COUNTY

Mike Worthen, Iron County Natural Resource Management Specialist, expressed his appreciation for the improvements to the WMA in Iron County. The Parowan Front was one of the most important migration areas in the State of Utah for Mule Deer. Mike explained that in 2022, Grant funds were awarded to fund GIS Assistance for OHV trails between Wilson Geospatial and Iron County to make the trails more user-friendly. No one applied for the position last year. This year a contract was in place and he hoped there would be interest in the position this year. There were no funds required from Iron County as the grant would cover the funding. The position was open for work from May through September 2023.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the ratification of a contract for GIS Assistance for OHV Trails between Wilson Geospatial, LLC, and Iron County as presented. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF IRON COUNTY TO HELP HOUSE FUNDING FOR THE PAROWAN PREVENTION COALITION (PPC) AND BE THE PAROWAN PREVENTION COALITION FISCAL AGENT FOR A FEDERAL GRANT

Heidi Baxley, Southwest Behavioral Health Center-Prevention Specialist, explained that BreAnn Veater was sick so she would be reporting. Heidi introduced Sarah Penner as the Chair of the PPC and BreAnn was the PPC Coordinator. The PPC had been meeting for little over a year and they had been successful in securing State and Local Grants, but they were at the point with the coalition development where they could apply for Federal Grants. One barrier that the PPC was having was that PPC was not a 501(C)(3) so it could not house Federal money. In order to apply for this Federal Drug-Free Community (DFC) Grant, the PPC needed to find a Fiscal Agent within the community who would partner with them and be willing to be the Fiscal Agent. She noted that this was the reason for the item presented today and requested that Iron County serve as the Fiscal Agent. would house the funds. Paul Cozzens asked if there was any obligation to Iron County. Heidi reported that as the Fiscal Agent, Iron County would only house and manage the money for the PPC. The coalition committee would be responsible to create an action plan and budget for the grant. Michael Bleak reported that he had worked with Heidi for the Cedar City Prevention Coalition and this was a great program. He noted that there had always been a great partnership between them. Sarah Penner noted that there had been some

amazing things that the PPC had been able to do with the smaller grants and was excited to see all they would be able to accomplish with a larger grant. Lucas Little, Iron County Auditor, reported that he had not reviewed the proposal, but Iron County would only be managing the grant funds by distributing checks and making sure all the requirements were being followed. Jon Whittaker inquired if the was a time frame for the grant. Heidi reported that the grant was due April 11th, but they would not know until September if they would receive funds from the grant. Commissioner Bleak reported that the Prevention Coalition was a well-established organization and he would be comfortable in partnering with the PPC.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve Iron County to help house funding for the Parowan Prevention Coalition and be the Parowan Prevention Coalition Fiscal Agent for a DFC Federal Grant. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ANNEXATION PROPOSAL
CREATING AN ISLAND OR PENINSULA OF UNINCORPORATED LAND,
PROPOSED ANNEXATION INTO CEDAR CITY CORPORATION,
APPROXIMATELY 41.7 ACRES LOCATED WITHIN THE NE¼ OF SECTION 1 &
THE NW¼ & NE¼ OF SECTION 6, T36S, R12W, SLB&M (D-0927-0002) APPLICANT
ELDON ASHDOWN LIVING TRUST

Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, explained that the location needed to be updated with a correction. It should read, “within the NE¼ of Section 1, T36S, R12W, SLB&M & the NW¼ & NE¼ of Section 6, T36S, R11W, SLB&M.” Reed reviewed Utah Code 10-2-402 – Annexation Review-County Consent. “an unincorporated area may not be annexed to a municipality unless the area is a contiguous area, contiguous to the municipality; “annexation will not leave or create an unincorporated island or unincorporated peninsula (B) unless the county and municipality have otherwise agreed.” So, by state law, an annexation had to be in agreement/approval with the municipality and the commission. The reason for the annexation was Cedar City would like to subdivide the property and hook up to water, and this annexation would fill in a peninsula. Reed reported that the Iron County Planning Commission, after review and discussion, recommended approval to the Iron County Commission.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve an annexation proposal creating an island or peninsula of Unincorporated Land, proposed annexation into Cedar City Corporation, regarding APN: D-0927-0002 as presented. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ANNEXATION PROPOSAL
CREATING AN ISLAND OR PENINSULA OF UNINCORPORATED LAND,
PROPOSED ANNEXATION INTO PAROWAN CITY CORPORATION,
APPROXIMATELY 1.16 ACRES LOCATED WITHIN THE SW¼ OF SECTION 14,
T34S, R9W, SLB&M (C-0954-0002) APPLICANT: BAUER ROAD, LLC

Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, explained that this annexation proposal was in compliance with Utah Code 10-2-402-Annexation Review-County Consent. The annexation was into Parowan City and would also fill in an existing peninsula located behind IFA. Reed reported that the Iron County Planning Commission, after review and discussion, recommended approval to the Iron County Commission.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve an annexation proposal creating an island or peninsula of unincorporated land, and proposed annexation into Parowan City Corporation, regarding APN: C-0954-0002 as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS GS SERVICE
AGREEMENT WITH DOMINION ENERGY UTAH FOR THE CURRENT
IRON COUNTY SHERIFF AND JAIL BUILDING

Mike Gibbs, Iron County Corrections Maintenance Specialist, explained that several years ago, Summit Energy came to Iron County and proposed that they would buy the gas based on the Rocky Mountain Index, and Iron County still paid Dominion Energy to give the county the gas at the same rate at which they bought it. Utilities were paid each month. One thing that changed the Rocky Mountain Index was the gas lines were interconnected back to New York and anyone could bid on the gas at that index. The Jail had a \$65K gas bill in January. If gas prices were down it did save Iron County some money, but if they were up there was no savings. Dominion Energy was controlled by the Public Service Commission and they make nothing on the gas. They make all their money on transmissions and Iron County paid the same price with either company. The high gas bill in January offset any savings by tens of thousands. Mike did not feel that it was wise to continue with Summit Energy and was better to return to Dominion Energy. Summit Energy offered a fixed rate, but it was still higher than Dominion Energy. To switch back to Dominion Energy, they required a 2-Year contract.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Natural Gas GS Service Agreement with Dominion Energy Utah for the current Iron County Sheriff and Jail Building. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR A GRANT FOR BERYL FIRE DEPARTMENT, FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A WATER TENDER/PUMPER

Ryan Riddle, Iron County Fire Warden, expressed appreciation to the commissioners for all they did for Iron County. Ryan explained that last year he had applied for a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Assistance to Firefighter Grant to replace a 1976 Dodge and a 1977 Kenworth. Ryan explained the 1976 Dodge could no longer pump water. The Beryl Fire Department was able to dispose of 12 vehicles that were no longer running. One critical vehicle to the Beryl Fire Department was the 1997 Kenworth (water tender) currently had a broken frame and had over 1M miles on it. Ryan reported that he had applied for a FEMA grant in 2021, and was told that if he hadn't heard anything by September of 2021 that meant it was not granted. He did not hear from them, so assumed they did not accept the application. He did receive a letter two weeks ago informing him that the grant was awarded in the amount of \$619,047.61. Iron County was required to have matching funds of a minimum obligation of \$30,952.39. He explained that the time frame between the application and now had brought on two problems. First, the application was based on the Peterbilt Chassis truck. Paccar, Peterbilt, and Kenworth were no longer providing the chassis and opted to stay with commercial, so the chassis that was asked for was no longer available. The chassis options now were Freightliner or International. After a discussion with the vendor, the International chassis was the best fit. There was not much difference between the prices of the two companies, but Freightliner does not offer a 4-door Chassis heavy enough for our needs. Second, the price increased. Paul Cozzens asked if the truck was on-site or if they would have to build it. Ryan reported that they would have to build it and it would take 24 to 29 months from the day it was ordered. The price would be locked once the papers were signed. He was still working with the vendor on cost, but as of today the cost, including the Iron County match and the FEMA Grant, was \$96,903.39, and it included all the equipment on the truck to meet national standards. Lucas Little noted that there would need to be an ongoing budget adjustment for the next two years. Ryan reported that today he was asking for approval of the FEMA Grant for \$619,047.61, and if the grant was approved, Lucas Little would accept the grant and we could move forward. Jon Whittaker asked when the match would be due. Ryan reported that 10% of the purchase price was due after the order was accepted and entered by the manufacturer, 20 % was due after completion of the approved drawing, 30% of the purchase price was due upon the material acquisition, and there would be at least 1 years before the last 60% was due. Lucas Little explained that when once the grant money came in that most of it could be on hold on for 2 years until the truck was finished.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve a grant for Beryl Fire Department, FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant, for the purchase of a Water Tender/Pumper. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT WITH
DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLOWHARD COMMUNICATION SITE**

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, reported that this was to renew the contract to operate the communication equipment for the Blowhard Communication site.

George Colson, Iron County Emergency Management Manager, explained that originally some of the Public Safety sites were under his management. Then it was split and some fell under the Iron County Sheriff's Office. In January it was decided to move all the Iron County communication sites management into his office. Jon Whittaker reported that after 911 it was realized that communication between agencies was not working very well. Since then, George, Commissioner Bleak, himself, the Iron County IT Department, and others involved had worked very hard to have the improvements that are available now. Mike Bleak expressed his appreciation to the Fire Chief and George for staying ahead of the communication systems. George reported that Iron County was in need of updated radios. He tried to get use some of the money from COVID to purchase them, but the state turned it down. He noted that they were expensive and he wanted to go on record that the communication radios were badly needed. Marilyn Wood reported that she thought the state legislature appropriated money for the purchase of radios. Sheriff Carpenter reported that the state legislature had contracted through L-3 Harris. The money that was appropriated was to purchase L-3 Radios. He explained that he had attended a meeting with the Utah Communications Authority and Motorola, Kenwood, and L-3 Harris there with their products. There was a big difference, in his opinion, between the durability of Motorola and the other two vendors. Each vendor's radios would work on the system, but the Sheriff's Office would prefer to stay with the Motorola Radios. His department was doing well for radios at this time and would only need one or two. George Colson noted that he agreed with Sheriff Carpenter's assessment of the three vendors. Mike Bleak reported that he had used some of the other handheld radios and, in his opinion, he would not go away from the Motorola Radios for public safety. Paul Cozzens asked Jon if the meeting was okay to veer off the agenda. Jon explained that the commission was not voting on radios and that it was a good discussion to have. Discussion continued regarding the need for new radios in the near future in each of the Iron County Fire Departments.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve a Special Use Permit with Dixie National Forest for the operation and maintenance of communication equipment for the Blowhard Communication site. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ELECTION SERVICE
CONTRACT WITH K&H INTEGRATED PRINT SOLUTIONS FOR THE IRON
COUNTY BY MAIL BALLOTING SERVICES**

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, explained that he distributed a request for proposal (RFP) for election balloting services. He approached 5 different companies. Three companies responded, one company reported that they no longer printed ballots and one other was full. K&H out of Washington was the only company that responded with a bid. Jon reported that he had spoken with colleagues from other counties that had used K&H and all had positive feedback. He explained that K&H would lump all of the Utah ballots together on a secure UPS truck, seal the truck with its own GPS tracking device, and send the truck to Utah. If the cargo doors were opened for any reason, the team would be alerted and take appropriate action. With any type of issue, there would be only one contact point with K&H rather than several. He reported that when it came to price, it was approximately .20 less on the envelope and ballot, and a bit more on the administration. K&H had individual envelopes per county and using inkjet technology, variable data was applied to the outer and return envelopes during the ballot packet assembly process, and were willing to print and include an "I Voted" sticker in the envelope. Jon noted that it would be approximately 5-20% more in cost, depending on the election and ballot,

by moving away from a local vendor. He closed by adding that K&H had the security and national credentials that were required, including printing and distribution.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve an Election Service Contract with K&H Integrated Print Solutions for the Iron County By-Mail Balloting services. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TAX FORGIVENESS DUE TO INDIGENCE AND FAILURE TO APPLY FOR ABATEMENT (APN: A-976-43)

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, explained that this was a special situation of extreme indigence. The applicant had fallen victim to the Enoch Flood and had to refinance the home because of the added expenses of repairs. The applicant applied for property tax abatement last year because of age and situation and was approved, but did not realize that the application had to be done every year, not just because it was approved the first time. The applicant had asked for forgiveness of the 2022 taxes in the amount of \$1,299.45.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve tax forgiveness due to indigence and failure to apply for an abatement regarding APN: A-976-43 in the amount of \$1,299.45. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

CONVENE AS THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (BOE)

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the convening of the Board of Equalization.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE 2023 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING TAX-EXEMPT STATUS ON PERSONAL OR REAL PROPERTY FOR THE 2023 TAX YEAR

Cherisha Lister, Iron County Deputy Auditor, reported that there were 4 new property tax exemptions and one partial property that was moved to a full property exemption. All the proper paperwork had been submitted in the amount of \$6,462.35. Lucas Little reported that tax-exempt applications were mailed out to those who had applied the year before.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve the 2023 Property Tax Exemptions which had been submitted by Religious, Educational, or Charitable organizations requesting Tax-Exempt status on Personal or Real Property for the 2023 Tax Year as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

RECONVENE AS THE IRON COUNTY COMMISSION

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the resumption of the Iron County Commission.

PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented new hire Keldyn Peterson as a Full-Time Deputy 1 (under 21). Jennifer explained that the "Under 21" law was approved by the State Legislature for someone under the age of 21 to work in a Correctional Facility under limited situations. Keldyn's position was for the Sheriff's Department, effective March 20th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the promotion of Tyler Snyder from Deputy 2 to Deputy 3 in the Sheriff's Department, effective March 19th; the promotion of Garret Bastian from Road Maintenance 1 to Road Maintenance 2, and the promotion of Hazen Pettit from Road Maintenance 1 to Road Maintenance 2 in the Road Department, effective March 19th.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

Jennifer Bradbury presented a new Iron County Policy 47 – Telecommuting, effective March 13th. This policy would insure that all Iron County Offices remain open during regular business hours. Jennifer explained that the IT Department would need to sign off on this policy

for management. A signature page was included for an employee to sign saying that they would be working on office-related items if working away from the office at home.

Marilyn Wood made a motion to approve Iron County Police 47 – Telecommuting as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Marilyn Wood, Aye.

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

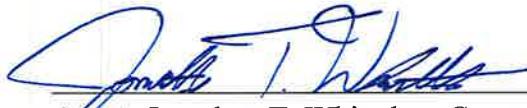
No Non-Delegated were offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.



Signed: Paul Cozzens, Chair



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk

