

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

Seventh Day

Thursday, May 26, 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, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; Blaine County Administrator Derek Voss, County Clerk JoLynn Drage, Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; Blaine County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek; *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Vice Chairman Bowman was absent from today's meeting.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

BUDGET REQUEST: DISPATCH-E-911 – Emergency Communications Director Beth English

Also present: Emergency Communications Dispatch Supervisor Teresa Cooper, GIS Program Manager Joel Hall, and GIS Specialist Chris Corwin.

Dispatch's focus this year has been to streamline systems and synchronize the department. New equipment and software, including a new recorder, allows better creation of reports. The Everbridge Emergency Communications software is being increasingly used for notification of emergency responder-related meetings and emergency warnings and events.

Blaine County Emergency Communications department also processes runaways, missing people, protection orders, stolen vehicles, and other non-emergency communications. Dispatch is now responsible for maintaining the 700MHz radio system, and paying all associated fees.

FY2012 Budget priorities:

- Dispatch is requesting a significant increase in training funds. Emergency medical dispatch requires minimum annual training to retain certification. Trained professional emergency service personnel are necessary for public safety.
- Blaine County Dispatch would like to have someone in-house to provide basic training and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) classes. Dispatch could then host training classes for other jurisdictions, which would create a revenue stream.
- Establish and maintain fully functional backup center. Backup computers, radio and communication equipment are available to store in a secure back-up location with a VHF antenna.
- Write new job descriptions, including creation of a full-time CAD administrator
- Pay off the ECS 1000, which is no longer in use.

BUDGET REQUEST: CORONER – Blaine County Coroner Russ Mikel

The FY2012 Budget expenses remain basically the same. Most expenses, including lab work, are based on call volume. Mileage and fuel expenses have been increased. The Coroner has a new assistant who needs basic and ongoing training.

Blaine County has to plan for a major incident. A trailer, equipped with a generator, lighting, supplies and body bags, should be stored in a secure location here in Blaine County. A longbed pickup truck could be used to pull the trailer and also transport mass casualties if necessary.

Voss will coordinate the coroner's major incident needs request with Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator Chuck Turner and Emergency Communications.

FUNDING REQUEST: SOUTHERN IDAHO SOLID WASTE DISTRICT – Southern Idaho Solid Waste District Executive Director Josh Bartlomé

Also present: Southern Idaho Solid Waste District (SISWD) Chief Financial Officer Stephanie Thompson.

The SISWD Board preliminary budget includes 3% merit increases and a PERSI increase. Other increases are 5% liability insurance and significantly higher fuel expense. The waste haul contract is up, plus fuel surcharge, which will impact Blaine County. The Milner Butte landfill tipping fee will increase \$1/ton.

Blaine County's solid waste volume has decreased in the last five years. Less tons means higher cost per ton. Blaine County is responsible for 13.1% of the landfill volume, so is responsible for that percentage of landfill expenses. Blaine County used to be responsible for about 30% of the landfill volume. Last year, Blaine County decreased 100 trailers hauling waste to the landfill.

Landfill expenses are up for personnel, administration, and significantly up for operations due to fuel increases and wind fencing to cut down on blowing debris. Operation and maintenance on the SISWD-owned trailers is up a little.

The FY2012 SISWD budget includes a new half-time position for resource recovery public education. Additional resource recovery projects in the FY2012 budget include grinding wood to mulch, hauling waste tires, scrap metal, construction and demolition, etc. Blaine County's diversion rate is 39.5%, the highest in the district. The national average diversion rate is around 26%.

BREAK

BUDGET REQUEST: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) – Blaine County GIS Program Manager Joel Hall

Also present: GIS Analyst Sam Young, Blaine County Assessor Valdi Pace, Blaine County Human Resources Generalist Susan Potucek, and Blaine County Dispatch GIS Specialist Chris Corwin.

The GIS department is now doing a lot of GIS database extraction, analysis and manipulation. Department personnel need additional skills to keep up with a heavier emphasis on web-based applications, and to meet County interdepartmental needs. At the request of other County departments, GIS added lot information, residential/commercial characteristics, and a floodplain data layer.

GIS personnel work with the cities of Ketchum and Sun Valley; and have taught GIS classes for County employees, Realtors, the Rotary Club, etc. The GIS page on the Blaine County website now sees over 30,000 hits a month.

The FY2012 GIS budget includes expanding the GIS license to an Enterprise License level, which provides unlimited database size, and allows an unlimited number of computers and simultaneous access. County Dispatch, Assessor's office, LU&BS, Weeds and Road and Bridge departments will all benefit. The public, who pay for the GIS department through their tax dollars, will also benefit.

Corwin said he was awarded a grant to get 10 Juno GPS units for public safety officials. Information on hydrants, water lines and other public safety amenities can be updated in the field and later uploaded to the CAD database. Gas and water shut-offs can be mapped and coordinated, which could improve the entire County's insurance rating.

FUNDING REQUEST: SNOWMOBILE GROOMING PROGRAM FOR BLAINE COUNTY WITH SAWTOOTH SNOWMOBILE CLUB – Brian Baird

The FY2012 budget will probably be similar to the FY2011 budget. The Sawtooth Snowmobile Club has funds left over from previous years in their snowmobile groomer and County accounts, and coming in from the Idaho Department of Parks and Rec. Actual budget needs are dependent on the amount of snow actually received in the winter 2011-12, and the cost of diesel fuel. The Snowmobile Club will deliver a budget to the County Clerk when it is known.

Revenue from the Department of Parks and Rec comes from the sale of snowmobile stickers.

FUNDING REQUEST: CRISIS HOT LINE – Crisis Hot Line Executive Director Sher Foster

Phone calls to the Crisis Hot Line have tripled in the last six months, due to economic-related stresses, and include problems with substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. The Hotline is getting more calls from kids, who are at a high risk of suicide.

The Hotline provided an annual spring training program, free of charge to the public, and gained seven new volunteers. The Hotline has a total of 16 volunteers. The Crisis Hotline works closely with police and other local services; and saves the County money by providing intervention services before emergency services personnel are necessary.

The Hotline wants people to know they exist so people will call when they need help. Their main need and expense is media outreach. The Hotline runs an ad in the *Mountain Express* twice a month, and would like to increase that to weekly.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:18 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage Angenie McCleary
County Clerk Chairman