

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF February 26, 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on February 26, 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
Angie Mendenhall, Treasurer
Sharlene Simons, Deputy Clerk
Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge
J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Dept.
Aaron Cook, Assessor
Eric Hobson, Fire /Ambulance
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning

Justin Steele, Probation
Stace Gearhart, IDJC
Ally Schwulst, GIS
Brandon Hall, The Idaho Enterprise
Vicki Yost
Sangwon Oh, Samsung
Wade Yost
Date Yost
Rachel Yost
Reed Crandall
Sterling Delbridge
Lisa Barfuss
Michelle Martin

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

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin received a text from Ron with Simplot to meet on the 28th with the Forest Service for a project they have on South Trail Canyon. He is not sure what the meeting will be about and Commissioner Somsen asked for a time as he would like to attend as well.
- Equipment update: He mentioned that they got the frontend put back together on the snowplow and it is back in service in Bancroft.
Brakes were put on a snowplow in Grace off of the army truck. They are having a hard time finding parts for the Freightliner and finally found them in Grace at A-Plus.
They drained the fuel in Hal's road grader. Adam will take the tank off tomorrow to see if there is a hole and will use a plastic welder to repair if needed.
The new Kenworth is having issues and is in Pocatello where a case study is being started due to all the problems they have experienced.
The snow blower is scheduled to be completed on the 9th and Kevin has not heard the shipping date yet. He asked Angie if she has been told about the funds for the snow blower and told her it would be \$300,000.

- Kevin and Brett went to Idaho Falls to Idaho Traffic Supply to inquire about signs. He would like to put up signs that say "Entering Caribou County Building Permits Required."
- He shared that they are still hauling chips and he will need 75 loads stored at the sucker traps for the Blackfoot Road Project. He said he has a loader out there preparing the parking lot for storage.
- Kevin said that they finished getting paid from the Forest Service; the check was \$100,000 and he is wanting to know the process to upgrade the sweeper. A new one would be approximately \$80,000 and the cost for a used sweeper would be around \$50,000. He would like to keep the old one and purchase a new or used one.
- Commissioner Mathews asked about the oil trailers, Kevin replied they are in pretty good shape. Valves are all working and the brakes are all working. He talked about keeping the baffles in place and cutting holes in the bottom of them for the oil making it easier than dealing with all the compartments.
- Commissioner Somsen mentioned that Valley View Subdivision has complained that the county hardly ever comes there to plow. Kevin said they go up there as often as they do any area. There was a discussion about steel posts being put up making it hard to wing the snow back any further. It was asked how far back the right-of-way is and it was shared that it is 25 feet from the center of the road. It was suggested to put up signs to make residents aware of this.
- Commissioner Somsen shared that Dwight snagged a chain link fence.
- Kevin stated that A-Plus Propane acquired ground behind Scoular Grain and Helena in Bancroft and will be putting in a bulk propane storage and bringing in propane off the rail. They would then transport by truck for delivery. This will increase traffic with semis on the Lund Road. Locals are a little concerned and Kevin is meeting with someone to paint a center stripe on that road. Other county roads were discussed that are in need of work.

J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff:

- Sheriff reported that the front gate now works and has been taken care of on both sides.
- He said they are in the process of putting in the new Radio Console and he is expecting this to be completed soon. He shared how nice it will be for our county.
- Sheriff shared that he hired a detention officer, making them down by 2 and still working on hiring more. He stated that they will be doing some testing for dispatch soon, they are still waiting to receive a couple more applications.
- Sheriff mentioned that they are actively talking with residents about not pushing snow across the road & not having cars parked on the right-of-way.

Rowdy Larkins, Courthouse Maintenance / Building Department

- Rowdy shared the roof bid proposal for Robinson Roofing and asked for the contract to be signed.
- He is wanting to put rugs in the halls and talked to AlSCO about their services. AlSCO said they could do this for around \$35-\$38 a week which comes to around \$1840 year. He is hoping this will save the carpets and he suggested to add one in front of the DMV where they seem to get the most traffic along with changing the rugs between the metal detectors to some type of rubber mat, making it easier to clean there. It was agreed to try it for a year.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to enter into a contract with AlSCO for the rug service for the court house for up to \$2000 a year. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Rowdy gave an update on the elevator, he said they passed the 5-year re-inspection. This is a temporary pass since they believe a valve replacement is also necessary in addition to an oil change. It could cost about \$16,000 for this. He is asking the company for 2 proposals, one for the oil and valve change and a second proposal for an upgrade.
- Shannon talked to Rowdy and he doesn't think he can get started on the event center until at least fall. Money that was going to be used for this needs to be expended by November 6th or it will have to be returned. This is money from ARPA and LATCF. Rowdy is still checking into other options.
- Rowdy is now concerned about the fair building not be getting done. This was originally bid with the event center and he would like to see it finished by fair if possible. He will see if he can take over that project as the general contractor as well as looking into new contractors.
- Commissioner Somsen inquired about how Rowdy is doing keeping up with building permits, if there are any in limbo. He mentioned one from the mine is waiting on an updated plan. Commissioner asked how the picture board was coming, and Rowdy shared that he is waiting for the pictures to be printed and he needs to find someone who can make the name plaques.
- Rowdy shared that he will be out of town March 7-11.

Eric Hobson, Fire/Ambulance & Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- Nellie shared that her and Eric have been working on a Natural Resource Plan. She mentioned that it may be a simple process. They will have a meeting with the stakeholders to get their input, then adopt it like a resolution in a Commissioner meeting.
They decided to hold their stakeholders meeting on March 20th at 1:00 pm which will outline the governance of the state and federal land to make sure what they do also helps the county out as well and follows county ordinances. Commissioner Somsen stated that other counties have said that this

has been really beneficial for them and that the federal and state have not been able to force their actions over the county.

- Eric shared a timeline plan of March getting the input of what the community wants to see in this plan, what do they want to protect, and then a draft phase in April and adopted in April or even May.

Aaron Cook, Assessor:

- Aaron spoke to the board to inform them of the property system software from Computer Arts that he is currently using may no longer be operable. Presently there are 8 counties using this software and some of those counties are looking to change to a different program. Aaron is paying about \$10,000 a year for Computer Arts and stated that other software is very expensive. He feels that Computer Arts may not want to support such a small number of counties using their software. Aaron and Angie both use the same software and he is guessing that to get a new software program for both offices could be around \$100,000 and then around \$20,000-\$30,000 annually. He shared that he is ok using what he has for now, but wanted the Board to be aware that this will be happening down the road. He didn't feel the state tax commission would be very helpful with any options.
- Angie shared that Computer Arts talks to the 3 offices (the Assessor's office, the Clerk's office and the Treasurer's office) which will be a challenge if switching to a new software. She stated that she too is ok with using Computer Arts for now and seeing how other counties do with a new program.
- Aaron reminded the board that the Republican Caucus will be on Saturday.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jill mentioned that she is watching SB1367 which would include child protection issues with the changeover to the state public defender's office in October.
- She shared that there is not a current contract with our Public Defender Don Marler at this time. The Board would like her to stay in contact with him and encourage him to complete that contract.
- Jill mentioned that Judge Brower hired Kylie Vestal for the Staff Attorney position. She started Monday and is shadowing in Bannock County during the current murder trial. She will be based in Caribou County.
- She shared the Pathology Agreement between Caribou County and the new Eastern Idaho Forensics Center. She is asking for the Board's approval and signatures.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to enter into an agreement for pathology services with Eastern Idaho Forensic Pathology Center. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Laserfiche went down last week. It was discovered that the licenses had been upgraded but not the storage. This was down for near a week. In the process it was decided to upgrade the licenses to a

newer version that neighboring counties are using. Mark approved stamping his signature on the contract and she asked for a ratifying motion to approve.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to ratify a contract with Laserfiche for the expansion agreement totaling \$4859.60. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- She attended the Hidden Heroes presentation at the IAC Mind-Winter Conference. This was regarding the Military Caregivers Agreement. Jill has the proclamation ready and asked the Board if they are in agreeance with this and if they want Jill to talk to Gary about trying to track down what is going on in our county. The Board was in agreeance and Jill will finish this and have it ready for the next meeting.
- Auditor Dana Izatt was here on Friday gathering documents he needed. He will present the final audit at the next Board meeting.
- April 3rd will be a Regional Board of Equalization training in our county at the Fire Station and she encouraged all 3 Commissioner to be there.
- May 3rd is the Spring County Officials Institute and it will be in Bonneville County at the Election Building.
- Jun 4th-6th will be the IACC Conference at the Mountain America Building in Idaho Falls.

Vicki Yost:

- Vicki Yost, 4252 S. Cantamar Drive, St. George UT 84790, shared that she is here to talk about Solar Systems. She turned the time over to Sangwon Oh from the Samsung Corporation for a presentation.
- Sangwon spoke of wanting to develop a 150-megawatt solar system project in the Bancroft area in Caribou County. He is asking for a conditional use permit for this. This project will need 1,000 acres for the construction and he said that it will benefit the county by a tax injection of \$1,000,000 a year for about 25 years. Another benefit he mentioned was creating around 100 jobs. He said it would take about 2 years for construction and between 30-35 years of maintenance. He mentioned that the project would use about \$150,000,000 of private money.
He addressed the concern about fire fighting and environmental concerns Sangwon said that his company would provide funding to the local fire department and if any damage was done to the environment his company would fix the damage. This would be a fenced in area. He asked the Board to approve this so they could move forward with this project. He also mentioned that he did not expect this to happen now but maybe in the future.
- The Commissioners asked questions such as: where did Sangwon come up with the tax injection amount, why they are considering productive land and not non-productive land, disposal of materials

at the end of the project, and pollution issues. The Board would like to see more research on tax allocations.

- The county's comprehensive plan does not allow solar farms and was explained that this plan was made through many public meetings and surveys sent to the residents of Caribou County. The Board shared that they follow what the residents want which for now is an agricultural based community. They also shared that the comprehensive plan is renewed about every 10 years.
- Wade Yost, 360 Rose Ave, Soda Springs, ID, said he is a master electrician and a property owner. The ground that they would like to put this project on is located on Substation Road. With a moratorium on wells for farming, he thought this was a great project for this ground that would bring in employment and training for apprenticeships.
- Vicki then shared that her farm has power lines going thru it and people don't want to build homes under them. It is dry farm ground which isn't high producing ground. She shared that this would be a financial benefit for her family to bring them back to Caribou County and build a business. She shared the solar energy ordinance and asked for clarification on it. It was explained that this is for personal use only. She then asked questions about the comprehensive plan and if it was advertised well and if educated input received. She shared that this could be an incentive to bring our families back home. She was challenged to get the public on board with this and that the board will do what the majority of county residents want.
- Angie Mendenhall, 391 Hwy 34, has concerns about hard numbers. Also mentioning that she has ground that would qualify for this but this is not what the residents want. If this is allowed for the Yost family, pretty soon the whole valley will be covered with solar farms. She also felt there were not solid numbers on job creations.

Reed Crandall:

- Reed asked the Board to waive county code 13.48.360 and grant the application which at one point was already granted. Reed owns a business called 3C Wireless and would like to provide more reliable and faster internet.
He shared that the current administration is investing \$42.45 billion into high-speed broadband infrastructure. Idaho received \$583 million. Reed wants to provide this necessity through a much smaller budget to better the lives of those in this community.
The proposed location at the intersection of Lund Road and Barfuss Road is adjacent to farmland and pasture which is used for agricultural use. He is seeking to mount a fixed-wireless antenna to an existing utility power pole located in the public utility right-of-way adjacent to the intersection of Lund Road and Barfuss Road. This has suitable proximity to power from Rocky Mountain Power, line-of-sight for the antenna, and access to county-maintained roads, all necessary requirements for fixed-wireless deployments.

Due to Intermountain Gas having an underground line nearby and buried electrical lines for rectifier anodes that cannot be disturbed, Rocky Mountain Power requests that 3C Wireless use an above ground power utility pole for power.

In 2023, the former Road and Bridge Superintendent gave permission to do this project. In September of 2023, the county gave 3C Wireless the permit to install the power utility pole and cabinet in the public utility right-of-way.

Reed shared that there are no other utility poles, towers or structures that exist in the premises that 3C Wireless could use. The power poles in the vicinity are owned by Rocky Mountain Power and they will not give permission to attach an antenna.

The proposed antenna will be no larger than 18 inches wide by 18 inches high by 10 inches deep. Due to maintenance or upgrades, 3C Wireless may need to install a different or additional antenna. This will be mounted on the utility pole no higher than 20 feet above the ground and extend less than 18 inches from the face of the utility pole. This will not materially or tangibly affect the view for vehicles using Lund Road and the ingress and egress of Barfuss Road. The proposed antenna will not cause undue disruption of travel or an extraordinary increase in the volume of traffic in the vicinity of the proposed use. The proposed would not damage the public health, safety or general welfare within its vicinity or be materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity. The proposed use is consistent with the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan of the county.

He shared that it has been discussed that this could obstruct the view of the View Shed. He has talked to several neighbors who have agreed it would not obstruct their view. He then shared pictures of the current utility pole that is 20 feet tall. One picture is from 1459 feet away and he states that you can barely see the pole.

- He has talked to several residence who have agreed to sign on his behalf. He once again asked the Board to waive the county code 13.48.360 and grant the application.
- Michelle Martin, 1278 Barfuss Rd Bancroft, ID, spoke and requested that the board not side step county code. She believes that in Reed's initial application, he leaves it open to multiple antennae and that he could change the sizes which could change the view from her home. She is asking to have Reed do this by the correct process, be transparent about this, and that if it is granted that it specifies that it does not allow for a greater size or additional antennae on that location.
- Reed then challenged that the Comprehensive Plan is not being enforced and asked for examples. It was shared that there was an error on the county's part for the example to which he is referring and the county is working to correctly handle these situations. Reed then asked what will happen to all the other internet company in the county that is breaking all of those codes that are not grandfathered in. It was explained that they have not had any other requests in the right-of-way for towers that the Board is aware of. He then shared his opinion that the code is ambiguous in some ways that it doesn't specify what type of communication towers need to follow the code.
- He then asked for a special public hearing and Nellie stated that any meeting would be held in April due to the 30 days' notice that is required.

Ally Schwulst, GIS:

- Ally gave an update of the GIS Department from November to current. The following are items she has worked on or has in progress: Assigning addresses as applications come in, working on the address code to amend them for clarification, validating county and 911 data, maintaining online maps, attending training, maintaining enterprise and the sequel server, she created documentation for the Assessor's office to help them understand how to use the tools so their data base is running correctly, submitting boundary lines to census, work with Aaron with the new annexation in Bancroft, in charge of MSAG, will help Eric with maps, and learning to manage her budget.
- She stated that she is having problems with her software freezing up which is delaying her other projects and she is very frustrated. She mentioned that IT is trying to help but he is not acquainted with her version of GIS. Aaron invited Ally to come try a few processes on his computer to see if it would work better on a different location. Other ideas were discussed to try to help her with these issues. She talked about Enterprise and the Sequel Server maintenance and asked what would be an acceptable price range for contracting support for the software. Commissioner Mathews asked her to put together a proposition to present to the Board.
- Ally expressed that she is now doing more than what her current title is and asked when would be a good time to talk about changing her job title and it was suggested to wait until budget time.
- Ally also expressed concern about having enough time with the current IT where he only comes one day a week. It was mentioned that maybe she could have him come on a different day just to work with her.

Justin Steele, Probation/Juvenile Correction:

- Stace Gearhart shared the annual report from Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. This is data that is compiled from Justin and his office, the Clerk's office, and ISP data on arrests.
- Youth arrests, detention admissions and youth petitions were all down substantially from last year. 28 charges were filed in Caribou County in 2023 with 7 of those being felonies, 21 were misdemeanors and 0 status offenses.

Probation and Diversion – in 2023 there were 13 probation intakes vs 18 releases; 4 diversion intakes vs 3 releases. The probation success rate in 2023 is at 54% which is down from the 2 previous years and the diversion success rate is 100% which is the same as the previous 2 years.

Intake is an overview of the area's average youth offender. Stace shared a snapshot which showed that the average youth offender in Caribou County in 2023 was a 17-year-old white male. The next snapshot was for September 30, 2023 showing youth on probation, diversion, and in IDJC custody on the same day over the past three years. 23 youth were on probation, 0 youth on diversion and 0 youth in IDJC custody in 2023. The community service that was completed for the county last year was 163 hours, money paid to victims was \$0, and the recidivation rate for the last three years was 6% which is low for the state.

State Funds – here he shared the funds received from the Legislature, funds spent on juvenile treatment in the community, and the percentage of the juvenile justice budget these state funds make up. The JCA (Juvenile Correction Act) funds were \$22,692, Tobacco and Cigarette funds were \$16,012 and money from the lottery was \$2,274. State behavioral health funds spent on juvenile treatment in the community was \$60 for SUDS (substance abuse) expenditures and \$0 for CBAS (mental health). Juvenile justice budget % of state funding has gone up to 41% which is up from the previous 2 years.

- It was asked if someone would define what diversion is. Doug shared that diversion is a contract between the offender along with their parents and the prosecutor where there are terms that need to be met and if those terms are met the case would be dismissed.
- Stace shared that Justin and his crew are doing an excellent job with the youth in our county.

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 02/12/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$214,244.91 for 02/22/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$184,301.37 for 02/21/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on March 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk


