

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2010

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session with the following members present:

Chairman Alex Robinson
Commissioner Michael R. Crews
Commissioner Mike Griffis
Commissioner Mark Hartley
Commissioner B. Gordon Crews

Also present:

County Manager Joseph L. Cone
County Attorney Terry Brown
County Clerk Al Fraser

Chairman Alex Robinson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Mike Griffis led in the prayer and then the flag ceremony.

Chairman Alex Robinson asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the agenda and the motion was second by Commissioner Mike Griffis. Motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Alex Robinson asked if there were any corrections to the Consent Agenda items, which were:

1. Expenditure Report
2. Approval of Minutes January 5, 2010
3. Approve renewal of Lake Doctors, Inc. Contract
4. Request to waive rental fee for Maggie Shook fundraiser at Ag Center

Commissioner Gordon Crews requested the Expenditure Report be pulled from the consent agenda and be put under County Manager item #4 and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous. Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the consent agenda as amended and the motion was second by Commissioner Mark Hartley. Motion carried unanimous.

Stormie Thomas came before the Board requesting that the Thomas Magic Spindle invented by her father Jerry Thomas be put in the county archives. Jerry W. Thomas received a patent on his invention in 1992 after a lifetime of work. The spindle can be used for mixing paint, sheet rock mud, in gardening to remove feeder roots from old potting soil, dig tulip beds and other projects one may have. Commissioner Alex Robinson appointed Clerk Al Fraser to research entering of the product in the county archives.

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Geoffrey Sample representing the St. Mary's River Management Committee gave an update on the committee and also requested the 2008/2009 commitment from Baker County of \$500 dollars per the Interlocal Agreement and also that the Board consider the 2009/2010 commitment of \$500.00. Chairman Alex Robinson thanked him informed Mr. Sample the Board would consider his request. Clerk Al Fraser stated he would require a motion from the Board to approve the funds for 2009/2010 due to the fact it was not a budgeted item. The Board chose not to act on the matter at this time.

County Manager Joe Cone presented the board with a request from the Staff Director of the Medical Examiners Commission, Mr. Glen W. Hopkins requesting the reappointment of the District Medical Examiner in District 8 the incumbent William F. Hamilton, M.D. Sheriff Joey Dobson was present at the meeting and stated he was in support of the recommendation. Chairman Alex Robinson instructed Mr. Cone that if no one else was recommended to return the letter with the reappointment of William F. Hamilton, M.D.

Joe Cone presented a request from Terry Crews regarding Cattlegap Lane located in Glen St. Mary and then requested Mr. Terry Crews explain to the Board how this all came about. Terry Crews took the podium and explained the problem began in 1972 and the County Commissioner for the south Glen District, Neil Kirkland, acting on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with Aubrey Greene, the owner of the properties south of Glen St. Mary, and east of what is today known as Taber Boulevard. To provide greater drainage from the Town of Glen St. Mary, Mr. Greene was asked to allow the County to dig a drainage ditch extending from the south side of the bay which is located in the southeastern corner of the Town of Glen and extending into the county. In exchange for the drainage way, the County was to maintain the ungraded private road, which is today known as Cattlegap Lane. The drainage ditch was dug by the County extending ¼ mile south of Cattlegap Lane, with other drainage ditches entering into the main artery at several locations along the way. At the same time the County made improvements to Cattlegap Lane and installed a wooden bridge at the point the drain went through the road. Only one time since 1972 have the owners of the property requested assistance in the maintenance of the road and that was to request replacement of the wooden bridge, which was rotting and falling in. No help was received from the County. Mr. Crews stated he himself at his own expense replaced the rotten wooden bridge with a 36" CMP pipe. Mr. Crews requested that the Board of County Commission authorize three loads of milling to be diverted to Cattlegap Lane location by the APAC Company now re-paving CR 229 S. Mr. Crews stated he would spread the milling himself. Chairman Alex Robinson stated he felt the Board was obligated to the request and stated he understood if the county would deliver the milling Mr. Crews would spread it. Commissioner Mike Griffis stated he spoke with Claudell Walker who was the sitting Chairman of the Board in 1972 and Mr. Walker said he remembered Mr. Greene coming before the Board. Commissioner Mike Griffis made the motion to deliver the three loads of milling to Mr. Crews for Cattlegap Lane and the motion was second by Commissioner Gordon Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

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Joe Cone presented the Board with the bid results for bank financing of 5-Motor Graders for the Road Department. He stated he recommended the bid from Caterpillar Financing which bid a fixed rate of 3.5%, on a sale price of \$883,129.00 which would involve 5 annual payments totaling \$91,167.06 and a balloon payment of \$560,000.00 due at the end of the loan, plus a closing cost of \$2800.00. The first payment shall be due one year from the closing date of the loan.

Mr. Herb Rodgers questioned if the county has the funds available, then why not purchase the equipment outright and not finance and save the taxpayers dollars?

Chairman Alex Robinson stated he did not want to spend the funds outright not knowing what the year will bring. Chairman Robinson stated the board needed to be careful and be good stewards of the monies we get from Tallahassee and our taxpayers.

Herb Rodgers stated if you vote on this tonight it is a done deal and you will be spent next year whatever the five payments were that would come out of next years budget. Mr. Rodgers stated you are voting on spending money for next year that is not yet in next years budget and where will the \$91,167.00 per year come from.

Chairman Robinson said it has been in the budget for years and he does not know the amount of difference from last year's payments and this year's payments. Robert Fletcher stated he did not know the figure off the top of his head.

Commissioner Mike Griffis stated he agreed with Mr. Rodgers and that in normal circumstances he was right the Board should not finance anything that we have the monies to pay for. Our money in our savings is only earning 1.5% and this financing rate is 3.5% a 2% difference. Commissioner Griffis went on to comment the Boards concern was if we take the money out of reserve we do not know what is in the future. This is not a normal circumstance and we are not guaranteed that we may not need any of the reserve funds to keep the county operating next year or the next couple of years. If we did not need the funds I would say pay for them right now and not finance but we do not have that assurance.

Clerk Al Fraser explained he figured the financing and by paying out right for the equipment we would have \$323,000 in the cost of the graders for five years. If you add your \$135,000, which I used \$150,000, for a \$473,000 dollar amount for the cost of the graders for five years, your payments are \$91,000 per year for five years. If you took the \$883,000 dollars at 1.5% interest it would net the county \$68,000 over a five-year period. If you keep the graders for 10 years instead of five years you will pay \$19,000 per year per grader and have all maintenance cost. That is the same amount that you would pay doing it the lease way as presented and have new graders at the end of five years and the repairs on those graders are guaranteed also through the lease buy back program. If you

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pay \$951,000 for those motor graders you would have to keep them a minimum of 10 years to come out with the same money.

Commissioner Gordon Crews stated the only bright side he sees about the lease agreement is you have brand new graders every five years. You do not have a buy back clause if you purchase them outright.

Robert Fletcher stated you do have a buy back clause whether you lease or purchase.

Commissioner Mike Griffis cautioned Caterpillar Finance he is a big proponent of buying and financing local and he asked that Ringpower support the county through donations to Little League and other county programs as our local financial institutions do who also pay local property taxes.

Commissioner Michael Crews moved to accept the bid from Caterpillar Financial with the 3.5% interest rate and the \$91,167.06 per year payment and the motion was second by Commissioner Gordon Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Mike Yarborough came before the Board directing the question to Clerk Al Fraser if the \$195,000 utility loan to BCDC and the interest assigned to the note does not seem clarified on the Revenue source of the expense report. Mr. Yarborough questioned Mr. Fraser what collateral was provided for the County Commissioners to make authorization to loan that money to BCDC? I do this in light of what the Baker County Press printed concerning the \$500,000 lien against BCDC. I have discussed this with Mr. Cone and his response I felt was not adequate.

Mr. Fraser responded it was just a gentlemen's agreement between BCDC and the Board of Commissioners. I do not know that any collateral was actually put up. I do not have the agreement here in front of me. The Board did compare the current finance rate at the time. The payments are to start 18 months after the loan was made.

Commissioner Mike Crews stated there was no collateral but the county would receive interest on the loan.

Todd Knabb with BCDC stated the documents would need to be pulled he could not remember but that Terry Brown drew up the agreement.

Terry Brown said to his recollection there is no mortgage or anything that would create a collateral type situation.

Mike Yarborough –so there was no recording of any note or specific agreement in the Courthouse records on any piece of land that would tell other creditors there is a preceding lien on this property or something pending.

Terry Brown-the county does not have a lien on the property.

Mike Yarborough-I agree and I am asking you why not?

Terry Brown-because that was never the deal on the agreement between the parties. By the same token there is no agreement that BCDC is going to let the Sheriff have a building and office without charging them rent. The Sheriff's Department is an expense that the county is responsible for. If the county does not budget sufficient funds to satisfy the budget needs of the Sheriff he can appeal that to Tallahassee and generally speaking the Sheriff's get what they want unfortunately. The point being a loan was made and there is no collateral but what we have for that loan is a new Sheriff's office and all the barns for the equipment at no cost to the county.

Mike Yarborough- I would like to clarify that to some extent because it is my understanding a loan was made to BCDC, which is a totally independent non-profit corporation, and it has nothing to do with the Sheriff. I do understand the thoughts on the matter with the Sheriff and that he is one of ours and we should take care of him. BCDC is a different matter. I say that because Hansen Tile now has broken their agreement with the county some time ago back in mid summer and there is a \$300,000 dollar note due from them. I'm wondering if there is collateral on that note and where we stand in respect to a lien on the property there. My question to council would be a clarification on what Mr. Cone told me that on satisfactions of liens if the county had one against property the government liens take precedence over private liens?

Terry Brown-as a general rule no. For the Internal Revenue Service there are certain exceptions.

Mike Yarborough-then that contradicts what Mr. Cone told me. He understood that government had precedence over private entities. Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me to ask the question.

Joe Cone-I did tell Mr. Yarborough that and it was my understanding in my 35 years working for government that government liens did have a priority.

Terry Brown-there is tax liens and he is using the word lien. You do not have a lien unless you have a mortgage. To create a lien on a piece of property as collateral you would have to record the mortgage. If the county had take back a mortgage you would be in line and priority goes to whoever records the first mortgage. So you would be second in line. Tax liens do however take priority. We are not talking about a tax lien we are talking about a loan.

Joe Cone- I need to pull the agreement then and read it and share it with Mike Yarborough. I appreciate Mike bringing that up in front of everybody that I was wrong.

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Commissioner Mike Griffis-there are interest rates on the loan and the terms are recorded in the minutes.

Mike Yarborough-customarily in business when you have a mortgage a note or anything other than a lien you still would record it on individual property or some tangible asset that you can levy against and that would be my question if that note does not take precedence and someone has already filed a \$500,000 dollar lien on BCDC we are second already and no telling how many we are in line behind at Hanson Tile because no one has researched how many liens have been filed against them. We end up numerous positions in line to payment of our debt that is due and that is why I asked the question.

Commissioner Michael Crews-I understand what you are saying but I believe the county has an advantage point that none of those other folks, we cut BCDC a check. We cut a check to cover the cost of housing inmates and I do not believe that BCDC would go back on that \$195,000 obligation they made to us. I believe they will do what they need to do to make sure we get our payment. As your Commissioner and it looked like that was coming down the pipeline we could minus our amount due on the loan from the check we have to cut to BCDC for housing inmates. Mr. Yarborough you want to make sure the \$195,000 is paid and I spoke with Todd Knabb and I have the assurances that they know the payment is coming and they have prepared for that payment. I believe we are also in a different position than other folks by the fact we send BCDC money.

Chairman Alex Robinson-excuse me from making this statement but at some time in the stage of this game I wish there could be a little bit of trust. I feel this commission is working hard with the revenues it has to be fair with every decision that is made. The decision is not made for this Board it is made for you. I want to develop a trust that at some time in this relationship that we can set up here and feel that when we decide to buy a motor grader it is in the best interest of Baker County. When we authorize a payment for whatever that it is in the best interest of those we serve. I ask you for a vote of confidence somewhere along the line whether it is today or tomorrow or six months from now or whenever. Feel comfortable with this commission setting up here trying to do its job. I do not want to hear about every dollar that is spent and we do not have an account of it. This expense report I have here I went through every sheet of it before I came and I could not find where a single department had an error in spending. If you will take this budget and show me where any department has over spent. I urge you to be allies.

Sharon Padgett- PO Box 1252 Glen St. Mary FL- I am a little appalled

Chairman Robinson-you have 3 minutes Sharon.

Sharon Padgett-we are doing our job as citizens to look at these reports. I spend my time as well as you and I am not being paid to look at the minutes or to look at the expenditures.

Chairman Robinson-listen I do not want to hear a sermon ok

Sharon Padgett – I am asking questions based on the report and I have read them all.

Chairman Robinson-did you read all 100 pages?

Sharon Padgett-yes sir I read all of it. It is not required of me as you yet I stay informed.

Chairman Robinson-I am not going to argue with you.

Sharon Padgett-I did not interrupt you when you spoke and I ask the same courtesy

Chairman Robinson-you have two more minutes.

Sharon Padgett-I disagree with you because you can speak as long as you wish on the same subject. I am just saying we are asking questions.

Chairman Robinson-I am the Chairman of this committee tonight ok and I am saying you have two more minutes.

Sharon Padgett-we are just asking for some consideration and you get very offended if we ask any questions of this board. Maybe we do not understand everything concerning motor graders and when we do ask questions we are asking for information. We do not want to be offended by your out burst and we understand you are doing your job. I thank you for that. You are getting paid for your job and we are trying to do our job by asking questions. As far as the loan goes, we do a business, we have contracts and we know what to expect. If you have a contract that is good, we just have not seen them and we are asking for information. Thank You.

Commissioner Mike Griffis-this is tough times and we need to work together as a county. We do not need all this backbiting we need to work together. The county I do not believe has seen hard times yet. All this fussing is not accomplishing anything and you will not forget the hard feelings. We are working guys just like you are and we are trying to do the best we can with the information that is provided for us. You are right Sharon we do get paid but you guys elected us to try to represent you the best way we know how. We are not the enemy. I get the feeling it is us against you guys and it is not and we do not need that here in our county.

Commissioner Mike Crews-I read a statistic last month that said a conversation that occurs between two people that 93% of it is the person's tone and their body language and 7% is the actual words spoken. I do not have any problems with your questions but it is the way the message is delivered. If someone is inquiring and they have a good

purpose to inquire besides personal or political motives then it would be received in a different way. I find that statistic quite fitting for the circumstances here tonight. Most of the times it seems that when I am asked questions about money or a dollar it seems to fall in the 93% of the eye rolling and the finger waging and all and what I know without a doubt if I would walk up to someone's house and knock on the door and ask them to cast their vote in favor of me waiving my finger and rolling my eyes there is a pretty good chance that I would not get their vote. While the message may be good the delivery sometimes may need some attention on both sides.

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to approve the expenditure report and the motion was second by Commissioner Michael Crews. Motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Alex Robinson referenced a request to donate funds for the Martin Luther King Parade Day. Commissioner Mark Hartley questioned if they were seeking a donation to pay for certain things we have not seen a request as to what the funds are being spent on. I would ask that they submit a statement on what donation they are requesting for whatever it is and I would feel more comfortable about the donation than just to give \$1000. Commissioner Mike Crews suggested an itemized list of what they are requesting. Commissioner Mike Griffis stated they are requesting to be put on the budget list for next budget year. Commissioner Hartley stated if they would come to the workshop and tell us what part of the parade the expense is then show us what the donation is being used for. Commissioner Mike Griffis requested they be put on the budget process for next year and require them to fill out the necessary paper work then we can ask for documentation as to how the parade funds are disbursed.

Commissioner Mark Hartley gave an update on the New River Solid Waste meeting held last week and reported on an income that came in from dumping fees paid by DEP to be divided between the three counties Baker, Bradford and Union. The dividend income for Baker County will be roughly a little over \$92,000. Attorney Terry Brown stated DEP has already paid the funds and Baker County should be receiving their \$92,000 soon.

Commissioner Mike Crews asked if anyone had information on how assistance could be given to a family in Margaretta who was affected by bad storms last year. Sheriff Joey Dobson stated he would have Adam Faircloth who is over Emergency Management check into the situation and report back to the board.

Todd Knabb, BCDC Chairman, gave an update on the facility. He reported that the loan of the \$195,000 did not have any collateral but was used for the water and sewer line upgrades for the City of Macclenny and was a fee to them that was not calculated in the building project due to it being a fee passed after they had done the budget for BCDC so all that \$195,000 went back into the community. It may not be secured by anything but there are brand new water and sewer lines run so everyone is getting the benefit of that.

The sheriff will also report on some good news with ICE. BCDC met with ICE last week and we spent five hours during the meeting going over everything with the project, resetting budgets and ICE came to the table and they were grilled real hard on what they could do and we have our budgets pretty well set where everything is going to work. The Sheriff has some better news to add to that now too.

Sheriff Joey Dobson-First thing I want to say is I keep getting information that the Board of County Commissioners has to defend BCDC. I tell you Commissioners again that is not your place. You provide the funding for local arrested inmates that you have done for the last fifty years in a jail. You fund for local inmates in a budget situation and you will do it fifty years from now if the world is still standing. You will still pay for the housing of local inmates that the Baker County Sheriff's office arrest and the Florida Highway Patrol arrest and the Game Commission and that is your responsibility according to Florida Statute. If there are questions that you are asked and we are not in every meeting you should not be embarrassed and you should not answer them and you should not let people ask you questions that they should know you are not responsible for. I want this Board to understand that and I want the public to understand that. This BCDC project again, are we happy with it? We are absolutely not. Is it an option to fail? It is absolutely not. BCDC project is not going to fail. I want you all to understand we are all partners in this thing, and yes board you are a partner with us, and we appreciate everything that you do to help us. But this is a project that was brought about by everybody's agreement and everybody's consent and yes we are not happy with what has happened with it, but things are going to get better. They are getting better as we speak. We have 98 additional ICE inmates they worked all day from Sunday till 4 am Monday morning. That gives us to date 262 ICE inmates for a total of 345 with local inmates. We are up to and over a budget that we are at. We did drop back and we did look at our situation and we are no different, we are a business. We are a County government Sheriff office, but we are a business for BCDC and the operation of that place. We have gone back to a 300-inmate budget facility and we have to sustain that and we think we can. We have cut our budget to the point that 300 inmates is sustainable. We can do that and we are going to do that and with the boards help and assistance and everybody's prayers instead of negativity about this project. It is a positive thing for the county and it is something the county should be proud of and anybody and I will challenge anybody that wants to see this fail then you are wrong. Ya'll are wrong if you want to see this project fail. This is your county and you live here and you have people who go in jail out there, that actually might be your family, and this project does not need to fail and we need to be positive about it. We are no different than all these other companies that are struggling now, we are struggling but we are going to make it and I will see to it that we make it. BCDC board members are not paid people that give of their time to go out there and make this project work. I want everybody to understand that and that we are in the business to house inmates. We have those 98 from the other day and we have been in conference today with an additional opportunity to bring overcrowding to this facility.

Before the nay sayers get too far in it then hang on before we have to come back and say we told you it would work. It is going to work and people I want to tell ya'll it is going to work and hang in there with us and we will make it work.

Danny Norton-It is our right to question things of our commissioners. I am trying to get more involved. To be more involved we are going to have to ask questions. I hope it does not offend the Board but those questions need to be asked.

Chairman Alex Robinson-may I suggest one thing. Take the time to research what you want to find out about and do not come in here not having a clue. Mr. Joe Cone is our County Manager and he has an open door and he has a phone and a secretary and Mr. Al Fraser, Clerk of the Court, and he is a very good financial asset.

Danny Norton-my question is Herb Rodgers asked this board a question and he was only making a suggestion to this board. Was he wrong or was that wrong?

Chairman Alex Robinson-it is not wrong

Danny Norton-that is what I want to know. It is not the board against us or us against the board. We are taxpayers trying to do our job.

Chairman Alex Robinson-we did not come into this meeting not doing our research on those road graders. We knew which was the best deal and we did not just take his information tonight and say well the low guy is the bid. I personally reviewed those bids. It is just things that we do and part of our J O B.

Danny Norton-but us as taxpayers should be able to question that. That is where our government has gotten out of control.

Commissioner Michael Crews-I did not hear Chairman Robinson say, "Do not ask questions". There is a difference in your tone now that does not put me on the defensive or anyone else. There is a way of communicating with folks. You seem like a good person and we have talked several times and I do not mind you asking questions. The delivery of the question and not being accusatory. I pick up my commission packets and they probably get tired of me calling but I call Ms. Ann and Mr. Joe Cone repeatedly throughout the week asking questions about this that or the other. I will call folks involved in the commission packet and talk directly with them. I know that you all do not see that and I understand. There is not anything in this packet that the public cannot get and read. If you see something on the agenda and you have a question on it before we get to the meeting call me. My mind is never made up until I have heard both sides. I would never tell anyone that I am going to do one thing before I have heard the other side. Quite frankly that is how I wound up in this seat.

Danny Norton-I do feel like those of us taxpayers are doing our job.

Commissioner Michael Crews-right and no one that I know minds you coming and asking a question before the meeting or during the meeting. Call me any time. Like I say it is the delivery of the question.

Sharon Padgett-Our Sheriff is correct I have had family members in the jail and I appreciate the new facility. Never has our group been against the BCDC. We are not against it and I do want it to succeed probably more than the Sheriff does. Our county needs the revenue and we need the image that we are successful at it and I want BCDC to succeed. We have asked questions when it is our county money going to a non-profit. That is the questions and we do not mean for them to be offensive. The questions we will ask concerning BCDC but it is never about BCDC and its success.

Karl Joyce - why are we only going after ICE inmates?

Sheriff Dobson- a good question and a good point. We are not in that phase anymore (just going after ICE inmates). For lack of a better term we did because we had this agreement with ICE that they were going to do what they said they would do. If they did what they had promised we would not even be in any other discussion and would have those 350 inmates in there. As of today we met with a group that is going to look at other avenues and it will bring inmates and hopefully be over crowded and not under. The ICE situation meant we were a designated ICE facility. Have we signed anything saying we always have to keep their people, we do not. If we get full with other people such as Marshall's service or other counties if they need us, we will go after that. We tried ICE for six months and we thought ICE was going to do what they said, but after six months we said that is all we are going to do. We are now going after other avenues of finding inmates. That is why we are saying sir this is not another alternative than failure. We do not even use the word "failure" at the Sheriff's office. We owe it to the citizens and we owe it to this commission but we owe it to our people that it will work. We had to do some lay offs but we are business people and we had to make some cuts in our budget and we did in fact do that. In doing that it hurt some people and we hated to have to do that. As soon as we get the numbers that we have those people will be brought back and employed again.

Terry Brown-from an historical perspective, historically Baker County Sheriff's Department has contracted with the U.S. Marshall's and basically houses their inmates for as long as I can remember. Because of that the county has done that at a significant profit. So historically the commission has not had to fund the Sheriff's Department with as much money as we do in Bradford County or other counties, due to making that much money on the Marshall's Service. But what recently happened was this county could not build BCDC fast enough and the Marshall's Service went ahead and entered into a contract with a new facility in Folkston, Georgia. That facility is being run by a private

company no less. The people we would get from the Marshall's Service are crossing the border to Georgia.

Sheriff Dobson-we are working on that situation and basically there is going to be a new U.S. Marshall in town sometime and we have been in contact with that possibility. I have been in contact also with the U.S. Marshall out of Orlando and spoke with him Friday. He is aware of our situation now and he was not aware of it and quite frankly we did not think we needed them. Now we know that we do so I guess it is sort of like and I have said this before our facility out there is like building a 150 man hotel, you think it will be full and the economy got a hold and people are not traveling and using hotel rooms, they hired people and staffed it for 150 and they are only renting 75 rooms. They have to cut cost wherever they can and we are no different we had to do the same. When that vacancy gets full then we will be back and in the end twenty years when the project is paid off this county commission will own that facility lock stock and barrel and they are going to be in this business doing the same thing we are doing. But right now we are the facilitators for BCDC to make it work, house the inmates and then pay it off then this board will own the facility and it will save the taxpayers of Baker County from spending \$30 million dollars on a new jail. No one wants to do that and we did not want to do that either. The County Commission has no money in BCDC other than paying for the housing of their inmates and the \$195,000 dollars will be paid off starting in February of next year. I assure you that money will be returned with interest back to the commission.

Mike Yarborough stated his brother in law is hearing impaired and would like to attend the meetings but the sound system in this facility is atrocious and I have mentioned this before and asked the board do something about it. Technology today is such that we could not only put in sound but also video so that senior citizens or shut ins that would like to come to the meetings but cannot could watch on video. It is my understanding that Joel Addington of the Baker County Press was going to pursue that course of action of videoing the proceedings and posting on his blog. I request that the Board have Mr. Cone check out and see if through American with Disabilities Act or somewhere a grant could be found to provide adequate sound and video to the constituents of Baker County.

Commissioner Gordon Crews moved to adjourn.

Al Fraser, Clerk to the Board

Alex Robinson, Chairman to the Board