**\*\*\*Monday, August 18, 2014,** Commissioners met in regular session with Chairman Dan Dinning, Commissioner LeAlan Pinkerton, Commissioner Walt Kirby, and Deputy Clerk Michelle Rohrwasser.

Blue Sky Broadcasting Reporter Mike Brown was present at various meetings throughout the day.

Courthouse Maintenance John Buckley stopped by Commissioners’ Office to discuss matters involving sealcoating the Courthouse parking lot. Mr. Buckley said there was actually 11,000 more square feet than the previous measurements taken a few years ago. Mr. Buckley left the meeting.

Commissioners gave the opening invocation and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 a.m., Road and Bridge Superintendent Jeff Gutshall joined the meeting to give the departmental report. Mr. Gutshall provided a written report. Mr. Gutshall said Road and Bridge has completed dust abatement on gravel roads and a list of roads is in the report. Roads that were chipsealed have been broomed off. Kootenai Trail Road and Paradise Valley Road both turned out well. Mr. Gutshall said French Point was going to be chipsealed, but he noticed crumbling of this road so repairs needed to be done before adding it to the chipsealing program. Mr. Gutshall said Road and Bridge is tending to the larger trees that fell due to the recent storms.

Mr. Gutshall informed Commissioners that he placed traffic counters on a few side roads, and he has a few more weeks to gather the information. Chairman Dinning asked for a copy of the counts when the information is complete.

Mr. Gutshall said he heard that someone shot at road signs on Meadow Creek Road so Road and Bridge will check the signs. Stump work will start again on Eileen Road so ditches can be put in and the road can be widened at the curves. Mr. Gutshall informed Commissioners he will work on site preparation for the Cascade Creek culvert project.

Road and Bridge has tested a few mini excavators at the shop before deciding which to purchase. Mr. Gutshall said all of the quotes qualify as a government General Services Administration (GSA) piggyback bid. Mr. Gutshall discussed the machines with Commissioners and said he recommended the 304 model by Caterpillar. Mr. Gutshall said he budgeted for this machine in the next budget year. This is a five year lease and it’s not the same as a municipal lease on larger equipment. Mr. Gutshall said the buyback is $37,500 and the original cost is approximately $40,000. Mr. Gutshall recommended financing for the 304E CAT Mini excavator as the rate is so low that the net cost to the county is $12,341 after five years.

Commissioner Kirby moved to accept the GSA piggyback bid of $49,841 for a Caterpillar 304E mini excavator with a five year buyback of $37,500 pending the approval of the County Civil Attorney for the piggyback process. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

9:35 a.m., Commissioners spoke to County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull via telephone to discuss various matters. Chief Deputy Clerk Tracie Isaac joined the meeting at Commissioners’ request.

Commissioners discussed the matter of a tree on county property falling onto someone’s property. Chief Deputy Clerk Isaac said Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) said if the county was aware that trees were dead and should be taken down, then the county should be responsible for damages, but if not, the county may not be responsible. ICRMP would conduct an investigation. Attorney Hull said the county would not be responsible unless the county had some type of knowledge that there was a tree that could fall on something, but if it’s a healthy tree and it’s an act of nature, then the county has no responsibility. Attorney Hull said if the county were to take trees out and left a tree that fell and caused damage, then there would be responsibility, but otherwise the county is not responsible. Mr. Gutshall said the tree was a healthy Ponderosa Pine that got twisted off during the storm. It was a healthy live tree that wasn’t leaning. Attorney Hull suggested Mr. Gutshall take pictures of the tree and if the rest of the tree is cut down, the picture will show the healthy limbs.

Chief Deputy Clerk Isaac left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Gutshall said if he read information correctly if there is a tree that is not located in a county right-of-way, but the county feels the tree is a threat, could the county make the landowner tear the tree down or do it at their own expense. Attorney Hull said he would have to research that and he asked if the property owner had made a claim or put it in writing. Mr. Gutshall said no, the property owner was just implying that he would not come after the county if we did not cooperate or if the county dug up their trees that were damaged. Attorney Hull suggested waiting to hear from the property owner before responding.

Chairman Dinning informed Attorney Hull that Commissioners will forward mini excavator bid documents to him for his review.

The meeting with Mr. Gutshall ended.

9:45 a.m., Commissioner Pinkerton moved to go into executive session under Idaho Code at 67-2345(1)f, to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Commissioner Kirby second. Commissioners voted as follows: Chairman Dinning “aye”, Commissioner Pinkerton “aye” and Commissioner Kirby ”aye”. Motion passed unanimously. 9:50 a.m., Commissioner Pinkerton moved to go out of executive session. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

Commissioners and Attorney Hull discussed a matter regarding tax deeded property that had not sold at public auction. Selkirk Mountain Real Estate was selected to sell this property and an offer has been made. The offer was for the county to carry the note for up to 10 years. Chairman Dinning said he knows this legally can be done, but he doesn’t know if the interest rate is appropriate. Attorney Hull said Commissioners can set the rate. Chairman Dinning said he thought the interest rate was set in Idaho Code. Attorney Hull reviewed the statute and said the legal rate of interest on money due on a judgment is 5% plus base rate. Attorney Hull said the only matter is that 12% is allowed where there is no expressed contract. Chairman Dinning said he thought there was something in Idaho Code regarding these kinds of sales. Attorney Hull mentioned Idaho Code Section 31-808, 28-22-104.

The call to Attorney Hull ended at 10:00 a.m.

Boundary Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) Chief Ken Baker and Boundary County Chief Deputy Sheriff Rich Stephens joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act Rejection of Full Coverage for policy year effective October 1, 2014. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Zuercher Technologies annual GIS Maintenance Agreement for the Sheriff’s Office. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

10:04 a.m., Commissioner Kirby moved to recess as the Board of Boundary County Commissioners and convene as the Boundary County Ambulance Service District. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2014. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dinning said the proposed budget for the Ambulance Service District is at the full levy rate and at the last meeting Commissioners had discussed possibly reducing that budget. Commissioners just need to give more thought as to if funds need to be set aside for additional equipment. Chairman Dinning said for clarity that this is not setting the budget in stone. Commissioner Kirby said the question was to either lower the levy limit or set up a fund for equipment.

Mr. Baker said today the State is conducting its annual vehicle inspection and they have just changed their licensure transaction. BVA is in the process of finishing paperwork for advance life service (ALS) licensure in order to utilize the ALS personnel they have, which is John Minden, so BVA will soon have paramedic capabilities. Mr. Baker said BVA is starting off with a license for inter-facility capabilities first. Mr. Baker said the state is issuing new rules for this, but those rules have not yet been provided.

10:11 a.m. Commissioner Kirby moved to adjourn as the Boundary County Ambulance Service District Governing Board and reconvene as the Boundary County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baker left the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

10:15 a.m., Chief Deputy Sheriff Rich Stephens said he wanted to touch base about the matter of additional insurance coverage for the jail operations, and he said the Sheriff’s Office will let Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) provide coverage without seeking additional insurance. In looking at previous claim histories it looks like the Sheriff’s Office is not sticking its neck out. Chief Deputy Sheriff Stephens said Kootenai County is looking at expanding their jail and their builder has seen a lot of other jail facilities throughout the state. This builder will be visiting with Kootenai County on September 20th and their Sheriff has talked to him about visiting the Boundary County jail. Commissioners are invited to attend this tour and those involved will discuss the possibility of expanding. The next step would be to draft a plan and that is when the cost kicks in, according to Chief Deputy Sheriff Stephens. The builder should be up this Wednesday between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Chief Deputy Sheriff Stephens said if the Sheriff’s Office isn’t going to use the money for additional insurance maybe it could be used for part time employees.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Stephens left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to continue with Idaho Counties Risk Management Insurance for the Boundary County jail at a reduced rate of $1,000,000 and not seek additional outside insurance on top of what ICRMP covers. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

11:21 a.m., Prosecutor Jack Douglas joined the meeting at Commissioners’ request to discuss matters involving drug court.

Commissioners said they had attended a couple of the meetings on the topic of possibly having a drug court in Boundary County, but they had not talked to the Prosecutor’s Office as to whether or not the Prosecutor’s Office would be able to participate in that. Prosecutor Douglas said his office will have to preface that they don’t have a crystal ball and don’t want to be in the position in which something totally unforeseen happens in which they become deluged to the point they cannot do it. Prosecutor Douglas said he envisions and remembers that he heard drug court would take place during normal work hours and if it spilled into after hours, it wouldn’t be by much. Commissioner Kirby had heard drug court would take place after hours and Chairman Dinning and Prosecutor Douglas had heard it to take place from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Prosecutor Douglas said he and Chief Deputy Prosecutor Tevis Hull don’t have an issue putting in the extra time.

Commissioner Pinkerton said the issue may involve public defenders and asking more out of them when they, at times, don’t feel they are compensated for that time. Prosecutor Douglas said he and Attorney Hull do not do this for the money.

Commissioner Kirby mentioned the $5,000 start-up fee requested by Trial Court Administrator Karlene Behringer and Drug Court Coordinator Marilyn Kesner and how that was to be a one-time fee as the participants utilizing the program pay for the services. Commissioner Pinkerton said when he questioned if the fee really is one-time and not another social program the county is expected to fund, Ms. Kesner couldn’t answer that question. If this is something that can save the county money, is this something the Prosecutor’s Office will be able to support. Commissioner Pinkerton said he got the information he needed, which is to know the Prosecutor’s Office is on board. Chairman Dinning said Ms. Kesner was made aware that Commissioners feels this program should be self-sufficient. Prosecutor Douglas suggested Commissioners talk to Attorney Hull to ensure there was a firm record the Commissioners feel the drug court should be self-supported.

The meeting with Prosecutor Douglas ended at 10:40 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to correct the minutes of June 23 and 24, 2014, page 7. The sentence being corrected currently states, “Mr. Skeen said he doesn’t see the benefit of spending $60,000 on a $420,000 machine.” The correct statement should read, “Mr. Skeen said he doesn’t see the benefit of spending $60,000 on a $20,000 machine.” Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

10:54 a.m., Boundary Community Hospital CEO/CFO Craig Johnson and Hospital Board of Trustees Chairman Elden Koon joined the meeting to provide Commissioners with an update of hospital matters.

Mr. Johnson said the hospital’s finances are barely in the black through July and are at break even for year to date. Bad debt is increasing slightly, which is typical every year having the same flow. The hospital will take over the Rural Health Clinic operations 100% on September 1, 2014. Remodeling of Building C, which is the physician office located behind the hospital, is going well. Painting is being done and flooring will be installed the first week of September. Mr. Johnson said he is waiting for the extended care facility (ECF) survey from the state and that should be any day now. The ECF received an award from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for health care and it’s been about seven or eight years in a row that this award has been received. It’s the best in the state out of 400 nursing homes.

Mr. Johnson spoke of having a survey conducted by Det Norske Veritas (DNV) who is a provider of hospital accreditation, infection risk management and standard development. Mr. Johnson said this is a program to get more quality driven surveys for the hospital. Mr. Johnson said the Idaho Association of Commissioners and Clerks have had discussions for tax exempt situations pertaining to hospitals and there are some discussions on this happening throughout the state. Essentially Boundary County owns the hospital’s building so the hospital is governmental and tax exempt and there is a process for tax exempt status. There are some unfounded ideas that legislative-type people are thinking that hospitals are purchasing physician offices and making them tax exempt. Mr. Johnson said the process is listed in code that the application goes to the county who can deny or approve that application. This situation does not affect Boundary Community Hospital. Chairman Dinning said he was under the impression a Board of Commissioners did deny one application and were taken to court. Chairman Dinning said historically the northern counties have gotten along in order to survive. Mr. Johnson said the collaboration of hospitals in the north is still strong while still being sovereign. Chairman Dinning said when talking about the hospital breaking even when he first became a Commissioner the hospital’s finances were pretty bleak, depreciation could not be funded and the hospital was losing money so this is a good change. Mr. Johnson said this is a long and slow process. The hospital has added a lot of services and invested in their people as well. This is also the first time the auditor has been able to omit a statement in the hospital’s audit. Chairman Dinning said that is just an indication of how far hospitals have come. Mr. Johnson said the hospital is doing better, but there are still a lot of challenges out there. Mr. Koon spoke of improvements to health care to include personnel, equipment, etc.

The meeting with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Koon ended at 11:07 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

**\*\*\*Tuesday, August 19, 2014**, Commissioners met in regular session with Chairman Dan Dinning, Commissioner LeAlan Pinkerton, Commissioner Walt Kirby, and Deputy Clerk Michelle Rohrwasser.

9:00 a.m., Commissioners held an elected officials/department heads meeting. Present were: Solid Waste Superintendent Claine Skeen, Prosecutor’s Office Manager Tami Goggia, Chief Probation Officer Stacy Brown, Extension Office Manager Angela Tucker, County Noxious Weeds Superintendent Duke Guthrie, Treasurer Jenny Fessler, Courthouse Maintenance John Buckley, Restorium Assistant Administrator Pam Barton, Assessor Dave Ryals, Road and Bridge Superintendent Jeff Gutshall and Assistant Superintendent Ken Arthur joined the meeting.

Chairman Dinning said the proposed 2014-2015 county budget has been published in the newspaper so if there are any changes, the budget can be decreased, but not increased.

Chairman Dinning informed those present the DVD titled, A Natural Balance – Boundary County is now available for sale on DVD.

Chairman Dinning said Idaho Counties Risk Management Program’s (ICRMP) online training is available for employees and the deadline in which to have this training completed is December.

Mr. Buckley said the Courthouse parking lot has been resealed and he will soon have it re-striped. If striping will be done tomorrow, the parking lot will be blocked off and employees will have to park behind the Extension Office or along the street. Mr. Buckley said he received another bid for sewer work behind the Courthouse.

Treasurer Fessler said not much is going on in the Treasurer’s Office. Staff is working on the tax notices for drainage districts. Approximately 90% of the tax payments for the second half of year 2013 taxes have come in.

Mr. Skeen said he is working on getting wood waste from recent storms. The waste stream study will start next month.

Ms. Brown said the numbers of people on probation are staying the same and the Probation Office is having no issues. Chairman Dinning asked if Ms. Brown could gather statistics for juveniles in relation to the four day school week.

Ms. Tucker said the Extension Office worked the fair last week. Commissioner Kirby wondered about the usage of the Extension Office meeting room. Ms. Tucker said the room is used almost every day. Chairman Dinning said it looks as if the county will be able to fill both of the vacant positions at the Extension Office.

Mr. Guthrie said he has finished spraying weeds along county roads and he is working on touching up some areas.

Ms. Barton said the new boiler is getting installed at the Restorium today so the water should be off for just a few hours although the installation of the new boiler will take a few days. Ms. Barton said $165 worth of the Boundary County DVD’s were sold at the Restorium’s booth at the fair.

The elected officials/department heads meeting ended at 9:13 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to approve and sign the Idaho Liquor Catering Permit for Zinsit LLC doing business as Wild Horse Mercantile /Saloon. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

9:15 a.m., Treasurer Jenny Fessler returned to the meeting to discuss a tax matter with Commissioners. Treasurer Fessler mentioned she still has not received payment on delinquent mobile home taxes as per agreements with the property owners. Don Horner has not lived up to the agreement to pay $50 per month, according to Treasurer Fessler. The Horner’s real property has already been tax deeded so the county will see about the ability to certify the mobile home to the tax roll. Treasurer Fessler said she would talk to the County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull about it. It was said whoever ends up buying the property will have to also rectify the situation with the mobile home.

Treasurer Fessler said property owner Tod Navarro’s year 2010 taxes are delinquent, but if he could bring in $70, he would be caught up for year 2010. Mr. Navarro paid $1,000 in June, but was $60 short and Treasurer Fessler said she tried to contact him, but was not successful. The taxes on the mobile home will be up to $270, but the county can certify the mobile home to the tax rolls.

Treasurer Fessler said property owner Ernie Smith paid $1,000 toward his taxes on June 17th, but he still owes $600.61 for his year 2010 taxes. Mr. Smith is supposedly working now so he should be able to pay, but the extension has expired. Chairman Dinning asked Treasurer Fessler to send Mr. Smith a reminder.

Those present discussed the taxes owed by Daryle Anderson for his travel trailer. Chairman Dinning said Mr. Anderson was asked to get the VIN number off the trailer so he can register it in his name.

Treasurer Fessler said there are also issues with taxes owed by property owner Rose McKinney, but she needs to talk to County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull about that.

Treasurer Fessler left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

9:20 a.m., County Noxious Weeds Superintendent Duke Guthrie joined the meeting to provide his department report. Mr. Guthrie said the tubing for the building that will house his department’s equipment will arrive early September. Commissioners and Mr. Guthrie spoke of weeds throughout the county and various treatment applications.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Selkirk Mountain Real Estate Agreement for Extension of Close of Escrow and Financing Addendum for the Thomas and Natasha Keating transaction. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

Courthouse Maintenance John Buckley stopped by Commissioners’ Office briefly to discuss matters regarding maintenance.

9:37 a.m., City of Bonners Ferry Fire Chief Pat Warkentin joined the meeting to update Commissioners on matters pertaining to a countywide fire/EMS service.

Mr. Warkentin said during his prior meeting with Commissioners Commissioner Pinkerton suggested that he try to find out if any other county in the state had a combined fire/EMS service. Mr. Warkentin said he spoke to State Fire Marshal Mark Larson who was under the impression that Teton County had a combined department so he contacted the fire chief. This department in Teton County includes three communities, has a population of 10,000 people, has a value of $1,400,000, and their budget is $2,000,000 per year. Mr. Warkentin said this department has a certain number of paid members and coverage is done in shifts. This department also has administrators and a couple chiefs and no unimproved property is taxed. The selling point for Teton County is that the burden for fire protection was shifted away from these three municipalities and there is one board that handles everything to do with this service. Mr. Warkentin said when Teton County started their service in 1996 they most likely didn’t start out with 96 paid responders and their budget probably wasn’t $2,000,000 as it grew to that. This information is just to answer the question that this has been done and it is successful. The complaints in forming this service were that the fire district has too much money, but that is a common statement. Mr. Warkentin said Minidoka County also has a service similar to Teton County, but it’s not that inclusive, and from what he is hearing Sandpoint and Sagle are preparing to combine services. Mr. Warkentin said there are difficulties this county would have to work out in before combining.

Mr. Warkentin briefly mentioned the recent auto accident and voiced his opinion of how it was handled. Mr. Warkentin said Boundary Volunteer Ambulance’s (BVA) extrication unit sat in the station the entire time and they had no one to operate it. Mr. Warkentin listed the various departments and units that were on scene. Mr. Warkentin mentioned all of the radio traffic that was taking place during this accident and how he didn’t hear the City of Bonners Ferry being asked to respond. It was 10 minutes before the City of Bonners Ferry got their rescue unit going. Last week various responders attended a class on the medevac unit with the US Army and on this latest accident Chaplin Len Pine, who had attended the medevac course, was there right away and acted as the landing zone officer, landed two helicopters and did very well. BVA was tied up with victims as well as attending to the motorcycle accident that had just occurred prior to this accident. There was no one providing extrication except for the City of Bonners Ferry.

Mr. Warkentin said the extrication unit is at the city’s station and Commissioners are welcome to take a look at it. This unit came from Kootenai County. All the systems on this unit are expensive and it should be used anywhere in the county, but city residents, such as David Sims, make statements that the unit is funded by city resident’s taxes and they don’t want the unit going outside of city limits. Mr. Warkentin said that is a narrow view. It took 10 minutes for the city to get dispatched and when the city got to the scene to work on cutting the vehicles in order to get kids out of the car, there were four fire departments, Border Patrol, BVA and a lot of other people on scene who were all needed. In the line of traffic that was stopped due to the accident was a pilot from Calgary, Canada whose wife was an emergency room nurse so she was also providing assistance. Mr. Warkentin said the issue is we have this equipment in the city and it needs to be used. There were three city members on the rescue unit that came up as well as North Bench Fire Department and South Boundary Fire District. The extrication equipment was needed for this accident and we just can’t hang onto this equipment and say it’s the city’s, it’s ours. Commissioner Pinkerton said especially like the recent accident. There was bound to be triage and multiple treatment sites so you don’t want the EMT’s providing extrication. You want the medical personnel saving lives. Commissioner Pinkerton said the fire departments are the muscle and it’s that way for a reason. We are not going to reinvent that wheel.

Mr. Warkentin said if you go back to the six to eight years that he has been in this county, the first crash he attended was a head-on accident at the south end of the county. Extrication had always been done by EMS in this county and at this scene EMS personnel had trouble getting their generator started. It turned out the generator didn’t have any gas so gas was provided by the city’s support unit. Mr. Warkentin said once the extrication unit came to the city’s station, a former City of Bonners Ferry fire chief got all over him telling him that fire departments don’t provide extraction.

Mr. Warkentin said with this accident involving kids we’ve got to get something going. Commissioner Pinkerton said we need to get with the city and draft a memorandum of understanding or contract to do whatever it takes to incorporate extrication for motor vehicle accidents. There is personnel to run it and it’s not taking medical personnel out of it.

Chairman Dinning said when the county was going through the process of negotiations for ambulance service, Newport Ambulance said they don’t do extrication as they provide treatment and medical attention. Chairman Dinning said Commissioners, as the Ambulance Service District, have the funds and have talked about adding additional money to that budget in order to outfit extrication tools for outlying fire districts and associations so they don’t have to rely on others. The better alternative is better coordination and outfitting.

It was said that BVA started off providing extrication because no one else was providing that service. Commissioner Pinkerton said the capabilities are there now for other agencies to provide extrication. Commissioner Pinkerton asked if any of the responding agencies that were on scene of yesterday’s accident could provide an after action report. Mr. Warkentin said this coming Wednesday is the Boundary County Fire Chief’s meeting and he will be sure to bring this up. Mr. Warkentin said there will be a Transcanada class and when the City of Bonners Ferry has training next week they will go over the rescue unit again. Commissioner Pinkerton mentioned the after action reports will help to determine the wrongs and rights that occurred so what is broken can be fixed. Chairman Dinning said this is just the natural progression to go forward to provide what is needed for the community. Nothing changes until someone sees the need for something to change and if Commissioners need to take the lead, they can do that. Mr. Warkentin said City of Bonners Ferry Mayor Dave Anderson mentioned extrication and said if an accident happens north of the city and the city has the equipment to help, but doesn’t respond, where does the liability lie. Commissioner Pinkerton said there is also the ability to charge a fee for services provided outside city limits.

It was said the need is to get fire departments involved in extrication. Commissioner Pinkerton said we shouldn’t rely on a private contractor. The private contractor should just provide the medical attention and their service should not bleed over into the next realm of extrication. Mr. Warkentin said that will be difficult, but that is how it should progress.

The meeting with Mr. Warkentin ended at 10:02 a.m.

Solid Waste Superintendent Claine Skeen and Road and Bridge mechanic Terry Johnson joined the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Skeen said he wanted to clarify things for Commissioners regarding landfill equipment and Mr. Johnson is here as he has worked on the D8 at Road and Bridge. Mr. Skeen provided Commissioners with information on the costs associated with the under carriage, which is $57,092 and loose track adjusters at a cost of $3,300 to repair, but the figure could be higher than $61,000. Mr. Skeen said the other option is listed on the third page of his information to include left and right slack adjusters as well as an engine for the compactor along with a re-estimated cost. The engine torque converter for the compactor brought the total to almost $81,000. The last page is lease information for a new D8 that includes an annual payment of $57,000 to $58,000 and a balloon payment or buyback of $350,000. Mr. Skeen informed Commissioners this new D8 is designed for the landfill application.

Mr. Skeen said in talking with Mr. Johnson to get this information he felt he should revisit this scenario with Commissioners. Commissioner Pinkerton asked the approximate weight of the D8. Mr. Johnson said its maybe 55 tons. Commissioner Pinkerton asked for the cost of 200 tons of prepared metal. Mr. Johnson said for unprepared metal it is $180 per ton. Mr. Skeen said this is just information. Chairman Dinning said his question would be whether or not the other machine is needed if Mr. Skeen was to fix the D8. Mr. Skeen the compactor would sit there as he wouldn’t have enough money in his budget. Chairman Dinning asked if the compactor would be needed. Mr. Skeen said no. Mr. Johnson said this is just an estimate to fix the equipment and in his experience going into big equipment, the cost is usually half as much, but could be twice as much. Mr. Johnson explained what is wrong with the D8. Mr. Johnson said this dozer is from 1978 and is considered to be in the antique line so it is hard to get parts. The existing machine is not designed for the landfill and the sand is causing issues. Chairman Dinning asked if the landfill’s machine still functions at Road and Bridge’s capacity. Mr. Johnson said yes as it will have a lot of guards on it to keep sand and debris out of the seals, etc.

The compactor is a year 1995 model, but the value is only $25,000, according to Mr. Johnson.

Commissioner Pinkerton spoke of justifying the cost for a new machine that is only being used six hours per week. Mr. Skeen said he figured his budget based on the purchase of the new machine. Chairman Dinning said there will be enough money to do that if Commissioners choose. Mr. Skeen said if the budget is $100,000 to fix the existing machine and then the transmission goes out, he will be out of budget and that machine would have to sit. Mr. Johnson said he is not saying the machine cannot be fixed, but there is the down time and once something is fixed, something else breaks down, etc.

City of Bonners Ferry resident Jerry Higgs joined the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

The estimate for repairs is approximately $81,123 for a 1995 model. Commissioner Pinkerton asked Mr. Skeen to look for other alternatives and to look at the compactor. Commissioner Pinkerton said to him the matter is about a machine’s six hours of use per week at such a large cost.

The meeting with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Skeen ended at 10:40 a.m.

Commissioners resumed their discussion on questioning the purchase of a new D8 machine.

Mr. Higgs asked Commissioners if there has been any dialogue about Economic Development Specialist David Sims. Mr. Higgs said over one week ago the Mayor for the City of Bonners Ferry asked Mr. Sims into his office and told him to pack his bags and get out of his city hall office. Mr. Higgs alleged witness tampering and whistle blower violations, and he said when Mr. Sims asked why he was being evicted from his office at city hall, the Mayor told him he was being talked to by regulators. When Mr. Sims had the same conversation last week with City of Bonners Ferry Stephen Boorman, Mr. Boorman said Mr. Sims had to leave his office because he was talking too much to Tim Wilson and Jerry Higgs, according to Mr. Higgs. Mr. Higgs said this has prompted him to write another statement to Paul Panther who is with the Criminal Law Division of the Office of the Attorney General. These issues are clearly flagrant and blatant. Mr. Higgs said he has an additional concern since he and Tim Wilson were specifically mentioned. Mr. Higgs said he has submitted three letters with a copy to Tim Wilson and directed it to the Attorney General so he’s wondering if there is a leak in the Attorney General’s Office who is directing this back to the mayor and city council. Mr. Higgs said he has been tight lipped with this on the street. This issue affects Mr. Sims and his ability to do his job, personal life, etc. and Mr. Sims is wondering if he has any standing left in the community. Mr. Higgs said Commissioners need to find out and get to the bottom of this since the county is a part of the cooperative that funds Mr. Sims’s position. Mr. Higgs said he is hesitant to talk to the City of Moyie Springs because Moyie Springs City Council member Bart Klaus will talk to his brother and it will get back into city hall. Commissioners should have a closed door meeting with Mr. Sims as the deadline to move his office from city hall is this Friday.

Commissioner Pinkerton said it sounds like Mr. Higgs has sent letters to the appropriate parties. Mr. Higgs said yes, but now he’s wondering if there is a leak.

Mr. Higgs left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Commissioners resumed their discussion debating the need for new D8 at the landfill at a rate of six hours per week.

11:34 a.m., Chief Probation Officer Stacy Brown joined the meeting.

Ms. Brown presented Commissioners with a new contract for the ankle monitoring device. Ms. Brown said County Civil Attorney Tevis Hull has reviewed this contract and he agrees it is a better contract than the one she has had. The equipment is the same, but this new contract is a better situation financially so she wanted to get Commissioners’ approval before she signed the paperwork. Commissioner gave Ms. Brown their approval for her to sign the new contract.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties and spoke with John Buckley, Courthouse Maintenance, regarding various maintenance issues.

Mr. Buckley left the meeting.

11:55 a.m., Planning & Zoning Administrator Dan Studer joined the meeting at Commissioners’ request to discuss a Planning & Zoning matter regarding the possibility of amending the ordinance to take care of a loop hole.

Mr. Studer informed Commissioners that he is looking at leaving county employment the beginning of September. Commissioners asked for a letter of intent specifying when so they can post the position.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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 DAN R. DINNING, Chairman

ATTEST:

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GLENDA POSTON, Clerk

By: Michelle Rohrwasser, Deputy Clerk