

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF August 14, 2023

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on August 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were:

Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman
Bryce Somsen, Commissioner
Marty McCullough, Commissioner
Jill Stoor, Clerk
Sharlene Simons, Deputy Clerk
Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge Dept.
Eric Hobson, Public Safety
Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Dept.
Aaron Cook, Assessor
Steven Smith, MR&E
Bill Hill, MR&E
Tony Salvi, MR&E
Lester Barfuss
Daline Barfuss

Craig Shuler
Jeff Godfrey
Jon Godfrey
Melissa Davis, BLM
Blaine Newman, BLM
Danny Miller, BLM
Larry Weaver, EMS
Shalayne Bartschi, CC Senior Center
Jackie Barthlome, City of Grace
Max Hamilton
Dave Peoples
Kenny Moore
Robby Price
Jak Christensen

The meeting opened with Jill Stoor leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin mentioned that oiling of the roads will take approximately 3 more days.
- Smoky Canyon will be the next project; they plan on doing road repairs with hot mix. They will be hauling hot mix out of Freedom.
- Pebble Parking Lot – Kevin stated the outstanding balance with the Forest Service needs to be delivered on location by September 30, 2023 and once that is finished, the county can invoice them for \$100,000. He mentioned that the road to Pebble is now open.
- Kevin and Brett went to Sun Valley to observe a road project where they go in and grind the road up, and they have a product where LithTec company can compress material very hard. Kevin mentioned that LithTec went out on the Blackfoot River Rd and performed 8 test samples; the results showed no matt ever being on that road. The plan is to mill it down, grind it up and then put this product down.

The will then double chip seal it to keep the compaction almost indefinitely. The logistic problems will be dealing with the traffic.

- Grant work with Jake Poulsen from Keller Associates, is still in process.
- The Soda road and bridge shop breakroom area is needing some work. The roof is leaking, the sheet rock is falling down, the tin needs replaced, the ceiling needs some work and all 3 commodes in all the shops are needing replaced. The Commissioners asked Kevin to get 3 bids to make the repairs.
- Kevin mentioned that there are rumors about the wage increases. He expressed concern about it not being a one-year bonus and he is hoping that it will be a wage increase to help morale. Jill mentioned that the budget will be approved next commissioner meeting.
- Greg Gibson's last day is Tuesday, August 15, 2023.
- Kevin asked Jill if the fund that the snowblower & 2 semis will be taken from will have enough money in it when the equipment comes in. Jill asked Kevin to come in to her office and she will review the funds with him. She explained that where the equipment will be coming in the next fiscal year, the funds will be carried over into the new year and is already reflected in the expense amounts.
- The bypass on Lanes Creek is done and Kevin mentioned they are waiting on signs to come in. Commissioner Mathews mentioned that the road seems very narrow. Kevin will look into this.
- Kevin is working with Lincoln County on the culvert project on Stateline Road. He stated that Caribou County will pay 70% and Lincoln County 30%; Lincoln County will install the culvert.
- Discussion was held on who to invoice for Roper Lane work, the canal company or the county? It was decided to have the county invoiced.

Eric Hobson, EMS:

- Eric stated that they are cleaning up for the end of the year and getting ready for wild land season and have the trucks all stocked up.
- Friday, they completed their survey for fire ratings.
- Today, Monday, they are having their audits for the grant funds with The Office of Emergency Management.
- He said they are trying to get the end of the year trainings completed. Eric mentioned that they had their extrication training on Saturday. He also stated that they have a couple of training burns that need to be finished.
- Jill asked if there is a burn ban; Eric said that as of now there would not be one. This could change if the weather gets and stays hotter.

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(f) to inform the Board of legal action. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened at 9:40 a.m.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to end the session at 9:52 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. No decisions were made.

Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Department:

- Rowdy shared a building report for Caribou County from 5/8/2023 – 8/14/2023. This showed the number of permits, permit valuation and fees.
- Rowdy mentioned that he talked to Game Time company about playground equipment to replace the broken equipment at the Oregon Trail Park. The prices came in higher than expected and Commissioner Somsen suggested making repairs to the current equipment. Bill Hill with MR&E thought that they could fix up the equipment and a plan was discussed.
- Event Center building update: He said he was in contact with Shannon and trying to set up a time when they can get together to make sure everything is ready to put together some bids and get going to the next step. They are going to meet with the architect and engineers to see what they need. He also mentioned he is waiting on ICRMP for final numbers.
- Wage increase questions were asked and insurance increase was also talked about. Rowdy will come back later today to discuss this in more detail.

MR&E/Bill Hill:

- Bill talked about the destruction that has happened out at the Oregon Trail Park and the other locations that they have placed the bathrooms. He shared pictures of the damages including garbage cans, bathrooms, pump and pump house, picnic tables, signs, playground equipment, water risers, and ruts in the grass. 2nd Bridge also has some damage that needs attention. He mentioned that the majority of the damage is caused by vandalism.
With Labor Day coming, the Commissioners asked if MR&E could get some picnic tables fixed, some bathrooms out, fix up the playground equipment, and order the pump. Bill will check around on prices for the pump and get back to the Commissioners with the bids.

Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control:

- Dwight talked about the Soda Springs and Bancroft Airports really needing attention concerning weeds. He is concerned due to the cost and lack of chemical. He asked if these were city properties and if they have a weed control program and is concerned about the weeds coming in with a vengeance. It was decided that Dwight will talk with the cities and see if they can share expenses and possibly use a plane to spray them.
- He shared that Bancroft's water at Nutrien/Helena is down to a trickle and looking for options to speed up the process of filling the truck up with water. He shared that it was taking 1 hour and 42 minutes to fill up. Dwight is asking if he could put up a tank like he has at the county shop in Grace or pull water from the fire hydrants. He will contact the fire department to ask Bancroft if he can use the hydrants.
- Bee boxes were the next topic of discussion. Dwight's concern is that some of these boxes are fairly close to the road and doesn't want to kill bees while spraying. It was suggested to put an ad in the paper or on social media explaining this concern and suggestion to push the boxes back further to save the bees.
- Dwight clarified what a no spray zone is and then discussed the enforcement letters that need to be sent out. He is needing Jacob to add the program to Dwight's computer so they have the addresses to send these letters out.
- He mentioned that they are trying to work on the railroad right of way, but the off side of the railroad is hard to get to and are getting out of hand with weeds.
- He expressed a concern with the CRP program and Commissioner Mathews suggested to talk to Ben Evans.
- Kelly Swenson will not be returning next year. Dwight will get job applications out in the spring.
- He asked if anyone knew what the Green River ordinance is. Lester Barfuss answered that it is no soliciting door to door. Dwight said he has read that sign going into Grace for many years and wanted clarification.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- **Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene a Public Hearing for the adoption of a portion of Mill Canyon Road. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed and the hearing began at 10:45 a.m.**

Caribou County is proposing to adopt a section of Mill Canyon Road, located south of the City of Bancroft. Starting from the access point off Lund Road, going west until the Y intersection at the base of the canyon. A map was available to review.

Jill shared that Vicki Yost had sent her residence signatures that she had gathered up all approving. No public comment has been received via email. Nellie did send out notices to the effected land owners and they have been returned as received.

Public Comments:

Lester Barfuss, 2045 Lund Road, was wondering if the county takes over the road does the state require a bar pit. He does not want a bar pit on his portion of ground. The Commissioners will talk to Kevin about this and make him aware.

Aaron Cook, 2962 Wood Canyon Road, is concerned about the rough road and needing to do reappraisal and can't get up the road.

Craig Shuler, 255 W 4th S Soda Springs, concerned about the locked gates due to liability for safety concerns. Commissioner Mathews mentioned that EMS Director should have keys to get in.

Jill mentioned that Lisa Yost called and shared her concern if the road is made wider the pivots will need to be adjusted.

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to adopt the portion of Mill Canyon Road located from Lund up to the Y intersection. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to end the public hearing at 10:57 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Jill Stoor for Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- **Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene a Public Hearing for the TBS Farms variance. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed and the hearing began at 10:58 a.m.**

Blair Rindlisbaker from TBS Farms is requesting a variance of 75 feet from required 100 feet side yard setbacks in the Agricultural Zone for accessory structures for commercial agricultural. Mr. Rindlisbaker is wanting to place grain bins at this location as it is closer to his grain fields and in the winter season the roads are maintained better for access.

The only public comment is a letter from TBS Farms and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended it for approval after their public hearing on August 7th, 2023.

- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to set the variance to place the grain bins at 1306 Hegstrom Road in Grace Idaho for TBS Farms. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to end the public hearing at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Jeff & Jon Godfrey, Parks & Recreation:

- Jeff and Jon came to talk about the campground at China Hat. Reference was made to the commissioner meeting on 11/14/2022 and Jill read the minutes from that meeting. Due to vandalism, they feel that a sign is needed stating "Under Video Surveillance 24/7, Quiet Hours 10:00 pm – 8:00 am". New camera's will be ordered and can use the Godfreys' WIFI. They asked who maintains the ground and were told that MR&E takes care of the campground.

Shalayne Bartschi, CC Sr. Citizens:

- Shalayne reported that the siding is done and looks really nice. Nothing major is coming up, other than their head cook is leaving for surgery in a couple of weeks. Shalayne shared and income/expense comparison by quarter and acknowledged her staff for the great job they are doing. She also mentioned that the Thrift Store is doing well making over \$7000 last month.
- Jill asked if the Senior Citizens Center could use some drug court participant to help for service hours. Shalayne replied that Tuesdays are a great day for help and they would be welcome to come and work.

Blaine Newman/BLM:

- Blaine mentioned that earlier this summer they met Commissioner Somsen and others on the Ant Canyon parking expansion. They are looking at expanding south to add more parking. Permittees were there and are good with this expansion. Things are ready to go and Blaine is asking for a drawing prior to work being done.
- Another project is being requested off of Harwood Road across the river from the Grace Dam. They are looking to make a parking area on a small section that BLM owns just off the side of that road.

Eric Hobson, and Larry Weaver EMS:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(f) to continue with more information from earlier meeting today. Commissioner**

McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened. at 11:39 a.m.

Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the session at 11:49 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion.

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion that disciplinary action be implemented for an incident involving the ambulance be taken care of by Eric Hobson, Public Safety Director. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Department:

- Rowdy shared prior wages for his position and discussed a wage increase. No decision was made but the final decision will be made next commissioner meeting when the budget will be finalized.
- He also mentioned that the elevator inspection failed and parts are ordered (fuses) which was the issue for the inspection failing.
- Commissioner Somsen asked if Rowdy got the lawn figured out. Rowdy shared that he is back to mowing it and he is looking into other options.

Jackie Barthlome, City of Grace

- Jackie is working on a Transportation Project Grant Program that is coming through the State of Idaho. As a city, they qualify for category 2 which is \$50,000,000 that will be awarded to an approved project. The culvert on Center Street in Grace qualifies for this. This needs to be in by the 1st of September. She shared the scoring criteria and due to not being bid ready, she asked if the Commissioners could give her a letter of support so they could increase the points on the grant. She shared that this is available to counties and cities. She will send the information to Jill as to who to send the letter to.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jail inspections – schedule preferably before lunch at 11:30 a.m. and allow ½ hour.
- The Computer Arts contract needs additional signatures.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to enter into the Computer Arts contract for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jill presented 3 Certificates of Residency forms that need approval.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residency dated 08/14/2023. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jill received a bill from the US Geological Survey for \$2000 for 2 rapid deployment gauges that were installed at the Chesterfield Dam. It was suggested that this is not a bill for the county to pay and Eric will contact the Marsh Valley Canal Company for clarification.
- IAC Conference is September 25-27 at the Boise Center and the hotel rooms are reserved. Jill asked for confirmation on who is still needing to be registered.
- Jill has received a contract with Zion's Bank for her to sign using DocuSign, with the approval of the commissioners she will take care of this. The contract is concerning the new credit cards that have previously been approve.
- Land Pro Data Services are not willing to work with Jill on a price per documents. They are on the agenda for the next Commissioner meeting, and Jill wanted the Commissioners aware of this.
- Interviews for Judge Browns position was held last Thursday. One candidate dropped out so only 3 interviewed. There are two options, either open up the position again or send all three names. The judicial panel is still making that decision. Jill stated that Franklin County is pushing to get the seat changed from Caribou County to Franklin County. This would have to be done through legislation; she suggested that it may be a good idea to voice their opinions about this to the local legislators.
- Jill shared concern about the Fair Board not being audited. Her concern is the county is sending them tax payer funds. Several counties have taken back the accounting to the Clerk's Office, another option would be to have them come quarterly to report where the funds are going, others are just having them audited the same time as the county is audited. It was decided to include them with the county audit and Jill will make them aware of this and will include them next year.
- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(a) at 1:44 p.m. to interview for open Road and Bridge positions. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
- **Commissioner Mathews suggested ending the session at 3:25 p.m.**
- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to hire Max Hamilton, Jak Christensen, and Kenny Moore for the Road and Bridge position with a possible offer to Robby Price. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/24/2023 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$701,557.76 for 8/10/2023 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$516,072.92 for 08/09/2023. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on August 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk


