

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF September 11, 2023

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on September 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were:

Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman
Bryce Somsen, Commissioner
Marty McCullough, Commissioner
Jill Stoor, Clerk
Doug Wood, Prosecutor
Sharlene Simons, Deputy Clerk

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge Dept.
Eric Hobson, Public Safety
Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control
J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff
Jacob Farnes, IT
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning

The meeting opened with Mark Mathews leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- 2 weeks ago, the county worked on the Smoky Canyon Road. A new culvert was put in and the road is now smooth and everyone seems pleased with it. When bringing back the backhoe they stopped at the Henry Cutoff area and cleaned up the bar pit and it looked like an active beaver was there. Kevin had Jeremy Johnson look at it and Jeremy thinks that the beaver is no longer there.
- Cow Camp Road has a soft spot on the road where there are springs on both sides. It normally dries up but this year it has not; they are installing a French drain to mitigate the problem. There are also installing 5 separate culverts on the Skinny Dip Road to keep the road from washing out. These culverts are 12-inch culverts and should handle the spring runoff.
- Custom Iron is working on a road grader and cutting part of the bottom area off only to save costs. They are waiting on the fuel tank and a def tank.
- There was an issue with a loader out at Cow Camp being used by someone who had gotten stuck and ended up getting the loader stuck also. It was an easy retrieval with the D8 by county employees. Kevin and some of the crew came up with an idea of how to prevent this from happening again. Kevin left a note to the people who used the loader asking them to fill in the ruts and he gave them Associated Towing's phone number. He spoke with the Sheriff about the incident and discussed the consequences. A county truck blew a tire on the way back and went off the road doing some damage to the vehicle, but there were no injuries. The vehicle is in Ogden being worked on now. The bid was given to Eric along with paperwork for ICRMP.
- Kevin shared paperwork on the grant application with ITD; they have received the paperwork also. The pricing was on the high side as suggested by Jake Poulsen.
- 5 different contractors were contacted for bids for the road and bridge shop in Soda. It was decided that the bid of \$11,000 from JB's All-Around Handyman would be accepted.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve JB's All-Around Handyman to do repairs for the county road and bridge shop in the amount of \$11,000. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Kevin ended by stating they are catching up on neglected roads and signs.

Eric Hobson, EMS:

- Eric shared that he has started advertising for the EMT class that will start in November and go for 20 weeks. It will be a combined class which will be both online and classes on Tuesday nights.
- Concerning the Fire Department, the freightliner blew a water pump and the radiator and other equipment maintenance is being fixed and now waiting on bills to come in. Updated tools are being ordered to get the fire truck up to national standards. He also mentioned that fire season is slow except for a few farm equipment fires and he feels we have been pretty lucky so far this fire season.

Nellie Askew, Planning and Zoning

- Last June, the county amended the resolution for the completion date, due to the extreme winter conditions, for Barley Meadows Phase One. In that resolution it outlined that they needed to have the roadways, the storm water, and the power installed for the designs. Completion letters were needed from an engineer and Rocky Mountain Power, which we have received both of those. This ultimately means that all lots in Phase 1 should have development rights.
- Nellie mentioned that on the next meeting, which will be October 9th, she will try to have the resolution for phase 2 complete.
- Commissioner Mathews talked to Nellie about her ideas regarding county parks and asked her to put ideas together and present a proposal. She has been looking into a grant and will report back to them for both parks. (Blackfoot River and Alexander)
- Nellie was also asked about the tower that Reed Crandall is putting up. Nellie sent an email to the board on information she had found. Attorney Doug Wood also mentioned that we don't need to worry about the state issues, just what pertains to the county. The county road supervisor has the discretion of granting authority for underground installations. Nellie stated that a tower would need a conditional use permit. Doug will contact Reed on the legalities.

Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control:

- Dwight mentioned that the Chesterfield Reservoir has Flowering Rush, which is a noxious weed around and in the water. Jeremy Varley is expecting about 400 – 500 pounds of vegetation to be removed and is looking for help. Dwight offered a trailer and a bobcat that he could make available to help haul the weeds to the landfill. There will be people out in Chesterfield working tomorrow on this project. Dwight shared a map of the areas around the reservoir that will be worked on. He also

stated that the north end of the Blackfoot Reservoir, near Pebble Beach, also has this weed that they are watching closely.

- There was discussion on the Caribou County Sun closing and where to post upcoming flyers and information. It was suggested to post on bulletin board and the county web site. Jill will check with the Attorney General's office and the State Controller's office for more clarification. The elections have been clear to use the website. It was suggested to send information with the tax notices. Jill will work on a letter for the last paper to inform the public where everything will be posted in the future.
- Dwight would like to replace the John Deer 825 with an 835M which is priced at \$22,000. He will get a bid for a new sprayer. Hartland Ag may take the old sprayer.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 John Deere 835M side by side for the Weed Department for a sprayer for the total amount of \$22,000. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Deb & Curt Hill will take care of the landfill and road and bridge weeds. Chemical has been purchased and waiting for the city to take care of the airport in Soda Springs.

Jacob Farnes, IT:

- Jacob shared that there is a push to have the county adopt the .gov domain. This will be at no cost to the county except it will change the security certificate process. He shared a letter he would like to send out to .Gov domain. This will help Caribou County be in compliance with several Federal and State cyber-security requirements now and in the future. Doug asked Jill what this will do to the Supreme Court and registering the emails with this domain change. Jacob agreed that he will have to work with Supreme Court during this transition.
- He stated that he has continued to work on the Laserfiche server, the document repository trying to fix up the metadata as well as other issues. Century link phones and fax lines have been causing trouble through all the county offices.
- He would like to go to IAC to see what things are happening with the Computer Arts transition. He would also like to go with Eric to the Idaho Offices of Emergency Management in October as they are holding their cyber-security conference and he would like to take his own vehicle. This was approved by the board.

Adam Mabey, Sheriff:

- In regards to personnel at the sheriff's office, Sheriff reported that he has been able to fill all positions with offers contingent on completion of background checks.
- The LOTOJA race from this weekend went well and he felt the participants were better behaved than in the past. Sheriff mentioned that he did have extra deputies out patrolling.

- Sheriff responded to the front-end loader complaint from cattlemen that Kevin talked about earlier today, no citation was given. The county will need to send a reimbursement request to these people for man hours and equipment. The cattlemen association will put up no trespassing sign off the right of way.
- Search and Rescue brought to the Sheriffs attention that the heater in the search and rescue building is in need of replacement. The proposal that was given to him was for a Lenex Heater in the amount of \$3293.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the purchase of a Lenex Heater for the Search and Rescue building in the amount of \$3293 out of PILT - Department Assistance. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Sheriff mentioned that they are on track to have their first non-fatality year in the county. He mentioned that they have made it through the 100 deadliest days which he feels is a reflection of the grants he has been able to get and the deputies working really hard to make sure that the county roads are safe.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Concerning the closing of the Caribou County Sun, Jill mentioned that if all departments would do their research, she will put an article in the paper on that last day to try to make the residents know where they can get the information that they have been accustomed to finding in the Caribou County Sun.
- Jill presented Resolution 2023-09 for the adoption of a portion of Mill Canyon Road.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-09 stating that Caribou County authorized the adoption of the portion of Mill Canyon Road located south of the city of Bancroft from the access point off of Lund Road going west until the Y intersection at the base of the canyon. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jill presented 1 Certificate of Residency form that needed approval.
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Commissioner Somsen made a motion to accept the Certificate of Residency dated 09/11/2023 for the student that has been presented. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- FY2024 Indigent Defense Financial Assistance Agreement Public Grant. Jill stated that we have been approved for \$30,000 and the board signed the agreement.
- Molly Beseris is wanting to explore the idea of allowing new businesses to come in tax exempt for the first few years while getting established. Molly was wanting to sign an ordinance today but Jill

explained there would have to follow the process including a public hearing. Molly sent examples from other counties to share. Discussion was held on what kind of business she is implying and if the commissioners are interested in having Molly come in and talk to them. Jill will check into the minutes about the time the new motel came to see if there was anything mentioned there.

- Jill forwarded the Land Pro Data contract to the board and Doug and it does not seem to be very specific. It was agreed that it needs to be more formal and to redo the contract.
- Judge Brown's Retirement Party is scheduled for September 29, 2023 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm, invitations will be sent out. No word on his replacement yet.
- Complaints have been made about the drinking water in the basement and the conference room being used for drug court and probationers making it uncomfortable for employees to go in to get water.
- Jill mentioned that the state has not opened their portal so that she can produce an L1 to certify the Levy's. She shared a levy rate comparison chart to show what the levy's have done over the last 6 years. Levies have dropped this year due to values, when the value goes up the levy drops. The levy summary page shows the break down of the levies within the county. The September Value Worksheet was just received from the state last week. It includes the operating property and the final calculating value for the L-2's. She asked that the board approve the levies from the presented information.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to accept the Levy's as presented contingent on the Turner & Central Cemeteries being approved on Friday without changes. Upon this approval Friday, Jill will be able to approve the L1 with the commissioner's stamp. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/28/2023 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$290,093.20 for 9/07/2023 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$326,369.77 for 09/06/2023. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will be attending IAC Meeting in Boise on 09/25/2023. The next regular meeting for the Caribou County Board of Commissioners will be on October 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair

Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk




