

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE APRIL 2021 SESSION**

Fourth Day

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Jacob Greenberg; County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Virtual Meeting Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham was present for the morning session, Administrative Services Support Specialist Kay Draper present for the afternoon session; and Recording Secretary Kirsten Eaton.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, many participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Kiki Tidwell addressed the Board regarding the power grid and pipeline. She discussed the need for an RFP backup generator for the Valley and stated the Board cannot drop the ball on this.
 - *Fosbury stated he is aware of ransom incidents in the United States in regards to energy use. He has been in touch with Chris Corwin and asked to have some training exercises in order to help manage the power supply situation. Looks forward to working with the Sustainability Manager.*

CLAIMS APPROVAL

No new claims.

McCleary moved to approve claims from May 20, 2021, seconded by Greenberg, motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources - Justin Highhouse

• **Employee Recognition**

Chief Deputy Clerk of the District Court Andrea Logan and Susan Barton asked the BCC to recognize employee April Pina for becoming a state certified Spanish language interpreter, and noted the Supreme Court recognized her in a publication as well. The BCC recognized Ms. Pina and thanked her for her efforts. The BCC would like to send a picture and story to the Mountain Express.

Land Use and Building Services - Tom Bergin

Bergin asked the BCC to consider any needed updates to County Code regarding current extreme drought conditions and water availability. There is no water in the overflow channels. County water consultant Wendy Pabich discussed administrative action by Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). Fosbury said snowpack and water content has been low this year. Bergin said IDWR is understaffed and we need to keep in communication regarding issues.

• **Water Conservation Information Gathering**

McCleary supported Pabich's involvement in addressing water issues. The BCC discussed scheduling workshops with elected officials and department heads this fall.

County Administrator - Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy

- New Sustainability Manager Lynne Barker will join the County on July 1. She has housing and is already helping to review some items.
- Pomeroy was contacted by Sprout to endorse a solar energy project with Warm Springs Consulting for a grant. BCC supported submitting a letter of support today. No motion needed.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

- **165 Kilpatrick Bridge Road-The Nature Conservancy Security Agreement** Record # **683163**
Land Use Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley explained The Nature Conservancy Security Agreement contract.

Greenberg moved to approve the Agreement, seconded by McCleary, motion passed unanimously.

• **Idaho Community Development Block Grant - Sub-Recipient Agreement with Senior Connection for Meal Delivery Vehicle**

Blaine County Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougal Graham explained the Sub-Recipient Agreement and the Senior Connection's need for new vehicle. No questions from the BCC.

Greenberg moved to approve agreement, seconded by McCleary, motion passed unanimously

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Commissioners reported on COVID-19-related concerns and committees they were involved in:

COVID Restrictions on County Property

Fosbury reviewed CDC guidelines. He said mobile vaccination will be available in Bellevue.

- McCleary is open to options, commented on Hailey's recent change to their policy. The majority of people who have not gotten the vaccine do not plan to get vaccinated.
- Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse said 72% of survey respondents responded they are comfortable not wearing masks.
- Greenberg said the question is if the BCC should alter its policy to conform to Hailey and Ketchum. He is in favor of allowing department heads to make the decision regarding masking requirements and return things to normal.
- County Clerk JoLynn Drage agreed that County operations should return as close to normal as possible. She felt we have taken all necessary precautions thus far.
- County Assessor Jim Williams agreed that necessary precautions have been taken and it was safe to alter the mask mandates and follow CDC guidelines.
- Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham encouraged the BCC to encourage staff to wear masks to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin stated his office is still wearing masks for the time being.
- Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson commented on face shields and their effectiveness.
- Greenberg discussed inconsistencies within County departments on mask mandates. He said the primary goal is to keep people safe.
- McCleary commented she would like to keep the mask mandate at this time in order to allow for more people to get vaccinated.
- Fosbury stated he is in favor of following CDC guidelines.

Ordinance 2021-08a (same as Ordinance 2021-08) Record # **6683053**
Greenberg moved to repeal ordinance 2020-05, seconded by Fosbury. McCleary stated she is not in support of this and will not sign the repeal, and requested her name not be included in Ordinance #2021-08. Motion carried 2-1.

Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves will get the document to the BCC to sign.

Pomeroy requested a motion from the BCC to change the work policy. Fosbury said this will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

The BCC agreed to use CDC language on signs to reflect the County's new mask policy.

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST EVENT REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

Fosbury stated his support of the program they put together. County Commissioners Assistant Jenny Lovell sent over the information regarding group size restriction exemption. The BCC is in favor of this.

Greenberg moved to approve the request for exemption, seconded by McCleary, motion passed.

BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

Greenberg moved to convene as ambulance district, seconded by McCleary, motion passed.

- **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between City of Hailey, Wood River Fire Protection District and Blaine County Ambulance District**

Also present: Hailey City Attorney Christopher Simms; and Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman.

Greenberg suggested a County Commissioner be involved in discusses regarding assets and major purchases. Fosbury discussed their ability to contract with other agencies. Hailey City Attorney Christopher Simms said he is glad to hear the BCC is discussing joining the JPA.

Public Comment:

- Larry Schoen said he is glad to see Hailey and Wood River working together, but didn't understand why there would be a need to join JPA, and encouraged the BCC to not follow through on this.
 - Greenberg and McCleary felt this is an important topic and warrants further discussions.

Break

LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES HEARINGS

- **Title 9 Zoning Regulations Text Amendment - Floodplain Overlay District and Riparian Setback District: A public hearing on and consideration of county-initiated amendments to Blaine County Code, Title 9, Zoning Regulations, Chapter 17. Revisions are proposed to Sections 2, 5, 6, 7, and 11. Sections 12 and 13 are proposed as new.**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin; and County Code Floodplain Manager Kristine Hilt.

Hilt reviewed notice of this public hearing.

McCleary moved that notice was adequate, seconded by Greenberg, motion passed unanimously.

Hilt reviewed the text amendments, including defining the term “administrator,” and modifications to Section 11 in Chapter 17., and variances for zoning.

Fosbury would like to continue discussion to a future time; and would like to include an atlas. The BCC is in support of this.

McCleary moved to continue discussion to July 6, 2021, at 1:30 pm, seconded by Greenberg, motion passed.

- **20ft Right-of-Way Street Vacation of a portion of David Street, Picabo Townsite, Blaine County, ID: A public hearing and consideration of an application by G.R. Brown to abandon and vacate the western 20' of David Street in Picabo Townsite, from the northern boundary at 1st Street to the southern boundary where David Street meets Fourth Street within the South Picabo Townsite Replat.**

Christine Hilt addressed the BCC and reviewed notice of this public hearing. **Commissioner McCleary moved that notice was adequate, seconded by Greenberg, motion passed.**

Rich Brown presented the project to the BCC, which was to abandon 20 feet of the 60 foot right-of-way of David Street, Picabo Townsite. Hilt reviewed vacation rules and shared a photo of the property in question.

Public Comment: None.

Greenberg and McCleary did not think the vacation was in the public interest.

McCleary moved to deny the application of Grant Richard Brown to vacate 20ft of David Street in Picabo Townsite, seconded by Greenberg, Motion denied.

- **Title 9, Zoning Regulations Text Amendment - Accessory Dwelling Units: Continuation (from May 4, 2021) of public hearing on and consideration of county-initiated amendments to Blaine County Code, Title 9, Chapter 2, Definitions; and Chapter 3, Section 11: Accessory Dwelling Units.**

Also present: Blaine County Land Use Director Tom Bergin, and Land Use Zoning Specialist Nancy Cooley.

Cooley said this is a continuation from May 4, 2021, and no new notice is needed.

Land Use is concerned about ongoing drought, community water supply and water/wastewater infrastructure. Bergin and Land Use staff met with County Engineer Jeff Loomis to discuss possible amendments. Land Use has to research State and Department of Environmental Quality regulations for septic systems, including older neighborhood septic systems, and if they might affect water quality. The BCC questioned if current septic units are adequate to serve current and additional units.

- The BCC discussed monitoring systems, and a uniform reporting system of checks and balances.
- Fosbury was curious if a community well could provide for an Accessory Dwelling Unit, which wouldn't have the same demand as a primary residence. Land Use currently relies on South Central Public Health District approval, but could begin to request a “will-serve” letter from the Community Water System Water Manager in applying for a building permit on a platted lot.

Public Comment: None.

Greenberg moved to approve Accessory Dwelling Unit text amendment, as amended, seconded by McCleary, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IC Section 74-206(1)(a) – Planning and Zoning Commissioner Interview

Motion by Greenberg to go into executive session, seconded by McCleary, to interview candidates for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Roll call: Greenberg, aye, McCleary, aye, Chairman Fosbury, aye. Motion passed.

Greenberg moved to appoint Robert Fallowfield to the Blaine County Planning & Zoning Commission, seconded by McCleary, motion passed.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:51 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
 JoLynn Drage Dick Fosbury
 County Clerk Chairman