

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

Eighth Day

Monday, March 23, 2020

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 11:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Dick Fosbury; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon and IT Specialists Ben Parker and Jon Eaton; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; County Operations Support Specialist Kay Draper; County Facilities Manager Patrick Boyle; County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Assessor Jim Williams; County Treasurer John David Davidson; County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Idaho Statesman Reporter Nicole Blanchard; Jim Phillips; and Kiki Tidwell.

Chairman Greenberg was present by videoconferencing. Acting Chairman Fosbury, in person, called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

McCleary was absent until 11:30.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Kiki Tidwell suggested Blaine County increase testing of anyone who has contact with the public during this time. Many people don't show symptoms, but could be spreading the virus. Tidwell said the BCC should be cautious in giving money away (i.e., \$25,000 to The Hunger Coalition) that it may need later.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Claims - Gretchen Stinnett

Greenberg moved, seconded by Fosbury, to approve claims dated March 18, 2020. Motion carried 2/0.

McCleary arrived (by phone) at this time.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

- **Independent Contractor Agreement for Public Information Officer**

This contract is to hire Larry Schoen as Public Information Officer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fosbury moved, seconded by Greenberg, to approve this Independent Contractor Agreement for Public Information Officer with Larry Schoen, with compensation at \$80.00 hour, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

COVID-19

Updates

- Greenberg has been answering hotline phone calls. Voss expressed concern that other people answering hotline calls have up-to-date and accurate information. He asked that hotline staff not speak on behalf of other jurisdictions.
- Callers are reassured that there will not be roadblocks, but are encouraged to not leave the Valley unless necessary.
- The Governor and BCC have attempted to clarify essential services.
- Public Health and Welfare has advised anyone coming into Blaine County or who has visited Blaine County to self-isolate for 14 days.

Blaine County Internal Policies

Department heads reported on current and potentially updated policies.

- IT is hearing about slowdown due to limited bandwidth in the Valley, but most connections are working okay.
- Southern Idaho Solid Waste District is closing all transfer stations to the public to minimize personal contact.
- Clear Creek solid waste disposal drivers can stay in their trucks.
- The public is not allowed in County buildings. County buildings are being sanitized only at night.
- County business is being handled mostly by staff from home.
- Public hearings for land use applications in March and April have been canceled.
- Road and Bridge has installed digital signs letting people know there is a SHELTER-IN-PLACE order for Blaine County. The BCC directed Steve Thompson to see if he can get more signs. Thompson said he'd explained to bystanders that crews were able to do some jobs without close contact to each other and the public.

- The BCC discussed vacation caps with the County Clerk. Employees currently have a five-week cap. Drage said changing payroll policies in Computer Arts is difficult. She said employees who cap their vacation are getting administrative leave and not losing any of their accrued vacation. Voss said some employees, such as Sheriff’s deputies, have to work during this time, and shouldn’t lose legitimate vacation because they can’t take vacations while ordered to stay at home.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 1:06 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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