

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF April 10, 2023

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on April 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were:

Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman
Bryce Somsen, Commissioner
Marty McCullough, Commissioner
Jill Stoor, Clerk
Kim Spencer, Road & Bridge
Jacob Farnes, IT
Rowdy Larkins, Building Department

Eric Hobson, Public Safety
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning
Dwight Lloyd, Weed
Aaron Cook, Assessor
Jackie Barthlome, City of Grace
Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge

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

Kim Spencer, Road & Bridge:

- Kim stated that he received 5 applications for temporary summer help. Four of those applications were from high school students and he would like to hire them as soon as possible. He stated that, if possible, he would have them work Fridays until school is dismissed.
- The lift ram on the 966H broke Thursday; Kim has found one available in Spokane. The total cost of repairs is estimated at \$5,000 to \$10,000 to get it up and running.
- He stated that the previously approved bill from Western States on the motor should be submitted; the price is estimated at \$32,000.
- The little International should be in for repairs at Diesel Depot in Aberdeen this week.
- They are still 3 graders down; the 4-wheel drive truck should be up this week.
- Discussion was held on the possibility of being included with ITD on their order for a snowblower; the price quoted is \$219,450. Bryce will forward the email to Kim so that he can look at specifics.
- Kim presented the payout requests from the employees on comp-time. It was agreed that they will be included on the May 5, 2023 payroll and paid from the excess state funds the county received.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the comp-time payouts due to unforeseen circumstances due to the extreme winter. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Eric Hobson, Public Safety:

- Eric stated that the office has been busy watching the snow and water situation. They have sandbags ready for the public's use and he has a meeting this week with Pacificorp to work on some pre-planning for flooding. He stated that all the regions Stotel sites are above average with 3 in our area breaking records.
- He has been looking at a joint ambulance venture with the mines. They would fall under the county license and it would improve response times. He will continue negotiate and get contracts drafted.
- Commissioner Somsen inquired on the legislation to make the EMS system a statewide program. Eric informed him that it is still in committee and they are hoping to have a program worked up by next legislative session. Eric stated that he felt funding would be the biggest hurdle to get a program established.

Rowdy Larkins, Buildings:

- Rowdy informed the board that the A/C unit in the server room quit working on Friday. He had Reid's Plumbing come and take a look and the condenser is the issue again. They could do repairs to the existing unit at an estimate of \$3,294 or replace the unit for \$4,279.50. Rowdy had them order the new unit and is asking for approval.

Commissioner Somsen motioned to approve the purchase of a Lennox ML14XCISO36-230 Condenser from Reid's Plumbing at a cost of \$4,279.50. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Rowdy also presented the bill from Scott's Lock and Key for the work done to replace locks in the courthouse. They did end up adding two additional units; one for the election room for added security and another on the maintenance room closet as well. The final bill came in at \$35,029 which was over the estimated cost.

Commissioner Somsen motioned to approve the Scott's Lock and Key invoice at a cost of \$35,029.80 for installation of the new electronic locks in the courthouse. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- A discussion was also held on the need for repairs at the Prosecutor's Office. He presented the quote for 2 locks at a cost between \$3,151 and \$3,544. They are having an issue with the front door and would need to redesign a lock for that door. The board recommended adding a purchase of a new door for added security.
- Rowdy spoke with Shannon from Construction Services and he will be coming to look at the collapsed roof at the fair building to get recommendations on the best route to proceed with repairs or just remove that addition.
- Rowdy also spoke with Shannon and Ted Booth about the previously presented fee proposal for the new events center. Shannon was able to explain everything that the bill encompassed including architects and engineers; Rowdy recommended approving the invoice.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve payment to Booth Architecture of \$109,700 for architectural services for the new events center at the fairgrounds. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Mathews informed the board that Stoke's Equipment has approved a donation of \$46,000 to toward the purchase of new bucking shoots and crow's nest in the fairgrounds arena.
- Commissioner Mathews also informed the board that Rowdy Larkins has agreed to become a member of the Fair Board.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to appoint Rowdy Larkins to the Fair Board. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed and Commissioner Mathews administered the oath of office.

Dwight Lloyd, Weed Department:

- Dwight stated that the Utah/Idaho CWMA money was approved which will make available \$36,000 for the western side of Caribou County. The Highlands will meet again on the 18th of April to see what we be able to do on the eastern side. He is hoping that it will be successful and they will be able to attack the Toadflax issues in the county. He does not anticipate as many work days as in the past. Discussion was also held on the Toadflax issue Fish and Game and possible solutions along with the difficulties working with that agency. He asked that the board be active in helping to force a resolution and suggested writing a letter to get on their agenda.
- His seasonal workers will be starting next week.

- Dwight suggested that when the negotiate the snow removal project in Bonneville County, the board should ask for repairs to a culvert and the spring just below the Humphries homestead.

Aaron Cook, Assessor:

- Aaron wanted to inform the board of an ongoing issue with several apartment complexes in Soda Springs. A tenant had previously brought a letter to show him that informed the tenants of a large rent increase where the management directly blamed Aaron as the Assessor and the county as cause for the increase. Aaron brought in copies of the original letter along with a letter that was sent out in response to all tenants in the complex. He explained that the value went up 43%; not 143% as they were informed and offered an explanation of what the true tax increase was to the owners. The tax increase for both units was 7.7%; reflecting a tax increase of \$3.36 and \$40.00 per unit respectively. The owners are implementing approximately 77% in rent increase. Aaron further stated in his explanation that to place the blame for large increases in rent on non-factual numbers is disingenuous to tenants and slanderous to himself and the Assessor's office. He offered further explanation of values and offered to met with anyone that offered more questions. Several tenants have spoken with the Idaho Fair Housing Counsel and they contacted Aaron for more clarification. He did state that one of the owners and the manager contacted Aaron and they were not in agreeance with the rate increase.
- Aaron also reported on county values and the current ratio study. He noted that they received the study back and they are at a 77% mark for residential properties and the requirement is to be between 90% and 110%. He will need to do another adjustment this year similar to last year.

He noted that the average price since 2019 have gone up 138 to 140% with huge increases in sales prices. There will be a shift to residential from commercial this year because of those numbers. He stated that he is seeing fewer sales and thinks it may be beginning to level off. He tries to be conservative although required to fall within that 20% range.

Discussion was also held on HB292 and the increase work that will be required on assessment notices in the future and the implementation of the tax refund due to the legislation. Aaron anticipates that the state's property tax estimator will be ineffective due to all the changes from the legislation.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin McLain presented a letter signed by 14 employees of the Road & Bridge Department asking the commissioners to consider hiring Brett Barfuss for the position of Caribou County Road & Bridge Supervisor. They stated that he has a good relationship with the employees and has their trust and support. He encouraged the board to hire within the department in order to make a smooth transition.

The board informed him that this is the first meeting the board has had since Kim's retirement announcement and that the position would be opened this week with a special meeting held next week to interview and fill the position.

City / County Meeting:

- Discussion was held on the donation from Stoke's Equipment for the fairgrounds and the cleanup of the collapsed roof of the fair exhibit building.
- Grace Mayor, Jackie Barthlome, asked about timing for the spring cleanup. Commissioner Mathews has spoken with Jayson Lower from IDAWY and the cleanup week will most likely be postponed until the snow has had a chance to melt.

Doug Wood, Prosecutor:

- Doug spoke to the board regarding the Caribou County Agriculture Award of the Year. He reminded them that in previous years, they have worked with Farm Bureau to help facilitate that award and have it presented with an Ag Appreciation Dinner. Several names were discussed and the board asked that they meet with the Farm Bureau Committee to finalize plans.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to sponsor a plaque for the 2023 Agriculture Person of the Year Award. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(f) at 11:01 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the session at 11:14 a.m. The session ended and no decisions were made.

Planning & Zoning:

- A report was given on the last Planning and Zoning Meeting that Commissioner Somsen and Prosecutor Wood attended. All felt that it was a good refresher for the board to learn their duties and responsibilities. Nellie requested that it be a yearly event for training.
- Commissioner McCullough and Nellie Askew also reported on a meeting with Molly Beseris from 4CASI regarding solar farms. They were able to speak with her about the county policies and concerns with large solar farms as well as the County Comprehensive Plans outlining goals of the county.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jill asked to confirm with the board that they continue to pay the membership dues to the Grace Chamber of Commerce. All agreed to continue.
- Discussion was held on the hiring process for the Road & Bridge Supervisor position and it was decided to have a special meeting next Monday, April 17, 2023, to conduct interviews and hire.
- Jill stated that there are very few employees left that are still receiving checks for payroll; she requested that we make direct deposit mandatory. The board ask they she do more research and see if other counties are requiring it.
- Discussion was held on a meeting with Zion's Bank on setting up department credit cards. Angie and Jill met with them and will continue to work on getting that program set up.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene and executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(f) at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the session at 12:14 p.m. No decisions were made.

Other:

- **Commissioner McCullough made a motion motioned to approve the minutes of 3/27/2023 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$248,302.88 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$311,75365. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on April 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk



CARIBOU COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA**Date: 04/10/2023****ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS**

Time	Name of Person/Party	Concerning
9:00 AM	Bills & Minutes	
9:15 AM	Kim Spencer	Road & Bridge - comp time payout approval
9:30 AM	Eric Hobson / Larry Weaver	Fire / Ambulance
9:45 AM	Rowdy Larkins	Courthouse Maintenance / Building Department
10:00 AM	Dwight Lloyd	Weed Control
10:15 AM	Aaron Cook	Assessor
10:30 AM	Aaron Cook	County Values / Ration Study
10:45 AM	Kevin McClain	
11:00 AM	City - County Meeting	
11:15 AM	Doug Wood	Farm Bureau Ag. Award
11:30 AM	Planning & Zoning	
11:45 AM	Jill Stoor	Executive Session 74-206(f)
Noon	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 PM		
1:15 PM		
1:30 PM		
1:45 PM		
2:00 PM		
2:15 PM		
2:30 PM		
2:45 PM		
3:00 PM		
3:15 PM		
3:30 PM		
3:45 PM		
4:00 PM		
4:15 PM		
4:30 PM		
4:45 PM		
5:00 PM		

OTHER BUSINESS: Executive Session I.C. (74-206)

B.O.E.

Anyone needing special assistance to attend the above noticed meeting should contact the Clerk's Office at (208)547-4324.

Approved Payment of Bills

APR. 10, 2023	Claims	Payroll
Current Expense	\$ 20,799.63	
Indigent	\$ 473.25	
Road & Bridge	\$ 68,526.17	
Special Highway	\$ 1,568.00	
Justice	\$ 15,108.76	
Consolidated Election		
Weed Control	\$ 61.13	
Solid Waste		
Reappraisal		
Health	\$ 30,760.93	
Hospital M&O		
Ambulance	\$ 2,229.65	
Parks & Recreation	\$ 18.45	
Tort		
County Fair		
County Court Facility		
District Court	\$ 2,070.82	
Court Services	\$ 7,124.50	
Juvenile Justice	\$ 600.00	
Veteran's Memorial		
Mineral Leasing		
PILT	\$ 1,000.00	
Water District	\$ 1,414.60	
Sheriff's Vessel Fund		
TV Translator		
Landfill		
Bailey Creek Fire District		
Freedom Fire District		
Auditor's Trust		
Adult Probation Fee		
Diversion Education Trust		
Juvenile Housing Trust		
Range Improvement Trust		
Court Trust		
Centennial Trust		
College Trust		
Treasurer's Trust	\$ 1,170.53	
ID Trust		
Concealed Weapon's Trust Fund	\$ 412.75	
Motor Vehicle Trust	\$ 61,944.82	
911 Trust Fund	\$ 19,587.27	
Public Safety Fund		
Odyssey Court Payments	\$ 13,431.62	
Weed Control Trust		
Drug Court Trust		
Youth Court Trust		
Vessel Account		\$ 311,753.65
Grand Total	\$ 248,302.88	\$ 311,753.65