

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARCH 2022 SESSION**

Fourth Day

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Muffy Davis; Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Assistant Morgan DeWitt; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant and Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham Blaine County Engineer Jeff Loomis, Jim Williams, Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson, IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amanda Greer, Idaho Power Local Area Energy Advisor Amber Larna,

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS:

- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application for Microgrid Project Scoping**

Also present, Sustainability Manager Sustainability Manager Lynne Barker.

Sustainability Manager Lynne Barker presented a proposal for a self-sustaining microgrid in the Wood River Valley. The federal government and The State of Idaho have grants available for these types of projects. The grant application is requesting \$250,000 from The Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the grant does require a 25% match. All five of Blaine County's municipalities along with St. Luke's, Idaho Power are interested in investing in this project and have agreed on the required match. All the entities stated above are working on getting the 25% match approved within their boards and councils.

The Idaho National Lab, Idaho Renewable Energy Lab, The University of Idaho Integrated Design Lab, Power Engineers are all partners in the proposal, with Power Engineers as the project manager. The University of Idaho is going to conduct an audit on our facilities to ensure they are operating at optimal performance and to detect any energy deficiencies. National Renewable Energy laboratory is going to do an analysis on all the renewable energy in the Wood River Valley such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro.

Fosbury is pleased with how many local entities are working together to achieve clean sustainable energy.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Request to Apply for The Idaho Office of Emergency Management FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant for The Wood River Valley Climate Mitigation and Energy Reliability Resilience Microgrid Project Scoping in the amount \$286,931.27, requiring a 25% match to be provided as \$37,850.00 in-kind and \$35,000 cash contribution. Motion passed unanimously.

BLAINE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - UPDATE AND BOARD DIRECTION ON VACATING TRANSIENT ENCAMPMENT AT HOT SPRINGS LANDING PARKING LOT:

Also present, Blaine County Sheriff's Lieutenant Bryan Carpita, Flood Plain Manager Kristine Hilt, Blaine County Attorney County Attorney Tim Graves.

Floodplain Manager Kristine Hilt was alerted by Blaine County Sheriffs that they have been monitoring an RV convoy at the Hot Springs Landing, this convoy has also been spotted at other camping locations. There is currently no ordinance on overnight parking at these camp sites. Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson stated that these campers are not connected to any sewage lines or garbage removal therefore making it a possible health and safety hazard. BLM and Fish and Game have a 14-16 day stay limit at their campsites. Some of the RVs have solar panels and appear to be using these campsites as a permanent residence. Blaine County Sheriff's Lieutenant Bryan Carpita's main concern was if these convoys are staying long term, they would be disturbing any public recreation. Blaine County Attorney Tim Graves made suggestions on how The BCC could manage the camp sites. They could issue notices to vacate, therefore leading to a trespass citation if they don't vacate. They could develop a parking ordinance that included camping on county-owned property. The BCC is concerned with the health and safety of these residents and understand that this may be a result of the housing crisis. The BCC agreed to work on a parking ordinance, monitor the situation, and if any issues arise, they will then issue a notice to vacate.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Road and Bridge - Steve Thompson

- **Bridge Replacement Discussion**

Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson notified the BCC that Idaho State passed the Emergency Bridge Funding bill. Thompson received a notification stating that funds will be used on bridges with posted weight limits and which that are severely deficient. Blaine County has eight eligible bridges, not

including Kilpatrick bridge which is already funded for replacement. Thompson examined all the bridges and came up with the top 3 that are in most desperate need of restoration. They will start with The Little Wood Bridge by Carey on Muldoon Creek which has very high traffic. Second would be The High Five Canyon Road Bridge that was refurbished. Lastly, Muldoon Canyon Wood Bridge which has rotten beams. The BCC approved of the list of priority bridges and would like for the Road and Bridge department to begin restoration as soon as funds are available.

- **Indian Creek Road Reconstruction**

Blaine County Engineer Jeff Loomis gave a presentation on the re-construction that will start on Buttercup Road and end at the Indian Creek Road cul-de-sac. They will be using any asphalt that is salvageable from the existing road. They are not going to extend the shoulders of the road they will be building on the already existing road. McCleary questioned if there would be any striping on the road? Thompson stated that this road will not be stripped except for the Indian Creek biking trails with indication stripes. Thompson has received bids from local contractors, and requested County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham to broadcast that we are still accepting bids for this project. The timeline of this project will be determined by the contractor.

- **Highway 75**

Planning & Zoning Commission had a hearing on the revision of the CUP for a FEDEX Distribution Center on Glendale Road. FEDEX consultants had to revise the traffic impact study based on the revised trip generated numbers. Blaine County and ITD have discussed how to improve that intersection at Glendale Road and Highway 75. Blaine County asked the FEDEX consultant if they could design an intersection improvement as part of their conditions of approval. The FEDEX consultants provided three alternatives of improvements at the intersection that are being evaluated.

- **Transportation Update**

Jeff Loomis discussed with GIS that The Transportation Plan should be updated every five years. The GIS Department is eagerly working on this project although the beginning has been time consuming, once they have everything lined out it will be easier to do in the future.

BREAK

Human Resources - Justin Highhouse

- **Safe Work Practices Policy Review**

Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse informed The BCC that The State of Idaho and local surrounding cities have revoked their mask mandates. Highhouse introduced an updated policy on the requirement of masks inside any Blaine County building. The new policy will be based on The South-Central Health District risk level evaluation. The COVID risk level will determine if Blaine County employees will be required to wear masks indoors. Therefore, if Blaine County is to go back to being in the high-risk zone, then masks will be required once again, but if Blaine County continues on the low-risk zone, then masks will be optional. Blaine County still encourages for employees to wear masks but it is not a requirement. There will be no changes to the COVID sick leave policy at this time. Highhouse will send an email to all employees regarding the new policy and updates regarding risk levels.

Public Comment

- Sunny Grant stated she will continue to wear a mask and would like for the COVID sick time to stay in place.
- Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy asked to update signage in buildings so there is no confusion.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to update Blaine County COVID-19 safe work practices as presented to the board. Motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator - Mandy Pomeroy

- Working on rescheduling The Ambulance District board meeting with stake holders.
- Clerk McDougall Graham and Pomeroy will be working on the budget development process.
- The Clerk and Pomeroy have a rough ARPA calculation total. The BCC has awarded \$2.6 million dollars' worth of funding. That number does not include what has been allocated to community service organizations for this year and future years. It does include the \$1.5million of The Lost Revenue Budget.

COVID UPDATE, ACTION ITEMS

- **Blaine County COVID-19 Risk Level Plan**

Blaine County is currently in the "moderate level". The back log is down to 637 cases and 93 of those cases are Blaine County.

- **Covid-19 Mayor's Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16,2022

- **Updates**

Fosbury received a request from Leslie Manookian President of Health Freedom Defense Fund asking if Fosbury would set up a public forum or debate between Manookian and The State Epidemiologist Dr. Christine Hahn. Manookian does not have the medical background or expertise on health policies in regards to a virus and is not a licensed medical expert. Mayor Neil Bradshaw believes it would be a good idea to have a public forum to discuss what worked and what didn't work during the pandemic. Fosbury agreed it would be a good idea to have a discussion about the practices and experience from the pandemic that is science-based.

BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- **Health Hero Award Nomination**

Also present, Stephanie Carlson

McCleary wants The BCC to nominate Terry O'Connell who has gone above and beyond to guide Blaine County, sounding towns and The South-Central Health District in regards to the pandemic. The BCC was in agreement about the nomination of Dr. O'Connell for Health Hero.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to nominate Dr. Terry O'Connell for the Health Hero Award. Motion passed unanimously.

- **South Central Behavioral Health Board Meeting**

McCleary attended the meeting and they discussed access to treatment, stable housing, children's services, and what the board could realistically do to impact current issues in the region.

- **Southern Idaho Solid Waste Strategic Planning Discussion**

Sustainability Manager Lynne Barker and Fosbury met with Southern Idaho Solid Waste Environmental Manager Nate Francisco and discussed revenue sources, improvements at the transfer station, upgrading equipment and maintaining equipment, and the growth of the recycling program and the impact it's had with in the district. Waste Characterization Report was discussed that helped identify items that can be diverted and processed locally at a lesser cost. Blaine County generates around \$2.5 million per year from tipping fees. The funds from tipping fees supports The Blaine County Recycling Program and the Solid Waste District for their services.

Ohio Gulch Transfer Station

Blaine County has to fence and restrict public access points at the northeast canyon by The Ohio Gulch Transfer Station. Blaine County has to keep the public away from the transfer station for safety precautions.

- **Housing Action Plan Update**

The Lift Tower Lodge

The City of Ketchum started working on the sewer lines but the work is more extensive than anticipated. Fosbury is working with Blaine County House Authority to make the remaining units habitable for families or individuals in need of housing. BCHA has a great team of advisors to help with developing the lodge. The City of Ketchum has showed interested in acquiring The Lift Tower Lodge to add to the annexation.

Blaine County Housing Authority

The board is still in need of an executive director. BCHA received a grant from The Spur Foundation to hire Agnew-Beck to aid in the strategic plan and manage the housing authority while they finalize their transition.

City of Hailey

Fosbury and The City of Hailey Community Development Director Lisa Horowitz are looking at some vacant houses that may be refurbished for public housing. Fosbury has contacted homeowners regarding their vacant homes and the possibility of reconstructing the homes with the assistance of ARCH or BCHA.

City of Bellevue

City of Bellevue is interested in annexation within the city and upgrading sewage water capacity.

- **Correspondence**

The Mayor of Stanley Mayor Stephen Botti alerted McCleary that Custer County will be investing in the mitigation of the high-risk fire areas within Custer County and SNRA. The mayor asked if Blaine County would be interested in doing something similar in Blaine County. Fosbury offered to share resource and standards that Blaine County has adopted.

- **Other**

Latin X Task Force

The Task Force presented Dolores Huerta at the Limelight. She gave a great presentation and travelers from all over Idaho attended the presentation.

Walker Gravel Highway

Fosbury received a proposal from an agent to improve the intersection by Walker Sand and Gravel on highway 75. Fosbury referred the agent to County Land Use Director Tom Bergin to review the proposal with ITD. They will determine if there is a need to renovate that intersection.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Junior College Certificate of Residency forms**

College of Western Idaho, Fall 2021 - Spring 2022: Gabriel Reuben Leigh-Wagner and Dylan Prabowo.

North Idaho College, Fall 2021 - Spring 2022: Samantha D Ferguson.

- **Resolution 2022-05 Destruction of Election Records**

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to remove Resolution 2022-05 Resolution of Blaine County State of Idaho Authorizing Destruction of Election Records from the Consent Calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Consent Calendar for March 15, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Resolution 2022-05 Resolution of Blaine County State of Idaho Authorizing Destruction of Election Records as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 (1)(b) Personnel

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b), to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, an employee.

Davis (aye), McCleary (aye) and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 12 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury
County Clerk Chairman