

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

Second Day

Monday, September 12, 2011

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 10:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Angenie McCleary, Vice Chairman Tom Bowman, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Operations Director Char Nelson; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Mark York.

Chairman McCleary called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

JACOBSEN TAX CANCELLATION REQUEST

Also present: Blaine County Treasurer Vicki Dick, County Assessor Valdi Pace; appellant Sue Jacobsen and her daughter Karen Jacobsen.

Jacobsen's house value and property tax bill increased significantly in 2010. Jacobsen is on fixed income, and incurred several unanticipated expenses in 2010. Jacobsen provided a statement of her financial status, and submitted a letter asking that her 2010 taxes be cancelled due to financial hardship. The value of her home was lowered in 2011, and her future property tax bill should be lower.

Schoen said many people were in the same situation all over the country and in Blaine County. He expressed concern that the landowner's inability to pay her taxes may not change in future years.

Bowman moved, seconded by McCleary, to direct the County Assessor and Treasurer to calculate a reduction in Jacobsen's 2010 property tax, based on the assessed valuation for 2011, and report that amount to the BCC for further consideration. Schoen opposed. Motion carried 2/1.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to continue the Jacobsen Tax Cancellation Request to the Blaine County Commissioners meeting at 12:00 noon, on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

Claims – Schar Boyd

Deputy Auditor Schar Boyd presented the claims.

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve Claims dated September 8, 2011, with additional claims presented by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

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Aug-2011

FUND 01	AGAINST GENERAL FUND		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$	270,313.81
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 22	\$	1,691.59
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$	251,826.64
Total August FICA		\$	37,660.94
Total August Benefits		\$	151,429.29
Total August Bills		\$	<u>211,720.47</u>
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 924,642.74

FUND 02	AGAINST ROAD & BRIDGE		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$	22,632.11
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$	21,899.52
Total August FICA		\$	3,105.86
Total August Benefits		\$	14,111.03
Total August Bills		\$	<u>128,194.76</u>
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 189,943.28

FUND 03	AGAINST ELECTION CONSOLIDATION		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$	1,021.30
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$	1,021.30
Total August FICA		\$	156.26
Total August Benefits		\$	773.60
Total August Bills		\$	<u>52.72</u>
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 3,025.18

FUND 06	AGAINST DISTRICT COURT		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 1,892.31	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 3,830.25	
Total August FICA		\$ 413.10	
Total August Benefits		\$ 1,330.30	
Total August Bills		<u>\$ 6,519.18</u>	
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 13,985.14
FUND 16	AGAINST CHARITY & INDIGENT		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 3,453.89	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 3,453.89	
Total August FICA		\$ 523.16	
Total August Benefits		\$ 1,840.48	
Total August Bills		<u>\$ 10,160.33</u>	
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 19,431.75
FUND 20	AGAINST REVALUATION		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 9,804.91	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 9,500.35	
Total August FICA		\$ 1,300.88	
Total August Benefits		\$ 7,499.69	
Total August Bills		<u>\$ 3,269.40</u>	
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 31,375.23
FUND 23	AGAINST SOLID WASTE		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 3,149.60	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 3,149.60	
Total August FICA		\$ 472.00	
Total August Benefits		\$ 1,868.74	
Total August Bills		<u>\$ 15,865.20</u>	
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 24,505.14
FUND 27	AGAINST NOXIOUS WEEDS		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 6,097.36	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 5,962.35	
Total August FICA		\$ 853.22	
Total August Benefits		\$ 3,464.76	
Total August Bills		<u>\$ 10,164.54</u>	
Combined Total August Expense			\$ 26,542.23
FUND 04	AGAINST AMBULANCE		
Total August Bills		\$ 166,195.73	\$ 166,195.73
FUND 07	AGAINST COUNTY FAIR		
Total August Bills		\$ -	\$ -
FUND 11	AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH		
Total August Bills		\$ 21,859.00	\$ 21,859.00
FUND 12	AGAINST HISTORICAL SOC. & MUSEUM		
Total August Bills		\$ -	\$ -
FUND 17	AGAINST JR. COLLEGE TUITION		
Total August Bills		\$ -	\$ -
FUND 31	AGAINST PSF BOND REDEMPTION		
Total August Bills		\$ -	\$ -
FUND 35	AGAINST NURSING HOME		
Total August Bills		\$ 232,701.62	\$ 232,701.62
FUND 37	AGAINST SNOWMOBILE		
Total August Bills		\$ -	\$ -
FUND 38	AGAINST WATERWAYS		
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 11	\$ 382.48	
Blaine County Employees	Salaries August 25	\$ 198.48	
Total August FICA		\$ 44.44	

• and Cooling System	<u>Record #590511</u>
• ECS Maintenance Agreement	<u>Record #590510</u>
• Mountain West Electric Maintenance Agreement	<u>Record #590479</u>
• Mini Cassia Juvenile Detention Agreement	<u>Record #591086</u>
• Visilinc Maintenance Agreement	<u>Record #590486</u>
• ABL Food Services Contract	<u>Record #590495</u>
• Agreement for Pathology Services between Blaine County and Ada County	<u>Record #591990</u>
• City of Ketchum Interlocal Agreement	<u>Record #590478</u>
• City of Sun Valley Interlocal Agreement	<u>Record #591976</u>
• Consolidated Emergency Communications Services Agreement with City of Ketchum	<u>Record #590491</u>
• Consolidated Emergency Communications Services Agreement with Ketchum Rural Fire Department	<u>Record #590477</u>

Bowman moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the Consent Calendar for September 12, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BCC MEETING MINUTES

- **September 6, 2011 Regular Tuesday Meeting**

Schoen moved, seconded by Bowman, to approve the September 6, 2011 Regular BCC Meeting minutes, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

BLAINE COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER DISCUSSION

Also present: Environmental Resource Center Interim Director Lisa Huttinger; environmental consultant Cathy Tyson Foster; Clear Creek Disposal Managing Member Mike Goitiandia; Bellevue Citizens Group representative Jon Anderson; Martin Flannes; and *Mountain Express* reporter Mark York.

Blaine County took over management of the recycling center a year ago. The FY2012 Blaine County budget includes one additional half-time operations staff person at the Recycling Center; and one additional half-time administrative person who will spend some time working on public outreach and education. The heating system for the building and baler are being analyzed by McKinstry as part of the County’s energy audit. The County Administrator will track the Recycling Center’s expenses and revenues, so the BCC can establish an annual budget for the Recycling Center that is in line with the County’s strategic planning process.

The BCC will review current Recycling Center operations, and, with public input, set direction and goals for its future. The County’s overriding goal is good stewardship of the resources its citizens use and consume.

Questions and topics are:

- Recycling vs reduction. Should the BCC encourage recycling of waste, or encourage less consumption of materials that are recyclable, i.e., bottled water.
- Recycling vs reuse. Is it important to find end use markets where recyclables will be remanufactured into usable products?
- Single stream recycling, which makes it easier for citizens to recycle, and increases the Center’s “product” for sale, but decreases the profit margin of the product. Are citizens willing to pay more for the convenience of single stream?
- Glass is currently being diverted to a construction/demolition pit, with the hope it will someday be recyclable. Is this cost-effective?
- Recyclables and solid waste are both trucked away from the Recycling Center, and both incur shipping costs.
- Is recycling wise and best use of County’s limited financial resources?

Benefits of recycling:

- Less fill in the landfill.
- Conserves resources.
- Reduces greenhouse gas, carbon footprint, and use of energy.
- Affords County leadership in using the earth’s resources wisely, which is highly valued in this community, even if it isn’t financially sustainable.

Goals of Recycling Center:

- Work with all partners, including haulers and vendors.
- Better education and outreach, so the public really understands the recycling program.
- Better customer service, including clear and easily-accessible information regarding what is recyclable; and how citizens can best partner with the Recycling Center.

Bowman related the hypothetical life-cycle of a single-serve plastic water bottle: Plastic bottle is manufactured in SLC, transferred to water station and filled with water in Salt Lake City, and transported to market in Blaine County. Local buyer drives to market and takes bottled water home.

Empty bottle is taken to the recycling center at Ohio Gulch, then transported to Boise, then to Seattle. Bottle then may go to China, and remanufactured into a different plastic product. New product is shipped back to the United States, and to its end market. Buyer drives to market and takes new product home.

It might be better “conservation” to incentivize local markets to not sell single-serve bottled water. A Wood River High School teacher has expressed interest in using a multi-year analysis of recycling as a teaching program.

The BCC agreed to explore the bigger issues of “reduce-reuse -recycle”. In the meantime, the BCC wants to cooperate with the public to develop a more successful recycling program that is financially feasible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyson Foster is a consultant with 20 years experience in solid waste and recycling, with a degree in Journalism. Full cost accounting is key; environmental cost is also important. It is almost impossible for a recycling program to be self-sustaining; but the cost of keeping recyclables out of the landfill must be part of the equation.

The Environmental Resource Center (ERC) fields multiple calls and questions about recycling every day. They explain that Blaine County is a rural community and cannot offer the capabilities of a large metropolitan city. Hutterer offered the ERC as an educational and outreach resource for the Blaine County Recycling Center’s operations.

Goitiandia said the public needs to be better educated for the program to work well.

BREAK

GIS POLICY PROJECT PLAN DISCUSSION and CONSIDERATION

Also present: Blaine County GIS Program Manager Joel Hall, and GIS Analyst Sam Young..

The BCC needs to clarify and establish a policy for the GIS department. Several County departments and outside agencies have requested the use of Blaine County GIS Department resources and staff.

BCC felt public access was very important, and suggested a GIS website tutorial link would be helpful. Land use permits and actions might be useful on the GIS site in the future. There may be potential for enterprise opportunities, including sharing GIS capabilities with other counties that share taxing districts.

PILOT COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM DISCUSSION

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin, and County Planner Kathy Grotto; Site Based Energy Pilot Community Solar Farm Project Manager Paul Conrad, Community Solar Farm director of Environmental and Permitting Trent Stumph, and director of Design and Engineering Jon Riley.

Site Based Energy is a locally-based energy management company that wants to develop a community-scale photovoltaic project in Blaine County. If the County will contribute the land on a long-term lease, Site Based Energy will manage all other aspects of the public-private project.

Site Based Energy uses tax credit equity for the first five years of the project. After that, the project model provides long-term revenue for a local non-profit with the sale of power to Idaho Power. The project is done with a local contractor, engineers, insurance, etc.

The BCC were supportive of the concept, and will further research the project. At a recent energy summit, local power generation created a lot of interest. The third party stands to receive a lot of money, and has to be part of the discussion.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 2:17 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

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