

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF November 13, 2023

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on November 13, 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
Doug Wood, Prosecutor
Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge
Eric Hobson, Fire/Ambulance
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Dept.
Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control
Cody Thompson, Fair Board
Molly Besis, Four County Alliance of SE Idaho
Larry Weaver

Justin Hatch, Extension Office
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning
Val Eddins
Megan Eddins
Trent Clark, Republican Central Committee
Jacob Farnes, IT
Aaron Cook, Assessor
Ally Schwulst, GIS
Angie Mendenhall, Treasurer
Jackie Barthlome
Michelle Martin

The meeting opened with Marty McCullough leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Crushing is done at Cow Camp and they are moving equipment back.
- D7 has antifreeze in the engine oil and Western States will look at it to determine what needs done.
- New C.D.L. training is costing \$1700 for the course. Other counties are paying up front and helping the employee pay it back in time. Kevin would like to draw up a contract with the new employees to pay this fee back within a certain amount of time if they leave employment. Kevin will meet with Doug for the correct wording of this.
- He mentioned that he is still working with some local land owner about moving some pivots. He is still waiting on a couple of farmers in the Grace area.
- Kevin and Brett have talked about keeping the crew together as long as possible without splitting them for winter. Due to so many new employees, Kevin would prefer to give them as much experience as possible while learning the routes for snow removal and such. So, until the weather dictates or other circumstances arrive, the crew will stay together longer than normal.
- He met with the Grace school bus driver and got a copy of the routes. Those were given to Chuck to determine who will take which route. Val Eddins' home was a concern due to the road change that the Eddins' are now using to access their home.

Val Eddins, 1172 Grace Dam Rd, spoke about his kids riding the bus and having the road maintained during the winter. He proposed to open the road from Yamauchi's corner on Mingo Road then west .2 miles. After comparing other roads in the county that have now been designated as a county road, he asked what it would take to get it turned into a county-maintained road. Val mentioned that there will be 3 homes using this road in the near future. There was discussion on how much per mile to have a non-maintained road plowed during the winter. Kevin shared what other counties are doing and the calculation to get that amount. Kevin will check into the price per mile. Also, a discussion on keeping the road open, however from Yamauchi's home to the Highway does have a low spot that is very hard to keep open during the winter. The board will check on policies and decide what they can do on this matter.

Jackie Barthlome came in later and the Commissioners share what had been discussed earlier with Kevin and Val Eddins. Kevin shared that the amount to maintain the road would be \$2543.00 per mile. It was suggested to try to keep the road open and that would stop a school bus from having to turn around and still charged the fee.

Eric Hobson, Fire/Ambulance:

- Eric shared the contracts from the EMPG Funds this pays for Eric and Linda on a 50/50 match consisting of \$22,000 and the SHST money to use for homeland security projects which is \$25,000 are needing signatures.
- He shared that the EMT class now has 10 people signed up and Itafos has 7 so they will start the class on Dec 12, 2023 for 18 weeks completing 186 hours of training. He talked to Shane in Oneida and he said that Oneida & Franklin Counties have a school program. Mr. Eiman of North Gem would like to do this as a class, the hard part would be to find a licensed instructor for 1 hour a day for a full semester. Eric mentioned he will get the process started. Eric then shared what the qualifications are to become an EMS instructor which includes but is not limited to, being an EMT for 5 years and have an adult education class credit.
- Eric stated that the mitigation plan for Seismic activity that he has been working with the state, is still in process and hoping to get something worked out with that.
- He mentioned that he would like to buy the EMT's & Firefighter's a gift card worth \$70 for volunteering. There are 44 EMT's and 17 Firefighters and the commissioners agreed to this.
- Eric is still trying to use up his vacation time and asked if he could continue to work on using this up. It was agreed and he feels that he can have it used by the end of the year.
- Concerning the collapse of the back of the fair building – Construction Services came up with a bid of \$149,000 to rebuild the building as it was prior to the collapse. This bid was sent to ICRMP who came back with an estimate of \$114,000 which would leave \$112,735.34 after the deductible. Rowdy reiterated that the fair board wants the building back and the size is 60' X 36'.

Rowdy Larking, Maintenance/Building Department:

- Rowdy wanted to talk about the fair board building and was included with Eric's discussion earlier today. He was asked by Commissioner Mathews to find out about the labor portion of the bid from ICRMP. Rowdy also wanted to visit with ICRMP about the beams that were used.
- He shared that the elevator is still having problems. People have been stuck in there, or it will just stopped working. Rowdy shared that it is obsolete, and having trouble to get help with it. It was suggested to look further out of our area maybe even Salt Lake City. It was shared that Franklin & Oneida counties are getting new elevators and maybe he could check with them to see who could help him out. Rowdy will check into this and is wondering about changing the oil if that would help.

Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control:

- Dwight said the new gator is home, insured, and delivered. He will order a new sprayer for it and the 825 will be used for a 3rd machine.
- He asked where to publish documents. Jill said that as of this afternoon, the Idaho State Journal is the official newspaper for Caribou County to post/publish. He wondered about splitting the cost of this with other counties.
- He mentioned that he is still waiting on the computer program that has the billing addresses. He mentioned that he talked to Ally and she said she could do that for him.
- Dwight talked about building a truck for bare ground work on county roads that Kevin would like to do. He needs to know how many miles and what roads, and where would the money come from? He will work at finding the answers with Kevin.
- Dwight wanted the Commissioners to know that Curtis & Deb Hill sprayed the Road and Bridge Shop, the Weed Shop, Kevin's office , and the Landfill at no charge for their services. The chemical was furnished by the weed department, but the spraying was done at no cost.
- He was contacted about the Lane's Grave signs but said the pdf would not come thru on his email. He thought it sounded like something was getting ready to be finalized.

Molly Beseris, Four County Alliance of Southeast Idaho

- Molly came to talk to the Commissioners about having a tax exemption for employers to come into the county.
The process for this would be to pass an ordinance to allow a tax exemption. There are certain qualifiers that have to meet this exemption, some of those are: the project has to be over \$500,000 and it has to be industrial or commercial (not retail) Then the board would then pass the ordinance, process the application and then they come before the board who then can accept or deny the exemption. She sent examples of what steps would need to be done and feels that our

area could really benefit from doing this as there is not a lot to offer in the state of Idaho for exemptions.

She wanted to open up a conversation about this so the Commissioners have the opportunity to know it is there. She shared that Franklin and Bannock County has this exemption. The county can determine the time and amount.

She felt this would give the county the ability to determine if a business would be interested in coming to the area.

Cody Thompson/Rowdy Larkins, Fair Board

- Cody & Rowdy came in wanting some council on moving forward with the PRCA rodeo. They have received 2 bids. The date for next year would be Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6 & 7 and will cost \$70,000 which includes added money with a 4-year plan. Currently it is costing around \$32,000. Cody stated that with the \$20,000 that was offered for this next year and staying at that amount the fair board would not be able to do this financial.

Angie Mendenhall added positive feed back for those who have contestants involved. It would be close and by having it in the middle of the week would make it easier to get others a place to go in between weekend rodeos. She also added that our facilities are great to use compared to some others.

Gate fees and sponsorship money were discussed and how the community is great to support and attend. Cody feels like the contestants will come where it is a mid-week rodeo and that the amateur rodeos are getting hard to come by.

Cody expressed he is comfortable with the \$20,000 this year and \$40,000 for the coming 3 years as discussed to see if it will work.

Commissioner Somsen showed a banner that could be put on the cinder block building.

Larry Weaver

- Larry came in to talk about his experience with the 4-H/FFA Market Animal Sale. He was not aware at the sale that there would be an additional \$.30 per pound fee added to the steer he bought as a buy back. This created a \$440 increase of what he was expecting. Larry feels like there was not any advertising about fee and that the sale committee should not have charged him this fee. He also understood that the person buying all the other steers did not have to pay that fee.

Justin Hatch spoke and mentioned that he shared with the committee that it wasn't advertised very well and that it did come across a bit shady and to give the money back. He also shared that Larry should have come to the meeting to support that topic. Justin shared that the last meeting it was agreed to not refund the money.

The commissioners asked to be notified of the next Market Animal meeting.

Justin Hatch, Extension Office

- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(b) at 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 11:24 a.m. with no decision made.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning

- Nellie shared a letter that she is sending to Grace stating that the are of impact has been looked at and that there are no issues and it will stay the same. Signatures were needed.
- She presented the Barley Meadows Phase II plat and asked for the Board's signatures.
- Nellie said she just submitted her first public hearing to the Idaho State Journal.
- Survey on the Alexander Park Grant is going great and she is getting a lot of responses.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge

- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(b) at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 12:07 p.m. with no decision made.

Trent Clark, Caribou County Republican Central Committee

- Trent was concerned about a suspicion of an undervote in our primary election of 2022. He shared that a number of the uncontested county races that normally are top vote getters in our county were actually all of a sudden, the lowest vote getters by between 100-200 votes. The only explanation he can come up with is a very large number of Republicans in our county had received a postcard that proclaimed itself to be the official republican slate and that they were being told by the Republican Party to vote for these names. The postcard was sent by Bonneville County. Trent appealed a month ago and he feels it has not been recognized as he has seen no response yet. As the Republican Party in Caribou County, he feels they have done everything that can be done. Trent is asking for a letter directed to the state chair of the Republican Party from the Commissioners to encourage the party to resolve this internally.
Commissioner Mathews suggested to wait a few days to see if anything happens before sending the letter.

Jacob Farnes, IT

- Jacob shared the new Quarterly Threat Report for Elections handout. This is information that was being seen from the national and federal level.
- Phone lines are out of contract with Business Phone Systems. He is trying to get a contract for 3 years to lock down the price instead of a month to month as it currently is. There were concerns about phone lines on the contract that the county no longer pays for. Jacob will work on getting a new contract.
- Revise Website Service contract needs to be renewed for one more year. The rate has increased from \$2700 to \$3000 per year.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to enter into a contract with Revize Web Services for FY 2024 for \$3000. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jacob shared that as of 12/01/2023 he will be done working for the county and handed his letter of resignation to the board. As of today, he will be leaving and using his 13 days of vacation.

Ally Schwulst, GIS

- Ally received an addressing application for a townhome and is wondering how much to charge for the address. There is nothing in our addressing county code about townhomes. There would be 4 units in one townhome and will not be able to sell each unit separately. Ally feels like she needs to only charge for one address. The Commissioners agreed to this.
- She also was curious about lowering the fee for in town addresses. It was suggested to leave the fee the same as it is currently.
- Commissioner Mathews talked to Ally about Dwight needing the software for his computer for the addresses. Ally said she could do this for Dwight.
- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(b) at 1:58 p.m. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 2:22 p.m. with no decision made.

Doug Wood, Prosecutor

- Cody Brower is our new Judge and there is a vacancy in his old office in Oneida. Adam, Vic and Doug are wondering if they can help cover his office until the position is filled. Code requires Doug to talk to the Commissioners to get their approval. Doug needs approval on record and the board agreed.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Reminder: Thursday, November 16th is the 5th District Elected meeting at 1:30 pm.
- There is a Bayer Community Advisory meeting at 11:00 am that same day with a tour of the selenium extraction facility.
- Gem Plan –Jill stated that they need to sign the nomination form for Bryce Somsen to be on the board.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to sign the nomination form for Bryce Somsen to be on the board for Gem Plan. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Received an email from MR&E letting us know that the docks, potties and cans are pulled and looking forward to a new season.
- 2 Resolutions:

Caribou County Designating the Official Newspaper for Caribou County.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-11 A Resolution Designating the Official Newspaper of Caribou County to be the Idaho State Journal. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A Resolution Supporting the Sheep Industry in Idaho

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-12 A Resolution Supporting the Sheep Industry in Idaho. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jackie Barthlome, is asking for a letter of support for a LHTAC grant for work on the road South of the barns by the county shop in Grace. The board agreed to do this and signed the letter.
- Jill called Lauren Mink who is the Executive Treasurer with the Animal Damage Board. Jill still has the check on her desk until she receives a response.
- Deputy. Viehwig is taking a defense class thru a gym in Pocatello and would like help on his gym fees. It was agreed to pay the \$15 by reimbursement.
- The Stockman's Bar has sold and the liquor license has been transferred to the new owner until the end of the year. The new owner has filled out an application for next year and this needs approval.
Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the new application for Stockman's Bar liquor license. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Canvass the Vote for the November 7th Election.

Jill shared the following:

All cemeteries passed

City of Bancroft – Rick Hatch and Jessica Vawser, councilmembers

City of Grace – Kathy Tillotson and Curtis Toone, councilmembers

City of Soda Springs – Paul Gritton and Mitch Hart, councilmembers

North Gem Supplemental Levy passed

Trustees, both incumbents in the Soda Springs District retained their seats

Signatures were needed.

- While working on the Calendar for next year the IAC Conference in September is on 23rd-27th which would be during a time for commissioner meeting. It was suggested to change the 2nd regular scheduled meeting from the 23 to the 30th in September 2024.

Angie Mendenhall, Treasurer

- Angie spoke to make the board aware that tax bills will be late due to all the additional work that HB292 has created.

Aaron Cook, Assessor

- Aaron shared that he just received an email about Trent's concern earlier stating that the complaint has been received and the chair is reviewing and investigating and will respond in the appropriate time as laid out in the state party rules.

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/23/2023 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$12,706.61 for FY 23 and \$519,682.43 for FY 24 for a grand total of \$ 532,389.04 on 11/13/2023 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$340,703.03 on 11/13/2023. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on November 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk


