

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

Ninth Day

Friday, March 27, 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 Clerk Leslie Londos; County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon and IT Specialist Jon Eaton; County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; County Operations Support Specialist Kay Draper; County Weeds Manager John Cenarrusa; County Chief Public Defender Justin McCarthy; County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; County Treasurer John David Davidson; County Assessor Jim Williams; County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; County Certified Building Official Jeff Giese; County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant (by phone); St. Luke's Wood River MRI Technologist David Sundholm; Sun Valley Institute Executive Director Aimée Christensen; Spur Community Foundation Executive Director Sally Gillespie; Visit Sun Valley Executive Director Scott Fortner; Ed Terrazas; and Victor Bernstein.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order, most participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m.

Greenberg said this emergency meeting was noticed according to Idaho Statute.

Public Comment: None

RESOLUTION 2020-13 AUTHORIZING SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR COVID-19 EXPENSES

Also present: Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin.

Resolution 2020-13 Request for Reimbursement from Idaho Office of Emergency Management

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center doesn't have enough hospital resources to care for the large number of COVID-19 patients, and the Blaine County Ambulance District doesn't have enough local ambulances to transport patients to Boise or Twin Falls. Corwin and Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman request an additional ambulance with personnel be rented from a service in Boise. Resolution 2020-13 gives Corwin spending authority for such COVID-19-related emergency needs.

McCleary and Fosbury agree a reasonable amount is not-to-exceed \$40,000.

Greenberg moved, seconded by Fosbury, to approve Resolution 2020-13, a Blaine County resolution authorizing spending authority for COVID-19 expenditures, whereas the health and safety of all Blaine County residents is the greatest priority of our County and its leaders; therefore, the Blaine County Commissioners declare an emergency for the novel Coronavirus, aka COVID-19, on March 13, 2020; and assist taxing districts within Blaine County that are requesting assistance from Blaine County. Motion carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY SELF-ISOLATION ORDINANCE 2020-01

When it became known that Blaine County was experiencing "community spread" of COVID-19, the BCC, with support from the state, initiated a "Shelter-in-Place" order on March 20, 2020. Other Idaho counties subsequently experienced community spread, and the Governor issued a statewide Self-Isolation Order on March 25, 2020. The Blaine County Commissioners are considering an Emergency Self-Isolation Ordinance 2020-01, based on, but stricter than, the Governor's shelter-in-place order. The ordinance expires on Sunday, April 12, 2020, at midnight. Attorney Graves noted this Ordinance is only for the unincorporated county; but local jurisdictions are expected to pass this similar ordinances.

Commissioner Fosbury said the overall threat is to our healthcare facility and workers. He agreed with taking severe steps to try to control the spread of this highly-infectious virus.

Chairman Greenberg said tighter restrictions for two weeks should help protect the community as a whole and local hospital and healthcare workers during this upswing period, as well as people in neighboring counties who have expressed concern that Blaine County residents are spreading the virus to them. Greenberg acknowledged that County businesses will be hurt by this, and understands they are opposed to it, but the County Medical Director supports this ordinance.

Public Comment:

- St. Luke's Wood River MRI Technologist David Sundholm said it was hard to comment on the proposed ordinance since it wasn't available to the public. He said these measures took people's right to work and their livelihood away. Sundholm urged BCC to get accurate data from the hospital.
- Justin McCarthy asked if people's constitutional rights to travel are going to be restricted.
- Victor Bernstein felt that solitary workers maintaining homes should be considered essential, and said they are certainly observing social distancing.
- Ed Terrazas, with a background in microbiology, said a big concern is the amount of virus "load" when people are crowded together. He suggested limiting the number of people allowed at a time in buildings such as grocery stores.
 - *South Central Public Health District has worked with grocery stores and other places to provide protective measures for workers and the public.*

Commissioner McCleary said the County has an extreme health situation right now, but she thinks it would be best to follow general guidelines of social isolation and good hygiene. McCleary is mostly concerned that people are going to be put out of work, perhaps unnecessarily, in a time period when it is vital that people get paychecks.

Fosbury moved, seconded by Greenberg, to approve Ordinance 2020-01 that is intended to place further restrictions to the statewide Shelter-in-Place Order issued on March 25, 2020, and finding that the ordinance is enacted on an emergency basis, which establishes effective and sunset dates as submitted. Motion carried 2/1, with McCleary opposed.

The ordinance will be effective this afternoon, March 27, 2020, when it is posted in five public places, and expires on 11:59 on April 20, 2020.

COVID-19

• Update

Greenberg has been in touch with Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Sun Valley Economic Development, Region IV Development, Idaho Department of Labor, and others on behalf of local businesses and employees affected by the shutdown.

• Blaine County Internal Policies Update

- County Administrator Voss gave a brief report on all County departments.
- Southern Idaho Solid Waste District will keep transfer stations open, for now, to commercial haulers, but closed to the public except for Saturday.
- Elections office is waiting to get directions from the state on how to handle the May election.
- Sheriff's patrol is fully staffed and monitoring streets and highways.
- The detention center is operating normally and safely.
- Remodels in the Old County Courthouse basement and the Annex will be complete very soon.

• Blaine County Recycle Center

Fosbury said Recycle Center employees are uncomfortable handling recyclables. They don't have adequate protective clothing, and the COVID-19 can live on plastic, metal and cardboard surfaces, so their safety is a concern.

County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen said this is a good opportunity to educate the public that materials that are not recyclable, or are dirty, are a contaminant and ruin the recyclable materials they are with.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 1:28 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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