

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE APRIL 2020 SESSION
COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATES**

Fourth Day

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 3:09 p.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Dick Fosbury; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; County Information Technology Manager Clay Landon and IT Specialists Ben Parker and Jon Eaton; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; Administrative Services Specialist Jenny Lovell; County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; County Operations Support Specialist Kay Draper; County Grants and Procurement Specialist Lyn Drewien; County Weeds Manager John Cenarrusa; County Facilities Manager Patrick Boyle and Facilities Maintenance Technicians Ben Russell and Tim Green; County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Thomas; County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks; Chief Deputy Clerk of the Court Andrea Logan; County Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal; Sheriff Steve Harkins; County Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling; Sheriff's Office Administrative Specialist Holly Carter; County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; GIS Manager Sam Young and Senior GIS Analyst Kelly Green; County Treasurer John David Davidson; County Assessor Jim Williams; Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry; County Land Use Administrator Tom Bergin; County Land Use and Building Services Deputy Director Kathy Grotto; County Certified Building Official Jeff Giese; County Services Manager Brooke Baird; Public Information Officer Larry Schoen; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; City of Ketchum Assistant City Administrator Lisa Enourato; Sun Valley Economic Development Executive Director Harry Griffith; Kiki Tidwell; John Kelley; David Wilson; Bill Gooding; Tatyana Gray; Marc Avery; Rob ___; Craig Patterson; Beau Burks; Tim Deckard; Ben Enders; Mike Gilman; Dustin Colton; Tori Jensen; Troy Brown; Aimee Christensen; Sally Gillespie; Anderson Architecture; Scott Miley; Lisa Phillips; Kelly Malone; Jeff Morgan; James McClatchy; Howard Royal; Gary Wilson; St. Luke's Wood River MRI Technologist David Sundholm; Brian Poster; Hailey Community Development Director Lisa Horowitz; Wendolyn Holland; Sean Flynn; Jim Bradley; Scott Lovell; Mark Swenke; Susan Thomson; Paul Conrad, Richard Eller; and Erik ___;

Due to the statewide and Blaine County 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 3:00 p.m.

POLICY ON CONTINUED CLOSURE OF COUNTY FACILITIES

• **Proposed Ordinance 2020-03 Review including Consideration of Construction/Landscaping Reopen**

On March 20, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic local outbreak, the Blaine County Commissioners ordered all Blaine County office buildings closed to the public; and directed County department heads to schedule staggered employee shifts to ensure sufficient distance between employees.

On March 25, 2020, the state of Idaho enacted a statewide Shelter-in-Place order, prohibiting non-essential travel, gatherings and business operations, in addition to overall 6ft "social distancing". This state order gave state and local law enforcement the authority to enforce the order as necessary. County Attorney Graves stressed that this state order, still in place, prohibits non-essential travel, people from coming into the state except for essential purposes, and basically prohibits people from leaving their homes unless for essential purposes.

On March 27, in response to the state's order, and because the COVID-19 outbreak in Blaine County was one of the worst in the nation, Blaine County and passed Ordinance 2020-01, enacting their own somewhat-stricter restrictions, including restricting construction and non-essential related activities in the County. The BCC extended these County restrictions until Sunday, April 19, 2020, with Ordinance 2020-02, passed on April 11, 2020. Since then, the City of Sun Valley allowed construction to resume, with construction guidelines, on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Blaine County Ordinance 2020-02, which only applies to unincorporated Blaine County, and not to individual jurisdictions within the County, expires on April 19, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Today, April 16, 2020, the Blaine County Commissioners decided to let Ordinance 2020-02 lapse on Sunday, April 19, and allow construction to resume on Monday, April 20. The BCC therefore took no action on proposed Ordinance 2020-03.

Land Use and Building Services has produced a poster with construction standards for jobsites.

Building Contractors of the Wood River Valley Executive Director Tim Carter said the building community has read and considered the construction guidelines and made suggestions for modification that make them practical and feasible, and builders will follow them as best they are able. McCleary reminded everyone that 6ft social distancing is part of the state order, irrespective of Blaine County's standards.

Public Comment:

- Kiki Tidwell said people going back to work should be tested first; and all workers should have a contact list in case they become sick.
- Tatyana Gray asked if construction workers were testing higher than other workers.
 - *Blaine County had the highest infection rate in the nation. The hospital was overwhelmed and emergency room staff were being infected, so the Commissioners decided to shut everything down for the benefit of the community.*
- Brian Poster, first responder and owner of Poster Construction, has 25 employees, none of whom has received a stimulus or unemployment check. He supports having people go back to work.
- St. Luke's Wood River MRI Technologist David Sundholm understands the risk, but the BCC has to understand that no one wants to get the virus and take it home to their families. He agreed with the construction guidelines and supports letting the ordinance expire so people can go back to work
- Ben Enders agreed with letting the ordinance lapse.

County Office Buildings

On April 16, at today's BCC meeting, in line with the state isolation order to expire on April 30, the BCC decided to reopen County office buildings on May 4. County Attorney Tim Graves said it was not necessary for the BCC to take any formal action when they closed offices in March, and no formal action to reopen offices is necessary except to notify the public and County employees.

FUNDING OF LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

Also present: Sun Valley Institute Executive Director Aimée Christensen; Spur Community Foundation Executive Director Sally Gillespie; and Visit Sun Valley Executive Director Scott Fortner.

Recovery Committee volunteer Sally Gillespie said the funding request to the County is \$5,000 to create and maintain an online Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) website platform. The Committee has already received \$10,000 from the Spur Foundation for website creation and maintenance. The committee felt it would be less intimidating for the MARC to have its own website, independent of the County and any supporting organization.

McCleary questioned the need for another website. Fosbury suggested a Contract for Services. The BCC will soon enter into FY2021 budget discussions. Chris Corwin said the Long-Term Recovery Committee was designed to last as long as needed; and was not meant to continue in perpetuity.

Fosbury said the County's website already gives people in need links to food and community resources, but working with the Recovery Team can expand and improve helpful communication with the community. He suggested the Committee work with County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy to explore possibilities.

The BCC will talk about this more in their upcoming regular meeting.

Public Comment:

- Kiki Tidwell said Blaine County is a very philanthropic community, which gave tax exempt organizations \$216 million in contributions last year. She said grant makers consider what exactly will be different as a result of a grant investment. About how many people would actually be helped by this money?

EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE OF COVID-19 MASKS

Also present: County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; County Grants and Procurement Specialist Lyn Drewien; and Wendolyn Holland.

Corwin said the County needs to provide masks for Recycle Center staff at this time; and when County offices reopen, for all employees, as well as disposable masks for people who come into County facilities without their own masks. Drewien thinks 1,000 reusable masks should last employees through the end of the year.

Public Comment:

- Wendolyn Holland said the Personal Protective Equipment market has opened up in the last few weeks, and she could provide the County with additional providers and information.

Drewien will report back to the BCC at next week's meeting.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 5:41 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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