

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE JANUARY, 2022 SESSION**

**Third Day**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Muffy Davis; Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amanda Greer; Treasurer John David Davidson; County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham and County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy were present for part of the morning session; Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Services Manager Stephanie Carlson and Administrative Assistant Morgan DeWitt; Grants, Elections and County Services Specialist Deidre Dolce; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Idaho Power Local Area (Blaine County) Energy Advisor Amber Larna; Eric M; and *Idaho Mountain Express* staff writer Mike Shultz.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 (1)(d) INDIGENT** - Consideration of records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in Chapter 1, Title 74, Idaho Code

Also present: County Services Manager Brooke Baird and Indigent Services Assistant Hayleigh Simpson.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, that the BCC convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(d), to consider indigent medical records that are exempt from disclosure. Roll call: McCleary (aye), Davis (aye), and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**INDIGENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Request 2021-1145-2, with reimbursement of \$25.00 per month, based on indigency has been established. Motion passed unanimously.**

**AMEND AGENDA**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to amend the agenda to include an updated Annual Road and Street Report under Department Reports. This amended agenda was publicly posted yesterday, in accordance with Idaho Code §74-204(4)(b). Motion passed unanimously.**

**CLAIMS** – Gretchen Stinnett

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve claims dated January 6, 2022, Motion passed unanimously.**

**CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS**

• **Contract for Services with Galena Consulting, Inc. .... Record #6**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Deputy Director Kathy Grotto.

**The consultant is to guide the County in analysis of impact fees and capital improvement plan.** Grotto previously presented Land Use's choice of Anne Westcott of Galena Consulting, Inc., to the BCC, and was directed to prepare a contract.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Contract for Services between Blaine County and Galena Consulting, Inc., for development impact fee analysis, and capital improvement plan development, in the amount of \$150 per hour, not to exceed \$9,000, to be funded out of Land Use and Building Services, as budgeted. Motion passed unanimously**

• **Contract for Services for Snow Plowing Services with the City of Carey ..... Record #6**

Also present: Steve Thompson.

The City of Carey lost its street department and asked the County to snow plow until they can hire someone. The Contract for Services will cover labor and equipment expense.

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Contract for Services for Snow Plowing Services, effective January 11, 2022 and expiring on September 30, 2022, between Blaine County and the City of Carey for the amount in Appendices B and C, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Administrative Services - Stephanie Carlson**

- **Social Media Terms of Use**

Administrative Services Manager Stephanie Carlson proposed a policy for users of Blaine County's social media platforms. The policy provides information on how to make a public records request; and provides the County with guidelines to remove an inappropriate post.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve a Social Media Terms of Use Policy for Blaine County, as presented, effective today, January 11, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **County Clerk – Stephen McDougall Graham**

- **New Team Member**

Clerk McDougall Graham introduced the BCC to Deidre Dolce, Grants/Elections/County Services Specialist.

- **Amended Road and Street Report**

ITD contacted the County Clerk about a potential discrepancy in state revenue line item on the Annual Road and Street Report. HP308 supplemental funding of \$573,386.33 was put into the Capital Trust Fund, and not included on the report. The original report was filed according to state statute. The incorrect report will be published tomorrow; and a corrected report has been submitted for republishing next week.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the amended FY2021 Annual Road and Street Report. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **County Administrator - Mandy Pomeroy**

- Interviews for Chief Public Defender were completed, and Human Resources is making an offer.
- Colorado Gulch Bridge project - Staff and the Wood River Land Trust are finalizing the proposal for BCC consideration; and waiting to hear from FEMA on funding the side channel river restoration.
- The BCC reviewed the proposed ARPA Funding Request form a couple weeks ago. The Treasury Department has made a final ruling on use of ARPA funds, so the form is being reviewed by the County Clerk and Administrative Services to be sure the County is in line with federal regulations. Once the form is complete, Administrative Services will prepare a press release to inform County officials and the public on what qualifies for ARPA funding, and how to request it.
- New Blaine County Commissioner Muffy Davis is meeting with County elected officials and department heads in the next few weeks.
- The BCC can elect to use the entire remaining amount of ARPA funds for government services; or set aside a portion for community use.

## **COVID-19 Update**

The Commissioners reported on COVID-related issues and committees they were involved in:

- **Blaine County COVID-19 Internal Policies** – The CDC revised their quarantine requirement to five days, but the County chose to retain the original 10-day requirement. A number of employees reported they had COVID, and were out of office last week and this week.
- McCleary said the State has not been tracking home tests; or out-of-state visitors, and second homeowners may be counted if they put their residence as Blaine County. State test results are very behind in reporting current positive numbers to counties.
- **Covid-19 Mayor's Meeting** – Local cities are extending their mask policies; but a lot of people are not complying with mask mandates. Ketchum has a report center for mask violations.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

The BCC reported on issues and committees they were involved in:

**Seasonal Restrictions Meeting** – McCleary said the County, cities of Hailey and Bellevue, Blaine County Recreation District, Idaho Fish and Game, Wood River Land Trust, and BLM recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperatively consider and implement seasonal restrictions to reduce conflicts between wildlife and recreationists. Representatives of the MOU are meeting regularly to assess current conditions and consider closures.

The group decided to close the area by Quigley Canyon and behind Cutters, and an area in Bellevue to dogs uphill.

- The group also put educational signs to not go in those areas if they see wildlife; and also signs asking people to report where they've seen wildlife, so the wildlife can be tracked. Administrative Services Manager Stephanie Carlson worked with Senior GIS Analyst Kelly Green on a system for wildlife organizations to use this information.
- Fosbury said monthly or periodic high-altitude survey drones would tell F&G where the animals were and track their movements. Idaho Fish and Game is concerned drones would be distracting to wildlife.

**District Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB)** will need a representative from Blaine County to replace retiring Commissioner Jacob Greenberg. Commissioner Davis indicated her willingness to fill the vacancy.

**Blaine County Housing Authority** – About half the rooms in the Lift Tower Lodge are vacant, due to various reasons. Fosbury is working with the City of Ketchum to see if they can make the units habitable for people who need temporary housing.

**Housing** - Fosbury met with Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy to see if any County-owned miscellaneous platted lots could be used for housing. ARCH Community Housing has grant funds to develop local single family housing, and first priority can be given to County employees.

**Senior Connection Department of Commerce** – County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham said the Senior Connection’s Meals on Wheels van to be purchased with a Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant was more expensive than anticipated, so the Senior Connection asked the Commerce for additional funds to make up the difference. Commerce approved the request, and has asked the County to amend the contract, to be approved by the BCC at their next meeting.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- **Junior College Certificate of Residency forms**

College of Southern Idaho, Fall 2021 - Spring 2022: Jeff Emerick; and Jamie Nordstrom.

College of Southern Idaho, Spring 2022: Courtney Bowman; and Michael Wright.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Commissioners’ Consent Calendar for January 11, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to convene as the Blaine County Ambulance Board. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

- **Final Strategic Plan Presentation**

Also present: Wood River Fire Protection District dba Wood River Fire and Rescue Commissioner Jay Bilet; Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman; WRFR Firefighters/Paramedics/EMTs: Trey Knox, Kelly White, Rika Pere, Eli McNees, Erin Griffith, Jacob Chaney; Wood River Fire & Rescue Operations Chief Bass Sears; WRFR Squad Leader EMT/Firefighter David Schames, WRFR EMT/Firefighters Sara Gress and Eric Mathieu; WRFR/SVFD/KFD firefighter/EMT Colleen Quindlen; North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer; Carey Rural Fire Chief Richard Kimball; WRFR Captain FF/EMT / Local 4923 Wood River Fire Fighters President Mike Huntsman; Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks and City Administrator Walt Femling; and Wood River Fire and Rescue Captain Firefighter/Paramedic retired Ron Taylor.

Last April, 2021, the Ambulance District convened an Advisory Committee, and Blaine County Fire Chiefs chose a consultant, AP Triton, to undertake the development of a strategic plan. AP Triton collected data, talked to service providers and the Dispatch Center, and sent out community and stakeholder surveys; and held a community work session to present the survey results and solicit additional input.

County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy said this Strategic Plan is the culmination of that work. It is meant to be a living document. Stakeholders will hold a meeting in February to review the Strategic Plan in depth, followed by a session with emergency service chiefs and contract holders, with the end result including setting a policy for the Ambulance District Reserve Fund balance.

WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears suggested the BCC allow about 18 months to implement a new Records Management System (RMS). He said most systems are built to standards, and data from RMS should be consistent, although it would probably be easier for the Medical Director if all data is on the same RMS system.

WRFPD Commissioner Jay Bilet and WRFR Chief Ron Bateman agreed that the South of Bellevue and Hailey stations should have two full-time staff, with an ambulance in each location. This required hiring a fourth person, which WRFPD authorized on a temporary basis through the end of 2019, and extended through the end of 2020, using funds from Capital Reserve. This arrangement reduced the response to Bellevue from 10 minutes to four minutes, and allowed them to respond to concurrent calls when necessary. Bilet said WRFR has used 20% of their Capital Reserve, and can’t continue to do this without additional funding from the Ambulance District. Bilet said the majority of their calls are for an ambulance.

WRFR Firefighter/EMT Captain Mike Huntsman, 17-year WRFR full-time firefighter, and Local 4923 Wood River Fire Fighters President, representing full-time firefighters for WRFPD, said WRFR has seen huge increases in call volume. They used to get one concurrent call a month, and now get them every other day. He and Chief Bateman have been trying to figure out how the Union can help the District keep their staffing and provide two ambulances at all times, including to outlying areas like East and West Magic. They no longer have enough paid on-call firefighters to rely on them for backfill.

WRFR retired Captain Ron Taylor said the Strategic Plan doesn’t include the request for immediate funding to continue the current temporary staffing level.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham said the County Clerk was not an official budget officer for the independent political subdivision of the Blaine County Ambulance District, but County Attorney Tim Graves felt confident that the County Clerk’s duties could provide similar roles for the Ambulance District. McDougall Graham requested two weeks to review and analyze the Strategic Plan and report to the BCC.

- Linda Haavik, Hailey taxpayer and community member in one of the groups that assisted AP Triton develop the strategic plan, said community involvement was impressive. Haavik said the Ambulance District should have a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan, and this was a great start.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to adopt Blaine County Ambulance District Strategic Plan Needs Assessment Analysis. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Wood River Fire FY2022 Budget Request Update**

Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman said there were long wait times for an ambulance when there were concurrent calls. Chief Bateman reiterated that WRFP District authorized temporary full-time paramedic/firefighters to provide the two WRFR stations with full-time emergency service staff in March, 2020; but, without Ambulance District financial support going forward, the pilot program would have to end on April 1.

Chief Bateman said average fully-loaded compensation of his nine full-time firefighters/EMT/medics is \$113,000. The Contract for Services and Emergency Medic Services Agreement with Blaine County provides a driver/operator and medic for the first call for service, 24/7. Chief Bateman said WRFP District should hire two additional full-time medics/EMTs for FY2022, which would provide Advanced Life Support transport-capable service to Bellevue and Hailey 80% of the time.

Chief Bateman said he'd requested \$359,212 in April 2021 for FY2022, and that amount, plus 3% increase per year, would be the approximate number he expected to request in upcoming years. Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos said the Strategic Plan developed by AP Triton included \$350,000 for contractors; but stressed there needs to be an analysis to determine if WRFR's \$359,212 request is sustainable.

Pomeroy said the approximate \$841,000 budgeted for Capital Improvement was to address any need arising from the Strategic Plan recommendations.

McCleary did not want to reduce the current ambulance service. Davis said WRFR provides a great service.

Fosbury said the BCC provided a contingency budget because they didn't know what the Strategic Plan would suggest. He agreed the WRFR staff should remain fully employed and the stations fully staffed. He suggested funding WRFR to keep their current staffing at Stations 1 and 3. Bailet said the WRFP District commissioners already budgeted \$120,000 for this year.

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to reconvene as Blaine County Board of Commissioners. Motion passed unanimously.**

**BREAK**

**LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES**

- **Findings of Fact: Bell Ranch Subdivision**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin and Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision regarding an application of David Garst, Trustee Bell Ranch Trust DTD, to subdivide 154.14 acres into eight lot cluster development to be named Bell Ranch Subdivision, as amended in today's hearing. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Reappointment of Planning & Zoning Commission Members: Martin and Fallowfield**

Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin and Deputy Director Kathy Grotto said both appointees had been constructive and valuable contributors to the P&Z Commission, and expressed interest in continuing on the P&Z Commission.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to reappoint Rachel Martin and Robert Fallowfield to the Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission for three year terms, to expire on January 31, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(f) - Idaho Department of Water Resources - East Fork Tributary Application Protest; Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(a) - Planning & Zoning Commission Member Interview; and Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(b) - Evaluation, Dismissal or Disciplining of Employees.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) Idaho Department of Water Resources East Fork Tributary application protest; also for Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a), Planning and Zoning Commission member interview; and also for Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c) evaluation or disciplining of an employee. Roll call McCleary (aye), Davis (aye), and Fosbury (aye). Motion passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 3:42 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury  
County Clerk Chairman