

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JULY 19, 2021 SESSION**

Fifth Day

Monday, July 19, 2021

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:30 a.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Jacob Greenberg; Budget Officer JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Sheriff Steve Harkins; Treasurer John David Davidson and Chief Deputy Treasurer Morgan Drage; Assessor Jim Williams and Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry; Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Services Supervisor Stephanie Carlson; Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham; Land Use and Building Services Director Tom Bergin and Deputy Director Kathy Grotto; Chief Deputy Clerk of the District Court Andrea Logan; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; and Sarah Michael.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

Commissioner Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FY2022 BLAINE COUNTY BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The BCC received a report on eligible uses of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. County Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham said ARPA restrictions would piggyback on the funds passed down to organizations. The County's ARPA Fund is a separate dedicated fund with revenue and expenses. Reporting requirements are more stringent for ARPA grant requests of \$50,000 and over, so the BCC suggested ARPA grant funding per use be kept to less than \$50,000.

TAX SUPPORTED FUNDS

The BCC, Budget Officer and County Administrator reviewed the current List of Tax Supported Funds.

- Market rate increase on employee wages is currently calculated at 7%.
- ARPA funds can be used to fund updates of the Blaine County Regional Transportation Plan and Blaine County Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan.
- ARPA funds can be used for "Community Well Being" assistance—housing, food, utility expenses, mental health, education, etc.

Community Service Agencies:

- Blaine County Housing Authority - approved \$75,000 for the preliminary budget. The BCC agreed that BCHA is not performing to expectations. The BCC would like to know what other jurisdictions are going to contribute. Fosbury wants the BCHA to return the Picabo property to the County so housing can be put on it as soon as possible.
- Blaine County Charitable Fund - \$30,000 approved request can come out of ARPA fund.
- Blaine County Fair Board is same as last year - \$32,000 approved.
- Blaine Soil Conservation District - \$18,000 approved.
- Avalanche Center request of \$4,000 will be paid out of Snowmobile Fund.
- Historical Museum - \$30,200 approved. The public museum facility may need improvements to their ventilation.
- The Hunger Coalition - \$20,000 approved, out of ARPA funds.
- Crisis Hot Line - \$18,000 approved, out of ARPA funds.
- Dark Sky - \$3,000 approved. Other partners are contributing as well.
- Men's Second Chance Living - \$5,000 approved, from ARPA funds.
- Mountain Rides is an increase to \$180,000 this year. Mountain Rides is monitoring community development to be sure they provide bus service. Some funding could be from ARPA funds.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – \$40,000 approved. NAMI's request includes funding for their Contract for Services with 5B Suicide Alliance. St. Luke's Mental Health Clinic is contributing \$10,000 to 5B Suicide Alliance instead of requesting funding from the County.
- Funding County's Medical Director pursuit of degree in Public Health - \$15,000 approved from ARPA.
 - *Greenberg expressed concern about the escalating cost of meeting community health requests. The County can use ARPA funds this year, but asked that jurisdictions be included in future discussions.*
- Region IV Development - \$2,424 approved.
- Sawtooth Vision 2020 with Sawtooth Society - \$3,000 new request, not approved. Greenberg didn't support adding a new request. McCleary agreed that there was more activity in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area this past year, and suggested the County work with the Forest Service and SNRA. Fosbury works closely with the SNRA and will see if there are other ways the County can partner with them on the County's Comprehensive Plan goals.
- St. Alphonsus Trauma Outreach Program - The BCC did not support the request from a non-local agency.
- South Central Community Action Partnership - \$3,000 approved, from ARPA.

- Senior Connection - \$78,000 - a slight increase, approved, partly from ARPA.
- Sun Valley Economic Development - \$30,000, approved tentatively, which includes Ed-Pro Rural Economic Development match of \$12,100.
- University of Idaho Extension - \$135,813 approved.
- Wildlife Coexistence Network (Wood River Wolf Project) - \$5,000 approved.
- The Alliance of Idaho - \$10,000, with \$3,000 from ARPA.
- Wood River Animal Shelter - \$32,000, required by statute - Contract for Services.

FY2022 Requested Full-time Employees (FTE)

- Floater position – Yes. Sheriff Harkins said a floater position for Drivers License in cooperation with the County Administrator is acceptable for FY2022. Harkins said there’s only one Drivers License clerk, and a second full-time clerk will likely be needed for FY2023. Harkins said the Legislature recently raised drivers license fees, and he expected revenue to increase to cover operational expenses in the near future.
- Recycle Center needs an additional FTE position starting as soon as possible to provide minimum staffing for safety and time off for all Recycle employees. BCC supports. The position is funded from solid waste tipping fees, and has no impact on the County’s tax revenue.
- Sustainability Position - Yes. Will be 50% co-funded with Ketchum, and may receive future funding from Hailey and perhaps Sun Valley.
- Information Technology (IT) - IT Manager replacement is already allocated. The BCC discussed a fourth IT FTE for FY2022. After discussion, the BCC decided to budget for a fourth FTE at \$75,000.
- Ketchum Police Department – Yes for now. Ketchum will discuss staffing in their budget discussions later today.
- Probation – Yes. Conditions of Release is a real benefit for the Courts and the community. Probation provides services that are not statutorily required but are imposed upon the County by the Courts.
- Public Defender – Yes. The County will continue to apply for grant funding from the Public Defense Commission, but no guarantee it will be awarded.
- Clerk/Auditor/Recorder – Yes. Retiring County Clerk Drage said new FTEs were being hired at 40 hour work weeks, and she didn’t think a 40-hour work week would alleviate the need for an additional FTE. Drage said a couple long-time employees are retiring and staff will be busy training replacements.
- Land Use – Yes. Land Use revenues in the third quarter have already doubled the annual budget amount.

Projected Revenues for FY2022

Budget Officer Drage said the County does not include requested grants in the budget. When grant funds are received, a Budget Adjustment is made and the ending fiscal year amended budget shows grant funds received.

- The Ambulance District Budget is not done yet.
- All liquor distribution revenue this year (\$520,000) will go into the General Fund, since none is needed for junior college tuition.
- Road and Bridge budget shows a negative, but by using all available Road and Bridge reserves, they can function for FY22.
- Consolidated Emergency Communications deficit should resolve itself.
- Solid Waste – The County pays Southern Idaho Solid Waste District from the county’s tipping fees. The \$2.2 million revenue is from tipping fees. Blaine County can increase its tipping fee up to 5% without any statutory requirements.
- Noxious Weeds - There is no longer Cooperative Weed Management Areas funding or money budgeted to buy a vehicle.
- Public Safety Facility Building – Budget Officer Drage explained that the County levies property tax for the payment.

Budget Officer Drage said the County typically budgets within 5% of actual revenue and within 5% of actual expenses.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 12:59 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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