

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAY 2014 SESSION**

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**BUDGET WORKSHOP - FISCAL YEAR 2015**

**Third Day**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:40 a.m. Present were Chairman Lawrence Schoen, Vice-Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Commissioner Angenie McCleary; County Administrator Derek Voss; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Greg Moore.

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

**Amend Agenda**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Greenberg, to amend the agenda to discuss submitting a guest opinion from the BCC on the Road and Bridge Levy at 1:15 p.m. today. Motion passed 2/0.**

**OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION FY2014 FUNDING REQUESTS**

**Blaine County Fair Board**

Also present: Board members Morgan Drage, Devra Mary and Amy Federko.

The Blaine County Fair Board requested \$25,640, which is 80% of their annual FY2015 budget.

4-H membership has grown substantially since 2012. 4-H participation in various events around the County keeps 4-H in the public eye and promotes the Blaine County Fair. A 4-H horse camp demonstrated the usefulness of the fairgrounds for camps and educational activities throughout the year. Two more multi-day camps are scheduled this summer.

The Blaine County Recreation District and YMCA Day Camps bussed over 100 youth to the Blaine County Fair for a fun and educational field trip to learn about agriculture and sustainable living. Fair Board members, 4-H members and their parents, and the Rodeo Committee volunteered more than 600 hours to complete the 2013 Fair Board project list for the Fairgrounds.

The Fair Board's next project is to install community restrooms at the Fairgrounds. Bids on a cost-efficient low-maintenance commercial grade restroom building are coming in at about \$60,000. The Fair Board currently has \$47,500 set aside for the project.

The BCC applauded Fair Board members on their commitment and dedication, resulting in renovated Fairgrounds and a large increase in attendance at the Fair.

**Chairman Schoen left the meeting at this time.**

**Vice-Chairman Jacob Greenberg chaired the rest of today's meeting.**

**Sun Valley Economic Development (formerly SustainBlaine)**

Also present: Sun Valley Economic Development (SVED) Executive Director Harry Griffith and SVED Board member Dave Theobald.

SVED's priority is countywide development innovation, which means more businesses, more jobs, more taxes, and more LOT. Their overall goal is to develop over \$100 million in new business in ten years by expanding air service, facilitating a culinary institute, and attracting new business to the area.

Current projects:

- Expand the Nordic Olympic Training Center designation to other snow sports.
- Continue to promote the Human Performance Laboratory and Culinarium.
- Improve next year's economic summit with global thought leaders.
- Partner with the Ketchum Community Development Corporation to grow the Ketchum Innovative Center (KIC) for local entrepreneurs and promote mentorship and investment potential.

Sun Valley Economic Development is requesting \$25,000 from Blaine County for FY2015.

**Blaine County Housing Authority**

Also present: Blaine County Housing Authority (BCHA) Executive Director David Patrie; and Suzanne Miller, Blaine County's representative on the BCHA Board.

The BCHA acts as the County housing department and provides essential government services to moderate and lower income residents. The BCHA participated in public hearings on the Community Housing Overlay District and contributed to the County's Comprehensive Plan Update regarding population and housing.

The BCHA administers and protects affordable housing deed covenants for the County. These deed covenants provide a long-term affordable mechanism in a resort area where housing costs are

generally higher than what the workforce can afford. The BCHA advocates for the County on State and Federal levels by applying for tax credit funding and works with Idaho Housing and Finance Association to remove barriers to high-income counties competing for tax credits.

In 2013, the BCHA more than doubled its rental units, and generated \$11,000 from rental income. The BCHA interacted with over 100 households looking for affordable housing, 65 of which were new to the BCHA. In 2013, the BCHA put 22 qualified households into rental or ownership housing. In the last year, there have been a dozen resales of affordable units. In 2014, so far, the BCHA has found housing for 11 households.

BCHA Executive Director Patrie is an accredited Specialist in Housing Credit Management. Patrie and BCHA Program Administrator Bobi Bellows are Certified Occupancy Specialists. Once BCHA is certified to manage low income tax credit projects, it can look for management jobs which will be an ongoing revenue source.

BCHA is funded from the County and cities and administrative fees of affordable housing units. The BCHA is requesting \$75,000 from Blaine County in FY2015. This includes funding for a part-time bilingual staff member to serve as administrative support for the Executive Director and Program Administrator. BCHA Board member Suzanne Miller reiterated the need for a bilingual office administrator.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sarah Busdon thanked the BCHA for facilitating her family's purchase of an affordable house nine years ago. They recently used that investment to purchase a market rate home; and sold their affordable house to an Hispanic family who needed a translator in the transaction. Busdon strongly supported a bilingual employee for BCHA.

**University of Idaho Extension Office**

Also present: Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter, 4-H Coordinator Kathi Kimball, and County Extension Administrative Assistant Sarah Busdon.

The University of Idaho Blaine County Extension Office requests \$109,706 for FY2015. This amount will support the UofI's 2% raises for all employees and essential supplies and equipment. Extension offices and cooperative services are a shared financial partnership with federal, state and county government. The Extension Office is typically funded about 50% by Blaine County, 30% UofI, and 20% state and federal grants and 4-H enrollment.

The University Extension provides research-based information and programming on community needs. In Blaine County, the focus is on environmental issues, small and large scale agriculture/ livestock, land management and gardening, and 4-H Youth development. Extension provides best management practices to agriculture and in-town gardeners to reduce costs, conserve water and natural resources, protect the ecosystem, and be aesthetically pleasing.

4-H enrollment increased in 2013 by 24%. 4-H club, school and after-school programs reach 80% of Blaine County school-age youth. 4-H Development focuses on healthy lifestyle and lifelong leadership skills. Volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of 4-H mentorship. 4-H Vista volunteer Loretta Bonner promoted Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) with schools and local teachers.

Extension facilitated a Conjunctive Water Management workshop with over 170 attendees learning about water resources, water issues and conservation in the County. Hunter shared high desert cropping systems with over 1,000 producers. A follow-up survey of over 330 producers showed that a large number of producers are considering cover crops in the future.

**Resource Worker**

Also present: Blaine County School District Social Worker Jeanette McIlhenny.

Disclosure: Commissioner McCleary previously met with Blaine County School District Social Worker Jeanette McIlhenny, Blaine County School District CFO Mike Chatterton and Hailey Elementary School Principal Tom Bailey to discuss the Resource Worker's needs.

County funding enables the Resource Worker to accept referrals from County Probation, St. Luke's Center for Community Health, local police, etc., for adults without children who are struggling with homelessness and mental health issues.

The Resource Worker program provides 90 days of intense case management for parents of at-risk children. A lot of grandparents are raising school-age kids. Financial assistance can be available to families, who, through case management, can show future sustainability, "Attendance Court" has been reactivated to work with families with students who have excessive tardies and/or absences.

The Lunch Buddy Program provides trained volunteers who go to school and interact with kids during lunch and recess. New mentor programs have high school students interacting with elementary students. Children need to feel included in the family, a group or organization, or even with just one friend.

## **South Central Community Action Partnership (SCCAP)**

Also present: SCCAP Executive Director Ken Robinette.

SCCAP is requesting \$3,000 from Blaine County for FY2015. SCCAP is primarily federally funded, so last year's sequestration resulted in a reduction of services. The Community Services Block Grant operates the entire agency and helps with administrative and direct program costs. Every block grant dollar is leveraged with \$4.48 from local sources, including landlords, donations, county funding, etc.

SCCAP provided emergency assistance to over 300 families in Blaine County last year, including rent or mortgage assistance, transportation, food, and emergency medical assistance.

SCCAP's Weatherization Program, in cooperation with the City of Hailey's Climate Challenge program and Idaho Power, presented money-saving techniques and alternative energy information at Hailey Public Library programs; and actually weatherized eight properties in Blaine County. SCCAP can't charge for its services, but can suggest a voluntary contribution from the landlord, which they sometimes get.

Home Energy Management is a fee-for-service company for people who are not income-eligible through federal programs, but can work with organizations or companies like Idaho Power, with proceeds coming back to SCCAP.

The BCC said Blaine County's membership in organizations like SCCAP enables the County Indigent Department to refer clients to another resource.

## **BREAK**

**Chairman Schoen chaired the afternoon meeting.**

**Commissioner Greenberg was absent until 1:35 p.m.**

## **OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION FY2015 FUNDING REQUESTS, CONTINUED**

### **The Hunger Coalition**

Also present: Hunger Coalition Executive Director Jeanne Liston.

The Hunger Coalition fed 3,223 individuals last year, 47% of which were new clients. The Coalition has given out 59% more food this year over last year and is breaking records on a weekly basis. The Coalition has seen 63% more seniors this year, which is challenging because The Coalition always wants to help people gain new skills to keep them from needing help in the future.

The Coalition's goal is to feed more people, and to feed everyone who is hungry. The Hunger Coalition wants to feed more kids this summer through its Sack Lunch, Snack Pack and Backpack programs. The Hunger Coalition has increased its marketing and distribution hours to locate and accommodate those people who are uncomfortable asking for help.

**Commissioner Greenberg arrived at 1:35 p.m.**

Local needs increased this year due to the Beaver Creek Fire, cuts in the Food Stamp program, Congress's refusal to extend Unemployment Insurance, and decreased donations from local resources.

The BCC thanked The Hunger Coalition for looking for ways to leverage the County's contribution to accomplish real help for the community.

### **St. Luke's Mental Health Clinic**

Also present: St. Luke's Center for Community Health Manager Erin Pfaeffle.

St Luke's Mental Health Clinic requests \$10,000 from Blaine County. The Mental Health Clinic—a beautiful new 2,500sf facility—opened in October, 2013 with a full-time psychiatrist and local licensed clinical social worker. Since opening, the clinic has served 306 new patients, and continues to see new patients. 20% of patients are self pay, 20% are Medicare, 8-9% Medicaid, the rest are privately insured. The Clinic partners closely with community-based therapists and refers patients with special needs to community practitioners who can best help them. Feedback from clients and community providers has been very positive. Clients who can't afford to pay for services are referred to St. Luke's Patient Financial Services.

St. Luke's Center for Community Health has a monthly operational shortfall of \$10,000-\$15,000. St. Luke's collects approximately 68% of its charges, fairly typical for a medical clinic that cares for Medicaid-Medicare patients.

The Clinic serves patients 16 years and over; and is working with two child psychiatrists in Twin Falls to pilot a children's telepsychiatry program.

St. Luke's expects that a local medical resource for people with mental health crises will reduce Blaine County's costs for law enforcement personnel and designated examinations, as well as transportation

to and treatment at Canyon View Behavioral Clinic.

The BCC agreed that untreated mental health has serious social and financial ramifications for the entire County.

### **Historical Museum**

Also present: Blaine County Historical Museum President Bob Macleod and Secretary Jane Rosen,

The Blaine County Historical Museum opened in 1964 and is now 50 years old. The Museum requests \$25,600 for FY2015, a slight increase over last year.

Current and Ongoing Projects:

- The annual Heritage Court was once again very successful.
- The Historical Museum Board is experimenting with historically-based miniature golf as a fund-raiser.
- To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Idaho Territory, the Idaho Historical Museum had an exhibit of the 150 Most Important Things That Make Idaho What It is Today. Blaine County contributed the 1894 cornerstone from the Emmanuel Church and an illustration of Idaho's mining history.
- Museum volunteers estimate there is almost 9,000 pounds of stuff in the Museum's storage unit.
- The Smithsonian's annual exhibit on Hometown Teams will be featured at the Hailey Rodeo Grounds Interpretive Center.
- The Museum is putting together a new children's traveling trunk.

The Museum is leasing the building they own next door to the Museum. With more room, the Museum can add and rotate informative and educational events, and provide more retail.

### **Blaine Soil Conservation District**

Also present: Blaine Soil Conservation District Administrator Beverly Swainston and BSCD supervisors Bryan Dilworth, Kathy Noble, and John Saili.

The Blaine Soil Conservation District is requesting \$14,500 this year, an increase of \$500 so the office can be open more and work with smaller farms and ranchers.

BSCD projects in FY2014:

- Completed an irrigation system, which NRCS says conserves 700 inches of water a day.
- The BSCD plans to host a Community Day to build a greenhouse on private property in Quigley Canyon. The BSCD can use the greenhouse for trees and other plants they sell.
- National Resources campers scholarships are available for 12-14 year olds.
- Weed Workshop had about 75 attendees.
- BSCD Board members and administrator want to get more involved with the Wood River Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy and share in their projects and workshops.
- Local ranchers are participating in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). Results of the initiative will be presented to the BCC in the future.
- Researching potential use of Rodinator (to kill rodents) and no-till drill for loan to landowners.
- BSCD sent Swainston to grant-writing class.
- Bryan Dilworth said high school agriculture classes help kids in every area of life and business. BSCD is trying to get Future Farmers of America classes in the local schools.

### **Crisis Hotline**

Also present; Crisis Hotline Executive Director Sher Foster and Board Member Robin Tomasi.

The Crisis Hotline is requesting \$7,000 this year, an increase over past years. The Hotline experienced a financial shortfall this year, probably as a result of reduced fund-raising events.

The Crisis Hotline has a 24-hour hotline to help people in crisis sort through their situation, then refers callers to the organization that can best help them once the emergency is averted.

The Crisis Hotline has received 50-60 calls a month the last couple years, but had 80 calls in January. They're getting more calls from young people, so the Hotline is working with the School District and social workers to increase outreach to schools with handouts and programs, including a Teen Suicide Awareness class.

The Hotline's Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is open to anyone who wants to learn the dynamics of crisis and how to cope. Representatives of different organizations teach different parts of the class. Local first responders and law enforcement officers take the class, and give out Hotline business cards when they can.

Hotline Board member Robin Tomasi related a graphic story of how she and a friend just happened to be first responders to a person who had just attempted suicide.

### **ADJOURN**

At the hour of 3:26 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
JoLynn Drage Lawrence Schoen

County Clerk

Chairman