

Commissioners Minutes

December 15, 2023 – 2:02 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

CONSIDER DECEMBER 15, 2023 ACTION ITEMS

Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek

COO Greg Rast

CIO Steve Higgins

Asst. IT Director Eric Jensen

IT employees

HR Director Kate Rice

HR Business Partner Jennifer Allen

Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves



CONSIDER DECEMBER 15, 2023 ACTION ITEMS

The Board met today at 2:02 p.m. to consider the December 15, 2023 action items. Present were: Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks, and Leslie Van Beek, COO Greg Rast, CIO Steve Higgins, Asst. IT Director Eric Jensen, IT employees, HR Director Kate Rice, HR Business Partner Jennifer Allen, and Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves. The items were considered as follows:

Resolution approving changes to the job title, job description and salary range of one position in Information Technology - CIO Higgins said reclassifying the telecom administrator to a network engineer will allow the department to align and modernize the current network team with industry standards. He spoke of the plans for moving an existing employee to the network engineer position, and to fill other positions within the department. CIO Higgins' memo to the Board states the result will be an adjustment of \$12,000 to the position as a promotion. Upon the motion of Commissioner Van Beek and the second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the job title and description of one position in the Information Technology from one telecom administrator to one network engineer as presented by Director Higgins. (Resolution No. 23-263.)

Legal services agreement with MSBT Law, Chartered - Commissioner Van Beek asked if there are substantive changes to the agreement from the last time the Board discussed it. Commissioner Holton said the title changed to indicate who the client is. COO Rast said this is just for conflict in case the Board needs outside counsel that way they can go into an engagement at any point if a matter arises at the last minute. Commissioner Holton said it is not being instituted today over a specific issue, it's just pre-work in case. He said there are only a couple of law firms in the state who do anywhere near as many political subdivisions as MSBT Law and they have multiple counties and cities and other types of political subdivisions they deal with daily. He appreciates their background and participation on land use issues, and said it will be helpful to have an independent opinion and being able to help the various workloads of the County and it will be a great asset to be able to reach out to a law firm to communicate with. Commissioner Van Beek said the areas

of expertise becomes critical and is the difference between a general practitioner and a specialist so when you have need for land use law, employment law, and a myriad of things that the Board touches having that tenured expertise is really critical. Commissioner Holton spoke of his experience with MSBT Law and said they will look out for the customer, the taxpayer. Commissioner Van Beek said we do have a legal team but if there is a conflict between offices or something of a sensitive nature to have that completely removed in objectivity and sourced out so that there is no bias is the kind of transparency and good government people are looking for, whether it's an investigation or just an interpretation to make sure we don't impugn the process and it remains clear and unbiased work. Upon the motion of Commissioner Van Beek and the second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to sign the legal services agreement with MSBT Law as presented. (Agreement No. 23-173.)

LexisNexis Amendment Renewal for one license subscription for legal research for the Chief Operating Officer - COO Rast said this used to be a cost within the IT Department and it will shift into the Commissioners' budget and the subscriber name will be Canyon County Commissioners' Office but he will be the named user. There will be a monthly charge of \$80. Commissioner Van Beek said Mr. Rast used to work for the Idaho Attorney General and he is very familiar with ethics in government and state statute and it has separated the men from the boys in having a Board who is interested in evaluating what its job is by Title 31. Commissioner Holton concurs. Upon the motion of Commissioner Van Beek and the second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to sign the LexisNexis Amendment Renewal for one license subscription for legal research for the Chief Operating Officer, as presented. (Agreement No. 23-176.)

The meeting concluded at 2:15 p.m. An audio recording is on file in the Commissioners' Office.