

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE MARCH 2020 SESSION**

Coronavirus Covid-19 Blaine County Emergency Actions

Fifth Day

Monday, March 16, 2020

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 1:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary (by web conferencing), and Commissioner Dick Fosbury; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon, IT Specialists Ben Parker and Jon Eaton; County Prosecutor Jim Thomas and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Assessor Jim Williams; County Treasurer John David Davidson (by web conferencing) and Chief Deputy Treasurer Morgan Drage; Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal; County Services Manager Brooke Baird; Sheriff Steve Harkins; Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; GIS Manager Sam Young; Chief Public Defender Justin McCarthy; County Land Use and Building Services Deputy Director Kathy Grotto; Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner; Blaine County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; County Detention Captain Jay Davis; Magistrate Judge Jennifer Haemmerle; County Weed Department Manager John Cenarrusa; Emergency Communications Deputy Director Brady Stokes; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Kiki Tidwell; and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Gretel Kauffman.

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

COVID-19 Updates

Greenberg has asked legislators to expedite Unemployment Compensation for employees who are laid off during the COVID-19 shutdown; and to not raise employers' Unemployment Insurance rates because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

• **Blaine County Resolution No. 2020-12 Declaration of Disaster Emergency and Request for Declaration of Disaster Emergency resulting from the Global COVID-19 Pandemic**

Chris Corwin said the first meeting of Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Coordination Center brought together liaisons from all agencies and jurisdictions, private and non-governmental organizations to update each other on what everyone is doing. Corwin gave a rundown of local businesses and organizations and how they're responding to public and community needs.

- Dispatch Director Robin Stellers said they are not seeing an increase in 911 calls from people with respiratory distress.
- Idaho Office of Emergency Management is the lead agency on COVID-19 and is trying to coordinate better with local health districts and Health & Welfare.
- Magistrate Judge Jennifer Haemmerle said judges had a telephone conference and were developing protocol for which hearings could be held telephonically and which had to be in person, and which had to be held immediately and which could be continued.

Fosbury moved, seconded by McCleary, to make a positive finding that there is an emergency from the Global COVID-19 pandemic, based on the fact that the State of Idaho declared an emergency last Friday, and Blaine County has had two cases discovered in the last three days, and, based on that, that we have an emergency situation. Motion carried unanimously.

Fosbury moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve Blaine County Resolution 2020-12, a declaration of disaster emergency and request for declaration of disaster emergency resulting from global COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried unanimously. Record #667841

• **Blaine County Internal Policies**

The Blaine County Leadership Team began to discuss county procedures. Elected officials and department heads were present at today's meeting to further discuss best practices to serve the public while keeping their team members healthy during the COVID-19 disaster. Department heads outlined how they expect to serve the public with appointments or phone consultations, and have minimal staff in the office. Idaho State has extended renewal dates for drivers licenses and car registrations for 90 days. The BCC made the following adjustments due to COVID-19:

- All County buildings, except the Judicial Building, will be closed to the public. DMV / Drivers Licenses will close at 4:00pm today. Assessor Williams will personally explain the situation to anyone who shows up. The Annex building will close at 6:00pm. The BCC will discuss other County buildings at tomorrow's regular BCC meeting. All County buildings will be closed until Monday, April 6. The BCC will reevaluate closures on March 31.
- All County employees will continue to be paid for the hours they normally work.
- Employees who need to have some contact with the public can arrange appointments.
- Employees who can work from home should do so. Laptops and remote secure virtual private network connections will be set up as available. IT is looking into expanding bandwidth.

- Administrative leave should be provided for those who have children at home or choose to stay home for fear of COVID-19.
- Land Use hearings before P&Z and the BCC that can be delayed will be postponed. Notice fees will not be recharged.
- All credit card fees are taken by the credit card company cannot be waived.
- Normal procedure is for employees to use all vacation and sick leave before they request other team members to donate sick leave. That may not be necessary during this crisis. The BCC asked department heads to let them know if there is a special need for them to address.

Sheriff Harkins suggested the BCC close the County Annex, which has the most public influx and is not an essential service, today. He said he would not be coming to any more meetings where this many people are present in a room to avoid exposure to himself and anyone he may come in contact with.

The BCC directed Chief Public Defender Justin McCarthy, Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal and the Prosecutor’s Office to figure out how best to work with their clients.

The BCC directed Public Information Officer Larry Schoen to work with departments and IT to set up hotlines and direct lines, and directions for the public.

Fosbury moved, seconded by McCleary, to close the Blaine County Annex, effective Monday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m., end of day, for three weeks until Monday morning, April 6, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:50 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
 JoLynn Drage County Clerk Jacob Greenberg Chairman