

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SEPTEMBER 2015 SESSION**

**Fourth Day**

**Monday, September 14, 2015**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Human Resources Generalist Henry Brown; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Amy Busek.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Bellevue resident Wendell Cayton submitted photos of Price Lane, where he lives, and asked the BCC to address the deteriorating condition of Price Lane. The BCC will follow up with Road and Bridge.

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS, Discussion and Consideration**

**County Administrator - Derek Voss**

- GIS Manager Joel Hall has submitted his plan to retire in December. GIS team members will meet with the County's HR Generalist to make the transition as smooth as possible.
- Voss will meet with consultants regarding Adams Gulch Bridge acquisition of right-of-way easements.
- Working with Old County Courthouse roof project architect Steve Trout on the ongoing claim made by Wright Brothers.

**RESOLUTION 2015-37 Setting Blaine County 2015 Property Tax Levies ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_**

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Resolution 2015-37, a resolution setting the 2015 property tax levies for Blaine County, Blaine County cities and Blaine County special taxing districts. Motion carried unanimously.** (Resolution 2015-37 was amended by Resolution 2015-50.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

• **Junior College Residency Forms:**

College of Southern Idaho: Spring 2016: Unique Hairston.

College of Southern Idaho: Fall 2015-Spring 2016, Dual Credit: Lauren Busdon; Lizbeth Ceja Cervantes; Kya Cutler; Brooke Durtschi; Breanne Durtschi; Zoe Gibson; Arya Gibson; Zina Hatch; Trevor Kirkland; Jeffrey Kaden Koudelka; Tanner Mecham; Raymond Peck; Bethany Squires; Jordon K Dilworth; Michelle River Herrin; Megan Jones; Brittany M Parker; Brooke N Wilkins; and Lauren A Williamson.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the Consent Calendar for September 14, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ROAD AND BRIDGE, Discussion and Consideration**

**Democrat Gulch Road Status**

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Road and Bridge Manager Tom Duffy; County Engineer Jeff Loomis; County Operations Administrative Assistant Andrea Walton; BLM Shoshone Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner John Kurtz; Ketchum Director of Planning and Building Micah Austin, and Bellevue resident Wendell Kaden.

The County closed Democrat Gulch Road after the Beaver Creek fire. The BLM recently completed their post-fire restoration efforts in the Democrat Gulch area, and BLM planner John Kurtz contacted the BCC about the status of Democrat Gulch Road. The BLM receives questions about the road from people who don't realize it's a County road; and one non-motorized user was concerned that the public would lose access if the road remained closed. One section of the road is washed out; and much of the road is almost impassable due to weeds.

People walk and bike the road, particularly the first couple miles. The BCC and BLM have received requests from recreationists to keep the road closed. Motorized users and hunters will no doubt request it be kept open. The BLM plans to restart its Travel Plan in the next year, and will designate the road as the County directs.

County Road and Bridge Manager Tom Duffy said reopening Democrat Gulch Road for vehicular traffic would cost about \$2,000 per mile, which should be covered by the state gas tax.

County Attorney Tim Graves said the BCC has discretion to temporarily close public roads; restrict access; or permanently vacate a road if in the public interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Weeds make the road almost impassable for mountain bikers.
- Ketchum Director of Planning and Building Micah Austin, representing himself, said Democrat Gulch is a favorite hiking place, with abundant deer, elk, chukars, and elderberries. He encouraged the County to permanently close the road to motorized users because it's a dead-end road that is accessible by the public over an easement, and most of it is surrounded by accessible area.
- BLM Shoshone Field Office Planner John Kurtz said Lambs Gulch Trail and Two Dog Trail were popular trails that connected to Democrat Gulch over private property, but had deteriorated after the fire. The BLM would like to rebuild the trails, but has not received a response from the landowner and will not spend public money without formal cooperation and probably an easement from the landowner.

McCleary would not want to close a road to public access. Schoen doesn't believe the County should close public roads without very good reason, and wanted to know Democrat Gulch Road's RS-2477 status. He said the private property owner could also clear the road if they wanted to keep it open. The BCC will visit the road, and encourages public input from all users. The BLM will forward calls they receive to the County.

### **Gannett Road Safety Audit Response**

Also present: Blaine County Road and Bridge Manager Tom Duffy; County Operations Administrative Assistant Andrea Walton; County Engineer Jeff Loomis; and East Fork resident Steve Wolper.

Blaine County Engineer Jeff Loomis presented the results of the Gannett Road Safety Audit to the BCC a couple weeks ago. The Safety Audit was done with Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) grant funds, and the LHTAC requires a response.

Loomis and Blaine County Road and Bridge Manager Tom Duffy presented proposed recommendations to the BCC. If the BCC wants to implement a particular recommendation, it goes into the road and Bridge work plan for the next time that road is up for maintenance. Duffy said funding was the main limiting factor in what could be done to improve safety of Gannett Road:

#### **1. Restripe edgeline to reduce travel lane from 12ft to 11ft**

Loomis said narrowing traffic lanes can help mitigate cars going off the road. It can also increase sideswipe and head-on accidents on more congested roads, but he thought the wider shoulders on Gannett Road would benefit drivers more than narrowing lanes would cause more accidents. Gannett Road crash data showed drivers going off the side of the road, not crossing the center line. Schoen expressed concern that narrowing the travel way would move traffic toward the centerline, increasing the risk of head-on collision.

- The BCC agreed that Gannett Road should be restriped to reduce travel lanes to 11ft.
- The BCC will discuss maintenance and chipsealing of all County roads to best accommodate the safety of all users and the service life of County roads for the future.

Duffy said Gannett Road is due for restriping.

#### **2. Install shoulder rumble stripes**

#### **3. Install centerline rumble stripes**

- Duffy said rumble strips and rumble stripes are expensive and speed up road deterioration.
- The BCC did not support rumble strips on the edge or center of the road.

#### **4. Widen paved shoulder from 1ft to 4ft**

The Blaine County 2012 Transportation Plan suggests widening Gannett Road right-of-way, which would decrease crashes due to inattentive drivers who are unable to correct and roll over.

- Schoen said bicycle use of Gannett Road was a bigger discussion.
- Loomis suggested the BCC not implement some bicycle safety measures unless it follows standards for a bicycle corridor.
- The BCC left this as a recommendation, saying they could support widening if funds were available to widen the road from Gannett to Bellevue. It will remain in the Gannett Road Safety Audit response as a recommendation, and staff may pursue a safety grant.

#### **5. Improve roadside hazard rating from 2 to 1 (removing fixed objects within the clear zone and improving slope to 4:1 or better throughout entire corridor)**

- Some parts of Gannett Road have flat shoulders; others are steep and can easily cause rollovers. Consistent sideslopes would be safer, with or without widening the shoulders. Irrigation conveyances adjacent to the roadway are also a hazard.

#### **6. Install advanced wildlife crossing warning signs (W11-3 or W11-20).**

- The BCC supported this recommendation, with the revision that Northbound signs should be north of Gannett so traffic emerging out of Gannett sees the signs.

#### **7. Install reduced speed to 45 mph at night between Gannett and Bellevue**

- Greenberg said most Gannett Road crashes are caused by inattentive driving, whether they involve alcohol, animals, or narrow shoulders, and are exacerbated by not obeying the 55mph speed limit.
- The Sheriff said the reduced night speed limit on Highway 75 definitely reduced animal-vehicle collisions; but he advised against reducing the speed limit on Gannett Road.
- Schoen supports this recommendation; and wants the BCC to have a future discussion about raising the speed limit on Gannett Road to 60mph.

## **8. Driver information – Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

- The BCC supported using ITS signs, if and when available, to warn drivers of animals on the roadway during annual January-February and June-July periods.
- Loomis said there was heightened visual awareness with dynamic messaging. Schoen agreed that it makes a difference if the signs are temporary.
- ITD has indicated they would be willing to take requests for putting up the signs.

## **9. Consider permanent Dynamic Messaging Signs**

- The BCC felt that permanent signs have a negative aesthetic impact and may lose effectiveness when they're permanent. The BCC did not recommend permanent dynamic messaging signs.

## **10. Use durable, highly reflective pavement markings**

- The BCC agreed.

## **11. Recessed (inlaid) pavement markings to give audible warning of lane boundaries during periods of snow or night time conditions when visibility is limited.**

- These work well when inlaid in center line and/or shoulders.
- The BCC supported inlaid pavement markings if funding is available.

The BCC all supported the following recommendations:

## **12. Install advance speed reduction warning signs on both approaches to the 45mph speed zone in Gannett.**

## **13. Consider additional chevron signs on curves to provide 200' spacing.**

## **14. Consider modifying the sign height to be consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.**

## **15. Increase street name sign font size. Provide advance Intersection Warning Signs and Street Name plaque to identify the name of intersecting streets at: Glendale/Kingsbury, Baseline, Main Street, and 4th Avenue.**

## **16. Replace missing bicycle warning signs.**

Loomis will revise the recommendations per today's BCC comments and resubmit the recommendations for signature at a future meeting.

## **East Fork Road Striping**

Also present: Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey; County Road and Bridge Manager Tom Duffy; and County Engineer Jeff Loomis.

McCleary thinks all County roads should be maintained for all users, particularly those roads that have been identified as well traveled by pedestrians and cyclists. Schoen said East Fork Road was a federal road project that incorporated Environmental Impact Statement bike lanes in its initial design. She strongly supports restriping East Fork Road, even though it wasn't budgeted.

Schoen said East Fork Road, as a federal reconstruction project, was in the planning stage for a long time, and, just before it received funding, neighbors objected to the road being built to such a high standard. When East Fork Road was recently chipsealed, the chipsealing covered the shoulder striping. Schoen expressed surprise that East Fork Road needed to be chipsealed so soon; but suggested the road be restriped the next time County road crews resurface East Fork Road.

Greenberg said bike routes and the bike path in the County have a positive economic impact. He received numerous letters about gravel on the shoulder of East Fork Road and the lack of striping. Greenberg said law enforcement has told him that drivers continue to go too fast on East Fork Road, and many of the speeders are East Fork residents. Greenberg felt that road shoulders should be resurfaced to increase the life of the road and also accommodate cyclists and pedestrian users.

The BCC commended Road and Bridge staff for continuing their education to learn about road maintenance and for doing an excellent job. The BCC has to review the Road and Bridge work plan with the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan overlay; but, in the meantime, the County should restripe East Fork Road. Sheriff Gene Ramsey said East Fork Road was built wider and flatter, with recovery zones, to accommodate bike traffic, and, without striping, the wider road causes drivers to speed. He suggested the road be striped as it was originally intended. The BCC concurred, and directed the work be done ASAP. Duffy said the road had been swept a couple times, but chips will continue to flake off. Striping expense will be paid out of Road and Bridge unappropriated reserve.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- East Fork resident Steve Wolper, who participated in the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan process, said ITD does not chipseal to the edge, and asked the County to research different techniques to surface roads for multimodal users. He told the BCC that all recommendations in the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan say the work should be considered when financially feasible.

## **BLAINE MANOR PROPERTY AUCTION, Discussion and Consideration**

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Sheriff Gene Ramsey; Musser Auctioneers representative Randy Musser; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Amy Busek.

Idaho law requires the County to hold a public auction to sell County property that's no longer needed for County use. The BCC can set a minimum bid; reject any and all bids; and, if the auction is unsuccessful, the BCC can proceed to sell the property on any terms considered appropriate. Commissioner Schoen has had personal experience with Musser Brothers Auctions, and suggested the BCC get more information about online auctions from Musser. Graves subsequently discussed online auctions with Musser and invited him to a BCC meeting. The County has no contract or commitment with any auction company at this time.

Randy Musser, partner in Musser Bros. Auctioneers, said they have done auctions for many years. Online personal and real property auctions now comprise about 90% of their auction business. Many of their auctions have a "skinny market" with a half dozen or less interested purchasers. In an online auction, no one knows who's bidding or how many people are participating in the auction. The online auction process:

- Prospective bidders register onsite and can immediately bid on the property. Occasionally, earnest money is required to register.
- The property is available online for two or three weeks for prospective bidders to review. Prospective purchasers can arrange to see the property in person with a local representative.
- Online auctions have a "soft close": If a higher bid is placed in the last five minutes of the auction, the auction is extended in five minute increments until no more higher bids are received.
- The high bidder is asked for 10% earnest money with a signed purchase agreement the day after the end of the auction. The auctioneer takes the purchase agreement to their title company and opens escrow. Closing is usually within 45 days of the close of the auction.

If Musser is chosen as the County's auctioneer, they would want a contract indicating the County's commitment to the auction process. Musser would want to see the appraisal and get a more accurate estimate for removing any hazardous materials. Blaine County wants to be sure the entire process is transparent and open to public scrutiny. Graves will research a similar auction process in Twin Falls.

Blaine County always has the option to reject a bid for any reason. If the auction does not reach the minimum price, the seller is given a period of hours to accept, reject or counter the bid.

The appraised value was for \$3 million, minus an estimated \$200,000 demolition of the structure. The BCC discussed a minimum bid of \$2.5 million.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 1(d) INDIGENT** - Consideration of records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in Chapter 3, Title 9, Idaho Code

Present were: Blaine County Indigent Services Director Brooke Baird and Assistant Amy Rivkin.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 1(d) to consider indigent medical applications. McCleary (aye); Schoen (aye), and Greenberg (aye). Motion carried unanimously.**

## **OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to deny Cases #2015-49 and 2015-50 Medical Indigent Applications for Assistance, based on staff recommendations. Motion carried unanimously**

## **BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS, Discussion and Consideration**

**Recycling at Smiley Creek Update** – McCleary

Also present: Clear Creek Disposal Managing Member Mike Goitiandia; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Amy Busek.

McCleary met with representatives of the Forest Service and Clear Creek Disposal to consider providing recycling to Smiley Creek residents and visitors. The Forest Service is very supportive of the project and may be willing to do the necessary sitework to reduce visual impact when they undertake a nearby project. There are currently six trash bins. Clear Creek suggested replacing one trash bin with two recycling bins, one for cardboard and the other divided into sections for plastic, paper and metals. The sections in the one bin would be sized to fill up at approximately the same time. The County would need to provide a total of four recycling bins, two of which would be in use at the site and the other two hauled away by Clear Creek.

Clear Creek Disposal Managing Member Mike Goitiandia said there is adequate space for five trash and two recycle bins. He expects the bins to be used primarily for Smiley Creek residents because campgrounds and commercial operations have their own dumpsters.

The BCC will consider whether to buy or lease the four recycle bins at a later date. Clear Creek will maintain the site for \$3,900/year and will charge \$297 per haul on an as-needed basis. Solid Waste Reserve may be adequate to cover the cost of Smiley Creek recycling. Smiley Creek residents have frequently requested the recycling service and are currently paying a low monthly solid waste fee, which

was last adjusted in 1999.

Schoen said West Magic residents are also paying a low monthly solid waste fee. The BCC should have a general discussion on solid waste income vs. expense.

**CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS, Discussion and Consideration**

- **JPA between Blaine County and the City of Ketchum Relating to Law Enforcement Services** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Also present: Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey; and Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner. The BCC agreed that the County has a great relationship with the City of Ketchum. Ketchum has added one new officer.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Blaine County and the City of Ketchum relating to law enforcement services for FY2016 in the amount of \$1,456,451, payable in 12 equal monthly installments. Motion carried unanimously.**

- **Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ketchum** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- **Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sun Valley** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Also present: GIS Analyst Sam Young. The current GIS Manager is retiring and all parties expect the service to be ongoing. GIS Analyst Sam Young said the agreements are a great example of regional cooperation.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Geographic Information Services with the City of Ketchum for an annual total of \$17,608.34, to be paid in quarterly installments; and with the City of Sun Valley for an annual total of \$17,608.34, to be paid in quarterly installments. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Morphotrust USA, LLC System Maintenance Terms and Conditions** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

This is a software maintenance agreement for the Sheriff’s fingerprint scanner. There are no material changes since last year, but there is a price increase.

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the System Maintenance Terms and Conditions Agreement between Blaine County and Morphotrust USA LLC in the amount of \$6,042.00. Motion carried unanimously.**

- **Computer Arts Inc. Master Agreement Software & Support License** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Blaine County has added the Computer Arts payroll component, increasing the cost. There are no material changes since last year.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve Master Agreement Software and Support License contract between Blaine County and Computer Arts, Inc. in the amount of \$74,176.71. Motion carried unanimously.**

- **Beacon JMS Annual Maintenance Agreement** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

This is jail management software. There are no material changes from last year. **Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Annual Maintenance Agreement between Blaine County and Beacon Software Solutions for jail management software in the amount of \$15,308.39. Motion carried unanimously.**

- **Lease Agreement between Blaine County and Webb Landscape** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

This is a long-standing agreement with Webb Landscape for leased county-owned property on Glendale Road for Webb’s parking lot. There are no material changes to the agreement from last year. The BCC asked Voss to research an increase for FY2017. **Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the lease agreement between Blaine County and Webb Landscape, along Glendale Road, at an annual lease amount of \$1,800. Motion carried unanimously.**

The following contracts are uniform contracts for services with community service agencies. The amounts have been verified by the County Clerk and Commissioners’ administrative assistant.

- **Contract for Services with Blaine County Community Drug Coalition** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- **Contract for Services with Blaine Soil Conservation District** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- **Contract for Services with Crisis Hotline** ..... Record #629703
- **Contract for Services with the Hunger Coalition** ..... Record #629537
- **Contract for Services with St. Luke's Center for Community Health** ..... Record #629696
- **Contract for Services with NAMI** ..... Record #629562
- **Contract for Services with South Central Community Action Partnership** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- **Contract for Services with Wood River Wolf Project** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- **Contract for Services with the Senior Connection** ..... Record #629598
- **Contract for Services with Sun Valley Economic Development** ..... Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve contracts for services between Blaine County and the Blaine County Community Drug Coalition; the Blaine Soil Conservation District; the Crisis Hotline; the Hunger Coalition; St. Luke's Center for Community Health; the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Region IV Development Association; the South Central Community Action Partnership; the Wood River Wolf Project; the Senior Connection; and Sun Valley Economic**

Development; with value of the contracts as stipulated in each contract, based on the Blaine County FY2016 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Contract for Services with Blaine County Housing Authority** ..... Record #629689  
McCleary moved, seconded by Schoen, to approve the contract for services between Blaine County and the Blaine County Housing Authority, as specified in the contract, in the amount of \$70,000, paid in quarterly installments of \$17,500. Motion carried unanimously.

• **Contract for Services with the Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley** ..... Record #  
The only material change is that contract language has been revised to FY2016.  
Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Contract for Services between Blaine County and the Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley for impound services, in the amount of \$24,000 annually, paid in quarterly installments of \$6,000. Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS, Discussion and Consideration**

**Supplemental Medicaid Reimbursement for EMS Calls – Greenberg**

Greenberg attended presentation by A.P. Triton, which is working with Idaho counties to get legislation and a state plan through Health and Welfare to get Medicaid reimbursement for EMS calls. Health and Welfare, Idaho Association of Counties and Association of Idaho Cities had representatives present.

**SIEDO - Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization – Greenberg**

- There is a lack of available workforce for new businesses coming into Idaho. A panel of “Millennials” discussed what was important to attracting other Millennials to Idaho.
- A panel of employers discussed how they attract new talent.
- The Chamber’s website connects people to available jobs.
- Many Twin Falls jobs are low pay labor and assembly line.
- Blaine County has new hotels that will attract tourists, but there is a lack of community and workforce housing.

**Regional Behavioral Health Community Board – McCleary**

- Health and Welfare submitted a proposal for state funding for a third crisis center. The Regional Behavioral Health Board intends to put in an application for it to be located in Twin Falls. Currently, there are crisis centers in Idaho Falls and in the northern part of state.

**Status Offender Services – McCleary**

McCleary is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the School District for them to provide funding for status offender services.

**Boulder-White Clouds – Schoen**

Schoen is giving a presentation on the Boulder-White Clouds to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students studying the ecology of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area; wilderness and how areas are designated as wilderness.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**APPROVAL OF BCC MEETING MINUTES**

- **July 21, 2015 Regular Meeting**  
Schoen moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve July 21 minutes, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

At the hour of 1:49 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
JoLynn Drage County Clerk Jacob Greenberg Chairman