

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARCH 2021 SESSION**

**Fifth Day**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

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 Jacob Greenberg; County Administrator Derek Voss; Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amanda Greer; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; Administrative Services Support Specialist Kay Draper; Outreach and Education Specialist Stephanie Carlson; Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Carl Massaro; Kiki Tidwell; George Prentice; Lawrence Schoen; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Gretel Kauffman. Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos was present for part of the morning session; Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham was present for the morning session.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, many participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Commissioner Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Kiki Tidwell said the County has added a county litigator to its payroll, is incurring several hundred thousand dollars in legal bills for Lee's Gulch and Flying Heart Ranch, and is probably going to have to start paying legal bills of some of the successful litigators. Tidwell suggested the County try negotiation and mediation; and the money could be better spent on back-up power, resiliency solutions and repairing roads.

**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: Blaine County Services Manager Brooke Baird and County Indigent Services Assistant Hayleigh Simpson.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, 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: Greenberg (aye), McCleary (aye), and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried unanimously.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**INDIGENT CONSIDERATIONS - Board of County Commissioners Action**

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to deny request number 2021-1120-1, finding that indigency has not been established. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Claims** – Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve claims dated March 17, 2021, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report** - John David Davidson

- County Treasurer and staff have invited Blaine County students to shadow them in past years. This year, Outreach and Education Specialist Stephanie Carlson is working with the Treasurer and students to produce a video that explains the property tax routine.
- Four parcel owners with past due 2017 taxes are being sent notices that their taxes must be paid by April 29<sup>th</sup> or the County will take tax deed on them.
- The Treasurer has completed background check of a new credit card processing company, and has submitted their contract to County Attorney Tim Graves for review.

**Administrative Services** - Mandy Pomeroy

- Facilities Manager Pat Boyle said the Accessory Dwelling Unit above the storage garage behind the McBride Building will soon be complete.
- Emergency Communications and IT have transitioned into their new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) with their partner agencies.
- The Human Resources Generalist position is closed and there are four applications.
- The Administrative Services Supervisor position interviews will be later this week.
- Pomeroy and Greenberg met with cities of Hailey and Ketchum representatives to discuss the review and interview process for the Sustainability position.
- Carlson drafted a letter in support of the Wood River Land Trust nomination for the Idaho State Historical Society's Esto Perpetua Award.
- Clay Landon is going to see if any local computer consultant wants to work part-time to assist County IT.
- Emergency Communications needs to hire an additional dispatcher, and the critical need for housing is again an issue.

**CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS**

- **Accurate Electric Unlimited Software Support Agreement** ..... Record # **680653**

Also present: Blaine County Jail Administrator Lt. Jay Davis.

This is a preventative maintenance support agreement for Sheriff and Detention Center control and security systems.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Accurate Electric Unlimited Agreement with Blaine County for preventative maintenance service on detention security systems in the Blaine County Jail in the amount of \$3,000. Motion passed unanimously.**

• **Idaho Transportation Department - Kilpatrick Bridge Agreement**

Also present: Blaine County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson.

Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham said the County was notified in June 2019 that its application for Local Highways Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) federal funding for the Kilpatrick Bridge was successful. This is project design and development phase, which requires an initial payment of \$10,000 toward the County's 7.34% cost match for this phase. Graham told the BCC that the total project cost had increased substantially since the initial application.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the State/Local Agreement (Project Development) for Kilpatrick Bridge Project Number A022(432) from the Local Highways Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) Federal Aid Bridge Program and approve the County share required match funding in the amount of \$10,000 initial payment, and 7.34% of total project cost. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Contract for Services with Thompson Consulting Group ..... Record # **681016****

Also present: Mandy Pomeroy

Pomeroy said Thompson Consulting Group will provide leadership and development guidance for the County, to be paid out of Contingency.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Contract for Services between Blaine County and Thompson Consulting Group for consultation services related to management training for the remainder of FY2021, till September 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$12,500. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Junior College Certificate of Residency forms**

College of Southern Idaho, Spring 2021: Jeffrey Koudelka and Anders Nelson.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Commissioners' Consent Calendar for March 23, 2021, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

The Commissioners reported on COVID-19-related concerns and committees they were involved in:

- **Innovation and Testing Task Force** – The COVID STATS project is setting up appointments and looking for more people to include in the program.
- **COVID-19 Risk Level Plan** – McCleary said it's great that case numbers are declining, but it's cause for concern that Blaine County will reduce its caution, especially with visitors coming from California and Washington. Fosbury said the County and its jurisdictions need to stay vigilant, while getting vaccinated, especially with schools opening.

**BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

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

**Office of Sustainability** – County staff met with representatives of Ketchum, Hailey, and stakeholder organizations to discuss the upcoming interview process for the Sustainability Manager; and meet with the Marin County Sustainability Manager for advice.

**Sun Valley Economic Development** – Greenberg said Bellevue is modifying some of its zoning ordinances; and the SVED Board, including Bellevue Mayor Burns, talked about re-addressing the prospect of small unit residential housing in Bellevue, and advocacy for certain projects.

**Air Services Board Meeting** – The Air Services Board manages local option tax funds to Fly Sun Valley Alliance and Visit Sun Valley, which promote and increase air service. The Board discussed how to use the \$195,000 left in Reserves at the end of 2020. Ketchum Mayor Bradshaw is going to ask the auditor for recommendations.

**3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Presentation**

- The 3R Task Force is working on Blaine County Recycle Center's transition to Southern Idaho Solid Waste.
- The cities are finalizing their franchise agreements.
- Blaine County, Hailey and Ketchum are considering greenwaste and compost collection.
- SISWD is undergoing a waste-stream analysis that should be complete this summer. The Environmental Resource Center and Task Force are in the final stages of a community survey.
- The ERC is developing a garment recycling program and distribution chain.

**Next Gen 911 Committee Meeting** – The NextGen 911 Committee wants to send out a Request For Proposal to get an idea of cost to implement NextGen Core Services (NGCS) technology. Greenberg said there is information being transmitted by smartwatches, and other devices, and locally available on refrigerators, etc., and individual Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have to decide how to manage the information that will be transmitted.

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission – Wolf Hunting and Trapping** – Idaho Fish & Game's poll on

their proposed rules for 2021 showed that over 80% of Idaho and out-of-state respondents are opposed to wolf trapping and extending the wolf hunting season, so they suspended wolf hunting in the two Blaine County Units 48 and 49. IF&G approved extended wolf hunting and trapping in all the other state units.

The Wood River Wolf Project has received funding to purchase cameras for observation of game migration and wolf interaction, and work with sheep and cattle ranchers to promote non-lethal control.

**South Central Public Health District Board Meeting** – McCleary said there were several new members on the SCPHD Board, so they held a budget workshop that was helpful to everyone. McCleary said the Board is discussing if Board members should be County Commissioners. McCleary let the Board know that Blaine County already pays a high amount for its public health services, and will pay even more under the new proposal.

**Mike Simpson's Northwest in Transition - Energy, Dams, and Salmon Concept** – Idaho's salmon migration and four Eastern Idaho dams and their connection to local community economies have been a constant challenge for at least four decades. The BCC agreed that Blaine County is significantly impacted, and should support Congressman Simpson, at least in concept. Simpson has worked to fairly and objectively consider the issues on this contentious issue. McCleary will check with other counties that may also support Simpson's proposal. Idaho Association of Counties wrote a letter in opposition to the proposal, so Blaine County wants to let IAC know that not all counties are in opposition.

**Colorado Gulch Access** – County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin has received FEMA's grant funding criteria for the Colorado access bridge. Galena Engineers drafted a plan and profile, which Fosbury gave to County Engineer Jeff Loomis and local engineer Mike Bouiss, who drafted preliminary engineering some time ago. They can now begin to evaluate environmental impacts to realignment of the road and two bridges. McCleary said Colorado Gulch has been discussed for a long time, and she hopes it can take priority.

#### **Blaine County Properties for Housing**

Fosbury sent the BCC documentation on some Blaine County properties that need proper deed and legal description to be considered for community housing potential. The County needs complete documentation on its assets to protect their value and consider best use.

#### **McCleary's Meeting with Colorado Game and Fish representative**

McCleary had a virtual meeting with a Colorado natural resources representative focused on wildlife issues. She suggested the BCC discuss what they talked about in a later BCC workshop or meeting.

#### **Break**

McCleary was not present for the afternoon session.

Administrative Services Support Specialist Kay Draper was present for the afternoon session.

#### **LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES HEARINGS**

- **2018 Fire Code Amendments. A public hearing on and consideration of an ordinance amending Blaine County Code, Title 7, Chapter 7, Fire Protection Code, by deleting it in its entirety and adopting a new Chapter 7, Fire Protection Code, by which the 2018 International Fire Code (including Appendices B, C, D, E, F, and I as published by the International Code Council and adopted by the Idaho State Fire Marshal) along with amendments and additions relating to local conditions are added.**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin; Blaine County Certified Building Official Jeff Giese; Blaine County Engineer Jeff Loomis; Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman and WRFR Captain Ron Taylor; Hailey Fire Chief Mike Baledge; Big Wood River District #9 Commissioner Bryan Dilworth; and Fritz Haemmerle, attorney for James Coulthard.

Blaine County Building Official Jeff Giese read public notice. The Building Code requires notice above and beyond the International Fire Code.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Greenberg, that notice for this hearing, including the list of necessary entities listed in the Staff Report, is adequate. Motion passed unanimously.**

Giese said there appeared to be a lot of revisions, but many of them were formatting to make the ordinance more cohesive and easier to follow. Giese said the three major changes were:

- Smiley Creek Fire District would like to increase their threshold before water supply and fire sprinklers are required. Smiley Creek has acquired firefighting vehicles since this was originally written.
- Allowing for exceptions to existing bridges that need to be repaired or replaced.
- Reducing fire separation distance from 50ft to 30feet for buildings on the same or adjoining lots, in line with the Building Code for fire resistant separation. Two buildings less than 50ft from each other totaling 4,000sf total threshold require water for fire prevention.

The BCC reviewed revisions with Giese.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Fritz Haemmerle said his East Fork client's single family residence is accessed by a bridge that has been previously discussed. Haemmerle said the standard required bridge width is 20ft. The minimum exception width is 16ft; they would prefer the minimum bridge width be 12ft. Haemmerle said if requirements regarding turning radii, driveway length, etc., applied to a 20ft bridge, these additional requirements make providing a standard bridge even more difficult. Haemmerle asked that the Code include a section entitled Exceptions, to make sure lay people realize there can be

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exceptions.

- Hailey Fire Chief Mike Baledge said minimum turnaround is required to accommodate firetrucks.
- Greenberg asked if the Code specifically requires minimums. Can the County not allow someone to remodel or replace a bridge? He said a firetruck doesn't want to go across a bridge and not be able to turn around and go back over it.
- County Building Official Jeff Giese said there are exceptions in the International Fire Code related to topography, waterways and non-negotiable grade. He has seen exemptions in the past, but, if adequate access isn't possible, other protections are required: house size is limited, or greater water supply and sprinklers, etc. Giese said the topography exception leaves exception decisions to the Fire Code Official.
- Haemmerle made some language suggestions to the Fire Code.
  - The BCC agreed the suggestions were good.
  - Baledge suggested any questions should go to the Fire Code Official.

**Greenberg made a motion, which was not seconded.**

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to accept in concept Ordinance 2021-06, as amended in today's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Greenberg made a motion to go into Executive Session at this time, but the parties involved were not available, so the motion died.

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

- January 11, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting
- March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting
- March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

**Greenberg moved, seconded by Fosbury, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner minutes of Special Meeting January 11, 2021; Regular Meetings of February 23, March 2, and March 9, 2021, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Blaine County Commissioner minutes of Regular Meetings of January 26 and February 16, 2021, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES**

- **Remote Fire Protection Tank Presentation**  
Also present: Chuck Christopher and Cally Galpin.

Chuck Christopher said water tanks can be hooked up to a city water supply that can be signaled to fill from an approaching helicopter with a suction device. Average helicopters pick up 750-1000 gallons per lift; and the tank can hold 15,000 gallons of water. If the tank is kept dry when not in use, it will last at least 50 years. Christopher showed the BCC photos and details of different kinds of tanks, and suggested how they could be piped and drained. He said up to six tanks up and down the Valley would fill helicopters for a major fire. The BCC agreed to continue the tank discussion.

- **Findings of Fact: Broadford Townsite Plat Amendment**  
Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Deputy Director Kathy Grotto for Land Use Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley.

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision regarding an application of John Burke to amend Lot 1 Block 1 Broadford Townsite Subdivision. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Findings of Fact: L1A & L3 Au Da Urrutian Serua Plat Amendment**  
**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision regarding an application of Judy Downhill to amend Lot 1A and L3, Au Da Urrutian Serua Plat Amendment. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Greenberg moved, seconded by McCleary, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to I.C. 74-206 (1)(b), evaluation, dismissal or disciplining an employee. Roll call: McCleary (aye), Greenberg (aye), and Fosbury (aye). Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **ADJOURN**

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
JoLynn Drage Dick Fosbury  
County Clerk Chairman