

# COMMISSIONER MEETING OF June 10 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were:

Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman  
Marty McCullough, Commissioner  
Bryce Somsen, Commissioner  
Jill Stoor, Clerk  
Doug Wood, Prosecutor  
Sharlene Simons, Deputy Clerk  
Kevin McLain, Road & Bridge  
J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff  
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning  
Ally Schwulst, GIS  
Eric Hobson, Public Safety

Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control  
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building  
Taylor Askew, Road & Bridge Maintenance  
Jeff Kelsey, Intermountain Insurance Services  
Bryan Fuell, USFS  
Katy Bergholm, DEQ  
Jennifer Cornell, DEQ  
Jayson Lower, IDAWY  
Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
Brandon Hall, The Idaho Enterprise

The meeting opened with Doug Wood leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

## **Kevin McClain, Road & Bridge:**

- Kevin informed the Board that Rylee Hatch, one of the Road & Bridge summer help, broke both wrists in a ranching accident so she will not be able to continue working for the county. He will hire a new employee to replace her.
- Cattleguards are being cleaned out today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> cattleguard going up Slug Creek is full, the one coming out of the Narrows, and all the ones up Bridge Creek are full of debris so the next couple of days they will be cleaning those out.
- He shared that there is just a little bit more chloride to be done on Nipper Road.
- They will be helping the State out by getting rid of their salt brine. They still have a fairly good pile of winter cinders that has not been mixed with salt. The brine will be injected into the cinders to see if this will work.
- Kevin shared that they have to do a little more with the millings before oiling season. He is looking at buying a hot mix and doing shoulder work going up Bailey Creek. He stated the shoulders on that road are getting really bad. The road going out to Hooper by Monsanto is getting really narrow due to bad shoulders. He is getting feedback that the grader would be better to use with the hot mix. Kevin called Pocatello for prices on hot mix and he said he could get it for \$73 a ton. Cold mix is around \$147 a ton. He thought they may start chip sealing around July 1.

- All the roads have been bladed at least once. Tod will finish up Sheep Creek putting gravel there and work his way back and do Wood Canyon. There are a few roads that will need to be done again due to wash boarding, but he said that is normal.
- Commissioner Somsen asked Kevin if he was able to talk to anyone about the Blackfoot River Road. Kevin shared that he talked to Tom Miller about their grading and Tom said he would share the information with their graders. Commissioner also asked about chloride and if he did past the rider's cabin on Lanes Creek Road. Kevin said that they did that earlier.
- Taylor Askew shared that a plow truck that the rear suspension is getting really loose. Taylor priced it out and for about \$2300 to re-bush the whole suspension and fix it in house.

#### **Eric Hobson, Safety:**

- Eric was contacted by ICRMP and he talked to Mark Andreasen about the county insurance. ICRMP has a large increase on insurance they are proposing. It is looking like a 20% increase. Currently the amount is \$218,799 and next year we are looking at \$264,000.
- He shared that they use the P25 radios using Motorola brand for several years. He met with a Kenwood dealer and they are very comparable to Motorola with a saving of about 40%. He is thinking of switching over to Kenwood to save some money. They are compatible with what is being used now.
- Eric updated on the EMT testing sharing that currently 2 have passed.
- Fire Season update: the weather service is predicting a hotter and dryer summer. Statistics say it will be a bad fire year.

#### **Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building:**

- Rowdy shared the bid from Hamilton Masonry for labor and materials for the back half of the Cinder Block building. The county will furnish steel, grout, door frames and window frames. They estimated completion in 2 weeks from start date. The bid came in at \$32,150.

**Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve Hamilton Masonry bid of \$32,150 for walls to be put back up in the back of the Cinder Block building. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- He also presented a bid from Hamilton Masonry for \$5,800 to replace broken block and repair the mortar joints on entire cinder block building.

**Commissioner McCullough made a motion to approve the bid from Hamilton Masonry to replace broken block and repair the mortar joints on the entire building. Including block, mortar, materials etc. and labor the cost would be \$5,800. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Rowdy will get quotes for paint and for the roll-up doors.
- He talked about the Event Center and the way things are going they would be starting right before the fair. Rowdy proposed to start right after the fair. If everyone is good with it, they will start after the fair.
- The Main Street project will start on July 8<sup>th</sup>. He is not sure about the county hook ups if they are up to date or not. Commissioner Somsen mentioned that Molly Beseris is working on grants to help with this project. If this happens, the business owners will still be charged and then money will go back to the city. Jill said she got an email from Molly and needed to change the email contact to Jill.
- Rowdy will check into prices on a truck for him.

**Dwight Lloyd, Weed Dept.:**

- Dwight stated that the W1 truck needs a new engine. He shared that the roller on the lifter has seized up and chewed a notch in the cam shaft, long block installed is \$14,073. This truck also needs a fuel pump costing \$645. The new Dodge Tradesman, 2024 ¾ ton long box with out government rake off will cost \$57,000 with no trade.
- Dyer's woad program is going well! He shared areas in the county that needs help including the railroad. Dwight will get in contact with someone from the railroad to see if they could pay the county to help there.
- Commissioner Somsen asked about Dwight's truck and is it worth fixing it? Dwight wondered about fixing the W1 truck and then to get rid of the 2-wheel drive GMC and buy the new truck. He is not sure he could afford to do both though. Rowdy mentioned that his truck is having issues and wondered if there would be a fleet deal. The Board mentioned that Dwight should fix the W1 truck.
- Commissioner Somsen then asked about a mosquito abatement and what it would cost per summer and how many workers it would take. Dwight mentioned it would take about 2-3 workers with someone to work nights, 2-3 foggers with drones and he thought that the liability is an issue. He guessed around \$250,000 to do this. Dwight said he would have to look into this.
- Commissioner Somsen asked Jill to add the mosquito abatement to the 4-County meeting agenda.
- Commissioner Somsen mentioned that Dwight might want to drive up by the spring above Humphreys to see if what has been done will work.

**Dillon Leichty / Kent Loosle, Caribou Medical Center:**

- Rescheduled

### **Tyler Kelsey, Intermountain Insurance:**

- Jeff Kelsey, Tyler Kelsey's father, came in from Intermountain Insurance Services. He is hoping for an opportunity to show some bids about the county health plan. He mentioned he would need some information from the county and that the carriers are very aggressive and getting better rates.
- Commissioner Somsen mentioned the county is with Gem Plan. A few years ago, the county had someone come in and they thought what they had to offer was very good, but it ended up not being better for medications.
- Jeff shared that there is no cost to the county for an analysis. As far as coverage for Pharmacy benefits, he would have to know specifics before he could answer if his coverage would be identical or not. Commissioner Somsen felt like the county is good where they are and Jeff asked if he could check back in a year. Jeff mentioned that they work with some cities in the state but not counties in Idaho.

### **Bryan Fuell, Forest Service:**

- Bryan shared that they are in the process of doing a timber sale in Diamond Creek. They have talked to Kevin about getting a county crusher into an old gravel pit off of Timber Creek. They are in need of 10,000 yards of crushed gravel and the Forest Service would pay the county \$150,000 to crush the gravel for them. A number of roads will be updated as well as the Diamond Creek Road South of Timber Creek that will have two spots that will be re-routed away from the creek. The gravel source would be there for the life of the project expecting gravel to be there for future road work that the county could use in Diamond Creek.  
He shared a time line, commitment for this fall or 2025. They will open up the road for better access, make the pit a bigger size and this will be done by Simplot, the Forest Service, and Caribou County.  
Bryan will work with the Forest Service Engineer for funds to be transferred.  
He mentioned that they are still working with Simplot on the slurry spill. Simplot will build a fence to keep cattle out of Diamond Creek. There are 60 acres that will be cleaned up with re-vegetation.

### **Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning:**

- Nellie shared that her grant for adding a campground to the West side of Alexander, Oregon Trail Park, was approved for the amount of \$137,399. She mentioned that she can't start using the funds until July 15. She has two contracts that needs signed so she can send them back. Nellie said that she needs an archeology survey done on the property which will be completed on July 16 to see if she can move forward. This amount is included in the grant.

The hospital wants to help with some man hours. She talked to Kevin about her not interfering with chipping season. Matching hours is \$54,000 in kind. The major expense will be a new bathroom costing \$110,000. They will be like the Forest Service bathrooms with male and female sides and with solar panel lighting, and these can be power washed out. It does require to be ADA approved.

She requested Commissioner Mathews signature.

Commissioner Mathews asked about how many sites will there be and Nellie said about 12 sites.

- Nellie talked to MR&E about the status of things. He will meet Nellie and Kevin before they start their project.
- She made copies for the Board of the Natural Resource Management Plan 2024 and gave one to each Board member.
- Commissioner Somsen talked about a super fund site for solar panels. He asked Nellie to do some research on this.

### **Ally Schwulst, GIS:**

Ally talked to the Board about her ESRI Software license and the account manager said in order to implement the change now, the county would owe around \$10,816. This will change the renewal to July instead of October.

**Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the ESRI Software Renewal up to \$11,000 for 2024-2025 for the GIS department. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion pass unanimously.**

- Ally then shared some IT concerns. She feels like the one day a week is not really working out. She asked if she is allowed to email IT if she is experiencing trouble or does this need to wait until Tuesday when IT is scheduled to be here. Jill mentioned that all issues should be emailed to them and if it can wait, it would save the county some money but if it is needing resolved immediately to email them for help. Otherwise the county pays \$85 per hour. Ally suggested to see if we could contract another day or keep emailing him with problems. The Board felt like each department should be able to email IT. This could be re-evaluated at a later time.

### **Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp:**

- Mark mentioned that Randy Hubbard brought this to his attention last spring. He showed some pictures of some erosion along the banks of the Alexander Reservoir. He mentioned that in 2007 they pulled an ag buffer back 100 ft. Since then they noticed vegetation coming back but now they have also noticed enhanced wake boat use. These can throw wakes around 3-4 feet. He said that on the South side the trees are tipping in by 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge and the bench is gone. He

shared pictures and a video to show the Board of the shore eroding. He stated that they have lost 15 feet or more of shoreline and that 2<sup>nd</sup> Bridge to the dam is eroding.

He wanted to bring this up and was thinking of having an ordinance in place and is asking the board for suggestions. Commissioner Somsen asked for before pictures showing where the shore line was vs. what it is today.

Evasive species is also a concern and there was discussion on this.

Sheriff Mabey commented that he would like to see the feasibility before enforcing this.

- Mark will gather more information to bring back to the board.

**Katy Bergholm/Jennifer Cornell, DEQ:**

- Katy shared the Idaho Environmental Guide that her agency created. It is for local governments. It is on their website also. Areas included are: air quality, water quality, waste mediation, and what their Engineers manage like drinking water and waste water systems, and more. She left one for the Board and one for Planning & Zoning.
- She was asked to updated the Board on the Simplot spill. She mentioned that the Dept of Ag has been looking into the cattle concern. There will be more information to come on this. They felt everyone is engaged in getting it cleaned up.
- Jennifer shared what programs she is involved in which include:  
Surface Water Quality Programs:
  - Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (IPDES)
  - 401 Certification Program
  - Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program
  - Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program
  - FERC Hydro Electric relicensing
  - 319 Program and Agriculture BMPs program
  - Outreach
  - Complaints
- She also shared her contact resources and entertained a few questions and discussions of which Chesterfield flooding was an area of concern for the Board.

**Doug Wood, Prosecutor:**

- Doug shared that he will have an intern working with him.
- Commissioner Somsen asked Doug about the bonuses for emergency services. Is there a penalty? He said they round tabled it at the meeting Doug was at. This subject will also be added to the Four County Meeting agenda.

**Jill Stoor, Clerk:**

- Jill presented 2 Certificates of Residency to be approved.

**Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the Certificates of Residence as presented for 06/10/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Jill has been in contact with BPS/ Lumen for the annual renewal for Century Link for our long-distance service. She shared a form that needed signatures. One is an agreement so she asked for a motion.

**Commissioner McCullough made a motion to enter into an agreement with Century Link Line Volume Plan. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Casey Batterton would like to ask Tina Turner to be Deputy Coroner. Jill asked him to send Tina in for an application packet.  
IACME this is a nationwide membership fee that has not been paid. She told him to come in and she will get that paid it is \$100.  
IAC will pay for Casey to go to conference in Vegas.  
IT is still working on his computer.
- Dillon Liechty will not be able to come today and asked if he could be on the July agenda.
- Jill sent the Board an email about a webinar for the US Census of Agriculture and wanted to make sure they received the email.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> is the 4-County Commissioner meeting at Oneida County and agenda topics added are: mosquito and P&Z stipend. It was suggested to add payroll increases as well as Event Center usage and budget suggestions.
- September 23-25 IAC Conference
- Jill reminded the Board that the budget meeting will be the next meeting. She has some questions concerning the Event Center budget:  
If it is starting in August and ending in spring where should the money be added to?  
Where would we put the money to maintain, schedule and clean it?  
Will there be a new employee or how will this be handled? Rowdy suggested to have someone hired and work under him.  
What will this be rented for? Jill will need to add this into the budget and asked if it should go under the fair board or have its own fund.  
Where is the funding coming from? The Board asked Jill to add this to the 4-County agenda and they will consult with Oneida County who has previously built.

- The Oregon Trail RV Park will need to be added to the budget and it was decided to have it under Parks and Recreation. A new line will be added for repairs and maintenance with an amount of \$20,000.
- Concerning the IT budget, Daz said other counties have divided up their time and track that by department. The board is comfortable leaving the budget as is with the expenses coming out of onsite services.
- Jill would like clarification on raises. She can make a spread sheet with a 3%, 5% and a flat raise. Commissioner Somsen asked about inflation costs. Franklin County is giving a 3% raise and 3% retention, Ada County is doing a survey across the state and found a base rate is \$22 per hour. Washington County is giving a 3% raise, Bear Lake County is giving a 3% plus base wage increases and continuing with their longevity. After discussion, it was decided to present numbers for a 4 or 5% raise.  
One position she felt needs to be looked at is the coroner. Valley County does  $\frac{3}{4}$  of elected officials wages. Madison County pays \$40,000 realizing that their numbers are higher than ours. We are paying \$11,000 and the Deputy is \$3000.
- Jill reminded the Board that next meeting is the initial budget meeting to hear requests from Elected Officials and Department Heads.

**Other:**

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 05/28/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$280,858.06 for 06/07/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$194,907.60 for 05/29/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on June 24, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair

Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk