

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF April 22, 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on April 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were:

Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman
Bryce Somsen, 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.
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning
Ally Schwulst, GIS

Aaron Cook, Assessor
Brandon Hall, The Idaho Enterprise
Michelle Martin
Rick Phillips, J.R. Simplot
Chad Gentry, J.R. Simplot
Dan Darlington J.R. Simplot
Shalayne Bartschi, CC Sr. Citizens
Cassi Cook, SSHS BPA
Avery Johnson, SSHS BPA
Wade Yost

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

Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge:

- Kevin talked about the Toponce Creek water situation. He shared an aerial view of the flooding that is currently taking place. He has talked to Steve Hebdon who is the state water master for that drainage. He has not wanted to do anything but, at this point it is affecting our road and private property. It is not running over the road but is saturating the ground causing issues with Lynn Hatch's septic. Lynn Hatch, Joe Gordon, and King Creek Grazing own the property that is being affected. Kevin is wondering if there is something the county can do and Doug suggested that the county offer help and do what they can.
Kevin will find out what John Hyde and Steve Hebdon from the state will do and keep the Board updated. He will also keep in contact with Eric Hobson.
- He shared that starting tomorrow they will be putting millings on Hegstrom Road and Davisville.
- Kevin informed the Board about his summer help and said he has quite a few applications. It was discussed that Kevin could hire who he needs.
- He mentioned that Bailey Creek has one last cul-de-sac that hasn't been developed. This is on Discovery Circle and they are wanting to develop this. Kevin has talked to the person wanting to do this and once the road is brought up to the county standards the county has already agreed to take on the maintenance of that road.
- The new broom is here and had a chance to use it a little bit.

- Diamond Creek is being attempted to be opened up, they are having trouble getting across the bridge where the slide takes place. Kevin got ahold of Todd Boehme from Bear Lake to let him know that Thursday they made it to the top of Summit View. The North access is open all the way around the reservoir so the only thing that is left is Diamond Creek, Lanes Creek, Henry Cutoff and Bridge Creek. Commissioner Somsen asked about Bone Road and Kevin said it is not done as of Saturday.

J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff:

- The Board had a question about a claim of \$523 for fuel filters and an air filter that seemed a bit excessive. Sheriff will check into this claim and report back.
- Sheriff mentioned that at the Quad-County meeting, Franklin County was wanting to have a contract with us in regards to weekenders. Sheriff had Commander Bredehoft put together a contract and he would like Doug to look this over. Due to the elections coming up, this will be put on hold until the Sheriff has been named in Franklin County to see if this will happen or not.
- He talked about the prior discussion on the gate at the jail and transferring the ARPA funds that were designated for the transport van. Sheriff received a quote with different options 1) keep existing sliding gate system that is already there, 2) a scissor gate which was not recommended due to the wind and snow. The quote came in at \$31,630 from Curb Appeal Garage Doors.

Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$31,630 for a new gate for the Sheriff's Office from Curb Appeal Garage Doors to come out of the ARPA funds. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Sheriff also shared concerns about Toponce Creek flooding.
- He shared concern about the EMS response and that it is beginning to impact the county getting people to respond when the ambulance is called.
- Sheriff reported that he was invited by the National Sheriffs Institute to go to Virginia for jail administration training. This was paid for by the Bureau of Prisons. He shared that he saw some areas that he would like to work on to help improve our facility. Two of those are 1) retention of detention officers and 2) the way our facility is run. He shared that our facility is pretty good and that comes back to the support of the Commissioners.
- He expressed a concern about the amount of rumors that are circulating about the Sheriff's Office. He wanted the Board to know that his Command staff is completely unified contrary to what is being said in the community and asked them to contact the Sheriff if they have any concerns.
- Commissioner Somsen asked Sheriff what he thought about a Centralized Dispatch. He feels there is not enough room to handle this and that this would require some system upgrades. He is also concerned about man power. He mentioned that he would be willing to look into this and would be on board if it was decided to handle things here in Caribou County.

Ally Schwulst, GIS & Addressing:

- Ally shared the address sticker quote for approval. Commissioner Somsen suggested looking into the sign business in Idaho Falls that Kevin found and get a quote from them.
- She told the Board that the project has been dropped with the church in Grace from the prior meeting.
- Ally mentioned that Mrs. Holbrook, on Cow Camp Road asked for an application but is reluctant because of the price of the address and said she would have to talk to her husband about that. After more discussion about this it was decided that Ally will mail Mrs. Holbrook an application.
- Ally has been working on getting a potential contract and shared estimated contracts from several different software companies along with what they have to offer for the Boards approval. She has \$17,000 in her budget and will need to come out of capital outlay.
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to allow Ally to spend up to \$10,000 with Civiclens for the mapping system and to have the contract written up and for review for the next Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Aaron Cook, Assessor:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(a) 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.**
Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 10:13 a.m. No decisions were made.

Rick Phillips, Chad Gentry, Dan Darlington, J.R Simplot and Bryan Fuell, USFS:

- Rick Phillips along with Dan Darlington and Chad Gentry from J.R Simplot Company, came with a goal for giving a briefing on an upcoming construction project they will be conducting on the USFS land having to do with the pipeline that connects the Smoky Canyon Mine in Caribou County with the Don Plant which is in Power County. They are proposing that starting next week, they will lay 6 miles of new pipeline on the US Forest Service and working through the summer. They have applied for and received a special use permit to do this which will involve the closing of 2 roads temporarily.
- Dan Darlington then spoke about this project. He mentioned that they have about 3 years of work and that this year they will do 6 miles. Next year is planned to do about 2 miles and the year after that another 2 miles.
This is being done so things like last year will not happen again. Last year, the slurry line where the pipe failed last year was about the size of a quarter and was on the top of the pipe. The timeline was also discussed during the 2 phases that are being proposed.

- The Forest Service will be putting out a press release and there will be ads in the local newspapers. Simplot will keep the Board updated on the progress or of any unexpected things that may arise.
- Bryan Fuell with the USFS informed the Board that the closure was signed Friday. Information will be in the paper this week and on social media. Concerning the slurry discharge from last year, Simplot has been asked for a plan to clean that up this year. There are about 60 acres have been identified to have been affected and could take several years to complete the cleanup.

Rowdy Larkins, Courthouse Maintenance/Building Department:

- Rowdy brought in information about the insulation update and adding on the options for the Grace Event Center. The spray foam would void warranty if sprayed on the roof due to it being a standing seam roof. He then reviewed the other options with the Board.
After discussing these options it was decided to add options #1 Provide a steel and concrete mezzanine in lieu of wood, add \$10,764 to total price, #3 Provide (32) 8" x 7" -0 schedule 40 bollards (painted), add \$20, 223 to total price, #5 Provide simple saver insulation system in roof and walls in lieu of tab/banded systems, add \$37,178 to total price (will drastically reduce any possible condensation, more durable and very clean look) and #6 Provide 8" metal liner panel at fire station and Events room, add \$17, 867 to total price.

Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:

- Nellie shared her concern about the Grouse Creek flooding. The contractor told her that ITD wasn't willing to work with him along with Idaho Department of Water. Idaho Department of Water Resources suggested to reroute the water back to the original normal flowing creek which would help alleviate some of the flooding there. Then ITD said if you put a permit in for bigger culverts they would approve the permit, but no permit was ever filed. Nellie is worried about putting new homes there with all this flooding. She shared that the contractor feels it will never be fixed and that the homeowners will have to control the water with the flood gates. Commissioner Somsen did not feel that putting in bigger culverts is the answer.
- Nellie has the book that Jake Poulsen shared at the last Commissioner meeting which is the Idaho Standards for Public Work Construction. Nellie is asking if the Board is wanting to adopt this. She has a draft ordinance ready and will get this ready for publishing.

Shalayne Bartchi, Caribou County Senior Citizens:

- Shalayne shared an update on the Income/Expense Comparison by qtr. - Q1 2024 for the Senior Center. She said everything is going well and they do not have any projects in the near future. If they get money from Bayer, she has to write a grant which is usually \$10,000. She would like to put a heater and/or an air conditioner in the thrift store with those funds.
- She said they got some modernization funds and was able to redo the bathrooms.
- She mentioned that they will be closed this Friday due to Blair Winward's funeral. She said they are looking for someone to be on the board. She did mention that Wednesday's lunch is busier than Fridays and they are looking for more people that they can help with food and services.

Cassi Cook, SSHS BPA:

- Cassi Cook from SSHS is the Business Professional of America advisor. She said that 5 students have qualified for the National Leadership Conference in Chicago Illinois. They will leave the 9th of May and get back on the 14th. She is asking for a donation from the county to help with the expenses. A student, Avery Johnson, joined her for the presentation. It was suggested to donate a total of \$1000.
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to donate \$1000 to the 5 students of SSHS for their BPA trip to Nationals from the P.I.L.T fund. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously**

Wade Yost:

- Wade came in sharing frustration to the Board about his employment. He will be leaving the area/state to go to Delta, Utah in mid-May for a job. After sharing these concerns, he then asked the Board for 3 things.
 1. Return his building permit money for the home he was going to build in Bancroft.
 2. Send equipment up to what would have been his home site and backfill the unused foundation.
 3. With the county's apparent bias against locals and in favor of transient workers and international companies, he is requesting, the county to buy his home at current market value.
- Commissioner Mathews shared with him that the building permit money has been returned but as far as the other requests, the county is not in the business of doing such things.

Doug Wood, Prosecutor:

- Doug reminded the Board that the City of Soda Springs, due to the loss of Greg Haney, put out an RFP and he put in a proposal and they have accepted him which means even though he is part time with the county, he needs to get the Commissioner's approval to sign that contract. This will be for criminal prosecuting only.
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to allow Doug Wood to enter into a part-time contract for Criminal Prosecution for the City of Soda Springs. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Jill Stoor, Clerk:

- Jill started by thanking the Board for the flowers that were sent for her father's funeral.
- She shared that the Road & Bridge position decided on at the last board meeting was posted and the closing date is the 30th of April.
- Her office is in full swing of voting for the May 21st election. Absentees have gone out and the mail out precincts will go out on Monday.
- Jill stated that the audio speaker system in the courtroom is failing. Daz has worked on it but it is still having trouble. He suggested getting bids to re-wire it using conduit to help eliminate the side effects of the bare wire. Daz will help facilitate this but does not feel comfortable doing the work himself. Twisted Technology has helped in the past and Daz mentioned there is someone in the Preston area who could also put in a bid. She asked the board for permission and the Board agreed to move forward with bids.
- In the way of reminders:
 - April 25th is the city meeting on the main street project starting at 6:00 pm.
 - May 3rd is the County Officials meeting in Idaho Falls.
 - May 15th is the Budget Levy Training in Chubbuck from the Idaho State Tax Commission.
 - Commissioner Somsen may need to remote in on public hearing at the next Commissioner Meeting on May 13th.
 - June 4-6th IACC Annual Conference in Idaho Falls

Other:

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to add Rowdy Larkins to the agenda today. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Commissioner Somsen will be attending the Mountain West Trails Conference which is for the Caribou Loop Trail. He is asking what kind of support there would be for him to go. It was decided that he can use the travel funds and also have a motel paid.
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 04/08/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$262,084.19 for 04/18/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$192,693.18 for 04/17/2024. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on May 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk


