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**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JULY 2012 SESSION**

**Sixth Day**

**Monday, July 16, 2012**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

• **Budget Officer Update**

Also present: Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey.

County Clerk/Budget Officer JoLynn Drage presented a new list of FY2013 Budget Assumptions and Questions for BCC review. Drage also gave the BCC a new Schedule of Proposed Expenditures for tax-supported funds.

**Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to convene as the Blaine County Ambulance District. Motion passed unanimously.**

**BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT**

Also present: Wood River Fire Protection District Asst. Chief Jeff Nevins; and Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Wood River Fire District James Frehling.

The Budget Officer said FY2013 Ambulance District revenues are projected based on the increased rates currently being reviewed by the Ambulance District.

**Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to reconvene as the Blaine County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.**

**BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECONVENE**

• **Tax-Supported Funds, continued - Remaining County Departments**

**Assessor and Revaluation** – Chief Deputy Assessor Carma Angelo

Also present: *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

The BCC discussed funding requests from the Assessor's Office: additional advertising and postage, revaluation Apex software licenses and Cost Estimator, and revaluation capital equipment. The Assessor said their office computers are old and need to be updated. The BCC felt the Assessor's Office did not align their budget requests with the BCC's strategic plan; and questioned the computer request outside of the IT Department's budget request.

**Coroner**

The Coroner requested an increase in the Autopsy line item. The BCC did not increase the Coroner's budget, but directed the Commissioner liaison to make sure the Coroner knew his needs would be financially supported from the Contingency fund if necessary.

**Commissioners** – County Commission Chairman Angenie McCleary

The Commissioners travel budget is increased to include two National Association of Counties

1 (NACo) conferences. The BCC approved the Commissioners budget.

2  
3 **Land Use and Building Services** – Blaine County Planning Assistant Michele Johnson  
4 The overall LUBS budget is lower than last year. The South Gateway project is expected to progress  
5 in FY2013, and is difficult to budget for. The BCC should discuss some way to set aside funds for  
6 priority projects for a given year.

7  
8 **Human Resources** – Blaine County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek  
9 Blaine County staff salaries have been increased very minimally in the last four years, with the  
10 exception of those employees whose job description and grades have changed. The BCC is  
11 considering raising the health insurance deductible in FY2013 in order to keep healthcare costs  
12 affordable for the County.

13  
14 The BCC discussed compensation increase for elected officials, including the County Commissioners.  
15 The BCC was uncomfortable giving themselves a raise, but their jobs are professional leadership  
16 positions with responsibilities that affect the lives of many people. Their jobs are more than full-time  
17 and require total commitment. The County feels elected positions should pay sufficiently to attract  
18 professionals.

19  
20 The BCC directed staff to form an objective citizens committee to evaluate and make  
21 recommendations for fair and appropriate salaries for elected officials.

22  
23 PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

24  
25 **Contracts for services with outside agencies:** • **Sawtooth Vision 20/20** • **Sustain Blaine**  
26 • **Blaine County Housing Authority** • **Mountain Rides** • **Region IV Development**  
27 • **Senior Connection** • **Blaine County Drug Coalition** • **Resource Worker** • **The Advocates**  
28 • **South Central Community Action** • **The Hunger Coalition** • **Crisis Hotline** • **YAK!**  
29 • **Wood River Wolf Project** • **Historical Society and Museum** • **Animal Shelter**  
30 • **Health District** • **Mental Health** • **Fly Sun Valley Alliance** • **Girls on the Run**  
31 • **Community Transportation Association of Idaho (CTAI).**

32 Also present: Hunger Coalition Executive Director Jeanne Liston; Mountain Rides Executive Director  
33 Jason Miller and Mountain Rides Board Member/County representative Jim Jaquet; St. Luke's Center  
34 for Community Health Manager Erin Pfaeffle; Blaine County Senior Connection Board Member Dale  
35 Ewersen; Blaine County School District Social Worker Jeanette McIlhenny; Blaine County Historical  
36 Museum Bob MacLeod; Blaine County Housing Authority Board President Linda Thorson and BCHA  
37 Program Administrator Shalynn Peirsal.

38 The BCC has contracts for service with outside agencies that perform services for Blaine County  
39 residents, usually at a cost-benefit ratio better than the County can provide. Only organizations that  
40 receive \$20,000 or more annually have their own line item in the budget.

41  
42 The County must fund organizations as required by statute. The County should fund organizations  
43 that it originally created, and those organizations that are loosely considered part of County  
44 operations. The BCC has to consider whether it will fund organizations that are mostly funded by  
45 philanthropic organizations. Commissioners each listed those organizations that they would choose to  
46 fund. McCleary hoped that funding in-county mental treatment-related programs would reduce the  
47 cost for mental holds.

48  
49 Bowman reminded the BCC that outcome based budgeting required them to consider their expenses  
50 before comparing expenses to revenue. The BCC didn't want to increase last year's funding level for  
51 outside agencies unless the organization presented a good reason for the increase. The BCC decided  
52 against funding Fly Sun Valley Alliance, since the organization is asking for a 1% local option tax.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Hunger Coalition’s financial need is increasing, along with the number of people they serve. The Hunger Coalition saved over \$300,000 last year by using volunteers. The BCC agreed that the Hunger Coalition has a direct impact on the County Services and Indigent program.

The Blaine County Housing Authority recently hired a neighborhood housing agency to offer foreclosure counseling free to the public. Foreclosures cost the entire community, especially in reduced property values.

The Senior Connection reduced their request because their revenue has increased from outreach programs. The Connection’s in-field caregivers are keeping people from going to Blaine Manor, which is a direct savings to the County. Seniors are spending down their assets quicker than anticipated, which will increase Medicaid numbers.

**Blaine County Fair**

Also present: Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter.

The Blaine County Fair’s request is the same as last year. The Fair Board is developing and expanding Fair programs and events for the future. The Fairgrounds structures may be eligible for the County’s Capital Improvements Plan.

**Coroner**

The County has to plan for the future when the current coroner retires.

- **Contracts for Services**

- Extension Office** – Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter

The BCC agreed to retain both Extension office positions.

- **Public Defenders**

All public defenders but one are content with their current contract. If the public defenders request an increase in the future, the County should put the contract to bid. In the meantime, the State is revising their public defender process.

The public defenders would like the County to have a staff interpreter, but have not provided information to support their request.

- **County Engineer**

The current county engineer is retiring. His extensive historic knowledge and experience will be difficult to replace. The County may look for a local engineer, but has to be careful about conflict of interest. Road and Bridge may require more assistance from the county engineer in the future. The budgeted amount for the County Engineer will remain the same for now.

**BREAK**

**DELIBERATIONS ON TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Also present: Blaine County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek; Chief Deputy Sheriff Ed Fuller; Recycle Center Supervisor and Waterways Coordinator Lamar Waters; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

The Budget Officer distributed an up-to-date FY-2013 Budget Assumptions and Questions.

Budget discussions:

- Emergency dispatch contracts. The emergency dispatch budget remains as set.

- 1 • Capital Improvement Plan breakdown. The Capital Improvement Plan is for large expenses over
- 2 \$5,000.
- 3 • The BCC further discussed compensation for elected officials, including the County
- 4 Commissioners.
- 5 • A budget adjustment can open the budget and draw funds from the Contingency and Reserve
- 6 funds. The Reserve Fund should be at least 15% of the budget, plus enough to cover expenses
- 7 for the first quarter of the following year.
- 8 • The Capital Improvement Fund represents years of deferred maintenance that should have been
- 9 done long ago.
- 10 • Excess funds in the Contingency Account can be moved to the Capital Improvement Plan at the
- 11 end of the year.
- 12 • Fuel depot – The BCC put in the Capital Improvement Fund. The BCC supports the depot as a
- 13 good opportunity to partner with other jurisdictions and all save money .
- 14 • County positions: Budgeted for one more employee in the jail, one less in County Welfare.
- 15 Court security position – Campus security for court, and also for the Annex, is a long-standing
- 16 concern. The new position would be a permanent increase, which is a financial concern for the
- 17 BCC. Will leave in the tentative budget for now.
- 18 • Clerk’s office – Two positions will receive step increases. Consensus of the BCC was that
- 19 employees cross-trained in other positions align with the BCC’s strategic objectives to increase
- 20 customer service and efficiency, and demonstrate departmental leadership.
- 21 • Croy Canyon Ranch Foundation property. The BCC can't support a project that relies on a large
- 22 ongoing County subsidy; but aren't ready to discuss a decision on the CCRF property.
- 23 • Voss suggested a \$106,000 Elected Officials Compensation fund should be established to cover
- 24 salary increases for all elected officials. Some of this fund can be used for the County
- 25 Commissioners if the Elected Officials Compensation Committee recommends they get a salary
- 26 increase. Staff directed the HR Generalist to make a list of duties of elected officials, as well as a
- 27 list of current County projects and BCC liaison assignments.
- 28 • The County Welfare budget is reduced by over \$60,000.
- 29 • The BCC agreed to continue funding jail programs. Blaine County has adopted a policy of helping
- 30 people come out of jail better equipped than they went in.

31  
32 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

33 Rick Baird suggested the Clerk’s office be considered similar to a federal program that compensates  
34 individuals based on a percentage of savings.

35  
36 Gene Ramsey said the jail programs are enabling jail inmates, who are writing resumes and getting  
37 jobs. Inmate-on-inmate violence has been reduced.

38  
39 **ADJOURN**

40 At the hour of 4:09 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

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43  
44 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
45 JoLynn Drage Angenie McCleary  
46 County Clerk Chairman