

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JUNE 2016 SESSION**

Sixth Day

Monday, June 20, 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; Chief Deputy Assessor Martha Heuston; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Andy Kerstetter.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Prosecuting Attorney

The Blaine County Prosecuting Attorneys' FY2017 Budget report was cancelled due to scheduling conflict, so the BCC recessed until 10:30 a.m.

**FY2017 COUNTY DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS
WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Land Use and Building Services – Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin
Also present: Blaine County Planning Assistant Michele Johnson.

Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin presented an overview of FY2016 accomplishments and the FY2017 budget request, including:

- Staff continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan Update, chapter by chapter. The FY2017 budget includes a funding request to complete the Comp Plan.
- Adopted updated Building Code, Fire Code and Energy Conservation Code.
- Training and retraining staff. Staff presented a list of Land Use and Building Services staff and their individual skills and certifications, which are necessary for the department to administer and regulate local land use and building codes.
- Bergin said basing compensation increases on a set percentage gave him the biggest increase. He thought some mid-level people in his department should get a higher percentage for doing the day-to-day work that enabled the department to function well.
- Bergin suggested the BCC consider a Housing component to the employee benefits package.

The BCC suggested a Projects and Priorities joint meeting with the P&Z Commission.

Land, Water and Wildlife Levy Program – Blaine County Land, Water and Wildlife (LWW) Program Coordinator Clare Swanger.

Also present: Levy Advisory Board member Jay Sevy.

LWW Program Coordinator Clare Swanger said the LWW levy program had to date contributed \$1.4 million (matched by \$1.7 million) to projects that are mostly completed, with ongoing monitoring. If pending applications are funded at 100% of the requested amount, the LWW fund will have a balance of \$208,750, before any operating expenses, so it's possible all LWW funds will be allocated in FY2017.

- LWW won Idaho Chapter of American Planning Association award for Best Implementation Program.
- The LWW Levy Advisory Board (LAB) is a diverse group of very engaged people.
- Requested \$500 - continued membership in The Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts.

College Tuition – Blaine County Clerk JoLynn Drage

Junior college tuition reimbursements are paid from liquor funds. Blaine County gets more than enough money every year to cover the junior college contribution. Excess funds go into the General Fund.

Blaine County Commissioners – County Commissioner Chairman Jacob Greenberg

Also present: Sarah Michael.

Chairman Greenberg suggested the BCC take a group approach in future budget years, instead of focusing on individual projects. He would like to consider impacts on the community to determine objectives and goals and strategic alignment. The BCC presented goals for the Commissioners to consider in FY2017:

- Consider the need for and provision of workforce and middle-income housing, regional planning, zoning, and the economic impact of workers who work here but don't live in the county.
- Airport runway protection zone area is a huge issue, and will have an economic impact, in addition to increased landing reliability.
- Diversify the County's economic base beyond tourism, which will happen if affordable housing is available.
- Enable growth balanced with environmental impacts, enough water and infrastructure.
- Capital expenditure plan, to include County roads and bridges, the exterior of the Old County Courthouse, and Judicial Building renovation.
- Discuss what's appropriate to keep in reserve fund and what should be used to fund capital expenditures.

- The County Annex climate control system.

The BCC suggested other goals and outcomes:

- Environmental concerns, including a Community Wildlife Protection Plan; Dark Sky Reserve; update local water use policy and regional water conservation, and regional climate change planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Blaine County resident Sarah Michael agreed that affordable housing is a County priority. Five hundred mobile homes in Blaine County provide much-needed affordable housing, and the County should consider reviewing policies concerning mobile homes and mobile home parks. Michael added that many mobile homes are on septic systems.
- Michael suggested the BCC revisit County policy whereby property tax revenue is not used to maintain roads and bridges.

BREAK

**FY2017 COUNTY DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS
WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CONTINUED**

Blaine County Sheriff – Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Sheriff Steve Harkins; Patrol Captain Curtis Miller; Lieutenant Bryan Carpita; Blaine County Detention Captain Jay Davis; Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner; Sheriff's Command Staff Assistant Holly Carter; and Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator Chuck Turner.

Sheriff's department morale is good and there is fairly good retention. The Sheriff is required by law to do certain things, and everything they do is high liability. Sheriff Ramsey and staff highlighted FY2016 accomplishments:

- Six active search and rescue call-outs; including one large 51-square-mile search with 14 different local, state and federal agencies.
- Received grants to purchase a new drone and large TV for search and rescue.
- Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) detectives were involved in 45 cases that included large amounts of drugs and firearms, most of which were not actually located in Blaine County.
- The Sheriff's updated website is being used; and the Sheriff's Facebook page, which can provide leads in urgent situations, has had 1.1 million views.
- Sheriff's lunch program, where officers frequently have lunch with kids in elementary schools in Ketchum, Hailey and Carey. The Sheriff hopes to expand the program to other schools and include representatives of other local agencies.
- Increased 16 Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) instructors to teach various certifications in 14 disciplines.
- Idaho Department of Recreation awards grants for all-terrain vehicles and off-highway vehicles for backroads patrol, Forest Service and BLM patrols that are dispatched mostly based on complaints.

Sheriff Ramsey and staff presented the FY2017 budget request:

- A few higher-paid long-term employees recently retired and were replaced by lower-paid newer employees, resulting in savings in the Personnel budget.
- Reinstate spending removed in last year's budget.
- \$63,683 - At the BCC's request, the Sheriff made personnel cuts in previously years to reduce the department budget, and asked the BCC to consider \$19,069 to cover the cost of reinstating a bailiff to provide judicial court building security for the safety of the public and court personnel.
- \$5,000 - an increase in the overtime budget. By increasing hourly wage with merit increases, overtime expense has increased, which has reduced overtime hours.
- Bulletproof vests must be replaced every 5 years. Each vest costs \$850, and grants cover most of the cost.
- \$20,000 increase for vehicle maintenance.
- \$18,000 for vehicle capital.
- \$15,000 to fund mental health transports through a private security company. Most people in crisis can be transported in unmarked vehicles with soft restraints, and don't need two deputies. This option has been suggested by a group of representatives of various agencies, including the Prosecuting Attorney. St. Luke's has contributed \$15,000 toward these voluntary transports.
- \$62,000 to replace in-car cameras for patrol cars.

Chairman Greenberg suggested a County ordinance regulating use of cell phones while driving, with an infraction penalty.

Ketchum Police Department – Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner

Blaine County has partnered with the City of Ketchum for seven years to provide Ketchum with excellent law enforcement.

The Ketchum Police Department works to develop communication with residents, especially kids:

- Private donor provided funds to give bicycle helmets to children.
- School greeting and lunch program – officers greet kids in the morning and have lunch with them on a regular basis.
- Police Field Day invites kids to meet State Police, local Police and Sheriff deputies, and demonstrates use of law enforcement equipment.

- Crosswalk Enforcement Program - Community service officers walk back and forth across the street in crosswalks.
- The bike patrol has a new certified instructor. Officers on bikes are easier to approach, and are present during the week and at all special events.
- Ketchum Police works with the Drug Coalition to check retail underage alcohol compliance.
- Purchased four body cameras for officers which are used in conjunction with in-car cameras.

Blaine County Jail – Blaine County Detention Captain Jay Davis
Blaine County Commissioners are required by statute to fund jail.

The State Jail Standards Coordinator and Inspector actually enjoys coming to the Blaine County Public Safety Facility detention center. The jail meets every statute section, including kitchen health inspection. Staff retention and morale is very good. For the first time, floor detention staff is fully certified.

- The jail needs one more floor officer as soon as the budget can afford it.
- Out-of-county inmate housing provided \$668,580 in revenue in FY2015, and is above projections so far in FY2016.
- 12,278 classes have been provided for jail inmates. 62% completion rate, because some inmates leave before completing the class; and 69% of the 62% completion rate go on to advance curriculum classes.

Human Services – Blaine County Administrator Derek Voss
Also present: Blaine County Administrative Specialist Jenny Lovell.

Administrative Services Manager Henry Brown has been on medical leave.

In an attempt to reduce expenses last year, several departments eliminated positions, reducing the budget by about \$478,000, plus two positions requested but not approved totaling \$180,000, for a total budget savings of about \$658,000.

In FY2017, the Sheriff is requesting one full-time position for Court bailiff; and Road and Bridge is requesting one half-time position become a full-time position.

Blaine County Clerk JoLynn Drage said FY2017 revenues would probably not change that much; but expenses always go up even when make cuts are made.

- The County never knows what Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) revenue will be until early winter, well after the budget is set.
- Expenses for an ongoing murder trial are unknown, and the expenses could occur in FY2016 or FY2017.

Employee Recognition – Administrative Specialist Jenny Lovell
Also present: Blaine County Planning Assistant Grants Manager Michele Johnson.

- Plan to revive the Employee Action Committee (EAC) employee recognition program
- Spot bonuses are a nice way to say thank-you.
- Commissioner Schoen suggested one reward could be clothing with Blaine County logo—windbreaker, hat, etc.
- Chief Deputy Assessor Martha Heuston liked gifts, but not tokens.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:19 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
 JoLynn Drage Jacob Greenberg
 County Clerk Chairman