

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NOVEMBER 2011 SESSION**

First Day

Tuesday, November 1, 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; County Administrator Derek Voss; Operations Director Char Nelson; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Kate Wutz.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

County Administrator - Derek Voss

- Blaine County pays membership dues to Region IV Development, so no contract for services is required.
- The Sheriff's Department did not receive first round COPS grant funding. The funding may be granted at a later date.
- Wednesday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m. CST will be the first ever nationwide alert system test. Media will be notified.
- New Ambulance District contracts should better reflect the relationship with ambulance service providers. Voss is working on language relating to insurance.
- ITD would like to purchase some parcels of County land. Land Use department will participate in the purchase negotiations. The County should have a policy for negotiating purchases with outside governmental agencies.
- BCC needs to discuss a policy on long-term land leases with profit and non-profit organizations. At issue now is an existing five-year \$1 lease with the Wood River Gun Club. There are a number of County-owned parcels that have recreational uses associated with them.
- FY2012 pay increases to bring all employees up to proficiency have been made. There is a small amount of money left that can be used to bring those employees who have been with the County for eight or more years into salary compliance. Bowman said the County didn't want to compensate for longevity, and to be sure this increase was merit-based. The increases will be made retroactive to October 1, 2011 if funds are available.
- The new projection screen in the Commissioners Meeting Room has been installed on the north side. A new large whiteboard will be installed on the south side of the meeting room.
- McCleary and Voss are developing a framework for a strategic business plan for the airport.

BLM-FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Also present: US Forest Service District Ranger Kurt Nelson; Acting SNRA Area Ranger Mike Dettori; BLM Field Manager Ruth Miller, BLM Realty Specialist Tara Hagen; Bigwood Backcountry Trails Director/Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen President Jo Heiss; and Blaine County engineer Jim Koonce.

U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Kurt Nelson:

- U.S. Forest Service is doing a lot of trail improvements in cooperation with the BLM, state and local recreation organizations.
- Hosted the U.S. Mountain Bike Championships last summer, in partnership with the BLM and Sun Valley Company.
- Trail project priority next year is Warm Springs Bridge Trail (named the Osberg Ridgeline Trail), almost 11 miles of trail redesign/reroute/reconstruction between Warm Springs and Baker Creek drainages.
- Issued decisions on Trail Creek sheep allotments, in response to bighorn sheep and domestic sheep interactions in the Ketchum District.
- Fourth year of non-lethal predator control project, in partnership with Defenders of Wildlife.
- Noxious weed treatment with funding from South Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and other private land organizations.
- Trying to maintain large seed-bearing whitebark pine trees in upper elevations through the Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) Program . The National Forest is losing a huge percentage of mature trees to pine bark beetle infestations.

Acting Sawtooth National Recreation Area Ranger Mike Dettori:

- RAC-funded study to determine effects recreation has on wolverine survival and habitat.
- Working toward better coordination of funding for trail maintenance and construction.
- Partnering with Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD) on new trail planning, trail construction and maintenance
- Completed roof repairs on leaky SNRA building
- Worked with Blaine County youth to complete RAC-funded trail maintenance and wilderness management.

Bureau of Land Management Field Manager Ruth Miller:

- Gathering information from grazing permittees and land owners on livestock trailing across allotments. Grazing permits require public notification.
- Trying to resolve boundary discrepancy in Gimlet survey. Protests are resolved at State level by State Director. If the protest is upheld, an appeal in the BLM goes to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in Washington.
- Ketchum Law Exchange parcels have been appraised.
- Held four public comment meetings for the North Highway 20 Travel Plan. Hailey meeting was very well attended, with a lot of comment from motorized users. Idaho Dirt Riders mapped some trails they felt were left off the North Highway 20 Travel Plan map.
- Western Watersheds litigated the BLM. In a test case on Craters of the Moon, the judge ruled in favor of Western Watersheds' motion for a summary judgment. The judge directed the two attorneys to get together and see how this ruling would affect the other cases.
- America's Great Outdoors event, presenting a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda, was well attended.
- Complaints from a West Magic resident regarding road maintenance will be forwarded to Blaine County. Road maintenance is responsibility of "local jurisdiction". The resident is also concerned about visitors being towed without warning.
- Goats grazing for weed control within the Wood River Bike Path right-of-way must get a grazing permit in the future.
- The Shoshone Field Office expects to move to the Bennett Hills area once the North Highway 20 Travel Plan is done.

AIRPORT PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Also present: Sawtooth Board of Realtors Government Affairs Director Bob Crosby; and Mike Penrose.

• Bellevue/FMAA Joint Meeting

The BCC recapped the recent FMAA/City of Bellevue joint meeting. Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird presented an excellent fact-based explanation of the concerns at the current airport and history of efforts toward a replacement airport. Bellevue was encouraged to be an active participant in the airport process. Community outreach is very important, and the BCC encouraged the FMAA to hold joint meetings with Blaine County cities. Bowman said Sustain Blaine was planning to host a business summit that would invite the FMAA to discuss airport issues with WREP, local chambers, the Sawtooth Board of Realtors and the public.

• November 1 FMAA Meeting

The BCC needs to develop a strategic framework that is not buffeted by emotional testimony and negative attitudes about the safety of Friedman Airport, and residents assertions that local communities have nothing to gain.

Town Meetings in the County Annex Building

DISTRICT 25 LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TOWN MEETING

• FMAA and Fly Sun Valley Alliance

Also present: Wendy Jaquet, Michelle Stennett, Donna Pence

DISTRICT 25 LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TOWN MEETING

Blaine County Board of Commissioners Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, and Commissioner Lawrence Schoen.

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AFTERNOON SESSION in the Old County Courthouse

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to convene as the Blaine County Ambulance District. Motion carried unanimously.

AMBULANCE DISTRICT CONTRACTS DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

Also present: Wood River Fire Protection District Chief Bart Lassman; Wood River Fire Protection District Asst. Chief Jeff Nevins; Ketchum Fire Chief Mike Elle; Blaine County Emergency Medical Director Keith Sivertson; Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Wood River Fire District James Frehling.

Service providers have updated the contracts to reflect what is important to the BCC, and insure that services meet the community's expectations and needs of the service providers.

The BCC discussed the potential loss of revenue in the FY2012 budget since St. Luke's will now handle interfacility transfers. Service providers felt they would still be called upon to provide some interfacility transfers. The BCC doesn't have enough data at this time to revise the FY2012 budget.

The BCC also discussed the ambulance district's billing agent. Schoen felt their accounting practices needed to be much more accountable and accessible. Lassman said the service providers would talk to the billing agent. Voss said the Ambulance District may want to invest in an independent audit, with recommendations on better accounting practices.

Voss requested more specific insurance language in the contract. The service providers updated the contract to include history, guiding principles, and an expanded explanation of level of service.

Service providers requested \$116,000 for defibrillators. The actual cost of the units is \$141,786. The units are required to keep pace with national standards of monitoring; and capital funding is available.

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to provisionally approve the increase in Capital line item for defibrillators from \$116,000, not to exceed \$142,000, based on an investigation that funds are available in the FY2012 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

- **Agreement between Blaine County and University of Idaho** Record #
Also present: Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Hunter.

The BCC is looking for better communications with the Extension Office. Hunter has been asked to provide quarterly written reports to the BCC, trimester presentations at BCC meetings, and occasional Department Reports to the BCC at their regular Tuesday meetings. The BCC asked that the Extension Office's quarterly report support the County's strategic planning goals by linking value of the outcomes with the investment of taxpayers' dollars. Bowman asked that feedback from 4-H volunteer leaders be included in the report.

Voss will meet with Hunter to define the mission of the Extension Office and its employees. .

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the agreement between Blaine County and the University of Idaho governing the administration and supervision of the Blaine County Extension Office, to include Attachments 1 2 and 3, as well as the FY2012 budget of \$106,110. Motion carried unanimously.

- **EECBG Partnership Contract Amendment** Not necessary to record
Also present: Blaine County Grant Administrator Michele Johnson.

The EECBG Partnership administrators need a line item in the budget to develop an education and outreach plan to reach average homeowners in all seven communities on everyday things they can do and moneys available to them.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, approve the amendment to Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) partnership contract, #CON00034, to reflect transfer of about \$5,500 into the Outreach line item from the Conservation Strategy line item. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- **October 18, 2011 Regular Tuesday Meeting**

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the minutes of the Blaine County Board of Commissioners meeting of October 18, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

Operations – Char Nelson

- ITD District Engineer Devin Rigby will attend the Blaine County Regional Transportation Committee meeting this week to discuss highway improvement issues.
- Numerous automobile owners with construction tar on their vehicles have filed complaints with ITD. ITD contractor's insurance company has denied all claims. Residents may file a tort claim if they wish. Contractor has made a solvent available to the County for residents to clean the tar off vehicles.
- ITD engineer is testing the construction and doing some quality assessment in response to complaints about the highway construction, and will report back.
- Nelson attended workshop on Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grants. There will be no Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) grants this year due to backlog of projects that are not yet funded.
- Blaine County will be applying for a \$100,000 Research in Progress (RiP) grant for the Upper High Five bridge. .
- ITD contractor selection process has changed. Projects over \$150,000 require a "short list" of three contractors. Projects over \$500,000 have to go out for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).
- Attended Waterways Board meeting, with representatives from a number of governmental recreational departments and organizations. Topics included better care of restrooms.
- Attended meeting with Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and Blaine County Weeds Department. PAN wants to move local government agencies toward alternative methods of weed control. Cost to implement changes is unknown at this time.
- Weed Department Manager John Cenarrusa said a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required for pesticide applications around water and drainage areas.
- Putting together a Recycle Advisory Board, and agenda for their first meeting.

BOARD REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

USGS Water Study – Bowman

Dr. James Bartolino, lead scientist on the USGS Wood River Valley Water Study, is doing a hydrographic profile of the Valley’s gravel aquifer from Baker Creek to Timmerman Hill. The study is undergoing peer review right now and should be done Spring 2012. Data will define a water “budget” of how much water is going into and coming out of the system.

Southern Idaho Solid Waste (SISW) District Regular meeting – Schoen

- SISW has been approached by Photon Technologies to do an initial study to see if materials at the landfill would be suitable to fuel a gasification plant.
- SISW continues to work on the notice of violations issued by DEQ. Some citations from the early 1990s are the result of reinterpretations of old recommendations.
- Landfill fencing will be installed to reduce litter drift.
- Blaine County's shipments to the landfill were up over last year.

Blaine County Housing Authority – Schoen

There are two vacant seats on the Housing Authority, one each representing Hailey and Bellevue.

South Central Public Health Board meeting – McCleary

Majority of discussion was on preparing for an upcoming legislative meeting. South Central Public Health will support the ban on electronic cigarettes to minors. The Health District is developing a public health strategic plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- **New beverage license for Sawtooth Brewery**
- **IBM Schedule for ServiceElite** Record #592192
- **Radio IP Software Inc. Support Contract** Record #591799
- **Lease Agreement with Road and Dirt Inc for Bike Park Lease** Record #593555

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the Consent Calendar for November 1, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

LAND USE AND BUILDING SERVICES DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

• O’Gara Water Rights Transfer

Also present: Blaine County Planning Assistant Michele Johnson and Code Compliance Specialist Megan Stelma; applicant’s representatives Steve Fisher and Greg Coonis.

All transfers are on the O’Gara property. New pivots are being erected on land that has never been irrigated. An issue of concern in this area, in the past, has been any claim involving tail water in the baseline canal. Schoen will review with County Attorney and make a recommendation to the BCC.

• Status of P&Z Commissioner Pat Murphy

Also present: Blaine County Planning Assistant Michele Johnson.

Blaine County P&Z Commissioner Pat Murphy is leaving the country for a two-month job. He would like to retain his seat on the Commission. The BCC granted Murphy a two-month leave of absence. If he decides to remain out of the country for longer than two months, the BCC will reevaluate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

• Rotarun Review of Recreational Development

Also present: Code Compliance Specialist Megan Stelma.

The BCC made minor modifications to the Findings.

Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision of Rotarun Recreation Development Master Plan Extension, as amended. Commissioner Bowman abstained. Motion carried 2/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION I.C. §67-2345 1(f) Pending Litigation

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to go into Executive Session for Pending Litigation, 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 3:59 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____

JoLynn Drage
County Clerk

Angenie McCleary
Chairman