

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BLAINE COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JUNE 2021 SESSION**

**Fifth Day**

**Wednesday, June 16, 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; Budget Officer JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; and County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy. Minutes written by Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Commissioner Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**FY 2022 BLAINE COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOP  
DEPARTMENT FY 2022 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**Indigent**

County Services Manager Brooke Baird.

Baird said House Bill 316, effective March 21, 2022, says indigent applicants and involuntary commitments are not eligible for Medicaid or any other insurance. This will reduce the County's Indigent budget for the second half of 2022 by about 28%. The County is still statutorily responsible to provide Non-Medical services, and the Non-Medical Budget will remain about the same, thanks to partners who keep County costs low.

- Indigent staff focus on interviewing and investigating new patients. Undocumented individuals won't qualify for Medicaid or insurance under the Exchange, and will require the interview and investigation process to determine if they meet the qualifications (financial and otherwise) for our program under State Statute.
- The County is statutorily required to serve Veterans, in partnership with the State Veterans Services Officer, but is mostly a pass-through, and there is no budget line item.
  - *Baird said she could compile a report of Indigent activity.*
  - *Blaine County Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham said American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) can probably support organizations that can serve indigents. County Clerk JoLynn Drage said the County would have to research if and how ARPA funds could be used for "normal" indigent patients.*

**Elections**

County Services Manager Brooke Baird

The 2020 general election had the highest turn-out ever experienced in Blaine County. The Elections staff handled all it seamlessly. The election was complicated by use of new software, but with the assistance of workers from other departments and volunteers the challenges were overcome.

- Baird said Elections still has about \$6,200 left in grant funds. Another \$20,000+ in grant funds can be used over the new four years to be sure all equipment is up-to-date.
- Baird requested additional funds in FY2022 to move elections equipment to polling locations and set those locations up, then back to County storage for up to four elections a year.

**Geographical Information Systems**

Also present: Blaine County GIS Manager Sam Young and Senior GIS Analyst Kelly Green.

GIS staff requested additional funds be considered for FY2022:

- Pursue a grant with the US Geological Services for more detailed data on the Little Wood region and high quality Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) photos. The USGS is aware there is a gap in quality data for this area.
- Conferences and training, including travel, for GIS staff to maintain industry standard certifications.
- Increased software update and office supply budget this year, including an aging plotter.
- Improve the GIS website, which is seeing 34% increased use.
- Plan for a possible transition from Computer Arts software if the County decides to change.

**Information Technology**

Also present: IT Senior Analyst Ben Parker; IT Specialist Jon Eaton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling; Blaine County Sheriff's Lieutenant Bryan Carpita; and Jail Administrator Captain Jay Davis.

Parker said the County's production storage environment was replaced last year, along with improved network throughput and capacity; the Computer Arts virtual server; countywide phone system; and Dispatch hardware; as well as wiring in the Courthouse and Judicial Building. IT was also busy the last year during COVID to develop and maintain the new offsite hardware and software, GoToMeeting, etc.

Budget requests for FY2022 include:

- Replace one full-time employee. IT needs to meet development and high-technical maintenance needs, including for 24-hour emergency departments.
- Plan for additional FTE and funding to develop Ketchum Police Department Patrol office (billed to Ketchum), which will be connected to the Public Safety system.
- Expand archival storage. Statute requires data be kept for specific times.
- Budget \$120,000 for a trust fund for Computer Arts replacement.
- Budget for annual client-access software licenses.
- Budget \$128,000 to update technology and electronics in jail doors.

### **Assessor**

Also present: Blaine County Assessor Jim Williams; and Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry.

Assessor's staff are trained to cover other positions in their departments, and do so as necessary. The personal property appraiser is no longer necessary, so that position will transition into doing more appraisal work, with no budget impact.

Budget requests for FY2022 are:

- Assessor requested substantial compensation increases to keep trained and valuable employees.
- Request \$7,000 for new printer to replace two hand-me-down printers.
  - *The BCC asked if the new printer could be purchased from money remaining in the Assessor's FY2021 budget.*
- Request consideration to replace two department vehicles.

### **Emergency Communications**

Also present: Emergency Communications Director Robin Stellers; and Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling.

Dispatch currently has staff, with two in training, one applicant in the background, and one applicant in process. Three applicants recently failed to complete the background and probation process.

Stellers reviewed the 2022 Consolidated Emergency Communications Budget, 911 Budget and 700MHz Radios Budget with the BCC.

FY2022 budget adjustments and requests:

- Adjust the overtime budget. Emergency Communications Officers are 36-hour employees. Up to forty hours are paid as 1.0 overtime.
- FY2022 budget will see overall small budget decrease, due to resignation of senior personnel.
- Carry over funding for accreditation from Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) which was approved in FY2020, but staff was unable to implement accreditation.
- Request increased Education budget; travel budget is the same. Stellers has been invited to participate in an Idaho Public Safety Communication Commission NG911 ad hoc committee to report to the 911 Committee and IPSCC.
- An upgrade to Windows 10 on the Zetron radio workstations.
- Capital replacement of the chairs.

Fosbury said the County needs to get adequate Dispatch staffing to provide a proficient comfortable level for all staff.

### **Break**

### **Public Defender**

Blaine County Chief Public Defender Justin McCarthy; and Deputy Public Defender Cheri Hicks.

McCarthy related stories of indigent defendant clients who achieved a fair outcome to their situation. A growing portion of their caseload is Spanish speaking.

Public Defender FY2022 budget requests:

- Additional full-time public defender (replaces past request for contract public defender) to be available for specialty courts, special tasks, and provide stability for the office. County Clerk cautioned that Public Defense Commission annual grant funds were not a guarantee.
- Request for additional postage to mail out notices, etc.

The BCC and McCarthy discussed continuing education required by the Public Defense Commission and the Idaho Bar.

## **Facilities**

Also present: Blaine County Facilities Manager Pat Boyle.

2020 facilities improvements included:

- County facilities were retrofitted with a new air filtration system and plexiglass dividers to protect employees and the public from COVID. Retrofit was reimbursed by the CARES Act program.
- The Old County Courthouse ground level was divided into two main offices, Elections and Public Defender. Elections equipment was moved to an off-site storage facility behind the McBride Building.
- An electric vehicle charging station was installed behind the County Annex, completely paid for by a Volkswagen grant. There were 40 car charges in May, and charges are increasing each month.
- The Public Safety Facility was repaired in several areas; and long-lasting LED bulbs were put in the light fixtures. Solar panels were installed and programmed at the PSF that provide considerable energy savings.
- District Court has been updated and repainted.
- Facilities team is constantly landscaping and beautifying the grounds and Veterans Tribute.

FY2022 Capital Improvements and Facilities budget requests:

- Finish Probation office remodel.
- Request \$116,000 to replace worn-out loader, or, optionally, five-year lease with purchase.
- Request \$8,000 to add two offices in Land Use; close off IT space; and redesign Prosecutor's office.
- \$15,000 for a space evaluation study.
- Add security cameras and upgrade building locks, especially in Old County Courthouse.
- Add 10% to custodial contracts for supplies.
- Increase electricity budget, but other utility budgets are saving money.
- \$6,000 for Public Safety Facility cooling towers on the heat pumps.
- \$4,000 for main water shut-off to jail.
- \$14,000 for janitorial services to do additional areas and frequency.
  - *Boyle has requested quotes from cleaning contractors, and may decide to change contractor(s). He said the County has recently saved \$60,000 a year, but he isn't sure it's worth it.*

## **Recycling**

Also present: Blaine County Facilities Manager Pat Boyle; Recycle Center Manager Lamar Waters; and Administrative Services Supervisor Stephanie Carlson.

Blaine County Facilities Manager Pat Boyle manages the Recycle Center operations. The Recycle Center is supported by Administrative Services Supervisor / Outreach and Education Specialist Stephanie Carlson.

Recycling revenue was down the last two years, but has been steadily increasing since spring 2021. The Recycle Center is equipped to handle more recyclables, and could divert more waste from the landfill with more staff. The BCC felt the recycle program could really grow with support from local jurisdictions and the new Sustainability Manager.

FY2022 Budget Requests include:

- \$4,500 for supplies and shipping due to increased costs.
- One additional full-time employee, maximum \$83,000 includes benefits. If FTE is not approved, request up to \$20,000 for fill-in employee.
  - *Clerk JoLynn Drage felt an additional FTE was necessary at the Recycle Center for life safety purposes.*
- \$13,000 for salary termination (two Recycle staff are close to retirement age.)
- Capital equipment: \$110,000 for two cardboard compactors for drop-off sites. Cities will assume cost of installation, including power.
- \$6,000 annually to replace or repair bins.

The County is in discussion with Southern Idaho Solid Waste District to take over management of the Recycle Center. Waters said the County should be involved in all offsite drop-off area discussions between the cities and Clear Creek, especially where County equipment is located. Greenberg asked if contaminants can be removed after the cardboard is compacted.

## **Waterways**

Also present: Blaine County Waterways Director Lamar Waters; and Sheriff's Marine Patrol Sergeant Josh Pritchard.

Waterways is funded primarily by Blaine County boat registrations, Waterways Improvement Fund, and a Boat Safety Grant. Waterways has been awarded, subject to BCC approval, an Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Waterways Improvement Fund grant for two ADA wheelchair-accessible boat docks.

Waters said invasive species are not yet a problem in Idaho, but are a big concern. Sergeant Pritchard said there are three invasive species check stations on the Idaho border. Officers will pursue folks that bypass the stations and issue citations for not stopping for inspection.

Waterways has been adding money to a trust fund for a new Sheriff's boat. Both patrol boats are old and should be replaced soon.

FY2022 budget is \$34,794, and includes \$5,294 Waterways Improvement grant match.

**Road and Bridge**

Also present: Blaine County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson.

**Road and Bridge Update:**

- Some roads have been band-aided to avoid public outcry, but condition of some paved and gravel roads needs to be re-evaluated.
- Lack of housing in the valley is causing even more traffic on roads.
- The crews' priority is public safety, even if it requires extra team effort. Team members have occasionally had to make decisions, which Thompson said gives them "ownership" of their workplace.
- All team members are up-to-date on CPR; members of each crew are EMS trained. Two team members still need Road Master certification.
- Thompson said heavy equipment occasionally does get stuck. Pull chains have been replaced by ropes since a chain broke that could have hurt people.
- Construction around Silver Creek is slowing traffic due to delayed materials supply chain, abnormally heavy traffic and limited parking.
- Four bridges are being replaced.
- Ecodust seems to be holding up well, and is being used in environmentally sensitive areas.

**FY2022 Budget Increases:**

- Increased \$100,000 for dust abatement expense due to increased travel on gravel roads.
- Increased request of \$500,000 for road oil used for many kinds of road maintenance.
- Increased cost for tires and fuel, gravel crushing, re-gravel roads, etc.
- Increased budget for culverts and bridge repairs.

**FY2022 Budget Requests:**

- New smaller loader that can be used for year-round use.
- Update two new machines with new snow equipment.
- \$50,000 to update County Transportation Plan.
- Using engineering budget more and more.

Two graders and a loader are at the end of their five-year lease. Thompson suggested continuing leases is the best option. Leased equipment is always under warranty, which is a good deal on older equipment.

Thompson said maintaining the Carey shop should remain on the list of capital improvements, due to the geographic size of the County.

**ADJOURN**

At the hour of 5:10 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_

JoLynn Drage  
County Clerk

Dick Fosbury  
Chairman