

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAY 2023 SESSION**

Seventh Day

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Muffy Davis, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Lindsay Mollineaux; County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham; County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; Administrative Assistant Morgan Baird; Idaho Power Local Area (Blaine County) Energy Advisor Amber Perkes; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

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

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

RESOLUTION 2023-07 DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE FEES. Record #**700314**

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

Resolution 2023-07 will set Department of Motor Vehicle administration fees for title transactions at \$18.75, and reduce the registration administration fee to \$7.25, to accurately reflect but not exceed the actual costs of providing these DMV services. The Assessor will review fees annually to be sure they cover administrative costs without overcharging clients.

Public Comment: None.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve Resolution 2023-07, a resolution of Blaine County setting Blaine County Department of Motor Vehicle administration fees. Motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2023-03 HEARING PROCEDURES

Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves said the Blaine County Commissioners have traditionally conducted meetings and public hearings informally; but the County should have hearing procedures in place to provide rules of decorum and order. Graves suggested a resolution setting hearing procedures, not an ordinance; and suggested there be no penalty section since it's problematic to criminalize someone exercising their First Amendment rights.

Public Comment:

- Lili Simpson asked the BCC to not limit speakers from repeating similar comments or concerns, since this was like casting a vote in favor or opposition to a topic. If someone shows up to comment, they should be heard.
- Former County Commissioner Larry Schoen said he didn't think it was appropriate for the BCC to enforce a short time limit by cutting someone off in midsentence.

Schoen added that the BCC should consult Robert's Rules of Orders to learn the correct way to amend a motion in the middle of making the motion.

The BCC decided to table Ordinance 2023-03 Hearing Procedures in order to rewrite it as a resolution, with revisions suggested by the County Attorney and BCC.

BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Facilities - Pat Boyle

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves.

- **Recycle Center Upgrade Bid Update** - Blaine County Facilities Manager Pat Boyle said the BCC opened a single bid at their last meeting for Recycle Center upgrades. The bid was over twice as much as budgeted. The BCC agreed to officially reject the bid at their next regular meeting, as suggested by County Attorney Tim Graves

County Administrator - Mandy Pomeroy

Commissioners Office Printer - Contingency Request

Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy informed the Commissioners' that their office printer can no longer be repaired.

CONTRACTS, GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

- **Contract for Services – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Reimbursement ARCH.** Record #**700473**

Also present: ARCH Executive Director Michelle Griffith.

McCleary moved, seconded by Mollineaux, to approve Contract for Services for FY2023 for ARPA/SLFRF reimbursement to Blaine County ARCH Community Housing Trust in the amount of \$990,000 for construction of 11 housing units, for the term as outlined in the contract. Motion passed unanimously.

**FY2024 COUNTY DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS
WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Clerk / Auditor / Recorder - Stephen McDougall Graham

Also present: Chief Deputy Clerk of the District Court Andrea Logan; and Elections Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson.

Overview of Clerk's office responsibilities

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham briefly explained duties of the Blaine County Clerk's five constitutionally "and statutorily" defined titles: Clerk of the District Court, County Auditor (including in-house accountant and County Budget Officer, County Recorder, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, and Chief Elections Officer. McDougall Graham works closely with the County Treasurer to ensure the County's books are balanced.

The Clerk's FY2024 Budget Report included some large increases:

- Propose moving District Court Clerks' personnel costs from Clerk to District Court budget.
- Fifth District Judge Ned Williamson suggested the law clerk (who has passed the Bar exam) should be a separate job category from other court clerks. McDougall Graham has discussed the law clerk position with Human Resources. Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy said sometimes a judge will hire the law clerk without going through HR; and, ultimately, it may potentially become a state employee.
- Capital improvements request for \$25,000 to address bailiffs' building security concerns.
- Addition of a comptroller, as the County's budget has grown and gotten more complex.
- \$10,000 funding for professional services to help begin the transition to new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.
- \$15,000 for a new postage machine.
- \$200,000 over a five-year period, including perhaps this fiscal year, to begin the transition from Computer Arts.

Elections – Elections Supervisor Hayleigh Simpson

- Elections salaries are to be funded from the General Fund. Consolidated Elections Fund covers expenses associated with running elections on behalf of other districts.
- There is no longer a March election, so the Elections budget will be revised. It is unknown how the May election will be operated, since there is no longer a statutory mechanism for Idaho to have a presidential primary.
- Elections would like to request capital funds for an alternate ballot tabulating machine to provide back-up in the event of power outage, etc.
- Elections part-time staff is needed to guarantee that a minimum of two staff are present when handling ballots.

Indigent and Public Defense

- Public Defense will likely become a state-run agency in FY25.

Public Comment:

- Larry Schoen was disappointed that budget documents were not available online, and public comment was not included as part of the budget process.

Commissioner McCleary said the County would do a better job of being more transparent and get budget documents uploaded to the website before actual budget deliberations.

Treasurer – Blaine County Treasurer John David Davidson said the Treasurer's office only has three staff, including himself, that handle Blaine County Accounts Receivable, the majority of which is over \$70 million in property taxes, for the entire county.

- County Investments are restricted by Idaho Code, but the interest rate is slowly increasing.
- Davidson is Vice-President of Idaho Association of Treasurers; and requested travel/education funds to attend a couple of educational conferences.
- The Treasurer's office wants to continue their education and outreach program to invite students to shadow the Treasurer; and initiate a financial literacy class in property taxes for local high school students.

Public Comment: None

ASSESSOR - Jim Williams

Also present: Chief Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry; Appraisers Alyssa Cenarrusa, Erin Swanson, Camille Koler, and David Vanderpool.

Blaine County Assessor Jim Williams said their office had been making changes in recent years and was now fine-tuning office procedures in order to maintain excellence in everything they do. Their office goal is to welcome citizens to come in and talk about property values. Williams thanked the BCC for increasing cost of living for County staff last year and said investing in good people and housing provided him with competent staff that were courteous and helpful to the public.

- \$52,659 for a 2023 Ford F150 hybrid for off-road use to reach all properties.
- Need a vehicle for winter months to continue appraisals during winter months.
- The Assessor’s Fund Balance will probably increase this year to about \$250,000, and \$50,000 of that can be used to cover necessary budget expenses.
- The State has taken over most business personal property, and Assessor’s staff can now spend more time appraising condominiums.
- The new appointment system has regulated counter staff time, and his staff can now take breaks and lunch without worrying about getting behind.

Public Comment: None.

SHERIFF - Steve Harkins

Also present: Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling; Blaine County Detention Captain Jay Davis; Patrol Captain Bryan Carpita; Patrol Lieutenant Fabrizio Lizano and Sheriff Administrative Specialist Holly Carter; Ketchum Chief of Police Jamie Shaw and Ketchum Police Administrator Holly Cole.

The Sheriff’s department has 66 employees in different teams—patrol team, detective team, waterways team, detention team, search and rescue, civil team, and Sheriff’s administration team. He said Patrol does a lot of traffic enforcement, issuing warnings much of the time, but deputies write citations when deserved. They like to have an officer available for school outreach—morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups, and lunch time—whenever possible. The Sheriff’s staff trains for rapid response—officers are trained to go toward danger instead of running from it. The County has not yet funded a school resource officer for the City of Carey.

Sheriff Harkins said recruiting and retention is a challenge.

Blaine County Detention Captain Jay Davis’s jail just passed a recent Jail Inspection, with great food service and healthcare. The jail accepts out-of-county inmates. \$1.1 million revenue offsets jail operational costs. The jail is required to have two deputies present at all times, regardless of the number of inmates.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling

- The Sheriff again requests an additional Driver’s License clerk, at an estimated cost of \$54,149. There is only one Driver’s License clerk at present, so the DL desk is closed when she is not available. Deputy Fruehling said it’s difficult for a temp or fill-in person to run the complicated computer system issuing drivers licenses.
- \$25,000 to help the Sheriff purchase three new vehicles.

Ketchum Budget

- Professional Services increase of \$2,000, and \$4,800 for Records Management System, to fund Blaine County IT taking a more active role in Ketchum Police systems.

Blaine County Public Safety Facility

- The jail reduced several line items in previous years to keep the budget in line; and is requesting the PSF be returned to its previous \$30,000.
- Increase of \$12,616 medical contract, based on CPI index. He said they needed someone trained in mental health who could identify an inmate in crisis.
- \$10,000 to 20,000 for juvenile care services.
- \$27,625 to upgrade mobile lighting system.
- \$26,000 to continue upgrading over 90 analog cameras at the PSF.

Sheriff Harkins confirmed that the Sheriff still offered a relocation bonus, which had been helpful in recruiting people from out of state.

Public Comment: None

BREAK

**FY2024 BLAINE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET HEARINGS
WITH BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD**

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

Carey Rural Fire - Carey Rural Fire Chief Richard Kimball said Carey’s budget was the same as last year. He said they would like to install a localized repeater on a mountain southeast of Carey but can temporarily alleviate a dead spot with a repeater station.

Wood River Fire and Rescue - Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman
Also present: WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears.

WRFR Chief Bateman said they've had four members on duty at all times in Bellevue and Hailey; and have answered 336 calls for service.

- They are committed to discussing mental health issues openly.
- WRFR is beginning conversation about sharing personnel, particularly paramedics, with partner agencies. Emergency service personnel meet one evening a week to just get together and develop community and enhance relationships.
- He proposes a modest pay increase for line staff is 3.04%.
- WRFR intends to request a 4.1% increase for 2025. He said they've had overlapping calls 16% of the time, mostly because it can take almost an hour to complete a call, including transporting the patient to the hospital.

WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears said there's no one locally familiar with the technology, so they've done it themselves.

Ketchum Fire Department - Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin said their call volume was up 48% over the past four years, with each of the last seven months being a record number of calls. Fire calls are about the same, but EMS calls are up. He said staff spends time doing preparations for calls, and then reporting on calls.

- Chief McLaughlin said they did 322 transports (to St. Luke's) in the first half of FY2023.
- Ketchum Fire is working with WRFD on consolidation, especially consolidating EMT training.

Sun Valley Fire Department - Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn

Also present: North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer.

Chief Robrahn said Sun Valley has also seen significant increases year over year. There are more summer events, including quite large events at the Sun Valley Pavilion, with requests for emergency personnel on site. The Department is financially supporting one member in paramedic training; and is committed to training personnel on specialized equipment, including a cardiac monitor.

Chief Robrahn would like to partner with the Ambulance District, with the District funding one member on duty per shift as they increase staffing.

Blaine County Medical Director - Blaine County Medical Director Dr. Terry O'Connor was unable to be present for today's budget hearing and will be rescheduled.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:31 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

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