

**Bear Lake County Commissioners' Special Meeting
March 21, 2023
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho**

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met for a special meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting also was available via Zoom. Members present were Commission Chairman Bradley D. Jensen, Commissioner Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen and Amy Bishop, Clerk of the Board. Also in attendance were Sheriff Bart Heslington, Deputy Tyee Graham, County Superintendent Todd Boehme, County Fire Chief Mark Parker, Head of County Maintenance Tyson Boehme and Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen.

APPROVE AGENDA – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

CANVASS ELECTION

Clerk Amy Bishop said the results of the 2023 School Supplemental Levy Election, which was held March 14, were before the Board for canvassing.

Bishop reviewed the process for determining election results. Every voting precinct has a poll book and a tally book, and when the votes are counted by one person, another watches to ensure the results read match the vote cast on the ballot. As votes are read aloud – either for or against, in the case of a School Supplemental Levy Election – two individuals tally the results to ensure that everything matches. At the end of the night, one of these tally books and one of the poll books is locked in the ballot box. The other is provided to the Clerk's Office and checked against its voting books to once again ensure a match. This set of books is then brought before the Board for canvassing, she said.

The levy in Bear Lake County passed. Totals from the Bailey Creek precinct – which is comprised of voters who live in Bear Lake County but whose children attend school in Caribou County – were provided to Caribou County to be added to its election results, Bishop said.

Supplemental levies require majority support to pass, she said. The funds used to support this levy come through property tax and add a very small amount to property tax totals. After the election has been canvassed, Idaho's Department of Education and the State Tax Commission will ask for the results.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to accept the canvassing for the School Supplemental Levy Election. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

SHERIFF BART HESLINGTON – ACTION ITEMS

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY GRANT

The Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office is looking for the Board's approval to enter into the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) grant with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Sheriff Bart Heslington said. This RBS grant is something the Sheriff's Office has entered into annually for several years and provides Sheriff's Offices across Idaho with funding to enhance boating safety, education, assistance and enforcement efforts.

Idaho chose to increase its budget for this program in 2023, with \$24,059 allocated for Bear Lake County's use, Heslington said.

Commissioner Payne wondered if Bear Lake County needs to form a Marine Boating Committee. Other areas – including Bannock County and other nearby locations – have these committees in place and it might be in the county's best interest to implement this in conjunction with all the activity on Bear Lake, he said.

Heslington said this is something that has been discussed in the Sheriff's Office and with the local boating program. Steps are being taken to implement this type of organization, and he is hoping to involve individuals that come from the area's pertinent special interest groups – such as those involved in the local fishing community, as well as someone involved in water sports recreation efforts – in order to get opinions and feedback that will comprise a diverse amount of waterways knowledge.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the Recreational Boating Safety Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

FOREST SERVICE PATROL AGREEMENT

For the past several years, the Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office has entered annually into an agreement with the United States Forest Service to address this federal body's local operating and enforcement needs, Heslington said. Last year, this agreement was enhanced through coordination efforts between the Sheriff's Office and the USFS to form joint patrols. This relationship provided the Sheriff's Office with knowledge of USFS regulations and restrictions, and that rapport is planned to continue going forward this year, he said.

The USFS allocates funding to the Sheriff's Office in exchange for law enforcement's patrol of designated forest areas. For 2023, The USFS has designated \$28,600 – up \$5,000 from last year – to be provided in exchange for Bear Lake County's service. These funds will be distributed through the county, and deputies have not had any issues with meeting the amount of grant hours required under this agreement, Heslington said.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept the United States Forest Service's patrol agreement with the Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

VEHICLE LEASE AGREEMENTS

Heslington presented more information about proposed vehicle lease agreements between the Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office and Bancorp, an issue that – because Heslington was unable to be present – had been tabled at the Board's regular meeting on March 13, 2023.

Heslington said he had been actively working with Bancorp to procure the most advantageous lease agreement to supply the Sheriff's Office with a reliable patrol truck fleet. New patrol trucks were ordered well over a year ago but have been slow to arrive due to supply chain issues and delays, he said. Those vehicles now are arriving but there has been a significant cost increase – risen nearly 40 percent over figures quoted at the time of order – associated with purchase and implementation of emergency response equipment to be installed in each vehicle.

The original budgeted cost had been \$52,000, but that amount now is quoted as just more than \$83,000, Heslington said. This cost reflects altering the agreement from a four-year lease to a five-year lease, and the addition of two vehicles to accommodate the needs of Sheriff's Office staff, Heslington said. This agreement with Bancorp will supply the Sheriff's Office with eight patrol vehicles. Additionally, it does not reflect the sale of the department's vehicles that are in current use. Upon return of those vehicles, Bancorp will sell them and the entire sale value will be returned to Bear Lake County, effectively offsetting the higher quote, he said.

Additionally, he said, Bancorp has shifted the lease payment schedule. Rather than the county paying at the beginning of the year, it will now pay at the end of the calendar year. This will allow the county to make payment closer to the beginning of the new fiscal year. There will be no payment made in Fiscal Year 2023, Heslington said.

While Heslington does not know what the trade-in/re-sale value of the current vehicles will be, he said the last Bancorp lease trade-in had allowed the county to recoup a lot of the value. At that time, Bancorp was very aggressive in its efforts to sell on the market. The vehicles the county will trade in are 2018 models, with an average of 170,000 miles on each truck. Bancorp will sell the vehicles as fully equipped emergency response units, he said.

The supplied eight vehicles to be used by full-time Sheriff's Office staff. Two of the vehicles are 1-ton trucks that were purchased as the primary response units for Marine and Snowmobile program needs, as these heavy-duty trucks are necessary to pull the county's Marine Patrol boat and large trailers, Heslington said. Part of the Marine and Snowmobile Program budgets will contribute to the lease payment for those vehicles.

Commissioner Payne told Heslington the county has nearly completed the process of hiring a County Agent with the University of Idaho Extension in Bear Lake. Once that has been finalized, the county will need to procure a vehicle for that individual's use. Commissioner Payne wondered if Heslington had a timeline for when Bancorp could provide an SUV to the county.

Heslington reminded the Board that he had worked with Bancorp in late 2022 to lease three SUV-type vehicles for the county – to be used by the Bear Lake County Assessor, the Probation Officer and the Bear Lake Senior Center – and those had been provided within three weeks.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to accept the Bancorp lease agreements for the Sheriff's Office vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

DEPUTY TYEE GRAHAM – ACTIVE SHOOTER PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FORUM – ACTION ITEM

Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen told the Board he was serving on the committee that is organizing the active shooter training day for Bear Lake County's emergency services. The drill – originally scheduled for April 28 – will now be held May 13 and had been re-scheduled due to a conflict with a previously scheduled Ambulance Service training.

Christiansen said the committee had discussed having Deputy Tyee Graham hold a public forum to educate the public on why these types of trainings are important and answer any questions the public might have. This forum, if supported by the Board, will be held sometime in April and will serve as a way the county can prepare the community now rather than being forced to play catch-up in the future, he said.

Graham said he has conducted these trainings in the past, in other communities in which he has worked. These public forums – called Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) – seek to educate the public on how to effectively respond if they are ever victim to an active shooter situation, while also preparing them to appropriately respond if and when an active shooter event occurs in their community.

Data shows active shooter events are becoming more and more likely in small communities like Bear Lake County, Graham said. While local governments always hope a disaster like that never will happen in their areas, its best to prepare the public for the likelihood that it will occur.

Graham's public forum will be held in April on a date yet to be determined. It will involve a 3.5-hour speaking presentation and a half-hour question-and-answer session.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to support the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events public education program in conjunction with the Active Shooter Training for the county's emergency services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

TYSON BOEHME – HEAT TAPE – ACTION ITEM

Tyson Boehme, head of maintenance operations for the county, reported he had been working on a solution for heavy snow accumulations and ice dams atop the Bear Lake County Courthouse. The problem is twofold, with snow that falls on the flat part of the roof freezing and accumulating and the snow that falls on the eaves of the sloped section not sliding off.

Boehme said he has examined the costs associated with installing heat tape and rain gutters, which would work in tandem to melt and drain the snow off the rooftop. The county installed heat tape on the west side of the building in fall 2022, he said, and no leaks have been seen in that area of the courthouse since. ABC Seamless had provided a combined bid of \$130,000 for heat tape and rain gutter

installation. The bid provided for the heat tape expires at the end of business on March 21 – the same day as the meeting. The bid for rain gutter implementation will stand for a year, he said.

Commissioner Payne said the Board had directed County Attorney Adam McKenzie to write a letter that will be sent to the courthouse’s architects and will address the Board’s frustrations and concerns with the existing design that had led to leaking in a building that is less than three years old. Because of that direction, he said, it would benefit the county to see how the architects respond before any reparative action is taken, as the architects might use those corrections as evidence the county had altered their design and had thus negated any help they would be willing to offer to correct the issue.

Commissioner Olsen echoed Commissioner Payne’s comments and also thanked Boehme for the work he had put into this issue. Commissioner Jensen said the Board, by motion, will table the issue so McKenzie can send the county’s letter and the architects will be allowed time to respond. He encouraged Boehme to explore the option of gathering other bids for the services, because work will not be able to commence until summer.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to table any structural corrective action until the Bear Lake County Courthouse’s architects have the opportunity to respond to the county’s letter. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.



BRADLEY D. JENSEN, Chairman

4/10/2023

Date Approved

ATTEST: 

