

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FEBRUARY 2011 SESSION**

Fifth Day – Evening Special Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2011

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen, Blaine County Sheriff Walt Femling, Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos, Blaine County Prosecutor Jim Thomas, Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal; *Twin Falls Times-News* reporter Ariel Hansen; KECH Radio reporter Sue Bailey; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Blaine County Sheriff Selection

The three final candidates—Gene Ramsey, Larry Clark and Phil English—were asked the following questions:

Opening Question:

Why do you want to be the Blaine County Sheriff and what distinguishes you from the other candidates?

Question 1: What key aspects of the Sheriff's Department could you change or maintain from the current administration and why?

Question 2: What are the most important issues facing law enforcement in Blaine County? If appointed, how do you plan to meet the challenges presented by those issues?

Question 3: What makes you qualified to handle the responsibility of managing a multi-million dollar department and supervising more than eighty employees?

Question 4: Do you support the current trend of contractual consolidation of law enforcement resources between the Sheriff's Department and the cities of Bellevue and Ketchum and would you continue these relationships in the future? Why or why not?

Question 5: Police officers have the ability to use a certain amount of discretion in enforcing the law. Please describe those situations, if any, where you would enforce the law less strictly and explain why.

Question 6: Describe what leadership role the Sheriff plays in our community as a whole.

Question 7: There are many agencies, organizations, and groups that the Sheriff works with on a daily basis. Explain how you would interact, collaborate, and cooperate with these various groups.

Question 8: The Sheriff is an elected official who runs a County department. Explain how you perceive the Sheriff's Department within County government as a whole.

Question 9: Do you intend to run for the office of Blaine County Sheriff in the next general election? Why or why not?

Question 10: Success or failure in a complex criminal case often depends upon the quality of the initial police investigation. Using specific examples, describe your experience in conducting criminal investigations and explain your investigative philosophy.

Question 11: The Sheriff is responsible for responding to county emergencies. Please explain your leadership approach in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Question 12: Is there anything in your background that would embarrass Blaine County or cast doubt upon your qualifications for the office of Sheriff?

Question 13: Is there anything else you would like us to know as we consider you for the position of Sheriff?

Additional Question from Tom Bowman: How will you work with ITD to keep Highway 75 open during construction?

The BCC deliberated about the three candidates, commenting on their experience on the job and educational backgrounds.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to appoint Gene Ramsey as Sheriff, effective upon his swearing in on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 7:44 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage Angenie McCleary
County Clerk Chairman