

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAY 2023 SESSION**

Fourth Day

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Muffy Davis, Commissioner Lindsay Mollineaux, County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy, County Administrative Services Director Kristy Heitzman, Administrative Assistant Morgan Baird, County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves, Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse, IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker, IT Security/Network Engineer Jon Eaton, Josh Maxwell, IT Analyst Garrett Boyle, County Elections Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson, GIS Manager Sam Young, and Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham was present for the morning session.

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.
Chair Muffy Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

BID OPENING: RADIO COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CONSULTANT, RFP-2023-BCEC-001

Present: Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers, Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman.

McCleary arrived at 9:05.

The Blaine County Commissioners opened and read the bids for the record. The Blaine County Commissioners and staff will review bids.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to have staff review bids, and present them to the Blaine County Commissioners for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Present: County Assessor Jim Williams, Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry, Appraiser David Vanderpool, Appraiser Clerk Gretchen Stinnett, Appraiser Camille Kloer, Appraiser Alyssa Cenarrusa, Appraiser Erin Swanson.

The Blaine County Assessor and Blaine County Commissioners review existing and new tax exemptions. Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry advised the Blaine County Commissioners to approve all the requests except for the Life Church request. The Life Church rented open space for snow storage. Idaho Statue states that religious exempt property needs to be used exclusively for religious purposes only. Since the Life Church rented open space, they are not eligible to claim a tax exemption. The Life Church has been denied the exemption in the past.

The Blaine County Commissioners agreed to deny the request.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the presented tax exemptions as presented with the exemption as presented with the exemption of the Life Church parcel # RP003840010010 pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(f). Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Present: County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin,

Human Resources - Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse

- **Employee Recognition**

- IT Department – The IT Department performed a portion of the Commissioners meeting room sound and visual system upgrade. By performing the projects in-house, they saved the County approximately \$15,000 for the sound installation and \$6,000 for the wiring and hanging of the televisions.

Assessor's Report - Jim Williams

- The Assessors Office will begin mailing assessment notices on May 30th, they are due June 5th.
- Williams presented the property assessment increase for the City of Carey, Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.
- Williams is finalizing the proposed DMV administrative fee increase.

Disaster Services - County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin

Present: Tracy Lee, *Idaho Mountain Express* staff writer Kari Dequine Harden.

- **Flood Updates**

- Corwin expects the water to continue rising for the next several weeks. Currently the water level is 5.5 feet.
- There has only been one Stream Alteration Permit request, the application was to protect a private bridge.

County Administrator - County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy

Present: ARCH Community Housing Trust Executive Direct Michelle Griffith

- County Clerk/Budget Officer Stephen McDougall Graham and County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy are reviewing budget requests. The Blaine County Commissioners will begin reviewing budget requests on May 31st. The elected officials budget presentations are scheduled to begin May 30th.
- Woolpert Consultant Hilary Fletcher is preparing an agenda for the Blaine County Ambulance District meeting. The contract for Woolpert includes \$40,000 for attorney fees, they have decided to use Hawley & Troxell Law Firm.
- **Additional Discussion on the ARCH ARPA funding request**
 - ARCH will be constructing housing units in the Sunbeam Subdivision, City of Carey, and Bellevue. They will utilize \$900,000 of ARPA funds granted by the County and funding provided by Idaho Housing and Finance Association.
 - ARCH will construct 11 units, ranging from two to three bedrooms, with an attached garage. The subdivision will have a community pollinator garden.
 - Griffith questioned if the County wanted to set requirements, conditions, or restrictions on the units.
 - Mollineaux requested for Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse to conduct an internal housing survey. Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse informed the Blaine County Commissioners that the County owned one bedroom unit, which may not be favorable for a family. County departments have found it difficult to retain staff due to the housing crisis.
 - Griffith suggested having a “Right of Refusal” agreement this would allow the county a specific time frame for County staff to apply for a unit, after the time frame expired the unit would be available for the public. County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves suggested having a 2-week waiting period for staff to apply for available units.
 - The County will make four reimbursement payments for construction. Griffith will present all four milestone reports along with construction invoices.

BREAK

5B SUICIDE PREVENTION ALLIANCE UPDATE

Present: Blaine County School District Social Worker Todd Gunter, Wood River NAMI Brittany Shipley

- Shipley presented a slide showing, show the services 5B Suicide Prevention Alliances provides to County residents.
- 5B Suicide recently lost their part time employee, who was offered a higher paying full-time position. The 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance relies on donations and grants, making it hard for NAMI to offer competitive wages.
- Shipley is requesting for the County provide a full-time position for suicide prevention. The position would be a full time, 30 hours per week at \$30.00 per hour. The 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance is requesting a 7% increase to the annual budget, and \$6,000 to fund a website upgrade.
- Davis suggested inviting the Cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley to the discussion and possibly secure funding from them. McCleary would prefer for the position to be a full time 40 hours per week.
- Blaine County School District Social Worker Todd Gunter is concerned that if the alliance was not able to secure funding, they would not be able to continue providing suicide prevention services.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS UPDATE

Present: County Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal, Department of Juvenile Correction District 6 Liaison Stace Gearhart.

Department of Juvenile Correction District 6 Liaison Stace Gearhart provided a 2022 Blaine County Annual Juvenile Justice Report. He read the report to the Blaine County Commissioners. The report included Diversion and Probation intake numbers, youth arrests, youth intake, and a snapshot comparison chart of youth on probation, youth participating in the Diversion Program, and youth in IDOC custody.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

County Probation Department offers youth with low-level offences a chance to participate in the Diversion Program. The Diversion Program allows for youth who may have been charged with a crime to participate in a supervised probation program. Once the program is completed the charge may be dismissed. The Probation Department works with the Blaine County School District, County Prosecuting Office, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, and parents when an offender is participating in the Diversion Program.

GALLAGHER INSURANCE UPDATES

Gallagher Insurance Benefits Consultant Cindy Tealey, Gallagher Insurance Account Manager Barbra Hopkins.

Cindy Tealey presented Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse with an award.

The County was rated a first-class employer.

- The Cost of life changing pharmaceuticals has increased 25 – 30% in price. The Federal Legislature is working on brining those costs down.
- They don't foresee an increase to Delta Dental or Life Insurance plan.
- The expected cost increase is 9.75%.

BREAK

LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES

Present: County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin, Zoning Specialist I Rachel Martin, Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy, Land Use and Building Services Administrative Assistant Sonia Lopez, County Engineer Jeff Loomis,

- **Findings of Fact: Lot 10, Block 2, Griffin Ranch PUD Subdivision Phase 3/Watcher/Plat Amendment; Timber Gulch Subdivision Lot 1 Bk 1/Kendall/Plat Amendment; Timber Gulch Subdivision Lot 1 Bk 1/Kendall/ Mountain Overlay Site Alteration**

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the application Lot 10, Block 2, Griffin Ranch PUD Subdivision Phase 3/Watcher/Plat Amendment Finding of Facts Conclusion of Law and Decision that the application meets the criteria. Motion passed unanimously.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the application Timber Gulch Subdivision Lot 1 Bk 1/Kendall/Plat Amendment Finding of Facts Conclusion of Law and Decision that the application meets the criteria. Motion passed unanimously.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the application Timber Gulch Subdivision Lot 1 Bk 1/Kendall/ Mountain Overlay Site Alteration Finding of Facts Conclusion of Law and Decision that the application meets the criteria. Motion passed unanimously.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

Present: County Floodplain Manager Kristine Hilt, Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks,

- **Floodplain Management Services Contract with the City of Bellevue**

The Blaine County Commissioners amended page 2 section 4 to stating no more than four hours per week. The motion will include the amount, and not to exceed 4 hours per week.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary to approve the FY23 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bellevue for Floodplain Manager Kristine Hilt for Floodplain services as outlined in the agreement at \$52.70 per hour and no more than four hours per week. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Request to Apply for the FY24 Public Defense Commission Grant**

The grant will provide funding for the Public Defense department. The amount is similar to FY23, except for an increase to cover the increase in benefits, and cost of living.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the request to apply for the FY24 Public Defense Financial Assistant Grant not to exceed \$97,000. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Request to Apply for Sun Valley Economic Development Ed Pro Grant**

The County has participated in this grant application for over 15 years, typically the County will match the grant. The grant funds salary and benefits for full-time employees. The cost match for FY24 is \$15,000.

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Request to Apply for the FY24 EDPRO Rural Economic Development Professional Grant as a trough for funding in the amount of \$15,000. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Memorandum of Understanding Between Blaine County Recreation District and the Cities of Carey, Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Blaine County School District and Blaine County for**

The Blaine County Recreation District will conduct a Blaine County Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment. The partners will participate in developing an assessment and contribute funding towards the assessment.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Blaine County and the Cities of Carey, Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Blaine County School District, and the Blaine County Recreational District. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Junior College Certificate of Residency Forms
College of Southern Idaho - Spring 2023
Melanie Ortega
College of Southern Idaho - Fall 2023 – Spring 2023
Grave E Walsh
College of Western Idaho - Spring 2023
Mary Addison

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Consent Calendar for May 16, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

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

- **District IV Elected Officials Meeting**
Both Davis and Mollineaux attended the Commissioners Lunch.
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee**
Blaine County youth received the South-Central Behavioral Health Award.
- **Sun Valley Air Service Board**
Ketchum Mayor Neil Bradshaw will call for a special meeting following the Ketchum's elections results.
- **Other**
 - May 17th is bike to school or work, there will be several business and non-profits on the bike path handing out snacks and water.
 - St. Luke's Community Health is holding their Youth Panel on May 18th from 5:30 to 7:30.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

- **March 16, 2023, Special Meeting**

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2023, as amended. Motion passed 2/0, Mollineaux abstained.

- **March 28, 2023, Regular Meeting**

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2023, as amended. Motion passed 2/0, Mollineaux abstained.

- **April 4, 2023, Regular Meeting**

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023, as amended. Motion passed 2/0, Mollineaux abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 (1)(f) - threatened litigation - Blaine County v. Flying Heart Ranch Owners.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(f) for threatened litigation - Blaine County v. Flying Heart Ranch Owners. Davis (aye), McCleary (aye) and Mollineaux (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

The open session resumed at 2:43.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONSIDERATIONS

Mollineaux moved, seconded by McCleary, to authorize Deputy Prosecutor to engage the services for Preston Carter from Givens Pursley, LLP on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:44 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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