

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF February 12, 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on February 12, 2024 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
Eric Hobson, Fire /Ambulance
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Dept.
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning
J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff

Jake Poulsen, Keller Williams
Brian Phinney, Keller Williams
Ann Mathews
Megan Ozburn
Whitney Liechty
Lloyd Sorensen
Reagan Yamauchi, Miss Idaho
Brandon Hall
Michelle Martin
Eric Bates

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

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin gave an equipment update: The D7 is back and waiting on the price of the transmission repair; the cat had stretched cables and is back, the snow plow is waiting on one spider for the front brakes and the anticipated cost is approximately \$20,000 - \$22,000; by doing it in house, they saved on labor cost. They have been thinking about removing the bed from the asphalt heated trailer and put the patch trailer on it making it more convenient and functional. He will keep the Board informed with the progress on the trailer as they move forward with the project.
He shared that Todd is concerned about the old oil trailer as it has no baffles causing the weight from the fuel to move and potentially cause some damage. Kevin mentioned that they have 2 fuel trailers that are baffled that have been used for extra storage, that would give them another 800 – 1000-gallon capacity for oiling making them more productive. They will look more closely at the trailers and determine if they can be used.
Kevin reported that the snow blower will be shipped around the 1st. He will keep in touch with Angie to keep her informed of the time frame for that large payment.
He said that he is looking at buying summertime carbide grader blades with teeth for \$4700 per set. He will buy 2 or potentially 3 sets.

Kevin stopped at Point S and talked to Brock about purchasing tires. He shared that he would like to take the snow pro tires off and get some summer tread tires on the trucks to see if this will save some money. There would still be some expense for swapping the tires, but he would like to try this.

- Kevin talked to the owners of Chemstar, which is now Lhoist, to see if the county could get gravel from them and Kevin said they did not sound like they would be willing. Kevin stated that he is getting calls from people that live on gravel roads asking for help. He is trying to find gravel that can be used in the valley.
- He stated that all the employees will be fully licensed with their CDL after tomorrow.
- He then questioned about the check from Bonneville County asking if it does need to be split with the Weed Dept. or does it all go into the Road & Bridge fund. It was decided to split it between the two departments.

Eric Hobson, Fire/Ambulance:

- Eric shared an update on the MOU at the Dry Valley Mine. Bayer approached Eric and would like to go ahead for the seasonal ambulance. The old Conda mining shop is where this will be located. The agreement will be that the County will still hold the jurisdiction but they will overlap their EMS license. The second part is that the ambulance that they will use will be the old army ambulance and will be set up as a lease for the rest of the year. The payment for the lease will be Bayer setting it up. Later in the year, Eric will keep working with the other parties to see how big they can grow this program for them.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to enter into the Dry Valley Emergency Services Memorandum of Understanding between Caribou County and Bayer for the calendar year 2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- He then shared that the ambulance garage roof is still in need of repairs. Rowdy presented recommendations to do a membrane roof and received bids from two businesses. The board chose the bid from Robertson Roofing for the roof repairs as well as fixing the gutters at the Fire Station.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to accept the bid from Thomas Robinson Roofing of \$1200.00 for the gutters the fire station and \$29,600.00 for re-roofing the ambulance garage. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Eric then talked about the Seismic Plan and mentioned the state did make some corrections, but they also made more errors. He emailed it back to the state asking for the corrections to be made and the state responded that they will not fix it unless the county requests it, which is what Eric

thought the email he sent had accomplished. Eric is now asking if he should be done with this? It was agreed to not spend more time on corrections.

- He reported that they are on week 12 of the EMT Class, they have lost 2 participants but still have 18 participants.
- Eric shared that while in Boise he met with the EMS Task Force that has been working to improve EMS in the state. They are proposing legislation at the state level with a goal of making EMS essential and eventually be funded. They are looking at ways the state can collect taxes. The proposal is for operations not vehicles like the old grant system. It may be a few years before the funds would be available if it was approved.
- Commissioner Somsen commented that the Federal Government is pushing hard on solar farms and wind farms on Federal Land. One pushback that the county could have is if there is a Resource Management Plan and then asked Eric if Caribou County has one. If in place, the Federal Government would have to work with the county instead of against the county. Eric will check into this and report back to the Board.

Rowdy Larkins, Courthouse Maintenance/Building Department:

- Construction Services sent a bid for the flooring in the Judge's chambers. The bid would be for the 2 judge's offices plus the area in front putting in sub-floor to help reduce the noise and then bring in a new flooring similar to a hard wood laminate floor. The bid came in about \$21,000.00.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to accept the bid from Construction Services to redo the floor in the Judge's Chambers for the total amount of \$21,288.00. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Rowdy spoke about the elevator and said that Schindler has been talking about the issue and that they are thinking it may need an oil change and a service done on it. The next step would be to upgrade it. He presented a bill and the Board requested Rowdy to check into the pricing on the bill.
- He shared that our local Senator was not pleased with IDOPL and didn't see a lot changing. Rowdy suggested moving the mechanical training to the fall, that way it will give him a chance to see what is going to happen.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- Nellie received an invoice from CivicPlus. Minicode use to do all the ordinances online and CivicPlus bought them out. As they have been transitioning over, CivicPlus has not billed Caribou County for 2 years. After Nellie checked to verify this bill, she found out that it was indeed a valid bill. This will be taken out of Nellie's budget.

Jake Poulsen, Keller Williams:

- Jake introduced Brian Phinney, also from Keller Associates and then presented a draft Agreement for Professional Services from Keller Associates that shows a scope of work, for the services that were requested. He then read through the agreement with the Board to clarify all the aspects of the agreement. Attached was a standard template for a task order and a 2024 Title Code Billing Rates for Keller Associates, Inc.
He suggested adopting ISPWC (Idaho Standards for Public Works Construction) that could be used in Ordinances and Codes.
Prosecutor Woods mentioned that he has suggestions on the indemnity that he will send Jake to use.

Doug Wood, Prosecutor:

- Doug shared that they are hearing music in the courtroom, possibly coming from Maverik, and is a distraction. Some days are worse than others and mainly at the prosecutor's table. Daz at IT Specialists will be contacted to look at the issue.
- He mentioned that during the trial, that he had technical issues with the projector and the microphone. He will have Daz work on these issues tomorrow.

Soda Springs School Dist. / PTO:

- Megan Ozburn, Whitney Liechty, and Ann Mathews came in with a proposal to ask the Board for a donation from the P.I.L.T. funds to purchase communication boards, educational tools and parent resource folders.
- Megan shared that this program is to help all students have equal opportunities on the learning platform. The communication boards would help students with communication struggles to better communicate with their peers and their peers with them. This will also help them communicate needs and wants to adults. These would be placed around playground equipment, basketball court & near the main doors. She shared that Colter Evans at the ag shop would help get these mounted. The communication boards would total \$525.52.
The educational tools would help teachers teach students how to access things such as large print books, sensory tools, technology, alternative seating, etc. and use them to enhance their individual lives and create independence. This will help students to self-advocate for their needs and weaknesses, while enhancing their strength, which will in turn increase their access and participation. These educational tools total \$3,989.32.
The folders will contain important numbers and emails to agencies that provide assistance and training for parents. In order to help the community, specifically parents understand school

processes, particularly in the area of Special Education. The total for parent resource folders is \$103.48 with a grand total of \$4,618.32.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to donate \$4000.00 from P.I.L.T. to the Special Education at the Soda Springs School District for communications boards, educational tools and folders. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(b) and (f) at 10:54 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 11:33 a.m. with no decisions made.

Lloyd Sorensen:

- Lloyd came in to petition for road maintenance on Mountain Road to the Gentile Valley Road. He shared that there have been no upgrades to this road for around 30 years. Lloyd showed pictures of the road as it is currently. He mentioned that there is no gravel and that it is all clay. Kevin stated that the road needs a base on it before it can be oiled. The Commissioners agreed that it does need attention and Kevin mentioned that they are trying to find gravel. It was suggested to work on this in spring and Kevin agreed.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(b) at 11:49 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 12:02 p.m. with no decision made.

Reagan Yamauchi, Miss Idaho:

- Miss Idaho, Reagan Yamauchi, came to thank the Board for their donation to her as she competed for Miss America. She shared that up until her competing for Miss America she made 175 appearances and still has 5 months left as Miss Idaho. She compared that to the last Miss Idaho who did 100 appearances including virtual during her reign. Her goal is to make an appearance in each county and she said she is on track to make that goal. She mentioned that Caribou County is

a small county but a very powerful county and she is so appreciative of the support everyone gave her. The Board agreed that she represented Caribou County well and they are very proud of her.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jill mentioned that her office learned this week that they have changed the rule in Persi for part-time employees' hours. It is now 29.5 hours per week and not 30.0 per week or insurance will need to be offered. There are only a few employees that this will affect and Jill will talk to their supervisors.
- She said that she received a message from Vicki Yost, but now she has an appointment for next Commissioner meeting concerning a solar farm. Bryce commented that Bonneville County has talked to him about Solar farms.
- Idaho State Tax Commission sent a letter out and they have finalized the approval of the annexation in Bancroft which will be by their park. This will change the border of the Tax Code Areas.
- Jill presented 4 Certificates of Residency for approval.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to accept the Certificates of Residency for the names that were presented on 02/12/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Jill presented a report for work done by the Animal Damage Control Board in Caribou County in 2023..
- She shared that her office had a request for a temporary liquor license, but it was denied due to the business not currently having a license.
- Jill stated that her clerks were able to get the W2's and 1099's out on time and that Tisha is now working on the 1095 and 1095C's.
- She gave the fair board oaths of office to Commissioner Mathews.
- Candidacy forms are in from the Secretary of State's office. She shared those with Commissioner Mathews, Commissioner McCullough, Prosecutor Woods and she mentioned that the County Coroner will also be on the ballot this year as well as Judge Cousin. March 4-15, 2024 is the open period to file for office.
- Jill was asked by Judge Brower to sit in on interviews this afternoon for a Law Clerk.
- She said she received a bill from Sheriff for IT. She asked how this was to be paid and it was decided that the Sheriff will pay this from his budget.
- Jill is in contact with the Grove Hotel trying to be resolved the issue about the rates.
- Jill spoke with other county clerk's about how they base overtime or comp-time and if they include vacation and holiday in that calculation. The clerks suggested limiting comp-time and paying overtime. This policy will need to be changed in conjunction with the new budget.

- Commissioner Somsen questioned about the newspaper and what the policy is to change to the new local newspaper for publishing public notices. Jill shared that there are parameters that need to be met before being allowed to name a new county paper. Publications will still be published in the Idaho State Journal for now.
- Jill shared about issues with the Idaho State Controller's Office and Transparent Idaho. They are asking our taxing districts to send financial reports. Her concern is that some of these districts struggle to have a board and with this request from the state, will these districts lose their volunteer board members.

Commissioner Marty McCullough:

- Commissioner McCullough asked where the county stood with the Hospital. It was discussed and decided to get the hospital CEO and Board Members in to discuss a new contract. The current agreement with the hospital has lapsed. Commissioner McCullough said he feels like we need to protect our hospital. Jill will get in contact with the hospital and ask them to meet with the board.
- Commissioner Somsen shared that the land fill is a fee not a tax so the hospital will need to pay the land fill fee.

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 01/22/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$416,053.13 for 02/07/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$342,177.23 for 02/08/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on February 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair

Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk


