

#### **4-COUNTY MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2015**

Present: Franklin County Commissioners Boyd Burbank, Scott Workman, Dirk Bowles; Caribou County Commissioners Phil Christensen, Earl Somsen, Mark Mathews; Oneida County Commissioners Shellee Smith Daniels, Dale Tubbs, Max Firth and Bear Lake County Commissioners Vaughn N. Rasmussen, Bradley D. Jensen and Rex L. Payne. Also present was Senator Mark Harris, Representative Tom Loertscher and Bear Lake County Clerk Cindy Garner.

Commissioner Dirk Bowles requested to amend the agenda to add Public Defender and Courthouse Update. Commissioner Christensen made a motion to amend the agenda to add Public Defender and Courthouse Update, seconded by Commissioner Somsen, motion carried.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Representative Loertscher discussed water issues and how it can be a sore spot between two groups, may not always get cooperation with water users. He stated to not confuse adjudication and ground water, if you don't have historic documentation you could lose in adjudication. Commissioner Payne stated he had been to a public meeting on adjudication and even domestic wells would have to go through all the hoops. How do priority rights work, do they go back? Senator Harris said if you can show usage, should be proof. Representative Loertscher said proof should be in documentation and be based on the priority date. Commissioner Mathews stated he thought there should be some kind of enforcement. Commissioner Rasmussen stated if they do dig deep wells, they go through the process as Bear Lake has seen with Paris Hills, and they have to monitor all others first, it's a long process. When the lake gets low, it affects Dingle in our area. Commissioner Daniels said maybe there could be a water protest, \$25.00 fee and why not protest with documentation. Commissioner Rasmussen stated he had mixed feelings & it is a funding topic so we should voice opinions to the legislators.

Senator Harris also mentioned water being a big topic, also a pilot program with Health & Welfare. He stated in a conference with 16 states, Medicaid expansion was not popular. He mentioned tax on dyed fuel, there is a problem on enforcement. He also mentioned Ybarra wants a 7% increase for education.

Commissioner Bowles asked about the education law suit, how far reaching will it be. It's hard to fund already if there are no fees, schools will have to cut athletics, drama, music, etc. He also asked if the quagga mussel issue would possibly be funded. Commissioner Rasmussen stated Franklin County got funding and if looking at cost, suggests Bear Lake would be the most important as it is a lake verses a reservoir.

Commissioner Workman discussed the need to change verbiage on the open meeting law especially for small counties. Representative Loertscher stated where most have trouble is an executive session if they do not announce it.

Commissioner Bowles inquired about the public defender issue, stated after looking at the options, they felt that Option 'C' looks like it would be possible & they could stay doing what they are at this time. Commissioner Boyd mentioned how tough this would be financially on small counties. Commissioner

Somsen also mentioned that if not having issues, then leave small counties alone, Caribou's only option as would be Bear Lake's is to share if possible. Commissioner Rasmussen stated he would find out that information and whatever we do we should be united. Representative Gibbs also knows how we feel.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Mathews asked about how other counties are getting staffing for the volunteer positions such as fire and EMT's. It's getting harder all the time to get volunteers as they usually have a day job. He also wondered if they charge their cities for putting out fires. Commissioner Bowles also brought up the new mandate and having to keep track of the hours. He wondered about incentives for employees. Caribou pays for transfers, Bear Lake pays for meals on transfers. Commissioner Rasmussen stated he and the hospital administrator had went to Driggs & Burley and they work through the hospital.

#### PTO

Commissioner Rasmussen asked if the other counties used PTO. Commissioner Bowles stated in the studies he's seen it's not an advantage and if it's not broke don't fix it. 80% of the employees it does not effect. Several had different ways they handle the sick or vacation, some gift sick or bank it, some go with the ICRMP policy handbook.

Commissioner Rasmussen was asked about the courthouse, he stated still working on it, will be working with an attorney seeing what's involved with judicial confirmation. We had 2 elections, came close so may run it again.

The next 4-County meeting will be held in Oneida County on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. The minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting were reviewed and there were a couple of minor changes they agreed upon. Commissioner Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried. Commissioner Workman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.