

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AUGUST 2011 SESSION**

**Second Day**

**Monday, August 8, 2011**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 10:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Operations Director Char Nelson; Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin and Planning Assistant Michele Johnson; Assessor Valdi Pace; Prosecutor Jim Thomas; Sheriff Gene Ramsey and Chief Deputy Sheriff Ed Fuller; Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek; Information Technology Manager Clay Landon; GIS Program Manager Joel Hall; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**FY2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION**

Also present: Idaho State Senator Michelle Stennett; Hailey Police Chief Jeff Gunter; Blaine County Housing Authority President Linda Thorson, Board Treasurer Heather Hammond, and Executive Director Kathy Grotto; Blaine County School District Business Manager Mike Chatterton and Schools Resource Worker Jeanette McIlhenny; Hunger Coalition Board Vice President Harry Weekes, Executive Director Jeanne Liston and Hope Garden and Education Manager Hallie Reikowsky; St. Luke's Community Health Manager Erin Pfaeffle; Community Transportation Association of Idaho District 4 Mobility Manager Vanessa Fry; Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller and Board Member Steve Wolper; Senior Connection Executive Director Kim Coonis; Advocates Executive Director Tricia Swartling; Blaine County Drug Coalition Executive Director Terry Basolo; YMCA Youth and Family Director Kat Vanden Heuvel; Sustain Blaine Chairman and BCHA Board member Carter Ramsay, Board member George Kirk, and Executive Director Harry Griffith; Wood River Economic Partnership President Doug Brown; Julie Carney; Tod Gunter; Teri McKenna; Becky Tinstex; Naomi Spence; Gerry Kearns; Laura Burns; Sunny Grant; Nancy Kneeland; Erin Buell; Craig Levitan; and Mickey Garcia.

States require local governments to provide services. In Idaho, that includes an increasing number of court-mandated mental holds and medical indigent cases, but the state does not provide additional funding. Governments have to balance funding non-profit organizations that serve community needs with citizens struggling to pay their individual taxes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A few citizens asked the BCC to cut the County budget rather than raise property taxes. Many taxpayers are unemployed and facing foreclosure.

Individual representatives of the County's outside agencies supported each other. Public comment emphasized that all the agencies need, work with and support each other.

Many citizens, social workers, school counselors, "Lunch Buddies" and the Hailey Police Chief strongly supported the School Resource Worker. The Resource Worker helps families/individuals in need in all of Blaine County. She provides referrals to many sources, including other social services, saving the County money. Referrals come from many places, including schools, law enforcement and probation.

Mountain Rides provides public access to a network of social services, including the Hunger Coalition, Advocates, and Head Start; family and health-related programs at the Y; and everyday commuting and transportation needs. School District employees and students are encouraged to use Mountain Rides. Mountain Rides provided nearly 500,000 individual rides last year. The free Hailey circulator is largely funded by the City of Hailey; and the free (north Valley) Town bus is largely funded by Ketchum-Sun Valley Local Option Tax. The Valley route is funded 70/30% by federal grant matched by County funds, and farebox recovery.

The Hunger Coalition feeds people, including babies and young children, and refers families to other organizations for longer term help. The Hunger Coalition's Hope Community Garden provides a resource for the community to come together and provide for one another.

All non-profit organizations are facing budget cuts and increasing caseload due to economic stress and hardship. Much of their success depends on hard-working volunteers. Assistance agencies in Blaine County leverage resources by partnering with and supporting each other. They provide necessary community services for less money than the County could itself.

Sustain Blaine supports businesses in Blaine County; as well as non-profit organizations that serve the community.

Blaine County employees have not received a salary increase since 2008. Many are now the sole wage earner in their families.

The BCC said Blaine County had already made extensive in-County cuts in benefits, hours and several employee positions. Further cuts could result in diminished service to County residents. The BCC wants to maintain high quality and corporate culture of Blaine County as a service organization.

Outside community service organizations provide essential services to County residents, but County financial support is a low percentage of funding for most. The BCC asked the outside organizations to strive for financial sustainability and search for other sources of funding.

Raising property taxes is an additional burden to citizens already struggling with economic conditions. The foregone and 3% property tax increase will enable Blaine County to meet its basic FY2012 budget.

After discussing previously unresolved budget issues, the BCC made the following decisions in the Blaine County FY2012 budget:

- County's Reserve Account balance must be a minimum of \$2.2 million. The cash reserve account is to meet expensive unanticipated contingencies, such as significant building repairs or expensive litigation. Reserve funds are not for routine expenses; but the BCC agreed to payment for certain capital expenditures out of the Reserve account.
- 3% property tax increase for FY2012 - All Commissioners agreed to take the property tax increase.
- Foregone tax increase for FY2012 - The majority of the BCC agreed to take the increase that was permitted but not taken for FY2011.
- Outside Agencies - The majority of the BCC agreed to fund all current Blaine County outside agencies at their FY2011 level. Two exceptions: The Blaine County Hunger Coalition will be increased from FY2011 \$5,000 to \$10,000 for FY2012; and Sustain Blaine, which was funded but not budgeted in FY2011, will be funded at \$5,000 for FY2012.
- The County Extension Office 4-H Coordinator and Administrative Assistant positions will be budgeted at the full amount. The University of Idaho job descriptions will be reviewed to provide more accountability to Blaine County, and focus on the County Fair.
- Blaine County employees will receive an across-the-board 1% cost-of-living raise. A few employees will be raised to market level compensation, and a few need to be reclassified to meet their current job description. Schoen said the BCC needed to reexamine the payscale of County employees, who are working hard to preserve community resources and should be compensated fairly; and to develop a performance-based merit pay system.
- Elected officials will be budgeted for the 1% cost-of-living raise, but not paid the raise until later in the year if County revenue meets or exceeds budget. McCleary felt elected positions should be paid a fair salary to enable anyone to run for office, since it is a full-time job. A public hearing will be held before actually raising the salaries of elected officials.
- County Annex building HVAC improvements must be made to forestall a complete and costly reinstallation. The McKinstry audit provides for retrofitting an originally improperly-installed HVAC system, and leverage of budgeted funds through performance contracting.
- The roof on the Old County Courthouse building is 50 years old and must be replaced. The roof is unsafe and could cause potential catastrophe to the historic building and its occupants.
- The BCC approved the ESRI Enterprise License upgrade for the GIS department, which will save the County money in the long run. The upgrade will result in a \$5,000 refund to the County.

McCleary said this budget was relatively stable and the County could continue to operate on a similar budget if revenues and federal funding in future years stay about the same.

**PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING**

Drage will represent BCC at a regional Redistricting meeting. The BCC supports the proposed L28 map, which keeps the district basically as it currently is. The alternately-proposed L34 Redistricting map greatly enlarges the district that includes Blaine County.

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**CLAIMS** – Blaine County Deputy Auditor Schar Boyd

**Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve Batch 1 of Claims dated August 3, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Jul-2011

<b>FUND 01</b>	<b>AGAINST GENERAL FUND</b>	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 251,274.25
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 250,053.48
Total July FICA		\$ 35,955.41
Total July Benefits		\$ 149,564.25
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 328,939.36</u>
Combined Total July Expense		\$1,015,786.75

<b>FUND 02</b>	<b>AGAINST ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 21,899.52	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 21,936.55	
Total July FICA		\$ 3,052.63	
Total July Benefits		\$ 14,047.31	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 96,082.73</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 157,018.74
<b>FUND 03</b>	<b>AGAINST ELECTION CONSOLIDATION</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 1,021.31	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 1,021.30	
Total July FICA		\$ 156.26	
Total July Benefits		\$ 773.60	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 128.88</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 3,101.35
<b>FUND 06</b>	<b>AGAINST DISTRICT COURT</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 1,892.31	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 1,892.31	
Total July FICA		\$ 264.86	
Total July Benefits		\$ 1,232.00	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 24,397.52</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 29,679.00
<b>FUND 16</b>	<b>AGAINST CHARITY &amp; INDIGENT</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 3,453.89	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 3,453.89	
Total July FICA		\$ 523.16	
Total July Benefits		\$ 1,840.48	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 7,777.90</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 17,049.32
<b>FUND 20</b>	<b>AGAINST REVALUATION</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 11,286.11	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 14,218.10	
Total July FICA		\$ 1,762.18	
Total July Benefits		\$ 8,400.52	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 1,256.97</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 36,923.88
<b>FUND 23</b>	<b>AGAINST SOLID WASTE</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 3,149.60	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 3,149.60	
Total July FICA		\$ 472.00	
Total July Benefits		\$ 1,868.74	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 5,380.59</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 14,020.53
<b>FUND 27</b>	<b>AGAINST NOXIOUS WEEDS</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 5,946.98	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 5,954.85	
Total July FICA		\$ 841.15	
Total July Benefits		\$ 3,464.76	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 18,379.12</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 34,586.86
<b>FUND 04</b>	<b>AGAINST AMBULANCE</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 159,099.95	\$ 159,099.95
<b>FUND 07</b>	<b>AGAINST COUNTY FAIR</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ -	\$ -
<b>FUND 11</b>	<b>AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 21,859.00	\$ 21,859.00
<b>FUND 12</b>	<b>AGAINST HISTORICAL SOC. &amp; MUSEUM</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ -	\$ -

<b>FUND 17</b>	<b>AGAINST JR. COLLEGE TUITION</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
<b>FUND 31</b>	<b>AGAINST PSF BOND REDEMPTION</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 591,028.75	\$ 591,028.75
<b>FUND 35</b>	<b>AGAINST NURSING HOME</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 214,270.94	\$ 214,270.94
<b>FUND 37</b>	<b>AGAINST SNOWMOBILE</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ -	\$ -
<b>FUND 38</b>	<b>AGAINST WATERWAYS</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 1,605.56	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 858.93	
Total July FICA		\$ 188.54	
Total July Benefits		\$ 264.45	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 2,764.05</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 5,681.53
<b>FUND 46</b>	<b>AGAINST E-911 EMERGENCY COMM</b>		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 14	\$ 4,282.40	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries July 28	\$ 4,282.40	
Total July FICA		\$ 650.42	
Total July Benefits		\$ 1,457.99	
Total July Bills		<u>\$ 39,053.87</u>	
Combined Total July Expense			\$ 49,727.08
<b>FUND 51</b>	<b>AGAINST LAND WATER &amp; WILDLIFE LEVY</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 3,615.50	\$ 3,615.50
<b>FUND 81</b>	<b>AGAINST LIABILITY INSURANCE</b>		
Total July Bills		\$ 92,468.00	\$ 92,468.00
	<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>		<b><u><u>\$2,447,117.18</u></u></b>

**AMEND AGENDA**

**Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to add Discussion and Consideration of Unanticipated Sheriff Office Restructure to the Blaine County Commissioners agenda for Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

At the hour of 12:37 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 JoLynn Drage  
 County Clerk  
 Angenie McCleary  
 Chairman