OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JULY 2011 SESSION

Eighth Day **Thursday, July 21, 2011**

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; Operations Director Char Nelson; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

OUTCOME-BASED BUDGET WORKSHOP

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves, Operations Director Char Nelson, GIS Program Manager Joel Hall, Emergency Communications Director Beth English, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Ed Fuller.

Hall reiterated his request to upgrade the ESRI enterprise license. The County would incur additional costs and impacts on employees and departments if the license is not brought up-to-date.

The BCC outlined their individual proposals for the FY2012 budget.

Schoen proposed:
- Not take the 3% increase or foregone property tax.
- Increase County employee salaries by 2 or 3%, but cut employee hours and County service hours to cover the revenue shortfall.
- Not fund outside community services, with the following exceptions:
  - Fund Community Resource Worker as one-time capital expense; and
  - Fund Housing Authority, Mountain Rides, and Senior Connection at an amount lower than requested.

McCleary said the County had to maintain fiscal stability while providing state-mandated and necessary public services.
- Raising property taxes is one of the few ways the County gets revenue.
- Elected official positions should be available to anyone. People won't run for office if the positions are not fairly compensated.

Bowman said there were unintended consequences of not funding community services, and further delaying building repairs. He supported:
- Funding community services at FY2011 levels to give them a year to adjust to lack of County funding in the future.
- All County Human Resource recommendations, including reclassification and market-rate salary adjustments, and a 1% cost-of-living raise.
- Past-due building repairs, paid for out of the cash reserve account.
- Taking 3% property tax increase, and foregone amount. The County tax bill decreases this year with the end of Land, Water and Wildlife levy.
- Formation of an independent committee to review an increase for elected officials.

McCleary and Bowman agreed on FY2012 Budget Expenses. On FY2012 Budget Revenues, Bowman proposed paying for one-time capital expenses out of the reserve account. McCleary preferred to pay for one-time capital expenditures later in the fiscal year, providing federal PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds came in as anticipated.

The BCC made the following key tentative decisions.

Revenue
- The BCC agreed by majority to take property tax for new construction, the 3% increase for FY2012, and last year's foregone amount.
- The BCC agreed to increase state revenue sharing estimates from $510,000 to $540,000

Expenses
The BCC:
- Reconsidered and agreed to fund the ESRI enterprise license.
- Agreed by majority to fund outside agencies at FY2011 levels
- Agreed by majority to fund employee compensation adjustments totaling approximately $200,000.
- Agreed to change health insurance carriers from Blue Shield to Blue Cross.
- Agreed to lower its contingency fund from $200,000 to $100,000.
- Agreed to pay for one-time capital expenses out of cash reserves

ADJOURN

At the hour of 1:19 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____

JoLynn Drage
County Clerk

Angenie McCleary
Chairman