

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

Tenth Day

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 10:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Dick Fosbury; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; Blaine County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon and IT Specialists Ben Parker and Jon Eaton; County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; County Services Manager Brooke Baird; County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and Kiki Tidwell.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Kiki Tidwell said COVID-19 would be a pandemic for at least a year. Those people who haven't gotten it will be susceptible. Up to one-third of carriers show no symptoms, and people will come into the valley with new strains of the virus. She said Blaine County will need part- and full-time residents to stay viable this summer to keep the economy alive; and everyone in the valley and anyone coming into the valley should be tested for COVID-19. Tidwell added that anyone in the Valley who interacts with the public must be required to wear gloves and face masks.

DESIGNATE MAIL BALLOT PRECINCT DESIGNATION

County Clerk Drage said Idaho Governor Brad Little and Secretary of State Lawrence Denney have mandated that, due to COVID-19, this May's primary election will be all by mail. Precinct 16, Yale, is always a mail-out precinct, and has to be officially designated as such by the BCC.

McCleary moved, seconded by Fosbury, to designate Yale, Precinct 16, as a mail ballot precinct. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

County Administrator – Derek Voss

- **The Fiscal Year 2021 budget process will begin the first of May.**

Community service organizations will present in May. County departments will present their budget requests in June. The BCC will see if other department team members may have some time to assist with the upcoming mail-in election to allow the County Clerk to focus on the budget process.

- **Recycle Center**

Recycle Center team members don't want to sort cardboard when it comes in due to potential contamination; so the Recycle Center has suspended all recycling operations. Containers at the Recycle Center will remain open to the public, but will be emptied at the transfer station. Public access at the transfer station will continue as usual, with minimal interaction between the public and transfer station gate personnel. Southern Idaho Solid Waste District Board is evaluating how to handle household hazardous waste, greenwaste, etc., but for now, they will be handled as usual. Fosbury suggested the public not be advised to hold onto hazardous waste or recyclables until the situation returns to normal because no one knows when that might be and the County doesn't want potentially hazardous products to sit around.

COVID-19

- **Updates**

Greenberg said the Hailey City Council put together strict guidelines and management practices to allow construction companies to continue to operate. Greenberg wants to cooperate with the local jurisdictions in a unified policy. The County Building Official doesn't have the ability to review all building sites for compliance.

- **Blaine County Internal Policies**

Greenberg said the BCC had to be in compliance with state mandate, which was to stay closed through Wednesday, April 15. All County team members will stay within the Governor's Order and continue to provide essential services to the public, from home if possible. Greenberg asked department heads to submit how their departments are working, and any requests to change procedures to the BCC.

The County is looking for additional COVID-19 tests, and has found potential sources.

McCleary moved, seconded by Fosbury, to extend closure policy of County buildings until April 20, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Vacation Accrual**

County Clerk Drage said some employees will hit their vacation cap in April. She said changing the vacation cap policy would be done by Computer Arts, in cooperation with staff, and may take months to actually take effect, and even longer to change it back.

Greenberg supports extension of vacation accrual because employees currently can't take vacation during what would normally be a slow spring break time. Fosbury said he's still learning about the system, but wants to make things fair for all employees. McCleary would prefer to wait a month or two before making a decision.

The BCC decided to wait until May to reconsider vacation accrual.

▪ **Flyer/postcard and Consideration of Construction Industry**

The County and local public information officers submitted a flyer and postcard outlining details of the Construction Shut-Down. Printing the flyer would cost about \$1,500, paid for by Blaine County; and mailing would cost about \$2,900, to be shared among jurisdictions.

The BCC supported the flyer, but found the Code Red information confusing. Greenberg said he'd made sure this kind of information was distributed to organizations and locations that would disseminate the word throughout the community. He was concerned about spending over \$4,000 on information that most people probably already know. Fosbury said the information was on the radio as well. Fosbury and McCleary agreed that most local residents are probably already aware of the information on the postcard.

Schoen said the text on the postcard was approved by the PIOs, including the hospital; and a bulk mail postcard would reach 15,400 people with a unified message from five cities and the County. Alternately, the flyer could be printed and posted in public places.

Meeting attendees felt most people are on top of the situation. Pat Boyle suggested the PIOs could spread the word a little more among landscaping and construction companies.

▪ **Consideration of Emergency Expenditures**

POI Schoen asked if the BCC wanted to pay an increased subscription rate to GoToMeeting in order to hold a virtual BCC TownHall meeting. Ben Parker said the cost was minimal, and IT is currently getting an accurate quote. The BCC supported the additional GoToMeeting license cost.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 11:38 a.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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