

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

**First Day**

**Wednesday, September 1, 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; Chief Deputy County Clerk Leslie Londos; Assessor Jim Williams; Treasurer John David Davidson; Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal; Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin; Blaine County Grants and Procurement Specialist Stephen McDougall Graham; Administrative Services Supervisor Stephanie Carlson and Support Specialist Kay Draper; County Services Manager Brooke Baird; Indigent Services Assistant Hayleigh Simpson; Recorder Gary Brower; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant; Bellevue Mayor Ned Burns and Clerk/Treasurer Marian Edwards; Carey Mayor Randy Patterson; Hailey Mayor Martha Burke and City Administrator Heather Dawson; Ketchum Mayor Neil Bradshaw, City Councilor Courtney Hamilton, City Administrator Jade Riley, and Ketchum Public Affairs & Administrative Services Manager Lisa Enourato; Sun Valley Mayor Peter Hendricks; Blaine County Schools Superintendent Jim Foudy; South Central Public Health District Director Melody Bowyer; Sun Valley Resort Director of Operations Victor Schoessler; Sun Valley Resort Economic Development Executive Director Harry Griffith; Idaho Power Local Area (Blaine County) Energy Advisor Amber Larna; and Naomi McDougall Graham.

Some participants in this meeting were by webconference or teleconference.

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

**BLAINE COUNTY CLERK SWEARING IN**

Chairman Fosbury issued the Oath of Office of the County Clerk to Stephen McDougall Graham.

**HOUSING DISCUSSION - USE OF ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) FUNDS**

Chairman Fosbury reported to the Board that he had met with County staff to discuss the feasibility of using ARPA funds [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, or "Fiscal Recovery Funds"] to provide support for helping new hires of the County to find housing, and to explore ways in which the County could partner with local community service organizations to leverage ARPA funds to address the County's pandemic-driven housing crisis.

Administrator Pomeroy advised that the Sheriff's Department and County Emergency Services Dispatch teams are understaffed due to the difficulty for potential new hires to find housing in the County.

McDougall Graham, Clerk advised that according to US Treasury guidance, ARPA funds may be used to restore or re-hire public sector staff up to the government's level of pre-pandemic employment, including public safety staff such as sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Eligible uses may include relocation assistance and hiring incentives for new staff. He further advised that US Treasury's 'Final Rule' governing eligible uses of ARPA funds is expected to be released after Labor Day, and that this guidance may provide further clarity.

The Board discussed other options for addressing the County's housing needs, including:

- Identifying the County's housing priorities and directing staff to determine eligibility for ARPA funding support.
- Consideration of the Property Tax Exemption under I.C. 63-602 to encourage economic development in the County.
- Identifying land that could be developed for multi-family high density residential use, similar to the Blaine Manor property.
- Exploring grant funding from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to expand or improve Water/Sewer infrastructure.
- Coordination with Community Trust Funds and other local organizations on efforts to increase availability of affordable housing.
- Conducting an update to the County-wide Housing Needs Assessment.
- Amendments to zoning to enable or encouraging housing.

Administrator Pomeroy advised that the County's cities have expressed interest in regional zoning changes. She noted that the City of Ketchum has hired a consultant and has requested that the County participate in discussions.

The Board noted several housing projects currently under development. Chairman Fosbury and Vice-Chair McCleary reported ongoing discussions concerning housing with city officials, landowners, developers, designers, and Blaine County Housing Authority. The Board affirmed that housing is a basic need and a public health concern.

The Board directed staff to formulate a County policy concerning relocation assistance and hiring incentives for public safety and dispatch employees for the Board to review.

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 9:51 a.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury  
County Clerk Chairman