

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

**Sixth Day**

**Tuesday, January 25, 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 County Commissioner Muffy Davis; Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Assistant Morgan DeWitt; Administrative Services Support Specialist Kay Draper; County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; Land Use Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley; Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Idaho Power Local Area (Blaine County) Energy Advisor Amber Larna; and *Idaho Mountain Express* staff writer Mike Shultz. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham was present for part of the morning session.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

McCleary was not present until 9:04 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.

**Davis moved, seconded by Fosbury, 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: Davis (aye), and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried 2/0.**

McCLEARY ARRIVED AT THIS TIME.

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**INDIGENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to deny request 2022-1162-1, because the hospital withdrew the application. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SET COUNTY COMMISSIONER ZONES**

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

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Districts. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CLAIMS** - Gretchen Stinnett

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve claims dated January 19, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.**

**TAX CANCELLATIONS**

Also present: Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson; and Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry.

• **RPS07270004358**

The older property owner did not sign the State Circuit Breaker application form this year, causing it to be late. The State Tax Commission has no leniency provision for late forms. Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson suggested the BCC consider this a hardship case for an older resident.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to cancel taxes on Parcel RPS07270004358, in the amount of 860.00, due to hardship per Idaho Code §63-711. Motion passed unanimously.**

• **RPB04150010070**

This is a hardship situation. Taxes are delinquent for 2018 and 2019, and the property will soon go to tax deed if older taxes aren't paid. The BCC discussed the situation, and decided to cancel taxes for 2018 for \$1,412.87, and 2019 for \$1,872.26.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to cancel taxes, late fees and interest on Parcel RPB04150010070 for 2018 in the amount of \$1,412.87; and 2019 taxes, late fees and interest in the amount of \$1,872.26, due to hardship per Idaho Code §63-711. Motion passed unanimously.**

• **MH1TBR00000110**

The parcel was inadvertently put on the rolls twice, so the duplicate amount needs to be canceled.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to cancel taxes, late fees and interest on Parcel MH1TBR00000110, in the amount of \$47.34, due to the fact that the parcel was charged twice. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **PP1P00000S9580**

This is personal property improvement (tower) that was never built.

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to cancel taxes on Parcel PP1P00000S9580 in the amount of \$108.07, due to a device that was never built on the property. Motion passed unanimously.**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve tax cancellations for 2021 taxes on the following parcels in the stated amounts, pursuant to Idaho Statute Homestead § 63-602G. Motion passed unanimously.**

RP00400004039A ..... 41.40	RPH0000017018A ... 690.43	RPK074500003A1.... 613.32
MH1TMS0004039A ... 66.66	RPH03500000290.... 587.09	RPK0768000130D ... 613.32
RP005420010030 ..... 552.38	RPH04750480050.... 683.53	RPK07800001640 .... 613.32
RP005620000030 ..... 115.26	RPK0000022005B ... 613.32	RPK08840000201 .... 613.32
RP00580001007A ..... 14.72	RPK04260060180.... 613.32	RPK095900000G0 ... 613.32
MH1TWSM001007A.. 19.78	RPK04260070290.... 613.32	RPK09680000110 .... 614.50
RP006150030010 ..... 461.98	RPK04300000040.... 613.32	RPS04100000020 .... 638.70
RPB0000039008A .... 745.76	RPK05030000180.... 614.50	RPS04320000590 .... 639.94
RPC03280040250 .... 139.78	RPK07100002010.... 613.32	RPS04380000010 .... 585.82
		RPS07080004120 .... 638.70

**CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS**

- **Integrated Security Resources Inc. Millennium Xtra Software Upgrade** ..... Record #6

Also present: Blaine County Facilities Manager Pat Boyle.

This is for Annex door lock, site and door controllers, software upgrades, etc., paid out of Capital Improvements.

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve contract with Integrated Security Resources, up to the amount of \$4,975.75 for Millennium Software upgrade, out of Capital Improvements fund. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Management Northwest Engagement Letter**

Also present: Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse

This is an engagement letter with Management Northwest to provide factfinding investigator sources for Blaine County. This is a government discount rate.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve an engagement letter with Management Northwest for investigative services into a personnel manner in the amount of \$350 or \$295 per hour, depending on the attorney, to be paid from contingency. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- **Human Resources** - Justin Highhouse

This is a request for the BCC to review the job description for a new position— Probation Services and Testing Technician—at a pay grade B. It is a non-exempt position at 40 hours a week, and will report to the Chief Probation Officer. Pay Grade 8, budgeted at \$25.00/hour, is a little higher than the average in Idaho, but accounts for the higher cost of living in Blaine County.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the job description for Probation Services and Testing Technician, at a pay grade 8, and directed staff to move forward with hiring. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Sustainability** - Sustainability Manager Lynne Barker

Also present: IT Security/Network Engineer Jon Eaton.

- **Sustainability Program Update and January Sustainability and Climate Advisory Committee Meeting Report**

Barker said the Committee now has a Clean Energy consultant, who will provide a data-driven approach to achieving the County’s ambitious 75% clean energy goals by 2025, and implementing renewable energy goals in partnership with the Clean Energy Task Force.

Barker presented a PowerPoint of the most recent Sustainability and Climate Advisory Committee meeting, which identified four high-impact priorities: Circular Materials Economy, Clean Energy and Green Building, Land and Water Conservation, Land Use Planning and Transportation. Barker said every resident and visitor will have to make changes in order to reduce the County’s climate pollution.

Barker is finalizing a draft application for a FEMA grant for a microgrid project to provide renewable energy for critical infrastructure.

**Administrative Services** - Stephanie Carlson

- **ARPA Funds - Education Update**

Carlson presented a draft of the new website page explaining ARPA funds to the public, with links, and a fillable form to begin the process to apply for ARPA funds. Davis suggested staff let local non-profits know about the ARPA information on the Count’s website.

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

### **BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

#### **• Blaine County Ambulance District Fund Analysis**

Also present: Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; Wood River Fire Protection District (WRFPD) Commissioner Jay Bilet; Wood River Fire and Rescue (WRFR) Chief Ron Bateman; WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears; WRFR Engineer Paramedic Rune Haavik; retired WRFR Captain Ron Taylor; North Blaine County Fire District Chief / Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer; Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks; Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn; and Ambulance District Strategic Plan community member Linda Haavik.

#### **Proposed Budget Request**

The BCC approved AP Triton's Ambulance District Strategic Plan a couple weeks ago; and discussed WRFR's request for additional FY2022 funding to provide full-time staff and an ambulance in its three WRFR stations.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham presented three options. He said he was most comfortable with Projection 3, which included an additional amount of \$269,000, or three-quarters WRFR's FY2022 request, for the remaining nine months of FY2022. McDougall Graham said the Ambulance District could support any of the three proposals for this fiscal year and for FY2023, but the BCC would have to carefully review the budget in upcoming fiscal years.

The Ambulance District Reserve Fund was a little over \$3 million at the end of FY2021. Fosbury suggested the Reserve Fund be set at \$1.5 million. Bilet and Chief Bateman agreed that \$269,409 this year is logical to cover WRFR for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

The BCC directed staff to prepare a contract with WRFR.

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

**Clerk - Stephen McDougall Graham**

#### **• Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Allowance for Government Services**

Also present: Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker; Blaine County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; Land Use Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley; Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy; and Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks.

The BCC asked the County Clerk to report on how much of the ARPA funds had been spent to date; and asked County department heads to submit special requests for one-time needs that could be funded with ARPA funds for government services.

Fosbury said the following were his priorities:

- Housing supply, which affects businesses, cities, non-profits, etc.
  - Fosbury said he expects to get a grant request from ARCH Community Housing Trust, which is in the process of developing several projects.
  - Blaine County Housing Authority (BCHA) is looking for funds to retrofit some units in the Lift Tower Lodge to make them livable for temporary use, perhaps in partnership with the Ketchum URA.
  - Upgrade to Code or relocate mobile homes in McHanville area.
  - Request from North Blaine County Fire District, which is providing housing for first responders at the Greenhorn Station.
- Emergency Services, radio dispatch, a new radio repeater on the Little Wood side of Blaine County, and replace Sheriff's radios with a consistent radio system.
- IT firewall upgrade, and potentially Computer Arts retrofit or replacement.
  - IT Security/Network Engineer Jon Eaton said they have requested firewall for the Courthouse campus and the Public Safety Facility. He said this has to be done as soon as possible, with or without ARPA funds. This will also enable County IT to provide services to Emergency Service, as requested.
  - Eaton said what to do with Computer Arts is not yet decided.
  - Eaton said IT would like to provide a training lab for all Blaine County departments.
- Road and Bridge for road maintenance and upgrades.
- County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin would like to use ARPA funds for housing-related infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment. Fosbury said the Governor is suggesting about a billion dollars for DEQ to offer as grants for sewer and water improvements, to be considered by the Legislature.

The BCC agreed to target \$1.5 million for a couple larger-cost projects, especially if the County could partner with other agencies.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham said the County has received half the amount it anticipates getting. The second half will arrive mid-summer.

**Public Comment:**

- Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks said they allocated their total ARPA funds of \$620,000 to housing.
- Sun Valley Water and Sewer Authority new SVWSA Director Peter Hendricks said his Board members and staff are discussing water/sewer as a key component of housing, and want to be a collaborative partner in the solution.

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to elect a standard allowance of up to \$1.5 million of Blaine County's ARPA fiscal recovery funds to be spent on government services. Motion passed unanimously.**

**APPOINTMENT OF MUFFY DAVIS TO FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD**

Retiring Blaine County Commissioner Jacob Greenberg created a vacancy on the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority. The BCC agreed that it's beneficial to have all three Commissioners on the FMAA, particularly since the three Commissioners are from different geographical locations in the county.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to appoint Muffy Davis to the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Board as one of Blaine County's three representatives. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

The BCC reported on COVID-19-related issues, concerns and committees they were involved in:

**Blaine County COVID-19 Risk Level Plan** – Idaho Public Health Board has declared the South Central Health District is back to crisis standards of care due to the high number of cases in Twin Falls and Blaine Counties. Wood River St. Luke's Hospital said they are not at crisis care level at this time.

**Covid-19 Mayor's Meeting** – The Mayors think current COVID policies should remain in place at this time.

**BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**South Central Public Health Board Meeting** – McCleary said the State is no longer a funding partner of the health district, so the Board discussed what impact this will have on the public health district.

**Seasonal Restrictions Meeting** – McCleary said about 80 people have already reported wildlife sightings to the County report site. Idaho Fish and Game recently reported there are not many elk in the Quigley area where many people recreate; but they see a lot of deer, so current restrictions on dogs on hillsides remain in place. F&G has been trying to reduce the elk population, and that seems to be happening, although the elk appear to be in good health this winter.

**Blaine County Housing Authority Meeting** - Sarah Michael was elected as BCHA Board Chair. The BCHA is developing a committee to update its Strategic Plan, which hasn't been updated since 2019. The BCHA plans to move one of its offices to Hailey City Hall or Ketchum City Hall, which would reduce office expense. Sarah Michael proposes new language for amendments to increase density in the Community Housing Overlay in McHanville.

**Sun Valley Economic Development Board Meeting** – Davis said SVED held a retreat for board members and stakeholders. Davis said big issues at the retreat were assessment of the last year, and strategic planning for the future. SVED Outreach Director David Patrie has resigned and SVED is not going to refill the position. Membership renewals were down last year.

**Idaho Association of Counties Midwinter Conference** – Fosbury, who sits on Transportation and Public Lands committees, expects to attend the conference. Commissioners McCleary and Davis have registered for remote attendance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- **Junior College Certificate of Residency forms**

College of Southern Idaho, Spring 2022: Jessica Gonzales; and Ana Vargas Rangel.

College of Southern Idaho Fall 2021 – Spring 2022: Samuel Nelson; Jaymee Norman; Andrea Palencia; Jose Patlan; and Noah Schindlebeck.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Commissioners' Consent Calendar for January 25, 2022, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

**BREAK**

**LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES**

- **Discussion: Letter of support to Idaho Fish and Game regarding grant funding for designated camping projects at Silver Creek East (Point of Rocks) and Silver Creek West (old Martin Bridge) access sites.**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin; Blaine County Code Compliance Specialist Kristine Hilt.

Idaho Fish and Game owns land at Silver Creek that is being used for camping, and is requesting a letter of support from the BCC to obtain grant funding to develop a campground.

County Code Compliance Specialist Kristine Hilt said there are no boundaries at the existing camping area. Campers are encroaching on neighbors' campsites, trucks and cars are off road, and there are fire risks. The Sheriff has been called several times to resolve conflicts on peak days, but officers have no boundaries to rely on. Fish & Game would like to define boundaries for about 10 campground sites at Silver Creek East (Point of Rocks) and 25 sites at Silver Creek West (old Martin Bridge) access sites for public access and fishing. This would require a Conditional Use Permit, which would engage the public and invite public input.

The BCC supports sending a letter of support, with additional language about a County Conditional Use Permit and welcomes input from neighbors.

**Land Use & Building Discussion: Process for filling vacant Levy Advisory Board positions**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin; Land, Water and Wildlife Levy Advisory Board Coordinator Wendy Pabich; LAB Chairman Jim Phillips and LAB Member Lili Simpson.

Bergin said the Levy Advisory Board (LAB) is a nine-member Board, appointed by the BCC to advise them on Land, Water and Wildlife Levy expenditures. There is only about \$500,000 left in the Levy fund, and there has been a vacant seat for some time. But two more members resigned recently, and now there are only six active members. There is still a quorum, and enough members for a majority of the quorum; but final due diligence requires a super majority of the LAB, which is six members. Land Use has received three applications to fill the positions.

There are several potential applications coming in, and limited funds left in the fund, but the BCC wants to try to fill the positions, so there are no conflict of interest issues, particularly with the final LWW Levy funds. The BCC suggested streamlining the appointment process to one BCC interview with the LAB Coordinator and Land Use Director Tom Bergin.

In the meantime, the BCC should also discuss if the LWW Levy program should be continued. McCleary said she hadn't seen that much interest from non-profits in the LWW Levy; Fosbury suggested there could be a workshop to see if there is enough public interest for another levy.

**LAB members comment:**

- LAB Chairman Jim Phillips said the LAB vacancies should be filled, if possible, since there are three interested applicants.  
Phillips said there are currently three LWW Levy applications, two of which have passed pre-application, and one is in pre-application. Phillips asked the BCC how they would like the LAB to proceed with the requests, which far exceed the money available. What would the BCC like for the LAB to do if another application comes in?
- LAB Member Lili Simpson suggested the tenets of the LWW Levy program, which the taxpayers voted to support, be made clear to new LAB members during the interview process and before they review applications.  
Simpson and Phillips supported a workshop for the public, non-government agencies and non-profits, and current and former LAB members to see what they would support in a new Land, Water and Wildlife Levy bond.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

- **January 11, 2022 Regular Meeting**  
McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve minutes of January 11, 2022 Blaine County Commissioners regular meeting, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 (1)(b) Personnel;**

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b), to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of County employees. Davis (aye), McCleary (aye) and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

At the hour of 3:03 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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