

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE JULY 2013 SESSION**

Sixth Day

Tuesday, July 24, 2013

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:30 a.m. Present were Chairman Lawrence Schoen, Vice-Chairman Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Jacob Greenberg; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy Clerk Leslie Londos; Operations Director Char Nelson; County Planning Assistant Michele Johnson; County GIS Program Manager Joel Hall; County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek; County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon; County Jail Administrator Captain Jay Davis; County Chief Deputy Sheriff Ed Fuller; Blaine County Assessor Valdi Pace; Blaine County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; County Sheriff Command Staff Assistant Holly Carter; County GIS Analyst/CAD Administrator Chris Corwin; Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter; Blaine Manor Interim Director Stephanie Jaskowski; Blaine Manor Board Chairman Marsha Riemann; County Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Mountain Express* reporter Greg Moore.

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

BLAINE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR TENTATIVE 2014 BUDGET – PUBLIC MEETING

Budget Officer Update

Blaine County Budget Officer JoLynn Drage gave the BCC a sheet of FY2014 Tentative Budget Assumptions and Questions.

- The current tentative budget includes a revised Blue Cross health insurance program, a 1% merit increase pool for managers to draw on for employees, 1% Market Adjustment for employees, and \$30,000 for any adjustments for employees that are out of step or out of grade.
- The original premium increase for Blue Cross health insurance was 15.89%, which was negotiated down to 10.7%. Blaine County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek presented the BCC with several options for health insurance, and the BCC decided the best balance was “Option 11”, which raises the deductible for both individuals and families, and lowers the dependent contribution percentage from 50% to 40%. The revised plan cost is a 4.2% increase.
- Blaine County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon presented IT’s revised budget.
- The County Contingency Fund was reduced from \$200,000 to \$150,000. The BCC has budgeted very carefully in recent years and hasn’t used the contingency fund as much as in the past.
- Blaine County Jail Administrator Captain Jay Davis explained that the jail had to pay for mental holds until they can be committed to a Health and Welfare facility, at a cost of \$2,000/day. Davis explained other jail- and inmate-related expenses. Rehabilitation programs in the jail are very important to inmates and avoiding recidivism.
- Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter explained the budget increase for the Extension Office and 4-H program. The VISTA volunteer would need a budget to promote 4-H and Science Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) programs in local schools.
- The budget includes funding for new full-time Jail Central Control and Court Security personnel to improve risk management and campus security.
- At least \$50,000 is needed in the Public Defender line item to pay for a new public defender for the Sarah Johnson case.
- Road and Bridge requested a budget increase for surveying services and a mechanic position.
- Nursing home budget needs money to cover final transition costs.
- USGS will present a draft on the final phase of a water quality study of the Big Wood River in September. BCC left the line item in, although there may not be any more expenses for the study.
- Mountain Rides requested an increase of \$29,000 since Federal funding may be severely reduced in the next year and Bellevue is no longer expected to contribute a bus facility. The BCC wanted Mountain Rides service, including Bellevue service, to remain largely as is. The BCC discussed allowing Mountain Rides to purchase or lease two County lots in Bellevue.

Blaine County Employee and Elected Officials Compensation

The BCC disagreed about whether elected officials should be included on the Blaine County “Kinds and Levels chart” and where elected officials should be on the Kinds and Levels chart.

- Schoen didn’t think Commissioners should be on the Kinds and Levels charts.
- Staff states that, if elected officials were on the K&L chart, they would be subject to County K&L policy; except Commissioners should be at hiring range level for that position. A \$30,000 salary increase should be phased in over three years. Blaine County Commissioners work full-time in the county with a high cost of living.
- Greenberg said the BCC should be fairly compensated, within budget possibility, and avoid political implications.

The situation with the sheriff is difficult because a chief deputy sheriff with longer tenure will soon make as much as the sheriff. The sheriff can be brought up to mid-market rate if necessary.

- Voss suggested that including the Commissioners on the Kinds and Levels chart gave their position structure within the county. Blaine County needed to attract, motivate and retain people of the highest quality, regardless of socio-economic status, in all positions, including County Commissioner. County Commissioners are on “probation” during their entire elected term, and get little recognition of their efforts.
- Schoen presented a 2013 Idaho Association of Counties Salary Survey for Elected Officials. Full-time County officials—Commissioners, Assessor, Treasurer, and Clerk—are generally aligned, more or less. The Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff make more. Schoen proposed that Blaine County’s elected officials be on the Kinds and Levels chart at the Intro Market Level, and raised to the Mid-Market Range in the future.
- McCleary said Blaine County needed to fill all elected official positions with management skills and expertise in a wide range of knowledge to run a professional organization.

The BCC has made policy decisions that have kept Blaine County in good financial health during a challenging time. The County continues to implement policy that supports and compensates all employees and elected officials in order to encourage qualified individuals to want to be part of the County organization.

The BCC discussed implementing policy at once or in annual steps.

Break

SET TENTATIVE FY2014 BUDGET

McCleary moved, seconded by Greenberg, to approve a tentative FY2014 budget in the amount of \$25,301,994. In discussion, the BCC thanked the Budget Officer, the Chief Deputy Clerk, the County Administrator, Human Resources Generalist and all Blaine County staff who helped create the FY2014 budget. The budget is an outcome-based team effort that takes communication between all departments and the Commissioners. The BCC thanks all departments for working together to accomplish strategic objectives. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:18 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
 JoLynn Drage Lawrence Schoen
 County Clerk Chairman