

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE NOVEMBER 2022 SESSION

First Day

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

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 Muffy Davis; County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Blaine County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Assistant Morgan Baird; Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero was present for part of the morning session.

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:00.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- Local Contractor John Seiler

Seiler's experienced conflict between his client and adjacent neighbor who underwent a lawsuit. The neighbor built a 10ft fence out of spite. The county currently does not regulate the height, as long as it meets standards and was issued a permit. Seiler's would like for the BCC to review the fence ordinance.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

- **Contract for Services with Biota Research and Consulting, Inc.**

This is an annual contract is renewal. It is for the Colorado Gulch Project for the scope of work.

Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approved the contract for service between Blaine County and Biota Research and Consulting, Inc. for FY2023 to assist with Colorado Gulch project for the attached scope of work. Motion passed unanimously. Record #697546

- **Blaine County/Water Futures Inc. Land, Water & Wildlife Coordinator Agreement**

Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the FY2023 Land, Water & Wildlife coordinator contractor with Water Features Inc. for \$150 per hour and not to exceed \$47,000. Motion passed unanimously. Record #698542

BLAINE COUNTY FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- Kelli Young
- Jennifer Simpson
- Katey Dahlstrom

Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to appoint Jennifer Simpson for a three-year term commencing November 1st, Kelli Young for a two-year term commencing November 1st, and Katey Dahlstrom for a two-year term starting November 1st. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources - Justin Highhouse

- Safe Work Practices Policy Review

Highhouse presented the updated COVID-19 protocol and general sick precautions and protocols.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Blaine County COVID-19 Safe Work Practices as amended November 1, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

- Department Update

The county has successfully filled all vacant positions.

Highhouse updated the handbook and it can be accessed on the J Drive.

Leadership and Supervisor development program was successful. Highhouse will be sending a feedback survey to participants.

The county has had several educational workshops for employees such as; CPR training, gardening, loan and buying a home, writing will workshop. Highhouse has also hosted employee events with great participation such as; summer BBQ, Goose Chase, Halloween potluck and costume contest.

County Administrator - Mandy Pomeroy

- BCHA is facing staffing issues with the retirement of the Board Chair and Office administrator. The different municipalities and non-profit are working together to help the BCHA staffing issues.
- County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson is meeting with a possible contractor who is interested in the snow removal work at Smiley Creek.

BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Mountain Humane

Mountain Humane has a donor who has offered to purchase animal microchip readers for every law enforcement vehicle.

- Fly Sun Valley Alliance

Bussing services will not be offered this winter.

- Sustainability Charrette

There were a different table and worked on certain topics. Fosbury attended the clean energy table. The different groups shared recommendations, created new ideas. Davis participated on the Land, Water and Wildlife table. McCleary participated the transportation table and discussed developments, shorter commutes.

- Blaine County Community Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan Update

November 8th during election day there will be booths set up to provide information on the updated plan. There will be an open house the public can attend.

- Southern Idaho Solid Waste Board Meeting

Southern Idaho Solid Waste is having a difficult time hiring qualified operators. They are currently dealing with change over and employee retirement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- **Inmate Health Services Agreement** Record **#698012**
- **Blaine County Public Defender Agreement for Court Appointed Conflict Counsel-Keith Roark Agreement for Outside Legal Counsel** Record **#697780**

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the Consent Calendar for November 1, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to convene as Blaine County Ambulance District. Motion passed unanimously.

- Independent Contractor Agreement-Emergency Services Medical Director.

Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with Emergency Services/Medical Director Terry O’Conner. Motion passed unanimously.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to convene as Blaine County Commissioners. Motion passed unanimously. Record #697741

EMERGENCY HOUSING FUNDING ASSISTANCE REQUEST

- The Wood River Valley is currently facing a housing crisis, with winter and cooler temperatures the situation could worsen.
- Non-profit housing organizations have reported there are families with young children living in RV’s and cars. They are worried this may become a life and death situation with cooler weather.
- The Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) Rental Assistance Program ended the hotel rental assistance program. The Blaine County Charitable Fund BCCF was able to secure emergency housing for homeless and evicted applicants using those funds. The program covered hotel rentals up to \$150 a night for 60 days.
- The IHFA Rental Assistance Program awarded over \$150,000 to the BCCF. The program covered hotel rentals, securing rental units, rental assistance up to three months.
- BCCF Executive Director Mary Fauth is requesting \$250,000. \$150,000 would secure hotel rentals and \$100,000 for transitional housing.
- BCCF requested APRA funds in the past to assist the McHanville displaced families. They successfully relocated the families but are now financially constrained.
- Hunger Coalition Executive Director Naomi Spence briefed the BCC that the need for emergency food assistance increased by 240% since January 2021. Emergency housing has been the top need of families who receive food assistance through the Hunger Coalition.
- Blaine County School District reported 94 students who qualified as homeless. The City of Bellevue has reported a substantial number of families are living in RVs due to a lack of affordable housing. The Bellevue City Council is reviewing approving long term permits for RV’s.
- The Advocates Transitions Program Manager Jackie Hennessy explained that they work with various local non-profits to assist county residents in emergency situations. They have seen an increase in needed emergency assistance.
- The Advocates currently has 22 transitional housing units with 3 employee units. They are working on constructing additional housing.
- St. Luke’s Community Engagement Director/St. Luke’s Center for Community Health Manager Sarah Seppa is supportive of the request. The Hunger Coalition and Blaine County School District alerted St. Luke’s of the crisis and they provided outreach coordinators.
- They are assisting with financial assistance for prescription, winter and outerwear clothing, preventive care, food and housing. Homelessness can affect the mental state, and health of a person. They are supportive of the request submitted by the BCCF.
- BCCF is going to fundraise and connect with SPUR for funding.

- Pomeroy suggested having applicants lease units from Silver Creek Assisted Living with the assistance of the BCCF. Fauth explained that the Silver Creek is suited for only two individuals and would not be beneficial for families of four.
- The BCC understands the housing crisis is reaching a critical level with cooler temperatures but they are not in agreement in funding over \$100,000 for hotel rental assistance.
- Davis suggested BCHA or BCCF be the master lease holder for home rentals and subleasing to applicants.
- Fosbury questioned if the non-profits who are working with the applicants can provide information on who the employers or the source that provided false information regarding available housing.
- BCCF and Hunger Coalition both expressed this information is confidential. Businesses were desperate for employees and made poor choices on their employees' behalf.
- The county has \$115,000 available in ARPA funds. The county has funded a significant amount to local non-profit housing entities.
- Fauth shared the City of Boise awarded .046 of budget towards homelessness.
- Davis questioned if the money that was awarded to housing non-profit entities was not being counted as assisting homelessness? Pomeroy explained that the county has donated monies to BCCF, BCHA, Men's Second Chance Living and close to \$1,000,000 to ARCH for house.
- Both Davis and McCleary are not in favor of hotel rentals as long term or transitional housing. They would like for funding to focus on assisting families with rental assistance or families in jeopardy of losing housing, and to secure housing.
- The BCC agreed on \$50,000 for emergency hotel rental assistance and \$50,000 for housing. Pomeroy and County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham will work on a contract.

FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING PREVIEW, Airport Director Chris Pomeroy

- The board will review terminal signage that could lead to legal issues in the future. Other airports are currently facing legal issues and the board would like to be proactive.
- The current ranch manager's contract ends March of 2023. The board would need to hire another ranch manger or renew the current contract.
- The grounds would need general up keep and the irrigation system will need to be upgraded.
- The ranch has historical structures that would need to be maintained.
- Possibility of replacing the air traffic control tower.
- Parking lot is finished, the airport is now fully functional.

LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES

- **Findings of Fact: Lot 4A Bk 1 Clear Creek Subdivision - Plat Amendment**

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve the application by Ketchum Long Island LLC, to amend Lot 4A, Block 1, Clear Creek Subdivision to relocate a public access easement, finding the application complies with applicable criteria set forth under Title 10 Subdivision Regulations and applicable criteria of Title 9 Zoning Regulations, subject to the conditions listed by staff. Motion passed unanimously.

LAND USE and BUILDING SERVICES HEARINGS

- **Quigley Ranch Subdivision. 1) Mountain Overlay District (MOD) Rezone & 2) Simple Planned Unit Development. Applications by TVIV Quigley, LLC, to (1) to remove a portion of mapped MOD that is less than 25% slope, and (2) to subdivide 566.8 acres into 24 lots to be named Quigley Ranch Subdivision.**

This hearing will not be conducted on November 1. At the request of the applicant, the hearing will be continued to November 29, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 1:35 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
 Stephen McDougall Graham Muffy Davis
 County Clerk Chair