

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

Fourth Day

Thursday, March 10, 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; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

REPLACEMENT AIRPORT UPDATE

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird and Friedman Memorial Airport Authority representative Pete Kramer; Hailey City Attorney Ned Williamson; Bureau of Land Management Field Manager Ruth Miller; Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; and Fly Sun Valley Alliance President/Wood River Economic Partnership Vice-President Eric Seder.

Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) concerning airport authority governance

The BCC discussed a letter from Williamson explaining Hailey's changes to the draft JPA. Blaine County and City of Hailey need to decide how to distinguish issues that may pertain solely to one airport or the other, and how to draw the line between the two airports. The BCC questioned if they should deal with potential conflict issues now, possibly delaying JPA approval, or approve the JPA and deal with issues as they come up, perhaps with some kind of dispute resolution process in place. Blaine County's main concern is wise operational, risk and financial management for the benefit of the entire County and all its jurisdictions. The County needs to be in full control of the replacement airport when it is open and the existing airport is closed. Areas of outstanding disagreement include:

- Previous language changes in the JPA that have created inconsistencies.
- When termination of agreement should occur.
- Capital control of the existing airport land after airport closure.

The BCC will continue review and consideration of the Amended Joint Powers Agreement.

NORDIC OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER UPDATE

Also present: Sustain Blaine Executive Director Harry Griffith; Linda Haavik; Bureau of Land Management Field Manager Ruth Miller; and Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby.

Sustain Blaine is seeking certification from the U.S. Olympic Committee as a Nordic Olympic and Paralympic Training (nOTS) site. The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) has one other winter snow sports site, and is anxious to expand its program of registered training sites.

Sustain Blaine, in cooperation with SVSEF, Blaine County Recreation District, and Wood River Ability, is preparing a five-year business plan. If nOTS moves into other winter sports areas in the future, the Sun Valley area will become very involved. This coalition is asking for a letter of support from Blaine County. Nordic was chosen because there are world-class trails throughout the entire valley.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT

Also present: U.S. Senator Mike Crapo's South-Central Office Regional Director AJ Church; Senator Jim Risch's Outreach Coordinator Mike Mathews; Congressman Mike Simpson's Area Director Linda Culver; Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

BCC expressed their top priorities:

- National Association of Counties (NACo) membership's top priority is for government to address the federal budget deficit. Both political parties know budget problems cannot be cured with discretionary spending cuts alone. Government has to tackle Medicare, Medicaid, military and social security imbalances; and legislators have to *vote* for change, not just talk about it.
- Funding issues related to Blaine County's replacement airport. Preliminary studies show favored 10A site at \$189 million, and the County's second choice site at \$240 million. Recommend not wasting time and money on a lot of preliminary study work until the final site is known.
- FAA Reauthorization, including eligibility of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds for smaller airports.
- Continuation of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to counties with large areas of public land.
- Support for Secure Rural Schools reauthorization.
- The Farm Bill supports maintaining rural communities.

- BCC asked about the ban on federal earmarks in the next two years, and the effect on State Highway 75 improvements.
- The nation needs to invest in the future with renewable resources and energy conservation, and rethink priorities, e.g., fund public transit in addition to the highway program.

LAND USE AND BUILDING SERVICES DISCUSSION

- **Hospital Drive Transfer**

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves, Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin, Regional Planner Jeff Adams, Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley, County Planner Shana Sweitzer; ITD Project Manager Mike Scott and Highway 75 Timber Way to Ketchum Project Manager Tracy Olsen; Marc Reinemann; Steve Kearns; Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; Mike Doty; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz; and KECH Radio reporter Sue Bailey.

The ITD agreement to transfer ownership of Hospital Drive right-of-way to Blaine County was signed, but ownership never transferred. McHanville property has been purchased and will be redeveloped. ITD expects the developer to relinquish Highway 75 right-of-way for highway improvements in exchange for a comparable amount of property along Hospital Drive. ITD's intent is to get an up-to-date survey of the Highway 75 and Hospital Drive areas, and complete the original agreement with Blaine County for Hospital Drive at no cost to the County. Land Use and Regional Planning staff will work out the details and return to the BCC with a recommendation.

ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE AND FINDINGS OF FACT

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin, and County Planner Shana Sweitzer.

The BCC adopted Ordinance 2011-02 and approved the Findings of Fact at their March 8, 2011 meeting, but staff discovered some minor revisions that need to be made in the ordinance. The ordinance was never recorded or published.

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to reconsider their previous action at the last BCC meeting when they adopted Ordinance 2011-02 and voted to approve the Findings of Fact, and defer that decision to a future meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

- **Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) Legislative Committee Meeting – Bowman**

The IAC Legislative Committee voted to oppose House Bill 137, which could present a potential threat to the county's stream alteration permit process. Existing Idaho Code 42-3806 states no permit shall be required from a water user or his agent to clean, maintain, construct, etc. a waterway in order to get their water. Idaho Water Users Association wants to clarify that by saying no permit shall be required *by the state or any agency or political subdivision*, to make it clear that counties cannot restrict access to water through a stream alteration process. This legislation apparently stems from work done without a permit to get access to water in Gimlet, which subsequently did raise the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Raising the BFE is a FEMA violation that puts the County's National flood insurance program at risk.

A Commissioner from Blaine County will testify in opposition to the bill when it gets to the Senate Environmental Natural Resources Committee.

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROJECT PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin, Regional Planner Jeff Adams; Jim Phillips; Deborah Vignes; Linda Haavik; Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; Greg Howell; and KECH Radio reporter Sue Bailey.

The BCC continues to prioritize its list of programs and current and potential projects. The focus of this workshop is to prioritize Infrastructure, Environmental Policy, and Regional Planning projects.

Particular priorities:

- Keep economic development opportunities at the forefront.
- Analyze the need to do a Capital Improvement Plan, which is required for the County to assess impact fees on development.
- Analyze the need to assess impact fees. One potential development is the South Gateway project, which would include infrastructure improvements and sewer.
- Continue and complete projects already in process.
- Strong community environmental values are well-established. The BCC wants to be sure they remain strong.
- The potential for geothermal development.
- Power and communication.
- Review the Housing Overlay District on an annual basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens reminded the BCC to work with county organizations and take advantage of available resources. Economic development is necessary, and must be balanced with environmental vision.

Greg Howell asked the BCC to address the Mountain Overlay District in Lake Creek.

AMEND AGENDA

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to amend today’s March 10th agenda to include an Executive Session for Pending Litigation, I.C. §67-2345 1(f) . Motion carried unanimously.

WILLOWOOD PLAT AMENDMENT NOTICE

The BCC approved staff recommendation that notice of the East Fork Willowood Subdivision Plat Amendment only be given to residents within 300 feet.

BREAK

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- February 28 and March 1, 2011 Regular Monday and Tuesday Meetings
- February 28, 2011 Special Meeting
- March 2, 2011 Special Meeting – Executive Session

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve BCC minutes for regular meetings of February 28, 2011 and March 1, 2011, and special meetings of February 28, 2011 and March 2, 2011, all as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin; and Linda Haavik.

Voss presented the BCC with a total comprehensive list of all the BCC’s current programs, including the projects within programs, and the key elements of each project. The BCC named a project manager to each project, and assigned a BCC liaison to each project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345 1(f), to discuss with legal counsel the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation. McCleary (aye), Bowman (aye), and Schoen (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:23 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____

JoLynn Drage
County Clerk

Angenie McCleary
Chairman