

Commissioners Minutes

December 21, 2023 – 1:31 p.m. to 2:49 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST BY CANYON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR A PRIVATE ROAD NAME CHANGE TO WHITE SNOW GOOSE LANE, CASE NO. RD2023-0015**

Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks and Leslie Van Beek

DSD Director Sabrina Minshall

Assistant Director of DSD Jay Gibbons

GIS Analyst Sage Huggins

GIS Supervisor Tony Almeida

Sheriff's GIS Manager Forrest Smith

Sheriff's GIS Analyst Kyle McCallister

Tim Walstad

Andrew Rossman

Other interested citizens

Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves



PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST BY CANYON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR A PRIVATE ROAD NAME CHANGE TO WHITE SNOW GOOSE LANE, CASE NO. RD2023-0015

The Board met today at 1:31 p.m. to conduct a public hearing in the matter of a request by Canyon County Development Services for a private road name change from Snow Goose Court to White Snow Goose Lane, Case No. RD2023-0015. Present were: Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks and Leslie Van Beek, DSD Director Sabrina Minshall, Assistant Director of DSD Jay Gibbons, GIS Analyst Sage Huggins, GIS Supervisor Tony Almeida, Sheriff's GIS Manager Forrest Smith, Sheriff's GIS Analyst Kyle McCallister, Tim Walstad, Andrew Rossman, other interested citizens, and Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves. Commissioner Holton disclosed that he had been in direct email conversations with a person who lives on the private lane, but he does not see a need to be recused from participating in the hearing. The Board agreed to bypass the reading of the hearing guidelines given the small number of people in attendance at today's hearing.

GIS Analyst Sage Huggins gave the oral staff report. The Development Services Department is bringing forth the application to change Snow Goose Court, a duplicate road name discovered within Canyon County, to White Snow Goose Lane. In July of 2023 a building permit for a single family residence was requested for Parcel R37205010A3 and during the addressing review process it was discovered that Snow Goose Court was a duplicate road name of Snow Goose Street which exists within the City of Nampa. Snow Goose Street dates back to 1995, and Snow Goose Court (the private road focused on today) was approved by the County in December of 2006, but it was not noticed that it was a duplicate name at that time. In August of 2023, DSD reached out to the building permit applicant and asked for proposed new names for the road. Discussions occurred with other property owners residing off of the private road. October 15, 2023 was the deadline

for any new proposed names, however, no new names were proposed. Hearing notices were sent to agencies and property owners of today's hearing date. According to Ms. Huggins the private lane is triggered once more than two dwellings use the same access point. The purpose is to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, peace, good order, comfort and convenience of the County. The proposed new name of White Snow Goose Lane is available and is not a duplicate name within the County and it differentiates enough from existing names. There was discussion regarding the suffixes court, street, lane, etc., do not constitute a differentiation.

GIS Supervisor Tony Almeida said there are duplicates within Canyon County and the city limits, however, we have no jurisdiction within city limits.

Sheriff's GIS Manager Forrest Smith testified that when calls come in to the dispatch center callers do not give complete information and so it's important that street names not be duplicated. There is a Snow Goose Court in Wilder and Snow Goose Street in Nampa and if someone calls and says they're on Snow Goose, the only one that shows up in the system is the one in Nampa and if they do not have phase 2 information such as triangulating the location of the caller they may send medics to Nampa. He said the names need to be different, and he said DSD and the cities have done a good job collaborating to keep duplicate road names from occurring but the County has no say over what the city does.

The following people testified in opposition to the request:

Tim Walstad lives on the corner of Fish Road and Lower Pleasant in Wilder and he is a firefighter for the City of Meridian. He said the County's main argument for the name change is based on public safety concerns, but if someone in Nampa calls 911 and an emergency responder travels to Wilder, there's a bigger problem they are not addressing within their own training and staffing. He works as an engineer and is training to become a captain and he spoke about the CAD system they use which is based off of GPS. Dispatchers ask callers for their name, where they live, what their address is, and where they are at and that traditionally takes care of the location issue. Mr. Walstad built his home in 2020 and said this should have been caught at that time because if the name is changed he will have to change his personal information including banking, shipping, and driver's license information. He finds it frustrating that the County is saying it needs to be done the name of public safety.

Andrew Rossman lives on Snow Goose Court in Wilder and he read a letter of opposition into the record. The road name change promotes unnecessary chaos and will cause extreme inconvenience issues for the homeowners on Snow Goose Court by requiring changes to membership subscriptions, homeowner businesses, irrigation records, titles, registrations, banks, mortgages, medical supplies, and legal entities to name a few. The safety issue does not exist, or is exaggerated. He said UPS, FedEx, and USPS returned delivery site does not recognize street name changes and there is no universal schedule for updating databases of US street names so when you go online to enter your address, your updated address may not be available - you might have to enter the old address. There is no way to control the mapping software of GPS of anyone needing to find your home. Mr. Rossman said the need for change is fictitious and does not exist and safety is being named as the primary reason behind the change, however, there is less of a

safety risk with this situation than many others because the two names have a different suffix, one being court and the other being street. Additionally, there are 20 miles separating them. If by some slim chance there was a possibility of confusion of the two, then surely residents who live on Main Street in Greenleaf, Caldwell, or Nampa must be in jeopardy, and there must be inherent risk for residents of Ustick Road which runs from the west side of Canyon County through the entire county and continues through Ada County and Boise. Why isn't there confusion with EMS for any emergency situations on Ustick or Franklin Roads? Mr. Rossman said this is a made up safety issue and it could be avoided if DSD would follow the ordinance. There isn't any demand to correct this duplicate street name that DSD claims there is. The ordinance does not have anything in it that closely resembles direction to review existing names for existing duplication. The ordinance focus is naming or renaming of streets or private roads in the county. There is nothing stating what to do when exceptions to the naming standards are identified because the ordinance only applies to new names. Since the road being compared to is clearly in the incorporated Nampa impact area, Snow Goose Court should not be compared to it and therefore this duplication issue does not exist. There is nothing in the ordinance that requires an audit of the existing street names and eliminate duplication. Snow Goose Court is an approved street name granted by DSD and the name has been reviewed by DSD at least three times in the past: during the initial creation; upon request of the first building permit in 2006; and in 2020 when the second house requested its building permit. Each time DSD gave a stamp of approval. There is no risk to homeowners on Snow Goose Court because of some made-up issue. Mr. Rossman spoke of his frustration with not being able to speak with staff or a Commissioner about this issue. He spoke with deputies who said they could not fathom there would be confusion with two streets that are 20 miles apart at opposite ends of the County. He said the demand for the road name change came out of the ordinance, but there is no audit process in the ordinance.

Tony Almeida stated this issue came up because there was a building permit and during the review process they look for potential issues such as the address being out of sequence or duplication of road names. It was missed prior to that because they were not checking for street names because with the majority of street names there is no duplication between the County and the cities. They also try to make sure Google maps is updated.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Brooks and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to close public testimony. During deliberation there was discussion regarding Mr. Rossman's points about the use of Main Street in multiple cities, as well as Commissioner Holton's point about the use of a countywide grid number system. Commissioner Brooks asked why Snow Goose Court in Wilder will cause a problem with Snow Goose Street in Nampa? In his opinion the road name change is unnecessary, and he questioned what it means if the County is knowingly in violation of its own ordinance. At the request of Commissioner Van Beek, Forrest Smith answered questions the addressing system used by the dispatch center. Emergency responders do not generally ask for street name changes for streets and homes that are occupied because they don't want to put citizens out, but, this ordinance is necessary. CCSO dispatches for 17 agencies: fire, medics, police, and SWAT, so to say there is no way EMS can be sent to a county

location when the actual address is in Nampa (or vice versa) is incorrect. The more similar the street name the more confusion and more time it takes to get that call dispatched. Commissioner Van Beek said she sees both sides of the issues, however she does not want there to be a question about where to send EMS. DSD Director Minshall said this issue came up because it's an existing private lane that was pulling a building permit that needs to be in compliance with the ordinance, and just because it was missed in the past that is not a basis to say we are not going to be in compliance with the ordinance and that's why it was brought to the Board. In this case there was a building permit that was pulled and it triggered it, and it was the third house on the private lane. Commissioner Brooks has two questions he would like legal counsel to weigh in on: 1. What is the liability for the County for knowingly being in violation of ordinance; and 2 what is the liability if a real life event were to occur there and timeliness was in question or doubt because of the two street names. Commissioner Van Beek understands there is inconvenience with the road name change, but she hears the concerns from the dispatch center. She then made a motion to uphold the proposed road name change for approximately 400 feet of Snow Goose Court, which is a private road running north and south, to White Snow Goose Lane as proposed by the Development Services Department for Case No. RD2023-0015. Discussion followed regarding the size of the parcels, and the proposed road name. Commissioner Van Beek withdrew her motion and made a new motion to approve the name change subject to input from the affected residents on 400 feet of Snow Goose Court, which is a private road, in Case No. RD2023-0015. Commissioner Holton suggested amending the motion to state they would have up to 90 days to make that determination and if they don't participate or cannot come to a resolution then the name shall be White Snow Goose. Commissioner Van Beek agreed to amend her motion for the inclusion of that language. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Holton and carried unanimously. Upon the motion of Commissioner Holton and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The hearing concluded at 2:49 p.m. An audio recording is on file in the Commissioners' Office.