

Custer County
Commissioner Meeting Proceedings
October 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM in the Custer County Commissioners Room by Vice Chairman Commissioner Will Naillon. Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Weed Supt. Brett Plummer, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins were in attendance.

Weed Department: Brett reported that with spray season completed, he has the trucks and equipment winterized and stored. Paperwork is his main focus now. The ITD Roadside Spray Agreement is up for renewal, and the herbicide costs are way ahead of the contract agreement. This will be addressed in the new agreement. The current government shutdown is affecting the BLM invoicing, but it will be completed when things reopen. Custer Co. Weed Dept. sprayed Herd Cr.; Windy Devil; Bayhorse; Jimmy Smith Lake; and other areas for the BLM. Bart Zwetzic is the acting BLM weed supervisor and is great to work with. Brett is finishing up the CWMA paperwork for cost sharing for Custer and Lemhi Counties spray work within the River of No Return Wilderness. They completed spray work on Lower Loon airstrip and Mahoney Bar airstrip. They plan to sponsor more city spray days this coming year and promote the herbicide cost share program. Commissioner Naillon suggested Brett to mentor some young residents with the drone equipment and encourage them to join the Custer County weed program.

Road & Bridge: Superintendent Brandon Jones introduced his new secretary, Amanda Wetherbee. Janene Fox is retiring, but will stay until Nov. 20th to help train Amanda on the job. Brandon is working on FEMA reimbursements from 2017. The Squaw Creek reimbursement is \$28,400.00 and the Kinnikinik reimbursement is \$6,726.00. These payments will go into the Road & Bridge fund. There are other claims to process for Morgan Creek and Pahsimeroi and he will forward the information as he receives it. The 950M Cat Loader 5-year lease is up this year. Brandon is looking to replace it with a 950H model that isn't quite as expensive, as well as extending the lease to 6-years for a better fit for the County. The grader lease is coming up soon as well, but the costs are beginning to come down some.

Commissioner Vaden moved to go into executive session at 8:35 AM for personnel under 74-206(1)(a). Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Those attending were Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Commissioner Will Naillon, Brandon Jones, Amanda Wetherbee and Deputy Clerk Hawkins. No decisions were made and the meeting returned to regular session at 8:50 AM. Road work in the Yankee Fork area is going well. The gravel crusher is set up and working there and Brandon is working with him to get road materials needed for upcoming jobs. The Road & Bridge is scheduling now for 2026 projects. They will be assisting the City of Challis with some zipper work and helping Clark County with applying dust abatement product. This week Brandon will be working with the Lost River Highway Dist. on zipping some road sections, in exchange for the hauling work they did with R&B this summer. The mutual exchange with our neighboring road departments is a huge benefit to everyone. Brandon reported that the Sheriff's Office has put the speed box sign up along Stephens Lane. It was found that "all" the speed limit signs along Jobe Lane and Stephens Lane were "gone". Not just knocked down, but disappeared. They will be replaced when possible. The new snow wing for the second grader is here and being installed for winter use. Brandon reported that the new support pickup is here and it needs to have steps installed to access items in the bed. The Board approved the purchase of needed steps for the new pickup.

Solid Waste: Brandon reported the new signage is now up inside the building at the Stanley site. With snow on the ground, the winterization process will begin. Outside containers will be emptied and stored, a 20 yd. dumpster will be utilized inside the building during winter conditions. Discussion was held on the

masticated brush and limbs that will be coming to the site, and just who will be in charge of the gate key. Snow removal for the solid waste site access roads was also discussed, and who would be responsible for snow plowing. Wendell was contacted about getting the outside cans emptied and a 20-yd can put inside the building. The record keeping for fuel costs in the Stanley solid waste backhoe was also worked out.

Commissioner Vaden made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Charge of \$428,340.00 for FY 2025. Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed. The letter of acceptance will be provided to the Assessor.

The meeting was recessed at 9:30 AM to go into South Custer Ambulance, and reconvened at 9:33 AM.

Claims: Commissioner Vaden moved that the following FY2025 claims be approved in the amount of \$38,606.61. There were also two additions for Computer Arts Inc. of \$3,791.63 and Blaine Co. Detention of \$18,085.00. Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion carried.

Current Expense	2,767.89
Road & Bridge	35,697.62
Rodeo Grounds	5.99
Weeds	<u>135.11</u>
Sub Total	\$38,606.61
Additions	<u>21,876.63</u>
TOTAL	\$60,483.24

Commissioner Vaden then moved that the FY2026 Claims be approved in the amount of \$23,990.41. There were additions for ICRMP of \$55,516.50, Madison County Court Fund of \$14,146.00 and for Bonneville County Court Fund of \$3,670.00

Current Expense	13,806.54
Road & Bridge	1,452.91
Battleground Mosq.	1,200.00
Election Fund	2,336.18
District Court	5,124.78
Rodeo Grounds	<u>70.00</u>
Sub Total	\$23,990.41
Additions	73,332.50
TOTAL	\$97,322.91

Commissioner Vaden moved to approve the minutes for the 10/14/2025 regular commissioners meeting. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed. The draft Fair Board MOU was then reviewed by the board. Commissioner Vaden moved to accept the MOU as given. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Vaden will take the MOU to the next Fair Board meeting for signature.

Lemhi Co. Commissioners: After being unable to connect via Zoom, Lemhi County was contacted via conference phone. Attending from Lemhi Co. were Clerk Morton, Prosecutor Slaven, Commissioner Bowerman, Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Caywood. Attending from Custer County were Commissioner Naillon, Commissioner Vaden, NRAC Chair Jim Hawkins and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. Discussion on Lemhi Co. getting their NRAC committee going was held. Jim Hawkins suggested they send out an invitational letter to encourage participation in their Lemhi Natural Resource Advisory Committee.

Hawkins then offered to assist them with an introductory class on "Co-ordination". The date of Dec. 10th at 6:00 PM was chosen to hold the class.

Prosecutor: Attorney Paul Rogers attended and reported on his latest efforts on Custer Counties behalf. Commissioner Naillon inquired about the legalities of instituting a fine system for illegal dumping at the County solid waste transfer stations.

Indigent: Commissioner Vaden moved to go into executive session at 10:35 AM for exempt records under 74-206(1)(d). Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous aye vote. Those attending were Commissioner Vaden, Commissioner Naillon, Prosecutor Rogers, Clerk Lura Baker and Deputy Clerk Hawkins. No decisions were made and the meeting returned to regular session at 10:38 AM. Commissioner Vaden moved to pay the cremation costs for Indigent #2025-02. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed.

Clerk: Clerk Baker provided the information needed for the Public Hearing on Draft Ordinance #2025-01 Area of Impact for the City of Stanley. This hearing will be held 11/10/2025 at 5:30 PM in the Commissioners room.

Prosecutor: Attorney Paul fielded questions from Commissioner Naillon about the Whipple Appeal. There has been no change so far, the appeal judge ruled in favor of allowing a trailer park. The Living Water Appeal was then discussed and the case is proceeding slowly forward. There has been no new information filed. Talk then moved to any legal requirements for the Waterways Deputy job. The final subject was how to institute a fine system for illegal dumping? It will need to be done with an ordinance and requires all the public notices, public hearings and a county resolution.

Jail RFQ: Bill Rutherford and Lee Ann Mullis introduced themselves from CRA Architects. Mr. Rutherford had done some homework on our historic Custer County jail, and verified it was one of the oldest jails currently in use in the nation. Several conceptual designs were shared and discussed with the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff. The contract that was brought by Bill will be given to the Prosecutor for review. It was decided to continue the process through Zoom connections, to minimize travel costs. Mr. Rutherford asked if all the geo-technical information the County has on the proposed jail location could be forwarded to him via e-mail.

Mackay Dam: Big Lost River Irrigation District manager Rich Harry attended and introduced himself to the Board. He reported on what has been completed to date. The survey work was done this summer and they have completed the geo-tech work. Their next meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in December and he invited the Commissioners to attend. With the first BRIC Grant getting rescinded, the BLRID has used their IOEM Grant funds to get the needed engineering work completed. Commissioner Naillon asked about what was being done about the small leak in the dam, as well as the needed repairs on the head gate control tower? Rich passed on the engineers' findings of no worries with the small leak that has been there since the dam was completed in the 1930's. Equipment access is a big issue, ie: cement trucks, etc. Rich agreed that it has been quite a journey and everyone is constantly learning. The All Hazard Mitigation Plan for Custer County was brought up, as it needs to be updated every 5 years, and is required for applications of federal grant funds.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:00 and reconvened at 1:30 PM. Attending were Commissioner Naillon, Commissioner Vaden, LRED President Bob Bagley and Secretary Tina Hawkins.

LRED: Bob Bagley, President of the Lost River Economic Development Association attended and updated the Board on the work being done in the Mackay area. He thanked the Commissioners for their contribution to LRED. The Mackay Trick or Treat Walk is coming up soon. Their Winterfest is planned for Saturday Dec. 13th with many events scheduled during the day. Bob suggested the County put together a marketing video for the new Jail/Sheriff's Office. An explanation of why it is needed to assist the public process. A list of the "pro's" and con's is needed. He offered to do the film at no cost to Custer County.

Sheriff: Sheriff Levi Maydole attended with Kevin Wright/Dana Supply. The first order of business were two Blaine County Detention 2025 invoices that need to be paid in the amount of \$2,015.00. Commissioner Vaden moved that they be approved and paid with the Claims. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed. Sheriff Maydole then moved into the United Fleet information and how he would like to use the fleet program for his Department. Commissioner Naillon asked to see how the vehicle purchase – VS – the fleet program compares. Levi presented his findings from Smith Chevrolet, that currently a Chevy Tahoe would cost the county \$58,500.00 and the added equipment needed for a patrol vehicle will cost \$22,000.00. That would bring the cost per vehicle up to \$80,500.00. The vehicle rotation we are using is every 6 years for purchase. The average mileage is between 13,000 and 14,000 miles per year on these vehicles. The current Sheriff fleet includes 1 Chevy Impala, 7 Dodge trucks, 1 Ford truck, 1 GMC truck and the ¾ ton waterways truck. The fleet estimate was done on 2026 Chevy Tahoe vehicles at a cost of \$1,269.09 per month per vehicle. The Commissioners need more information on the funding sources that will be used, and if going from a 3-yr. lease to a 4-yr. lease would cut the cost per year. No decision was made. Commissioner Naillon asked Levi to let Ray Simons know that the Costco membership has made a noticeable savings in the cost of jail meals and thank him for his efforts. Sheriff Maydole then let the Board know that the computers that operate the Dispatch system and the Civil system all need to be replaced. The information on the Virtual Academy online training system was then reviewed. The annual cost is \$1,725.00 @ a fee of \$69.00 per user. This will be mainly for the dispatchers and detention officers to keep their training and credits up to date, but the Deputies will be able to use the system also. After discussion, Commissioner Vaden made a motion to approve the purchase of the Virtual Academy system at a cost of \$1,725.00 per year. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed. Commissioner Vaden moved to go into executive session at 3:50 PM for personnel under 74-206(1)(a). Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Those attending were Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Commissioner Will Naillon, Sheriff Levi Maydole, Clerk Lura Baker, Deputy Clerk Tamra Giampedraglia and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made and the meeting returned to regular session at 3:10 PM. Prosecutor Paul Rogers was contacted via phone for clarification. Commissioner Vaden moved to approve the transfer of 280 hours sick leave proposed within the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Naillon seconded the motion and it passed.

Probation: Commissioner Vaden moved to go into executive session at 3:15 PM for personnel under 74-206(1)(a). Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Those attending were Commissioner Gordon Vaden, Commissioner Will Naillon, Clerk Lura Baker, Coroner Chad Workman, Probation Officer Aletia Workman, Deputy Clerk Hailey Provence and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. No decisions were made and the meeting returned to regular session at 3:27 PM. The Board gave their approval of the internship offer presented for Hailey Provence.

Rob Thornberry/TRCP: Commissioner Vaden made a motion to amend the agenda and move Rob Thornberry up to 3:30 PM from the original 4:00 PM time slot. Commissioner Naillon seconded and the motion passed. Rob introduced himself and stated he was here as a spokesman for sportsmen and public land access. He addressed the growing public concerns about the possible sale of federal lands. His group wants to know what the big issues are for small rural counties. Commissioner Naillon stated the #1 problem is our inability to comfortably fund county expenses, due to having such a small tax base in our county that is 97% government owned. Rob stated that he supports specific federal land sales into public ownership, such as a small isolated parcel within the City of Clayton. Commissioner Naillon also listed other issues #2 County expenses for Search and Rescue operations, #3 Needed reform of the PILT formula, perhaps more \$ for each acre of wilderness, #4 No more net loss of privately owned land within our county, #5 Upgrade the Secure Rural Schools funding, #6 Bring back logging, #7 Reform the Good Neighbor Authority, #8 NEPA reform, shorten the time involved, #9 Possible trading of school sections located within wilderness areas, #10 Stop conservation easements, #11 Take care of property border disputes along private and federal boundaries.

Clerk: Clerk Lura Baker brought the courthouse IT situation forward for discussion with the Board. Possibilities were discussed. The date of November 24th was chosen for the Public Hearing for the Osprey Bend walking path easement vacation. It will begin at 5:30 PM after the regular commissioners meeting. Discussion was also held on jail possibilities as well as the need for inmate transportation.

With no further business before the Board of Commissioner the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.



Will Naillon, Vice Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk