

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE JANUARY 2024 SESSION**

First Day

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Muffy Davis, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary and Commissioner Lindsay Mollineaux; Administrative Assistant Morgan Baird; Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Mary Goitiandia; Administrative Services Director Kristy Heitzman; IT Security/Network Engineer Jon Eaton; Land Use and Building Services Manager Rachel Martin; Election Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson; Assessor Jim Williams; Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; GIS Manager Sam Young; HR Generalist Justin Highhouse; Facilities Manager Patrick Boyle; Road & Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; Treasurer John David Davidson; IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker; Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks; Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy and County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham; Wendy Jaquet was present for part of the morning session.

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Resolution 2024-01 Destruction of Public Records
- Resolution 2024-02 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) Trust Account to the General, District Court, and Waterways Funds
- 2023 County Vessel Fund Report
- Beverage License Location transfer and name change: Roadbars LLC dba Taste & Craft at 117N River St Unit A Hailey to Roadbars LLC dba Ramen Cowboy at 640 N Main St Ste 2 Ketchum
- Beverage License Renewal for: Petrichor Productions LLC dba a Movable Feast at 333 Bald Mountain Road Unit A, Ketchum

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Consent Calendar for Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

• Integrated Technologies Printsmart CPP Service and Supply Agreement

IT Security/ Network Engineer Jon Eaton explained the agreement is for a larger printer model intended for Blaine County Communications. The existing printer will be reassigned to the Road & Bridge Department.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Integrated Technologies CPP Service and Supply Agreement with the cost outlined in scheduled fee per month. Motion passed unanimously.

• FY 2023 Indigent Defense Expenditure Report

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham provided an overview of the report on expenditures against the Public Defenders Commission Indigent Defense Grant. He explained the report underwent changes after discussions with the Public Defense Commission, resulting in an attached change sheet to update

values.

Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks emphasized that the expenditure report, distinct from other Public Defense Commission reports, serves as an end-of-year summary of how the grant money was utilized. She explained there are two types of grants received, one meant to cover conflict public defenders and a larger one that can be used for various public defense needs. Hicks elaborated that the larger grant is often allocated to cover large expenses like experts, evaluations, and investigators, however, it can also be utilized for salaries or other necessities.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the FY2023 County Indigent Defense Expenditure Report with the Blaine Count Expenditure Report change sheet. Motion passed unanimously.

• FY 2024 Contract for Services with Men’s Second Chance Living

A contract financed through the Opioid Settlement Funding for Men’s Second Chance Living in the amount of \$15,000.00 to support their housing program.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the contract between Blaine County and Men’s Second Chance Living in the amount of \$15,000.00 for FY2024 to assist with the cost of housing for up to fifteen participants and the Sober Living Facility. Motion passed unanimously.

• FY 2024 Contract for Services with KH Counseling

A contract financed through the Opioid Settlement Funding for KH Counseling and Health Center LLC in the amount of \$30,000.00 to support their housing program.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the contract between Blaine County and KH Counseling and Health Center LLC in the amount of \$30,000.00 for FY2024 to assist with the cost of rent for operating the Drug and Alcohol Counseling Facility. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

• Treasurer’s Report – John David Davidson

County Treasurer John David Davidson reported that property tax collections for the last month amounted to \$47M out of the \$76.6M charged, reaching about 62%. He explained it surpasses the 50% target by December 20th, aligning with historical numbers for Blaine County. Davidson stated that despite challenges this year with property tax bills and relief issues, the team achieved this milestone.

• Assessor’s Report – Jim Williams

County Assessor Jim Williams highlighted key initiatives including collaborating on a new mass appraisal system with the Clerk and Treasurer and a project with GIS and Nearmap using high-definition photos for property appraisals. Williams is considering restructuring his office, repurposing an existing appraiser position to manage increasing responsibilities. He also mentioned the State Tax Commission's preliminary ratio studies to assess current values, looking forward to sending out assessment notices once MLS data is received.

Commissioner McCleary inquired about the new software implementation with Tyler Technologies in relation to the current fiscal budget. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham clarified that any mid-year decisions would involve a budget adjustment using LATCF money.

Commissioner McCleary asked if there would be an increase in the percentage of properties appraised, to which Williams explained the goal to reassess more than the required 20% annually. He expressed a long-term vision of leveraging technology, like Nearmap, to reduce reliance on appraiser positions

through retirements and technological advancements in the next five years. The Board expressed excitement and appreciation for the efforts made by the Assessor and his staff.

• **Administrative Services – Kristy Heitzman**

Administrative Services Director Kristy Heitzman introduced Danielle McKee the new Grants, Contracts and Procurement Specialist.

• **Snowmobile Ordinance Discussion**

Heitzman discussed a proposal to prohibit cars and trucks from driving on groomed snowmobile and Nordic trails due to safety concerns. She received support from trail groomer Chad Sluder and BCSO Patrol Captain Bryan Carpita, who highlighted safety issues caused by intentional driving on these tracks. Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves suggested expanding the language of an existing ordinance to include new rules temporarily closing motor vehicles on these trails. Heitzman sought the Board's support and inquired whether cross-country trails should be included. Graves discussed language and potentially adding a timeframe for the ordinance.

The Board shared their appreciation and guided Heitzman to follow up with the proposed language.

• **Clerk – Stephen McDougall Graham**

Facilities Manager Patrick Boyle reported an incident where someone drove off with the electric vehicle charger plugged into their car, causing significant damage to the main head. He explained the charger was turned off to prevent any hazards and the parts needing replaced would cost \$5000 which isn't covered by the 5-year maintenance plan for physical damage. Boyle suggested installing a camera for security and sought guidance on funding options for the repairs. The Board agreed to use contingency funds and requested the exact cost for repairs to be approved in the next meeting.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham discussed inquiries from the collections agency regarding settling certain delinquent ambulance accounts prompting the need for the Board's disposition on the matter. The Board requested additional information before determining its stance on the matter.

McDougall Graham informed the Board that he and Election Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson would be attending the annual elections conference and will provide a detailed report on the conference upon return. Commissioner Davis inquired about the upcoming Republican and Democratic caucuses and what the County's involvement would be. McDougall Graham emphasized the County would not be involved and suggested being cautious about the appearance of involvement in party-run events.

• **RESOLUTION 2024-03 Adopting and Amending Boundary Lines for Blaine County Voter Precincts**

Elections Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson explained the resolution regarding new legal descriptions for precincts. She elaborated that the changes involve updating the descriptions to align better with recent annexations and that the precinct boundaries themselves are not changing. The Board expressed appreciation for the efforts behind the scenes to ensure smooth elections.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve Blaine County Resolution 2024-03. A resolution of Blaine County Board of County Commissioners adopting and amending boundary lines for Blaine County voter precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 and providing and effective date. Motion passed unanimously.

• **County Administrator – Mandy Pomeroy**

Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy alerted the Board to an upcoming contract for the Picabo

Microwave transmitters Upgrade.

Pomeroy discussed the need for another Contract Conflict Public Defender, she explained the County has previously had two contract public defenders, and one of them has chosen not to renew the contract. Pomeroy outlined plans to reach out to attorneys who have been on contract with the County in the past.

Pomeroy mentioned upcoming meetings including the Fire and EMS Chiefs Technical Committee meeting and the City Administrators meeting.

Pomeroy, Land Use and Building Services Manager Rachel Martin along with HR Generalist Justin Highhouse, discussed with the Board the vacant positions and possible restructuring of responsibilities within the Land Use and Building Services Department

BREAK

BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

• December Southern Idaho Solid Waste Meeting

Commissioner Mollineaux provided an overview of the December meeting, emphasizing key topics such as updates on the SRR Biodigester Program and a USDA rural loan for district improvements. She discussed conversations about accepting out-of-district waste and the requirement for approval when waste quantities reach a significant level. Mollineaux touched on the prospect of counties becoming new members and strategic considerations for future infrastructure positioning.

• Conservation District Legislative Presentations and Luncheon

Commissioner Mollineaux shared details on the presentation and luncheon. She elaborated on the variety of projects conducted over the past year and shared how the event allowed for interactions with legislators to advocate for continued funding. Mollineaux touched on the various conservation initiatives that were showcased such as funding for drought-resistant landscapes, addressing water issues in cities, and implementing green infrastructure to remove phosphates from the Snake River.

• Correspondence – Commissioner Mollineaux

Commissioner Mollineaux raised concerns regarding an update from ITD on a proposed updated EIS. She mentioned receiving inquiries from community members seeking clarification on the process and potential public involvement. Commissioner McCleary offered to follow up with ITD for additional details.

• Correspondence – Commissioner Davis

Commissioner Davis inquired about follow up on the parking ordinance. She stated that Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves had a revised draft and agreed to circulate it to the Board for review. The Board confirmed to have the draft on the agenda for further discussion.

• Correspondence – Commissioner Mollineaux

Commissioner Mollineaux provided an update on the crisis hotline budget request follow-up. She explained there was confusion about paperwork, and she met with Tammy Davis to clarify expectations. Mollineaux shared the budget request is anticipated in the coming weeks and Commissioner Davis suggested adding it to the agenda when ready.

ROAD AND BRIDGE LEVY PRESENTATION

Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy and Hawley Troxell representative Adam Christenson provided a brief overview of the presentation from December 19. Christenson explained the levy options and their requirements. Commissioner Mollineaux inquired about the frequency with which the County

can propose a levy vote if it is rejected by voters.

Pomeroy asked the Board what their initial thoughts were.

Commissioner Davis emphasized the need for more community engagement. She suggested focusing on a two-year temporary levy, expressing concern about the high threshold for a permanent levy. Davis supported the idea of a city share and proposed considering the November election for the levy. Additionally, she recommended revisiting the 2007 decision that restricted property tax funds for road and bridge projects and exploring potential changes. Davis acknowledged the current workload of the board and questioned the readiness for a significant proposal in May.

Commissioner McCleary expressed a belief in the ongoing need for permanent funding but acknowledged potential challenges in public support for a permanent levy. She indicated support for a temporary levy, emphasizing the need for clear project prioritization due to limited funding. McCleary suggested exploring a random survey to gather wider community input, citing past successful use of such surveys by other entities in the region and recommended considering a survey as part of the decision-making process.

Davis expressed agreement with the ongoing needs but emphasized a strategic approach, suggesting the possibility of tying the temporary levy to specific projects. She mentioned the advantage of having visible projects underway before the funds come in.

Commissioner Mollineaux expressed appreciation for the initial presentation and emphasized the ongoing needs while viewing the levy proposal as a unique opportunity for the County. She suggested that the temporary levy could be a way to initiate conversations with constituents and gain their support for ongoing needs. Mollineaux highlighted the importance of specificity in project selection and transparent communication about the long-term plans. She agreed with the idea of conducting a survey to gather wider community input and expressed the need to clarify how the infrastructure investment aligns with other funding priorities in the County.

Public Comment:

Wendy Jaquet offered several suggestions, including avoiding the assumption of needing more funding when sharing with cities and focusing on specifics. She expressed concerns about a November ballot due to potential challenges with presidential elections and stressed the importance of community engagement, proposing the creation of focus groups. Jaquet supported using Buttercup Road as a specific project, recommended a two-year temporary levy followed by a permanent one if successful, and urged revisiting the 2007 decision to address potential voter questions.

Hailey Mayor Martha Burke suggested pursuing a short-term levy, emphasizing the need to consider what voters can afford and adjust funding requests accordingly. She recommended working on long-term goals gradually, acknowledging the ongoing nature of the project and supported a levy that included the cities. Burke highlighted the importance of building community support through successful temporary levies before considering a permanent one. She echoed Wendy's insights and noted that Mayor Hendricks expressed a belief that Sun Valley doesn't urgently need the funds.

Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks emphasized the importance of extensive public involvement, urging the county to seek input from the community to garner support. He recommended vacating the 2007 decision and allocating general funds for road and bridge needs. Hendricks suggested using property taxes for the current situation, emphasizing the need for education and clear planning before going to voters. He expressed the opinion that going to voters in May would provide sufficient time for buy-in and a solid spending plan, advocating for a two-year temporary levy with city sharing.

Hailey City Administrator Lisa Horowitz expressed support for the county's direction and willingness to

collaborate on building trust and conducting outreach with the cities. Horowitz highlighted the common need for road funding among cities, emphasizing the importance of addressing the predicament of limited funds for road maintenance and reconstruction.

Blaine County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham highlighted the advantages of approving the levy in May, emphasizing that it would solve the budget deficit issue for the fiscal year 2025. He pointed out the potential consequences of delaying the decision, including a projected \$600,000 budget deficit for the Road and Bridge Department. McDougall Graham discussed the limited options available, such as allocating property taxes, making cuts, or dipping into reserves, emphasizing the importance of addressing the financial challenges promptly.

The Board discussed timing for upcoming elections and the need to strategize further.

The Board expressed appreciation for the discussion and efforts taken but the project team.

BREAK

LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES

Also present: Land Use and Building Services Manager Rachel Martin; Cheri Hicks.

• Findings of Fact: Watcher Griffin Ranch PUD Sub PH 3 Lot 10 Block 2 Plat Amendment

The Board did not have any further questions or concerns other than a typo in Commissioner Mollineaux's name.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision regarding the application of Annette Watcher to amend Lot 10 Block 2 Griffin Ranch PUD Subdivision Phase 3. Motion passed 2/0. Davis abstained.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

• November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting

Mollineaux moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Minutes for the Regular meeting of the Blaine County Board of County Commissioners for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

• November 17, 2023, Special Meeting

Mollineaux moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting of the November 2023 Session of the Blaine County Board of County Commissioners for Friday, November 17, 2023, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

• December 5, 2023, Regular Meeting

Mollineaux moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the December 2023 Session of the Board of Blaine County Commissioners for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - IC Section §74-206(1)(d), Consideration of Exempt Records (IC Section 74-105(21))

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC Section §74-206(1)(d), Consideration of Exempt Records. Roll Call Vote: McCleary (Aye), Mollineaux (Aye), and Davis (Aye).

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 3:15 pm, no motion was made.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:15 p.m., with no more business before them, the Blaine County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
Stephen McDougall Graham Muffy Davis
County Clerk Chair