

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE FEBRUARY 2016 SESSION**

**Second Day**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Blaine County Administrative Services Manager Henry Brown; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Andy Kerstetter.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, Discussion and Consideration**

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

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Assessor Martha Heuston.

- County Treasurer John David Davidson said he was asked to serve on the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) Treasurers Education Committee. Davidson will present an Excel Workshop at the next IAC Treasurers Committee meeting.
- Treasurers in Idaho are working with Computer Arts to improve their software programs.
- The New York Stock Exchange recently experienced a downward trend, raising fear of another recession and causing people to invest in lower-risk government bonds, which reduced investment yields.
- Two bonds called last month realized profits for the County.
- A Sage School teacher would like to initiate a mentor program with the County Treasurer's office.

**County Administrator - Derek Voss**

- Submitted application to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for Brownfields program grant funding to assess environmental concerns at the former Blaine Manor property.
- County's Workman's Compensation policy has been reviewed. Premium will be reduced 26% based on the County's good experience over the last four years.

**Document Management**

- Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson; Chief Deputy Assessor Martha Heuston; Social Media Services Provider Bronwyn Nickel.
- Blaine County Administrator Derek Voss has been working on a system to make the Blaine County Code and other County documents (Right-of-Way Management Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Employee-Manager Handbook, etc.) clear, coherent and consistent with each other.

**TAX CANCELLATION REQUESTS**

**Shawn Tierney – Parcel No. PP1P00000B9070**

The restaurant closed in 2014, and the Assessor was not notified of the closure. The Sheriff could not locate the owner or a current address for the owner. Taxes for 2014 were \$742.52, minus a payment of \$511.50, for a 2014 total of \$263.02.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to cancel personal property taxes on Parcel #PP1P00000B9070 for \$263.02 for the second half of tax year 2014; and \$870.14 for all of tax year 2015, based upon information provided by treasurer and assessor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Idaho Park Foundation – Parcel RP0049300000B0**

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to cancel taxes on Parcel #RP0049300000B0 of \$595.33 for tax year 2015, based upon information provided by treasurer and assessor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Amanda C Karst – Parcel No. RPH034500C0020**

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to cancel taxes on Parcel #RPH034500C0020 for a total of \$450.22 for tax year 2015, based upon information provided by treasurer and assessor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Junior College Residency forms:**

College of Southern Idaho: Fall 2015-Spring 2016 Dual Credit: Jordan Bjorkman, Ashley Carnduff, John Carney, Lizbeth Ceja Cervantes, Jackeline Chanco Barbaran, Danielle Doerflein, Matthew Galgano, Galvan Jhojan, Mason Johnson, Nathan Lambert, Henry Levy, Andrea Palencia, Anthony Pina, Kenneth Pratt, Gina Pulleiro, Kenneth Reay, Logan Scarbrough, Matthew Stellers, Olivia Stimac, and Chandler Wakefield.

College of Western Idaho, Fall 2015-Spring 2016 Dual Credit: Jens Blackman, Matthew Galgano, Owen Gifford, Mason Johnson, Katherine Lemma, and Lillian Worst.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the Consent Calendar for February 16, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **MOUNTAIN RIDES GENERAL UPDATE**

Also present: Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller and Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Kaz Thea; and Blaine County Social Media Services Provider Bronwyn Nickel.

Mountain Rides report:

- 2014 and 2015 were record-setting years with around 500,000 riders. Ski days affect rider days. The 2014-15 snow wasn't that great, but 2015-16 snow was the best in years.
- Ridership has increased in spite of low gas prices.
- Zero at-fault accidents for past two years.
- Mountain Rides organization is focusing on better training and training materials.
- The new South Valley facility will provide parking and maintenance for the Valley route buses, Mountain Rides offices, a Bellevue bus stop and park and ride lot.

Upcoming Projects:

- "Where's the bus?" cellphone app.
- Staff will renew effort on a Ketchum hub.
- Mountain Rides anticipates increased federal transit funding from ITD starting in October, 2016. Plans are to improve infrastructure and increase Valley route service, including an airport connection and possibly service connection to/from Twin Falls.
- Increased use of the website bus schedule has reduced the number of printed schedules by half.
- Staff are looking at battery electric buses that operate cheaper, save energy, run cleaner and reduce emissions.

Commissioner Schoen was pleased that a Federal Transit Administration representative from Seattle attended the South Valley facility opening celebration. Mountain Rides was recognized for its unprecedented history of receiving numerous grants.

## **BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Also present: Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller and Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Kaz Thea.

- Bellevue and Carey are now actively participating in the working group.
- The original Master Plan indicated a route for a potential bike path connection through Hailey neighborhoods, causing great concern among residents in the area. The new map clarifies that a connection is desirable, but not at all proposed at this time.
- Hailey allocated \$700,000 for infrastructure upgrades downtown and in residential neighborhoods.
- The Wood River Valley should get League of American Bicyclists Gold Standard status now that a bicycle/pedestrian master plan is in place.

## **FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT NOISE ABATEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The BCC will nominate members for this committee, and the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority will confirm the nominations. The BCC thanked the three individuals for their willingness to serve.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to nominate Commissioner Jacob Greenberg, Patrick Buchanan and Lisa Phillips as Blaine County's representatives to the airport's soon-to-be-formed Noise Abatement Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS, Discussion and Consideration**

- **MOU between Blaine County, Idaho and 700MHz P25 Compliant Radio System** ... Not recorded
- Also present: Blaine County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers.

This is a template Memorandum of Understanding that outlines responsibilities between Blaine County and users of the P25 Compliant Radio System. Individual MOUs with users will be signed and recorded.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve MOU between Blaine County and each of the user agencies using the 700MHz compliant radio system for interoperable communications. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS, Discussion and Consideration**

**Idaho Association of Counties Midwinter Conference** - Commissioners

- A representative of the Idaho Liquor Commission explained to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting how the system works and why he thinks it is good system. Counties receive a percentage of liquor sales revenue, which must first be used to subsidize local residency junior college tuitions. Any excess funds are put into the County's General Fund each year.
- Primary Care Access Program (PCAP) funding was defeated in legislative committee.

**Wood River Wolf Project Update** – Schoen

- The Wood River Wolf Project, now under Lava Lake Institute management, held an organizational meeting last week. Lava Lake, working with the Governor's office for Species Conservation, has submitted an application for reimbursement for the 2014-15 project year and for funding help for the 2016 grazing season.
- "Starter kits", including equipment to help herders deter predators, will be distributed to permittees operating in Blaine County allotments in the Wolf River Wolf Project area. Staff assistance in how to use them is available.

### **NACo Energy, Environment and Land Use (EELU) Conference Call – Schoen**

EELU hosted a presentation on water/wastewater infrastructure. The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) provides technical support and helps with funding for water/wastewater infrastructure in western states. RCAC assisted Bellevue with their new wastewater facility. Blaine County may pursue funding opportunities for potential South Gateway water needs.

### **South Central Behavioral Health Board Meeting – McCleary**

- Contract is in place for South Central Public Health to provide administrative services for South Central Behavioral Health Board (SCBHB).
- SCBHB Steering Committee has submitted bylaws and goals / responsibilities to the entire SCBHB for approval.
- A proposal for a crisis center in Twin Falls has been submitted to Idaho Health and Welfare.

### **Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Steering Committee Meeting – McCleary**

The Steering Committee is actively preparing for the June workshop. Sawtooth Vision 20/20 workshop continues to receive private and public funding contributions.

### **NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence Program – Greenberg**

The BCC supported ARCH Community Housing Executive Director Michele Griffith's application to participate in the 18-month NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence program for non-profit directors. Housing Liaison Schoen will write a letter of support.

### **Sun Valley Economic Development (SVED) Meeting – Greenberg**

SVED emphasis is still on workforce housing, including community discussion on zoning and what elected officials can do to decrease housing costs.

### **Ketchum – McCleary**

- McCleary and Ketchum Mayor Nina Jonas discussed a 9-acre parcel that the County wants to transfer to the City of Ketchum. Ketchum asked the County to control weeds in the area, which was done. Then Ketchum asked the County to do a survey and more restoration work. McCleary will ask the mayor if Ketchum is interested in the property, or if the County should look for another interested party.
- Ketchum and Sun Valley are very interested in the County's yew ordinance. The Sun Valley City Council will review the yew ordinance at an upcoming meeting.
- Ketchum is exploring the concept of a dark sky reserve somewhere in Blaine / Custer counties. McCleary will propose the idea at the Sawtooth 20/20 Vision workshop in June.

### **Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Newsletter – McCleary**

FMAA newsletters put out by FMAA's consultant sometimes present confusing information. McCleary will suggest to Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird that future newsletters be reviewed and edited prior to distribution.

### **Transfer Fair Board Property to Carey – Schoen**

Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves will draft a resolution and quit claim deeds for the County and Fair Board to transfer a parcel and a strip of property from the Fair Board and Blaine County directly to the City of Carey.

### **Deer Creek Project on Land, Water and Wildlife Agenda – Schoen**

Commissioner Schoen told the BCC that he was a co-signer on a letter to the newspaper editor, objecting to the Deer Creek project on public land as against the intent of the Land, Water and Wildlife Levy program. Commissioner McCleary said she disagreed with Schoen about the intent of the Levy program, and was surprised that he had written an op-ed prior to the first hearing.

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

- **January 5, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- **January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- **January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting**

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve County Commissioner minutes of January 5, January 19, and January 26, 2016, as amended. Commissioner Schoen was not present at the January 19 meeting, but read the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **BREAK**

## **LAND USE AND BUILDING SERVICES, Discussion and Consideration**

- **2016 Emergency Stream Alteration Permit (SAP) Flooding Procedure Overview**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley; County Engineer Jeff Loomis; and County Disaster Services Coordinator Chuck Turner.

This is pre-review of the emergency stream alteration process, in anticipation of potential flooding emergencies this spring. The application form hasn't changed. At least two County Commissioners need to approve or deny an ESAP application. McCleary suggested there be one Commissioner on call, on rotation. Staff suggest the County Engineer and Land Use Administrator be on call as well.

The BCC will ask County Attorney Graves to review Open Meeting Law for any necessary emergency meeting notice requirements. Normally, staff will contact Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) for approval of an Emergency Stream Alteration Permit; but if there's no time, County Commissioners will be asked to approve the ESAP without state or federal (Army Corps of Engineers) approval.

The SAP application doesn't specify a definite period of time for site inspection post ESAP. Staff suggest it be until the applicant completes work described in their follow-up regular SAP.

• **Blaine County Public Interest Water Use Policy**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Wood River Land Trust Project Coordinator Patti Lousen; Idaho Conservation League Water Associate Marie Kellner (by phone); Bellevue Development Services Director Diane Shay; water quality advocate Wendy Pabich; Idaho Conservation League Community Engagement Associate Betsy Mizell; and Carl Loomis.

Water administration in Idaho is changing. The West is experiencing long-term drought, a declining aquifer, and probable future impacts of climate change; and the Blaine County community wants to be proactive in good water use policy and planning. Schoen would like to see Blaine County's Water Policy updated, particularly in water right applications that pose potential risk to the County's water supply.

Idaho Code Titles 42 and 43 refer to water law. County Attorney Tim Graves said the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) applies several standards, including "local public interest", to water rights applications, but is not bound by local public interest. Commissioner Schoen said Blaine County's input is taken seriously, and has affected IDWR's decisions. County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin said common applications today throughout the Wood River Valley are conversions from surface to groundwater, which can impact local water availability.

The BCC discussed whether they should form a committee and/or include experts in their policymaking.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Idaho Conservation League Water Associate Marie Kellner appreciates Blaine County's concern about water policy, and agrees that IDWR considers local insight. Kellner emphasized protection of in-stream flow water rights in Blaine County; and encouraged attention to local policy to ensure that future water use and mitigation proposals have a strong public benefit and aren't implemented at the expense of a healthy river.
- Wendy Pabich commended the BCC on pursuing a water use policy.
- Wood River Land Trust Project Coordinator Patti Lousen suggested the water policy address the local water aquifer and potential of shepherding water.

Groundwater is the source of potable water in Blaine County, but is junior in conjunctive management. As groundwater is withdrawn, the aquifer declines and residents are having to deepen their wells. The BCC will discuss water policy further, and prepare to respond to future water right applications.

• **Resolution #2016-04, North Griffin Loop Partial Road Transfer** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Resolution #2016-04, a resolution of the Blaine County Commissioners declaring the transfer of certain property—a portion of Griffin Loop Road south of the City of Carey—to the City of Carey on the basis that it is in the public interest. Motion carried unanimously.**

**LAND, WATER AND WILDLIFE LEVY, Discussion and Consideration**

• **Transmittal letter for Land, Water and Wildlife Levy Program Process Review**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; and Blaine County Land, Water and Wildlife Levy Advisory Board Coordinator Clare Swanger.

The BCC suggested minor adjustments. Swanger will present a new draft to the BCC at an upcoming meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Idaho Code 74-206 1(b) Personnel**, to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code, 74-206 1(b) Personnel, to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. Roll call: Schoen (aye), McCleary (aye), and Greenberg (aye). Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 3:11 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

JoLynn Drage  
County Clerk

Jacob Greenberg  
Chairman