

**JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 19, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 9:00. Those present are Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Young, Chairman Hancock, Emergency Management Rebecca Squires, Deputy Assessor Natalee Madsen, Road & Bridge Kerry Romrell, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Young. Prayer offered by Chairman Hancock.

**DUE TO COVID-19 COMMISSIONER MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM.**

JOIN ZOOM MEETING VIA WEB: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/512530026](https://zoom.us/j/512530026)  
MEETING ID: 512 530 026

JOIN ZOOM MEETING VIA PHONE:  
+1 253 215 8782 US  
+1 301 715 8592 US

**ROAD & BRIDGE – KERRY ROMRELL**

• **WELDER PURCHASE – (ACTION ITEM)**

**9:02:46 AM** Kerry said they got the three bids on the welder. Chairman Hancock said they have one from Airgas for \$12,117.69. Kerry said the one from Praxair is \$12,246. Chairman Hancock asked if this is the same welder. Kerry said this is the same welder. The Norco one is \$12,512.84. Will be about five weeks out. Getting any surplus shipped in anymore is hard. Commissioner Young said they went over this last week. Just wanted to get some additional bids. Chairman Hancock said these are all right there. Kerry said he did the leg work. Chairman Hancock asked where this will go. Kerry said this will go into the new service truck. Chairman Hancock asked if it will have a flat bed. Kerry said no it will be the same setup. Chairman Hancock figures they have the budget. Kerry said that Dave has it figured out

**9:04:32 AM** **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve the welder from Airgas for \$12,117.69. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

• **PUBLIC SURPLUS AUCTION – ITD – FORD F450 – (ACTION ITEM)**

**9:05:13 AM** Kerry said that Dave has been watching the auction sites. Needs the authority to bid on a truck from ITD it is a Ford F450. Has a fuel pump problem. Chairman Hancock said current price is \$4,900. Kerry said that is what the bid was at on Thursday. Commissioner Clark said they have eight days left on this. Kerry said that Dave has looked at it. From the road can tell that the body is in good shape. A few other pickups they said have had issues have not. Chairman Hancock said it lists the running condition as poor, the engine as poor, transmission poor and tires are good. Said the last pickup they got had head gasket issues but they flushed this out and is running great. Kerry said Dave wants permission to bid. Commissioner Young asked where they would use this for. Kerry said this would be a crew truck and could also use it for patching. Chairman Hancock said this is a 450 so it is a big truck. Kerry thinks they should be able to fix this for about \$1,000. Chairman Hancock said they probably wouldn't find anything as a 2008 for under \$10,000. Kerry does not see this going for a bunch this is the third auction it has been in. Looks like as of Thursday it does have one bid on it right now. Commissioner Young said the bid ends on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Kerry said that Dave has a virtual NACE Conference. Commissioner Clark would rather they not bid too much.

**9:10:33 AM** **Motion by Commissioner Young to authorize Road & Bridge to bid on a 2008 Ford F450 on the ITD auction site. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

• **UPDATE**

**9:11:06 AM** Kerry said they will finish on 3600 today. Then have a culvert on 75 N up in the Ririe area that they need to put in. Then starting to get things ready for the spring/summer season. Chairman Hancock asked if they rented that hoe out on 3600. Kerry said they had to the one they had almost tipped over. This was a safety hazard. Even on the one they rented they had to take the bucket off to be able to lift the cement. There was a lot of guys that did not like the one on 3700 working right over the gas line main. Used the CAT before. Set these Thursday night with that backhoe. Chairman Hancock saw this that everything was exposed. It looks good looks ready to go.

**DEPUTY ASSESSOR – NATALEE MADSEN**

• **AG FIVE ACRES AND UNDER EXEMPTION – (ACTION ITEM)**

**9:13:31 AM** Natalee provides the exemptions. Commissioners said they have read through these.

**9:13:45 AM** Commissioner Clark said they have one for parcel #RP06N34E176641 for Lee Burtenshaw. Chairman Hancock said that this is part of a pivot.

**9:14:25 AM** **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve exemption for five acres and under for parcel #RP06N34E176641. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

**9:14:39 AM** Commissioner Clark said they have one for Wayne Poole parcel #RP05N38E270155 on 4.5 acres. Have raised some animals for 4-H and different things.

**9:15:08 AM** **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve exemption for five acres and under for parcel #RP05N38E270155. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

**9:15:22 AM** Commissioner Clark said they have one for Diane Plomaritis for parcel #RP007910010010 is on five acres. Chairman Hancock said this was split off for the daughter to build a house.

**9:15:48 AM** **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve exemption for five acres and under for parcel #RP007910010010. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

**9:16:43 AM** Commissioner Young said they have Cody and Louise Marshall has the proof of income the parcel is #RP002830010140.

[9:17:17 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve exemption for five acres and under for parcel #RP002830010140. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:17:24 AM](#) Commissioner Young has one from Bruce and Judy Claxton there is no income on this one. Natalee said they just got one from their son-in-law. Could not get the previous owner to provide income.

[9:18:06 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve exemption for five acres and under for parcel #RP04N38E213700. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:18:23 AM](#) Commissioner Young said they have one from Gary and Maurette Clark. It has the proof of income on parcel #RP04N38E341300.

[9:18:30 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve exemption for five acres and under for Gary and Maurette Clark for parcel #RP04N38E341300. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:19:18 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve exemption for five acres and under for Joshua and Katie Westover for parcel #RP04N38E150150. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:23:40 AM](#) Commissioner Young said he had another exemption hidden under some papers.

[9:23:44 AM](#) **Commissioner Young to approve the ag exempt form for Brock and Lacey Leonardson for parcel #RP04N38E150050. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

- **TAX EXEMPT APPLICATIONS – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:19:50 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve tax exempt application for Mud Lake Water Users for parcels #RP07N35E254202, #RP07N35E256160 and #RP07N35E269000. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:20:24 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve tax exempt application for Mud Lake Water Users for parcel #RP06N34E230005, #RP06N34E230050, #RP06N34E243200 and #RP06N35E113020. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

## **COMMISSIONERS**

- **APPROVE CERTIFICATES OF RESIDENCY – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:22:14 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve certificate of residency for the College of Eastern Idaho for Dillon Steel. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

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

[9:23:03 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve commissioner meeting minutes from April 5, 2021. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

- **APPROVE AMENDED CLAIMS – (ACTION ITEM)**

[9:24:36 AM](#) Commissioners read through the additional claims. Did not see any issues with these.

[9:24:47 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the additional claims from 4/12/2021 to 4/16/2021 for \$182,139.48. Second by Commissioner Clark. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[9:26:06 AM](#) Recess until 10:00

**Open session 10:00**

## **PROSECUTOR – MARK TAYLOR**

- **HIRING TEMPORARY CONTRACT ATTORNEY – (ACTION ITEM)**

[10:00:29 AM](#) Mark said one of the challenges in taking office is getting an accurate count of their caseload. As of Friday they have 245 to 300 cases currently in the office. Of those COVID has created a dilemma. They may remember during their last jail inspection that there were not a lot of inmates. People are being arrested and released. They are not having trials because they have not been allowed to get jurors together. Most of last year they had limited trials. Is becoming a serious backlog. Anticipating once they open jury trials they are going to have a flood gate. They had four trials scheduled this week that have been cancelled and will probably be moved to next week. Some of these individuals do not have incentive to settle since they are not in jail. There may be a temporary need for additional help. Does not want to bring anyone on full-time because he thinks once the backlog is handled they will be fine. When the court opens they are getting three weeks' notice. Looking at very little notice to prepare for possibly four to eight cases a week. Does not know until the Friday of every week. That is when the Administrative Trial Judge is deciding.

[10:04:51 AM](#) Commissioner Young said it is tough to get ready for a trial. Mark said exactly it only gives them three weeks. Spoke with his deputies would rather not hire right now but will need to act on a dime when this happens to hire a temporary attorney for six months to a year. Also with the way he has restructured the attorneys in the office has a \$50,000 savings due to eliminating the third attorney. Would like to use that money to bring on a temporary attorney.

[10:06:27 AM](#) Chairman Hancock asked if he would be able to find someone that would come in part-time. Mark said that is why he is asking now so he can find someone. Commissioner Young asked if they could use money since this is related to COVID. Rebecca said the Cares Act is spent. Is not sure on the American Rescue Plan yet. They have not released guidance so cannot make any determination yet. Commissioner Young

said he is fine with this. Commissioner Clark said they can only do so much. They will have to be aware of this. Commissioner Young said this will also affect John Stosich in the Public Defender's Office who is on Zoom.

[10:08:35 AM](#) John Stosich is as concerned about the trial capabilities of both of their offices. They are somewhat mitigated by the fact that they do not have a lot of Judges. Saying they have a fixed amount of Judges is not the answer. Other Judges can be assigned to a case. Does not know the answer. Appreciates the approach Mark is taking for his office. Has been looking at this in the Public Defender's Office as well. Does not agree with him on the reasoning of whether or not they go to trial or not. They have a number of cases. They track their case numbers annually. Has been working with Ms. Poole considering some changes for their budget for next year. Problem with this is they do not know. Wants them to know that their office is facing some of the same realities. There will be some real issues that need addressed.

[10:11:37 AM](#) Chairman Hancock asked for a discussion. Commissioner Young said that Mr. Taylor can line this up. Not anyone's fault that they are backlogged due to COVID.

[10:13:31 AM](#) Mark said a Judge can hear as many trials as they can sit through. The Prosecutor's Office has to have preparation with the burden of proof. Judges may be lenient. Will be reacting to how the Judges handle their dockets. Chairman Hancock thinks they would rather have someone with experience. Mark said they probably will find someone new but can give this person the misdemeanors and have his staff attorneys handle the trials. Once the trials begin would bring someone on for six to twelve months full-time. Out of the cases in the office as of Friday forty-six are felonies and the rest are misdemeanors and infractions. Colleen said they may have both departments put additional funds into their budgets next year even if they do not use it.

[10:16:43 AM](#) Commissioner Clark asked if they will replace the person that has left. Mark said they are taking resumes right now. Commissioner Young said if they approved this would not really know the amount of time they would need. Mark said maybe six months then month-to-month after. May depend on the candidate. They would have some negotiating leverage. Commissioner Young said maybe they will authorize this and then deal with the contract once they find a candidate.

[10:18:04 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve the Prosecuting Attorney to hire an attorney under contract for help in backlogged cases. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

#### **PLANNING & ZONING – JENNY KERR – ERIK STOUT**

- **UPDATE**

[10:18:47 AM](#) Erik provides the building statistics. (**Exhibit A**). Chairman Hancock said they have some airplane hangers. Erik said these are commercial so they go to Central Fire first so once they get that back they will process these. Have a few with notes that have not provided all the necessary information to the office.

- **ZONING ORDINANCE #2021-2 MAP AMENDMENT – (ACTION ITEM)**

[10:20:33 AM](#) Erik said they have a zoning change that was requested by their office. This is Waterstone Division No. 5 this was originally a residential-1 subdivision in 2008 was erroneously changed to commercial-1. From Highway 20 to a specific distance would be commercial-1. According to the plat only residential was approved. Correcting this is more of a paperwork issue. Was recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Commissioner Young thinks this was a mistake. Chairman Hancock said he remembers when this happened. They took the whole corridor from Highway 20 and changed to commercial and the subdivision was already platted. This was a broad brush approach. Did this all along. Some of this they have now changed to light industrial.

[10:22:21 AM](#) Chairman Hancock reads ordinance. (**Exhibit B**) "2021-2. An ordinance amending and changing the zoning map of the County of Jefferson, Idaho, and providing that the zoned designation of the certain property hereinafter described, situated in Jefferson County, Idaho, be changed as hereinafter designated; and providing when this ordinance shall become effective. Be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, Idaho: Section 1: That the zoning map of the County of Jefferson, Idaho, which if filed with the County Clerk thereof, be, and same is hereby amended and changed to provide that the hereinafter described property situated in Jefferson County, State of Idaho, be zoned as hereinafter set forth. The following described property located approximately at 528 N 4000 E; Rigby, Jefferson County Idaho, previously zoned Commercial-1, is hereby zoned Residential-1. Lots 9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 & 18 in Block 1; Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 in Block 6; Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 & 14 in Block 7; Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 & 13 in Block 8; Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10 in Block 9 and all easements, common areas and roadways not dedicated to city or county of Waterstone Division No. 5, Jefferson County, Idaho, as shown on the plat recorded March 13, 2009 as instrument No. 374896. Together with any and all water rights and entitlements to water. Section II: That the new zoning map showing the amendment shall be certified to and declare to be the official zoning map of the County of Jefferson by certificate of the County Commissioners endorsed thereon. Section III: This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and approval. Passed by the County Commissioners on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Jefferson County."

[10:24:56 AM](#) Chairman Hancock asked if they advertised this in the Star. Erik said the Planning & Zoning hearing was published in the Star. Chairman Hancock just wanted to make sure the protocol was followed. Did not see any issues in the minutes. Commissioner Young thinks they need to do this.

[10:25:18 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Clark to approve ordinance #2021-2. Second by Commissioner Young. Roll call taken. Commissioner Clark – aye, Commissioner Young – aye, Chairman Hancock – aye. Motion passed.**

[10:26:09 AM](#) Chairman Hancock asked if there is anything else. Anything else on the subdivision ordinance. Erik said that he has changed some of the language on the subdivision ordinance. Needs to send this to Mark. Chairman Hancock said he was hoping to get this to him today on a few additional changes. Want the easement language so someone does not build where they should not. Also spoke with Kevin they need to start pulling out the commercial sector from this they need to be addressed in a separate document. Erik said he has pulled this out just need to make it organized. Chairman Hancock said these really should be a separate ordinance.

[10:29:02 AM](#) Recess until 11:00  
Open session 11:05

**SENATOR CRAPO REPRESENTATIVE - KATHRYN HITCH**  
**SENATOR RISCH REPRESENTATIVE- AMY TAYLOR**  
**CONGRESSMAN SIMPSON REPRESENTATIVE – JOSH SORENSEN**

● **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

[11:06:11 AM](#) Kathryn said they try to get out to all of the counties. They cover all nine counties for their bosses. Was not able to come out last year. Here to touch base. Wanted to introduce Josh who has transferred. See if there is anything they can take back to their bosses. Josh Sorensen said worked for Congressman Simpson used to cover from Bingham County south. When Brennan Summers moved to DC so he has moved up to fill this gap.

[11:08:07 AM](#) Amy wants to cover constituent services. Try to get the word out. Knows they bring issues to them but are actually federal problems. Their office does inquiries on federal issues. Are doing a lot with passports. Had a mail issue where people did not get these. With the shutdowns there has been some kinks. Help get VIP tickets for individuals when they visit Washington DC. Once they ramp back up they can get tours to the Capital and White House. Another thing is Academy Nominations did not realize until she had this job that these spots are nominated. This is a process they go through every year. If they know anyone qualified send them their way. Biggest thing is they take opinions. Knows that Senator Risch really values the local elected officials especially Commissioners' opinions. Feel free to contact them they take these all day long with calls and emails. Happy to be that liaison. Kathryn said Senator Crapo did switch committees is now on the Finance Committee. There is a big focus on trade policy and health care reform policy. PILT has been introduced and would require they survey all of the federal lands to make sure the formula is correct. This was introduced by Senator Lee, Senator Crapo and Senator Risch. The Senators are all pushing to have a hearing on SRS. Looking for two year funding. Also have an endowment reform bill and are hoping to get a hearing on this. Chairman Hancock said they do not get any SRS money. They do get PILT. Kelly Canyon is the only forest and that is right on the edge. Knows that PILT has been a big talking point in their meetings in Boise is about the fair value on the property. Another big issue particularly with those that have higher percentage of federal lands. Like Custer County. Will hear from Mr. Butts that the federal government is taking more land and is not paying fair tax. Goes out of private sector and moves to government sector which is not adequate to subsidize. Custer is 92% federal land and every acre they lose costs them and their tax base is very small. Understands his point.

[11:15:24 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said they have had Fish & Game in our county taking a lot of land. Have Market Lake, Mud Lake and Camas. Do get the value that was assessed when they took over that is what they pay. This is a state problem. Do have the Camas wildlife reserve. They are losing land to government entities. Growing very fast. Percentage wise thinks they are the second fastest growing in the state. Just looked at this year already have 500 new building permits so far. Bonneville is growing also. Kathryn asked if the permits are south of town. Chairman Hancock said east where they have two new elementary schools. Thinks within a five mile radius of the City of Rigby. Seeing tremendous growth within the county. Have people leaving other states. Commissioner Young said they have individuals leaving liberal states coming here. Chairman Hancock said Washington and Oregon. Commissioner Young said their deputy prosecutor came from Oregon since he could not prosecute crime there. Chairman Hancock said a few concerns had some people talk to him about the new administration is proposing to spend a lot of money for foreign aid for countries that support terrorism. Thought there was a law in place and why are they doing this. Should not provide support to foreign aid to those that support terrorism. This is for the senators and representatives. Need to make sure they are careful. Another one for Congressman Simpson is the dam breaching. The citizens are not in favor of this. Not sure what liberal group they are trying to appease but this is not a popular subject. Need to take care of other issues first. Need to look at predators, fishing off shore. Until these are addressed why would they talk about breaching the dam when they are losing millions of fish to predators and illegal fishing. If they fix this then see where they are at. Did read his article about this is not sure he addressed this.

[11:21:17 AM](#) Josh said they have a return rate from the spawn. On the prior dams in the lower Snake River have a four percent rate of return. This gives them enough to maintain and somewhat grow. Once they get to the other four dams they are .8 to .9 percent. This is extinction rate. Do they want the fish to go extinct? If they decide this is okay they will have ramifications. They will have lawsuits. Have Salmon was right now. Most of lawsuits on the Clean Water Act deal directly with fish. If they can save the salmon they would cut out the lawsuits. This is the theory. Do they know they will go extinct unless they take out the dams? The science says yes. So they have a decision to make. Having the BPA involved in fish does not make sense. Being able to lock in all of the other dam power for thirty-five to fifty years is huge. There is one the Idaho Power has tried to relicense. This is not happening due to the lawsuits. If they can lock these in it would be a win for power. In order to flush the smelt down over the dam the upper Snake River people give a bunch of water away. This is water they could use for recharge or irrigation. Instead because of lawsuits they have to flush this down. In theory if they can bring the salmon population back they would no longer have to operate under that Judge's ruling. These are the reasons behind this. Not sure this answers their question. More than anything there is an instant knee jerk reaction to have dam removal. May be worth consideration. There is no legislation written right now. In the find out phase. If they have an opinion please let him know. Has done several meetings out in the Magic Valley. Wished he would have had that opportunity to come out here. Is open to ideas could call the DC office and get called back from the Chief of Staff. Chairman Hancock said he knows Congressman Simpson and has spoken to him. The knee jerk reaction is they are opposed to this. The other side there is nothing that says the lawsuits will go away or that it would increase the population of the Salmon. Need to find out why they are not going through the additional dams. Josh said the four percent is enough to maintain and grow but under one percent is not. All of these salmon that come from Idaho, Washington and Oregon and Idaho is the only one not getting enough back to maintain the rate. Agrees these are issues. Does not change the fact that clear evidence shows the fish go to the ocean and Idaho's are not returning at a high enough rate. They all go through the first three dams and the last four dams are the difference. Chairman Hancock asked what is different with the last four dams. Knows John Day and Bonneville have fish ladders. Josh understands all of them have fish ladders. Chairman Hancock said they are different

on Bonneville and John Day. They drilled a core horizontally to attract them so they do not go through the turbines. Should they change this for the other dams? To him feels there has not been enough research to understand. Need to understand why they are just stopping there. Why can't they modify the dams to help the process? Josh can pass this along. Chairman Hancock said they have transportation and the carbon footprint to remove these dams. Commissioner Young said these dams are used to transport product. Josh said they have cost associated with the plan. Chairman Hancock said he saw \$33.5 billion. Josh said this money goes to those that will be doing the research. Unless there is a replacement for the power. That is where the money come in to make everyone whole. If they want to look at an alternate route. Most of the porting is through Seattle. Chairman Hancock said they had issues with loading and unloading. Now realize they can go a different way. Bring this up thinks they need more research. Would like to find out why? Thinks they should see about ten percent coming back. Would give them more options. Commissioner Young said they are dealing with Oregon and Washington. Chairman Hancock said most of these come in after those three dams so there fish are able to go up. Chairman Hancock said we are dumping silt in trying to get their salmon return. They have no dams on the Salmon River.

[11:32:14 AM](#) Josh said he did go out and visit them recently it hurts the economy not having the salmon. Really rely on this. Commissioner Young said the salmon and steel head. Chairman Hancock agrees thinks they need to look at this carefully to see what is being done different at the dams before they get rid of them. Need to look at something that is a fifty to a hundred year fix. Josh said in three to four more runs salmon may be on the extinct list. Chairman Hancock thinks there are ways to correct this. Josh said they have tried things such as taking them out on trucks and putting them back in. Problem is the salmon smell their way back so they have to stay in the water. Assure them that Congressman Simpson has heard a lot of options. The research is being done. Primarily using fish biologists to get the majority of the information. That if they do not act now there may not be a fish to save.

[11:34:35 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said taxation is another issue for everyone. See the new administration. Have a lot more social programs in this administration. How are they going to pay for this? Talked about raising corporate or individual tax. Thinks this is going to affect everyone. Going to see the price of commodities going up. Commissioner Young said they have a big job in Washington. Are going to have to keep them afloat until they get the House back. Kathryn said the entire infrastructure package that has been proposed knows their bosses have put out a statement opposing this. They are up against a lot. Amy said it helps to hear from people so they know they are doing the right thing. Chairman Hancock said they are looking at the best interest of the people.

[11:36:12 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said clean power has been a big push. Then they do not classify hydropower as clean power. Kathryn said they added nuclear to a very liberal bill. Thinks they may have also added hydro. Chairman Hancock knows they reuse the water. Commissioner Young said they have solar and wind power as clean power. Thought they were worried about wildlife. A lot do not realize solar farms are detrimental to birds and other wildlife. Chairman Hancock said taxation is still going to be a big concern. Knows they are looking out for their interest. Do not understand why they jumped right back into the Paris Accord on the carbon footprint. Commissioner Young said everything is climate change. Chairman Hancock said then the biggest polluter has free range for the next ten years. After that is sure they will not comply. Still have their factories but all of the ones in the U.S. will be shut down.

[11:38:44 AM](#) Amy said Senator Risch opposes a lot on the foreign committee on what is being done. Some of the foreign aid does save them money as long as it is in the best interest of the U.S. Has been using this to get the conversation going. Commissioner Clark knows with the Trump administration anytime he wanted to do something they had lawsuits filed to stop these actions. Are the senators and representatives doing anything about the pipe line that was shut down? Are there things being done to try and reinstate these. Amy said on the pipeline the Senators wrote a letter. Do not have a majority to pass. Sure the entities from the pipeline they could would sue on the executive order. Kathryn said all executive orders can be stopped. Commissioner Clark said they just do not hear much on this. That is why they wonder what is being done. Commissioner Young asked if they are doing the same thing the Democrats did. Amy said every day there is a lot happening that the media does not report on. Commissioner Clark is not sure they put out what is really going on. See that AOC is in the news all the time. Never see them jumping up and down. Amy said real government is actually boring. Commissioner Clark just uses this because that is what is in the news. Amy said they could be added to their press release. Commissioner Clark said they see other Senators getting attention where are their Senators. Kathryn said they are not very united. Some of the keystone pipeline unions have filed lawsuits. Problem is they are not non-profit or environmental that get a lot of press.

[11:44:04 AM](#) Chairman Hancock said the media picks up more liberal items to make big deals about. Have not seen anything on retaliation on trade from Canada. See an effect with the prices of lumber where they have stopped sending lumber to the United States. This is a direct reflection of the pipeline being shut down. Could put out that the building prices are going up. This is why they are seeing the gas prices or lumber prices. Commissioner Young said the news is not being spread. Kathryn said they can share some of this with some news sources. Chairman Hancock said they are looking at more of a coalition that they need to put out to the main stream news about the fuel prices and the reasoning. Kathryn asked how they get their news. Chairman Hancock said television, radio and looks at the internet. They are pretty interesting they only put what they want out there. Commissioner Young said not everyone connects the dots. With the regulations they can no longer pump oil. Meanwhile the news is not being spread. Amy said they send a press release on a national issue. They want to have the local weigh-in to see the impact.

[11:48:25 AM](#) Rebecca asked if they have any additional information on the American Rescue Plan. Chairman Hancock does not think this has been vetted yet. Kathryn knows they asked for guidance from the U.S. Treasury. Amy said the frustration is they still have some of the funding from the CARES Act that has not been distributed.

[11:49:21 AM](#) Rebecca said that CARES Act came through the state so would like to know what this would look like coming directly to the county. They do not have a lot of COVID expenses left. Because of the nature of their shutdowns the economic impact was not as great as other areas. Amy believes they are still writing this. Kathryn thinks they are in the clarification process. Amy mentioned that FEMA is reimbursing for COVID funeral expenses. Chairman Hancock said the bill he saw showed they would cover \$9,000. Amy said if people apply they can get reimbursed. Rebecca said this is an individual assistance thing. Is there something they need to do to facilitate? Amy said maybe just to get the word out for those that have had COVID related deaths.

11:51:24 AM Mark said one example they have a serious backlog in the courts due to COVID. Need to bring on more staff because all of the jury trials will fall on him. Will have an onslaught of trials. Is this something that would be reimbursed? Kathryn will research this and get back to them.

11:52:35 AM Josh said the Congressman sponsors one students art work from each congressional district and the winner is from Rigby High School. That student that has art work hanging in the Capital right now. Kathryn has some books she will leave with them.

11:56:28 AM Motion by Commissioner Clark to adjourn at 11:56. Second by Commissioner Young. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.

*Scott Howell*  
Chairman of the Board

*Audrey Moon*  
Clerk of the Board

*Colleen C. Role*  
County Clerk



5/3/21  
Date

5/3/2021  
Date

5/3/21  
Date