

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF March 11, 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on March 11, 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
Eric Hobson, Fire /Ambulance

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning
Aaron Cook, Assessor
Erin Appleby, Caribou Soil Conservation Dist.
Jackie Barthlome, Grace Mayor
Brandon Hall, Enterprise
Kent Loosle, CMC
Dillon Liechty, CMC
Dana Izatt, Searle & Hart / Auditor
Michelle Martin

The meeting opened with Bryce Somsen leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin gave and update on equipment:
The snowblower showed up on Thursday. They will be here tomorrow to put in the controls for the loader.
One of the new Kenworth's has now made 3 trips to Salt Lake and 4 trips to Pocatello to be fixed and is still down. They will start a case study on it and see what is actually going on with it.
Dwight's road grader has a hydraulic leak so he brought it in from Gray's Lake to be repaired.
- Todd & Cody are opening up some of the roads in the Lower Valley from Central Road on Anderson Road to the State Highway and by the Bancroft airport back around 10-Mile Pass. This will give some alternative routes.
Commissioner Somsen mentioned a request to open the Long Valley Road from the mine workers. He mentioned that the mine's grader broke down. Kevin mentioned that the county sanded for them all the way to the parking lot going into the narrows last week, due to their plow and sander being down. He understood that the mine hasn't been opening up the road from the Wyoming gates to Sid's this year. Kevin said that he could get to that section of road the first part of next week.
- Kevin had questions about comp time as some employees are asking if they can carry some over to next year or do a buy out. The Board would like him to bring a list in of those wanting to have a buy out done.

- He mentioned that once in a while they hit a mailbox and they apologize to the owner, purchase a new mailbox and ask the owner to fix it. He shared this with the board to make sure they approve. Although not required if it is the right of way, the Board agreed that it is a good practice.
- Commissioner McCullough asked if there is a road around the train tracks in Bancroft. Kevin shared that the road by Steve Wight's is open and they will be opening the Fisher Crossing Road.

Angie Mendenhall, Treasurer:

- Angie only had one item to speak about. She shared that she has taxes on Terry Smith's mobile home for 2022 & 2023 which show delinquent taxes. The mobile home is not there anymore and the ground has been sold. She asked for permission to cancel these taxes and the Board agreed.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to cancel taxes for parcel # MH94520 for the years 2022 and 2023 in the amount of \$236.69. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Eric updated the Board about the Chesterfield Reservoir. They have completed a survey for a plant that may be endangered there; work was stopped temporarily. The plant was not present and they began work again in the area. They have plans to rebuild the spillway and get everything back in place. Currently they have the feeder canal shut off so now all the water will come down Toponce until certification is done on the spillway. They suspect no flooding and the canal channel should be able to hold the water. Water Resource will need to approve and recertify the dam.
- He shared that the Fire Station is currently using carts for their gear. These are getting old and starting to deteriorate. He has looked at getting 18 lockers and putting them along the east wall. After talking to vendors and pricing online, he found that online was cheaper and would cost \$5060 plus shipping. He said that he has the funds in capital outlay to pay for the project.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the purchase of 18 lockers for EMS for a total of \$5060 plus shipping. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Eric mentioned that when the EMT's take all their call times of 180 hours per quarter, and show up to ½ of their trainings, they will pay for these EMT's to go to a conference. This year the World Conference is in Las Vegas for 5 days but is significantly more money. Normally the cost is about \$1000 and realizing that this one will be more due to it being 5 day and in Las Vegas, he is asking if he can offer them more than \$1000 to attend. Registration is \$450.00 and rooms are about \$350.00

per night. Eric said he could try to find cheaper rooms. The Board agreed to offer them up to \$1500.00 if they attend.

- He said that next year he will put in for an ambulance grant.
- Commissioner Mathews invited Eric & Doug to meet tomorrow with the Commissioners on a new contractor for the event center @ 1:00 pm.
- Caribou is hosting an ICS 402 class on April 19th from 9:00 am. to 1:00 pm. This is their half day class that is presented through the office of Emergency Management and FEMA for elected senior officials. Eric sent this to the 3 sister counties and mentioned that they will need to register online.

Doug Wood, Prosecutor:

- Doug said he was not presenting as prosecutor but as a representative from the Soda Springs Lion's Club asking for a continued donation for the Caribou County Distinguished Young Women program.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to donate \$1000.00 to Distinguished Young Women Program from P.I.L.T. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- As prosecutor, Doug shared that his office remains steady. He spoke to Mr. Marler about his contract and he said he needed to make the time to do that. Doug would like to see something put in place prior to the Defense Commission coming in and accerting their will and he said he appreciates working with Mr. Marler.
- Law enforcement made Doug aware of a threat towards him. He said he does have security precautions in place and will continue to monitor this. Commissioner Somsen asked if any legal action could be taken. Doug shared that it would depend if it was a viable threat. Doug stated that he appreciates law enforcement for letting him know about this, so he could advise his family.

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jill stated that she has the proclamation for Hidden Hero's ready and needs a signature. She said that Gary is already on top of this and would like to add veterans to the caretakers list. This proclamation is to declare May as Hidden Hero's month.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to sign the proclamation in support of the Caribou County military caregivers. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- She shared that Trudy sent over the extension agreement for mineral leasing which is set to expire 02/28/2024 and this will extend the lease.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to extend the agreement with Mineral Leasing # E800038 with the State Department of Lands. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Jill shared an email with the Board from Idaho Wool Growers Association asking to appoint Jennifer Ellis of 2844 Kelly Toponce, Bancroft Idaho to the Animal Damage Control Board.

Commissioner McCullough made a motion to appoint Jennifer Ellis of 2844 Kelly Toponce of Bancroft Idaho to the Animal Damage Control Board. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- She shared earlier with Commissioners McCullough and Somsen information about a cabin on Cow Camp Road that was built without any permits. This is a permanent structure owned by Larry Holbrook and there was discussion on what fines need to be charged to the owner. It was decided to have Rowdy work with Doug on this.
- Jill mentioned that there is a National Treatment Court training on May 22-25 in Anaheim Judge Brower questioned if it would be possible to use some of the opioid funds to send a couple of staff from the drug court to that training. Jill shared that there are approximately \$58,000.00 in funds and that this qualifies as a way to use opioid settlement funds.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to use \$7000.00 from the Opioid fund to send 2 people to the conference in Anaheim on May 22-25, 2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed

- She said that Dana Izatt will be here later for the audit report. She had Commissioner Mathews sign the representation letter that he needs today.
- She sent the ARPA final rule to Rowdy. There is a change in that that talks about having the money committed instead of spent. She will get this to Doug to look over. She prefers to spend it all in 1 fiscal year so there would only be one single audit to budget.
- Jill asked if she should respond to Vicki Yost and the Board agreed to see when Vicki can meet with them to discuss the taking analysis and letter she sent to the Attorney Generals Office.

Erin Appleby Caribou Soil Conservation District:

- Erin shared that they currently have 5 active projects. They plan to apply for more this year. She is also planning on handing out trees for Arbor Day. She said that their projects last year totaled over \$500,000.
- She is here asking for a donation and shared that last year the county donated \$13,000 for the fiscal year 24, and \$12,500 for fiscal year 2023 and she is asking for \$13,500 for fiscal year 2025. She explained that the funds are matched.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to contribute \$14,000 to Caribou Soil Conservation District for Caribou County for the FY 2025 from P.I.L.T. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- Nellie shared a section that Doug had questions about on the agreement with Keller Associates Inc. She was asked by Jake Poulsen if the Board could sign this so they could get started on the Blackfoot River Road project with Kevin.
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to sign the agreement for Professional Services between Caribou County and Keller Associates Inc. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.**
- Nellie later stated that she contacted Jake he said that the Appendix B is for each task order and would be under the umbrella.
- Jill asked if she needs to put in an engineering line item in a budget to track it separately. It was suggested to put a line item in Road & Bridge and under the Commissioners.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- Nellie shared that the Park and Recreation Department does not have anyone in charge and she would like to take this and run with it as she has time. She would like to work with the Forest Service and try to get trail head markers, improvements on the trails and such. The commissioners agreed and thought this was a good idea. She was asked to keep track of the time she puts towards this.

Caribou Medical Center, Kent Loosle & Dillon Liechty:

- CEO Kent Loosle mentioned that Commissioner Somsen invited them here to talk about the Hospital. He first introduced himself and said he lives in Soda Springs and is originally from Mooreland Idaho. He has been in health care for 30 years. His wife Wendy Wheeler is from Blackfoot.

- He mentioned that there was a contract with the Hospital and he asked what the concern is. The Board shared that they are concerned that if the contract was in default, code states that it would come back to the County.
Kent asked for clarification on the code, and mentioned that the intent is still to build a facility. He would like to assess the service lines that they have and the opportunity for growth. They have new providers coming and he needs to assess all this along with the revenue cycle and the cost structure that will come. He assured the Board that their intent has not changed and Dillon shared how much more it would cost now to build compared to pre-covid.
Dillon shared that they are reviewing the strategy of bringing in more physicians and service lines and it would not be operational under the previous building drawings. They have gone through the current building and are looking at what the options are. The health of the building compared with what a new building would cost will determine what they want to do.
- Commissioner Somsen asked if they could give a timeline and Kent said he would like to spend a little time and get it right. He needs to see if the revenue will be steady or if it will grow. He thought maybe a year could make him comfortable. He offered to come back often to update the Board on the progress.
- Kent mentioned that every 3 years a Community Health Needs Assessment need to be done. This was done March of last year. They have been addressing some of those needs from that assessment.
- There was more discussion among the Board about the hospital after Kent and Dillon left. Commissioner McCullough is not comfortable with how things have been going. It was discussed that Commissioner McCullough should attend the Hospital Board meetings to see if reasonable efforts are being made.

Dana Izatt, Searle & Hart & Assoc. PLLC:

- Dana started off by sharing that in his opinion the audit of Caribou County is a good report.
- He presented the 2023 Fiscal Year Audit Report along with The Independent Auditor's Report, Management Report, and Compliance Letter. Dana walked through the statements of net position and activities as well as the balance sheet of governmental funds all as of September 30, 2023.
- In discussion after the presentation, Dana suggested that the ARPA funds for the event center should be used in one year. Doug will review the final rule to assure compliance.
- He suggested to add a line item under Road and Bridge for engineering and under Capital Outlay.
- He mentioned that once indigent is done moving the money to current expense.
- Jill asked about the practices being used for the Dyers Woad program and do we need to do to assure transparency. Dana suggested a few options to explore think about.
- He ended saying there were no issues and all departments were very helpful.

Other:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to add Angie Mendenhall to the agenda today in place of Dwight Lloyd @ 10:00 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 02/26/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$565,821.93 for 03/07/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$342,706.60 for 03/06/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet tomorrow, March 12, at 1:00 for a special meeting regarding the building of the events center. They will also meet on March 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk



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