

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JUNE 2023 SESSION**

Sixth Day

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 11:00 a.m. Present were Chair Muffy Davis, Vice-Chairman Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Lindsay Mollineaux, Administrative Assistant Morgan Baird; County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Blaine County Budget Officer Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham, Budget and Finance Analyst Ozzie Gripenrog; Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry, Appraiser Gretchen Stinnett, Appraiser Erin Swanson, GIS/Certified Mapper/Roll Clerk Joanne Freeman, Appraiser Camile Kloer; Appraiser David Vanderpool, Appraiser Alyssa Cenarrusa; IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker; Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; Chief Deputy Clerk of the District Court Andrea Logan, Court Operations Specialist Yessenia Lopez; County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin, Zoning Specialist I Rachel Martin, Land Use Planner Allison Kennedy; Sarah Michael, *Boise State Radio* Reporter George Prentice, *Idaho Mountain Express* staff writer Kari Dequine Harden; Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero.

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Blaine County Commissioners will be reviewing draft goals, budget trends, and reserve fund polices. Blaine County Budget Officer Stephen McDougall Graham presented the previously approved County budget and how previous budgets were funded.

- **Blaine County FY24 Budget Assumptions**
 - The County intends to use the max allowed increase of 3% of property tax revenue.
 - A 9.5% increase in medical benefits is assumed.
 - Anticipating a 6% market rate increase and approving the FY23 4% market rate increase.
 - Committing \$650,000 for capital improvements.
 - Removing District Court cost from the Clerk/Auditor/Recorder general fund and moving to the District Court fund.
 - Disaster Services Department to be funded though the general fund as a stand-alone department.
 - Removing the entire Public Defense Department from the General Fund and moving it to the Indigent Fund. Idaho State will be funding the Public Defense Department for FY25.

The budget that is being reviewed does not include the County Budget Officer's recommendations. Budget and Finance Analyst Ozzie Gripenrog presented A, B budgets, capital expenses, and budget forecasts.

BREAK

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, Continued

Blaine County Budget Officer Stephen McDougall Graham proposed creating a budget plan that would allow the County to achieve a sustainable budget.

- Blaine County Budget Officer Stephen McDougall Graham explained the County's step raise policy, market increase and annual wage increase. He provided an example of how much an employee's salary can increase in three years based on previous market increases, the step policy, and wage increases. McDougall Graham suggested a -4% to a maximum of 6% market increase.

Public Comment –

- Sarah Michael is supportive in the County maintaining the Reserve Funds at 25% of operating budget. Michael appreciates Blaine County Budget Office Stephen McDougall Graham and Budget and Finance Analyst Ozzie Gripenrog for a transparent budget presentation. Michael encouraged the Blaine County Commissioners to suspend wage increases, market increases, and the step-up policy for FY24. Michael is concerned staff wages are increasing at an unsustainable rate.

Deliberation –

- The SLFRF fund will be exhausted at the end of FY24. The SLFRF funds have been used to fund inner and outer agencies budget requests. The County will receive approximately \$2,000,000 from the LATCF Program of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Blaine County Commissioners would like to use the funds on capital expenses.
- The Blaine County Commissioners are supportive of a Road and Bridge Levy.
- The Blaine County Commissioners are supportive in maintaining the Reserve for the General Fund at 30% - 35% and all other funds at 25%.

- The Blaine County Commissioners requested budget scenarios using 0%, 2%, and 4% market rate increase. The Blaine County Commissioners are supportive in capping the market rate increase at 4%.
- The Blaine County Commissioners are supportive of using the reserved \$500,000 in the Road and Bridge Capital Fund on the Indian Creek Project.
- The Disaster Services LIDAR budget request was not included in the proposed budget due to late submittal. Mollineaux requested the request be included in the FY24 budget.
- Davis suggested transitioning a vacant full-time position in the Administrative Services Department to the Sheriff's Department, and/or eliminating the vacant Administrative Services position and approving the Sheriff's Department request for a new full-time position.
- The Blaine County Commissioners deliberated budget reductions and increases for community service agency requests.
- The Blaine County Commissioners are supportive of the Mountain Rides budget request.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:30 p.m., with no more business before them, the Blaine County Commissioners adjourned.

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