

## COMMISSIONER MEETING OF April 08, 2024

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on April 08, 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  
Rowdy Larkins, Maintenance/Building Dept.  
Nellie Askew, Planning & Zoning  
Eric Hobson, Public Safety  
Larry Weaver, Public Safety  
Ally Schwulst, GIS  
Aaron Cook, Assessor

Brandon Hall, The Idaho Enterprise  
Rachel Yost, SSHS Band  
Gary Overlin, CC Sheriff Dept.  
Russ Roper, CC Sheriff Dept.  
Jake Poulsen, Keller Associates  
Travis Johnson, Lundahl Building  
Reed Crandall  
Nate Holbrook  
Lisa Barfuss  
Mayor Jackie Barthlome, City of Grace  
Trayten Clark  
Kimberly Mumford, SSHS  
Alan Skinner, City of Soda Springs  
Michelle Martin

The meeting opened with Jill Stoor leading the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

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

- Kevin will be hiring 4 people for summer help.
- He shared that he signed a paper today from the State of Idaho on bridge inspections. They were out on the 8-mile bridge and they would like it replaced. Jake Poulsen will look into finding money to help with this.
- Update on the broom he was looking at and he was able to give an offer of \$38,000. They put new bristles on it and a new hydraulic pump. Kevin will need to go get it from Boise.
- He said they are opening up Skinny Dip Road today and will work around the Blackfoot Reservoir and then start making their way around the loop. South Trail is still too wet. He is getting calls on Bridge Creek but mentioned it will be one of the last roads opened. Commissioner Somsen mentioned that he has had people asking if the county could keep it opened all winter. Kevin's concern is the safety of someone up there without service and the possibility of sliding off the road.
- Kevin talked to Brian Richardson who owns Emerson Mabey's place by 10-Mile and he is interested in letting the county purchase gravel. \$1 yard is what Kevin mentioned that the county may pay him. Kevin would still like to find another location for more gravel.

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(a) 9:22 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.

Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 9:46 a.m.

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to add a position to Road and Bridge Department and post it and open it to the public. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Rowdy Larkins, Courthouse Maintenance/Building Department:**

- Travis from Lundahl is here with the Event Center and presented a handout with a total estimate of \$3,716,289. There were 3 options included 1) provide a steel and concrete mezzanine in lieu of wood, add \$10,764 to total price. \*Price above includes the steel mezzanine columns going to the roof\* 2) Provide a 2-component concrete sealer and concrete grinding in lieu of standard concrete sealer, add \$29,596 to total price. 3) provide (32) 8" x 7'-0 schedule 40 bollards (painted), add \$20,223 to total price.

This bid is good for 30 days.

**Exclusions:** Price increases, winter conditions, appliances, special inspections sport courts, sporting equipment (basketball hoops, floors, etc.), permits & fee's, inspections bonding, bollards, landscaping, concrete design.

Travis also shared a timeline schedule with construction starting the end of May and finishing in March of 2025.

Commissioner McCullough asked about foam instead of fiberglass, Travis shared some other options and said that they could look into this.

**Commissioner McCullough made a motion to accept the bid from Lundahl Building for the Caribou County Event Center up to \$3.8 million. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion with a clarification of only approving this with the use of the \$1.9 million from the A.R.P.A. funds and the remaining funds to come from PILT. Motion passed unanimously.**

Rowdy then talked about the elevator. Schindler was here this morning and was pressure valve related. It is reset for today. Oil and valve bid came in with a total of \$15,588.06. This would be about 3-4 weeks out. Commissioner Somsen asked will they stand behind this. Rowdy will check on that.

**Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the upgrade for the elevator for the amount of \$15,588.06 by Schindler Elevator Company. Commissioner McCullough second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- He shared the EMS roof is done, and fire station gutter is done.
- Rowdy talked with Alan Skinner from the City of Soda Springs and he said he is not certified for commercial, but is certified for residential. He asked if Rowdy could be over Alan until he is certified and work under Rowdy's license. The Board thought it would be fine and feel it is good to keep a partnership with the city.

#### **Eric Hobson,**

- Eric reported that the roof is done and is great, they didn't do the cap which saved \$65,000. He did buy the two radio towers that will need to be cemented in probably in the summer.
- He said they are keeping the office running and the calls covered.
- He thanked the Board for allowing the new building in Grace to be done as it will help the fire rating in Gem Valley immensely.
- Commissioner Somsen asked about the OSHA comment from the Sheriff. Eric said he is still researching this.
- He talked to the Chesterfield dam owners and they are just waiting for the snow and ground to get ready to start working to get the dam improvements underway.
- There has been some worry about flooding but we are back to normal snow pack. He said they still have sand out to the Road & Bridge shop on the east side of the sand shed.

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

- **Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene a Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m. to consider the application from Reed Crandall for a conditional use permit. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed and the hearing began.**

The applicant is seeking approval for the conditional use of installing a fixed-wireless antenna (internet) on a utility power pole within the Public Utility right-of-way near the intersection of Lund Road and Barfuss Road. The chosen utility pole has been previously approved by the County Road and Bridge Supervisor and Supervising Commission under the Right-Of-Way Permit issued on 10/12/23. This location was specifically chosen as a 'meet point' for the fiber transport company Lumen and is conveniently situated near their main hub at 1944 Lund Road, approximately 2000 feet away. The proposed antenna will conform to dimensions not exceeding 18 inches in width, 18 inches in height, and 10 inches in depth, and it will be securely mounted on the approved utility pole. The entire structure, including the utility pole and antenna, will be positioned at a height not exceeding 20 feet above the ground.

#### **Staff Findings:**

Commissioner Barker and Commissioner Jorgensen recommended approval with the conditions all required documents are submitted to the county and one antenna. If applicant wishes to add an

additional antenna, he will need to apply for another conditional use permit. Commissioner Cole opposed the approval of the application.

The staff recommends approval with the conditions of the applicant conducting a survey to confirm antenna, existing power pole, and utility box are within county right-of-way prior to installation of the antenna. After the survey has been conducted and received by the county, it must be presented at the commissioners' meeting for either acceptance within the right-of-way or initiation of the applicant process for removal of items if they are found to be placed on private property.

- Reed Crandall showed the size of the antenna. He commented that this is to help provide reliable and fast internet. The antenna will point to the north. He has a survey scheduled to make sure it is on public property and should be completed by the middle of May. Kevin McLain mentioned it was 2.5 feet short of the right-of-way. Nellie shared that the right-of-way varies all along Lund Road.

Public Comments:

Nate Holbrook 1278 Barfuss Road, Bancroft, Idaho. Nate is in opposition of this permit and shared pictures of a site triangle. He mentioned that there has been no survey. He shared that there is only a pole line easement, no utilities easement. Anode fields are east to west which is not what Mr. Crandall had stated.

Michelle Martin 1278 Barfuss Road, Bancroft, Idaho is in opposition. She shared the pole line easement is on an East-West easement not a North-South easement along Lund Road. She said that she had past minutes, codes and more to back her reasonings but chose not to share all of that. She felt that the Board needs to make everyone go through the correct process every time.

Commissioner Mathews spoke and mentioned they are trying to correct things to get back on the correct path as far as this application was concerned.

- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for installing a fixed-wireless antenna (internet) on a utility power pole within the Public Utility right-of-way near the intersection of Lund Road and Barfuss Road with the condition that it is surveyed and that the pole is within the right-of-way. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion.** Commissioner Somsen commented that they haven't been exactly forthright on this because they haven't known all the rules and regulations. Mr. Crandall has been good about seeing their follies and Michelle is right that she has been here every time for a long time making sure that we are doing things right. He then shared that if it were his neighbors and they had a chance of getting internet and if it were in front of my house I would allow it. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Somsen made a motion to end the public hearing at 10:55 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **Soda Springs Band:**

- Rachel Yost turned her time over to Kimberly Mumford from Soda Springs High School band.
- Kimberly Mumford shared that 1½ years ago they got invited to take part in the Washington D.C. Nation Heritage Festival Parade. This was originally supposed to happen last year but due to covid still being a big thing there, they extended the invitation to this year. This summer, 27 students, both vocal and instrumental, are traveling to Washington D.C. and will be representing the state of Idaho. She said that this has been approved 2 times from the school board. She is thinking it will cost around \$1000 per student. She said the school is paying nothing, that they are fund raising. Currently the High School students have 1/3 paid for already through fund raising. She is asking for a donation.

**Commissioner McCullough made a motion to donate \$2000 for the Soda Springs Performing Arts from the PILT fund. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **City/Council:**

- Mayor Jackie Barthlome reminded the Board of the 5-County meeting on Thursday in Montpelier at 10:00 a.m.
- Mayor Barthlome talked about semi's parking in the county lot across from the city park. A reefer recently ran all night and complaints were made about the noise. Could there be some signage stating a noise ordinance? A resident called the Sheriff's office and no one responded. Doug agreed that it is something that needs addressed. The Commissioners updated the Mayor on the Event Center. She shared that they did get a grant for the Center Street Bridge and will be starting in October/November. She mentioned that their sewer project went out to bid last week. Spring cleaning for cities will be first full week in June and will be for one week only.
- Alan Skinner from the City of Soda Springs, shared that they have a grant to redo Main Street. Bids are going out this week and will have a walk through on the 19<sup>th</sup> with bids due on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a public meeting in between now and the 26<sup>th</sup>. This includes sidewalks, curb and gutter, and asphalt with storm drain systems on both sides of the road, The will also increase the lighting from the railroad tracks to 2<sup>nd</sup> South. He mentioned that they received \$1.5 million grant and will probably put in another \$5-6 hundred thousand. The grant will not pay utilities. This will definitely affect the businesses.
- Eric Hobson updated the cities on the snow pack and flooding and that there are sand bags if anyone is needing them.

**Aaron Cook, Assessor:**

- Aaron gave an update on some ratio studies. He said he does not have values for 2024 yet. The market has plateaued some. With all the county together they will pass, Soda will pass alone but others will not pass if they are listed separately. Aaron will come back in about a month with new updated values. He shared that they did a ratio study on Ag land and that was fairly close and commercial is going to be kept at about the same. Total value should be up.
- He informed the Board that the Idaho Transportation GEM users will have to have a background check in order to use this program.
- Aaron shared concerned about the change to the Homeowners exemptions.

**Ally Schwulst, Gary Overlin, Russ Roper:**

- Ally shared that the LDS church in Grace wants to help with funding and labor to put new address posts and numbers out in people's yards. Deputy Gary Overlin and Chief Deputy Russ Roper came in and shared that this is an ambitious project and has great value to them stating that they have "served their time but lost their luster." They shared that the international fire code requires 4-inch numbers and currently the county is using 3 inches. Eric Hobson said that he is good with having the numbers be 3 inches in height. Ally shared that our county code states that the numbers need to be 3 inches in height. Deputies Gary and Russ would like to take advantage of the help from the church to get this done.

Ally would like to update the code concerning this as it currently has no requirement for needing a marker in the resident's yard. The Board agreed that this is a great project. Ally will order the necessary materials for this project.

**Jake Poulsen/Keller Associates:**

- Jake came to review and answer any question the Board may have for the scope of work for the Blackfoot River Road. He had one thought concerning the last corner before the haul road. He suggested they consider changes to super elevate that corner for safety. Nothing will be done on the Blackfoot River Bridge, and it should be pretty straight forward otherwise. He stated that this will have to bid out and the geo technical engineering will take about 8 weeks. A traffic control and detour plan will also be done.
- He talked about the task scope of work with Nellie. He asked if the Board wanted to have an annual amount for reviews or a case by case. It was suggested that for this year to do a case by case.
- Jake discussed having rules for construction standards. The Idaho Standards for Public Works Construction is a document that agencies across the state uses. This is a great document for them to have to abide by.



- Commissioner Somsen asked Jake if there are grants that could help with the China Cap Road portion that is just graveled. This would help if there was a reason to shut down Highway 34 for any reason. Jake will watch for grants to help with this.

**Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve and sign Task Order #1 for general engineering surveying services effective date April 1, 2024 with Keller Associates. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Jill Stoor, Clerk:**

- Jill asked for clarification on the Engineering fee. It was decided earlier to put one under Road and Bridge and one under Commissioners. Does the Board want this moved to Planning and Zoning? It was suggested to leave it as it is.
- She asked the Board to review how the public hearing should go. It was noted that at first to go into public hearing, Nellie speaks first and then have the applicant present. It is then open for public comment, for and against, and then the person/applicant has the last say, then the motion and deliberation.
- Jill asked Tisha to help present this next concern. During budget hearing last year, the Sheriff got a career ladder approved. This is a financial bump for certifications. She just recently received the request spreadsheet and the Sheriff would like to pay retro-active. Jill is not sure this can be done. Doug agreed with Jill that this cannot be done by back paying. Concerns were raised about base-pay vs merit pay. It was decided to keep the base pay separate so when adding a wage increase it will not include the career ladder increase. Idaho State Grants will also be paid at base-pay rates.
- She wanted to make the Board aware of some cleanup upstairs. They got rid of tables and chairs and sent them to a youth archery club so it didn't have to go through the bidding process.
- She prepared a letter for the Idaho Commerce Department committing what was already agreed to for 4-County Alliance which was already approved in the budget. This needs a signature.
- Jill shared that Jason Dye; our 6<sup>th</sup> District Court Administrator wants to do an ADA assessment at the courthouse. They would like a letter approving this. He claimed the ADA assessment requires no action. Jill thought this is voluntary. It was suggested to let them come.
- She then shared upcoming meeting dates: 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting is April 18<sup>th</sup> at Spudnik in Blackfoot at noon. April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Officials meeting from 9-1. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the County Officials Institute from 8-4 in Idaho Falls, June 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> is the IACC in Idaho Falls at the Mountain America Center.

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to convene an executive session pursuant to I.C.74-206(f) at 12:40 p.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the executive session convened.

Commissioner Somsen suggested ending the executive session at 12:20 p.m. with no decisions made.

Other:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to approve the minutes of 03/25/2024 as presented, the claims approval report in the amount of \$174,778.99 for 04/04/2024 and the payroll claims in the amount of \$337,385.13 for 04/03/2024. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet again on April 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chair



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Attested: Jill Stoor, Clerk



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