

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE APRIL 2020 SESSION  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC CURRENT STAY-AT-HOME ORDER DISCUSSION**

**Second Day**

**Saturday, April 11, 2020**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:30 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 Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; County Operations Support Specialist Kay Draper; Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; Sheriff Steve Harkins; County Assessor Jim Williams; Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks; County Building Official Jeff Giese; Deputy Treasurer Morgan Drage; County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn; Ketchum City Administrator Suzanne Frick; Howard Royal; Lisa Phillips; Mike Gilman; Sean Flynn; Susan Thomson; Tom Bowman; Beau Burks; Cary Iverson; David Farrell; Jude Arvidson; David Sundholm; Ed Dumke; Dave Tengesdal; Eric Grossbaum; Guy Cherp; Juli \_\_\_\_; Kathleen Eder; Kelly Dupree, and *Idaho Mountain Express* reporter Gretel Kauffman.

Due to Blaine County's current COVID-19 Stay-in-Place order, most of the meeting participants were present by webconference or teleconference.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

County Attorney Tim Graves said Idaho Statute Section 74-204 (2) authorizes the BCC to conduct emergency meetings when necessary in immediate situation involving potential injury or damage to persons or property. The BCC has previously determined that the current COVID-19 pandemic situation is such a situation. The local press has been notified and today's agenda has been posted in five prominent places in Blaine County, as required.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Fosbury, that this emergency meeting is appropriate under Idaho Code Section 74-204 (2). Motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO BLAINE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2020-01**

The BCC is considering letting Blaine County Ordinance 2020-01 expire on Sunday, April 19, or extending the ordinance. Ordinance 2020-01 has stricter "stay-in-place" guidelines than those of the State of Idaho, and has stopped non-essential construction in Blaine County.

**Public Comment:**

- David Sundholm said Blaine County had called this emergency meeting on Friday evening, with very little notice. Sundholm said the County had had eight consecutive days of declining COVID-19 case numbers. Hailey has extended the construction ban in its city limits and five miles beyond their city limits. Sundholm said people are now more afraid of the government, and for their businesses and homes and jobs, than they are of the virus.
- Beau Burks, Burks Excavation, asked what the City of Bellevue was doing.
  - *Bellevue Mayor Ned Burns said he will encourage Bellevue Council to extend restrictions another week.*
- Susan Thomson said the safety of the public comes first. Thomson asked why Blaine County "codes" don't match those of the State of Idaho.
  - *When Blaine County first had community spread, Blaine County passed a Stay-in-Place order on March 20. Blaine County has been the hardest hit in Idaho, and has the highest per capita rates in the nation, and just a small hospital that was overwhelmed. A week later, the State initiated a Stay-in-Place statewide order.*
- Rick Baird said the country had 16 million new unemployment applications and thousands were lining up at food banks. Baird suggested Blaine County lead the way and allow people to go back to work.
- Contractors David Hennessey, Paul Conrad and David Wilson support construction business going back to work.
  - *The BCC said many construction companies had already responded to the crisis with safety measures, but some hadn't and crews were not adequately following CDC recommendations, so the BCC took drastic actions.*
- Cary Iverson asked about the many construction workers who come from out of the valley. Iverson said people need to read and understand the construction ordinance before they go to work.
- County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers said it was important that the County and cities work together on a cohesive ordinance.
- PAG (and another unidentified caller) encouraged the BCC to extend the current order for a week and use that time to work together to refine and define the construction standards.
- David \_\_\_\_ said healthcare professionals are hyper-conservative, with little consideration for the

- financial health of their patients and the entire county. Has any economic advisor been consulted?
- Heather Dawson encouraged the BCC to extend current restrictions.

Fosbury said the County's measures have worked, but the virus is still around the community. He said a discussion about how to transition back to business was appropriate. There is still risk; but he would be willing to end the restriction early next week.

McCleary is very concerned about the health crisis in the community and also concerned about people in the community who aren't able to work. She doesn't want a few days of good reports to allow the community to relax its standards.

Greenberg said no one knows how many people were not tested or refused testing and have the virus and can spread it. No one is going to know who is safe until there is wide-scale testing for antibodies; and if the antibodies provide immunity.

Graves said there are several drafts of the ordinance still being circulated among jurisdictions, and a definitive draft hasn't yet been published. The BCC agreed that proposed restrictions should be public, consistent across local jurisdictions, and in place before the current restrictions expire. Greenberg said the new construction protocol, once finalized, will require every construction business in Blaine County to self-regulate. The Building Contractors Association has said it will monitor jobsites to ensure compliance, for everyone's benefit. As stated in Hailey's guidelines, contractors with current building permits must give the County Building Department the names of all workers on the project and have a designated person in charge. Each worker will be surveyed each day to be sure they and their family members are healthy. County building officials will be inspecting job sites, and there is a penalty and fine for violating health protocols.

The BCC acknowledged that some workers such as landscapers don't need a permit to work. The County will trust that they will follow the guidelines.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Fosbury, to approve Ordinance 2020-02 and direct counsel to put the ordinance on the County's website as soon as possible. This ordinance would extend the circumstances of Ordinance 2020-01, and further move that counsel post the proposed construction standards in the next ordinance. This ordinance is enacted on an emergency basis and is effective upon posting in five public places.** Discussion: Fosbury is opposed. He wants to be consistent in the community, but believes workers can work safely within the standards and guidelines sooner. **Motion carried 2/1, with Fosbury opposed.**

Ordinance 2020-02 extends the restrictions in current Blaine County Ordinance 2020-01 until Sunday, April 19, at 11:59 pm. These restrictions are basically the same as those ordered by the City of Hailey. The County's standards are currently the same as all other Blaine County jurisdictions, but Ketchum, Sun Valley and Bellevue have not yet acted to retain or revise their current restrictions.

Greenberg encouraged businesses to read standards online, and contact the County Building Department in order to be prepared to enact safety protocols when they go back to work.

County Public Information Officer Larry Schoen requested County GIS be asked to construct a map showing a five-mile emergency delimitation around cities.

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 11:40 a.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
JoLynn Drage Jacob Greenberg  
County Clerk Chairman