Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

May 11, 2026
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9:00 am Monday, May 11, 2026, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting was available via Zoom. Members present were Commission Chairman Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen, Commissioner Alan P. Eborn, and Clerk of the Board Amy Bishop. Also in attendance were Prosecutor Ronnie Keller, Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Assessor Jannelle Jensen, Sheriff Bart Heslington, various staff, and members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board reviewed the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

TREASURER TRICIA POULSEN

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen reported there was one tax cancellation in the amount of $59.47 for parcel 2008.02 which was split.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the cancellation of taxes in the amount of $59.47 for parcel 2008.02. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Poulsen reported that as of May 1, 2026, the county has earned $292,083.38. Poulsen reported that all taxes from 2022, aside from those on payment plans, have been collected.

Poulsen reported the reporting software used in her office needs to be upgraded. Her office will be transitioning to Velocity this week.

Poulsen was approached by the cities of Paris, Bloomington, and St. Charles about having delinquent water bills placed on tax notices. The Board discussed several options the cities may have to address this issue.

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Jannelle Jensen presented the amounts collected for Idaho Transportation Department ($98,982.12) and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation ($3,424.00) for the month of April.

She reported that her office was working on Fish Haven revaluation and found some inconsistencies in the taxation. After making the changes, they are in compliance with the state.

SHERIFF BART HESLINGTON

Bart Heslington reported that the Sheriff's Office is getting ready for summer by making sure their boats and OHVs are ready. He reported that a trauma symposium was held for hospital staff and first responders. He reported that the state crime lab has expanded their capabilities and is now able to work with more types of firearms. Heslington reported that he is attending weekly meetings for the new 911 system. He reported that some courthouse generators and the M Hill generator need maintenance. The Sheriff's Office is still working to hire a new dispatcher.

CLERK AMY BISHOP

Amy Bishop reported that her office is busy working on the upcoming primary election. She reported that budget sheets have been sent to every department for review. Bishop reported that the auditor is almost done with the single audit for federal funds.

Bishop reported that there will be ongoing training in the court for the next two weeks. She reported that the courthouse network server may need an upgrade; she will provide more information about this in a future meeting.

PROSECUTOR RONNIE KELLER

Ronnie Keller reported that the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners. The IPAA has conducted state-wide research and found the disparity in pay between the State Public Defenders and Prosecuting Attorneys is becoming quite stark, resulting in high turnover among Prosecuting Attorneys.

Keller presented a resolution establishing office hours for the Prosecutor's Office. The proposal will set the hours at 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday; and 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, Friday.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve resolution 2026-05 regarding office hours for the Prosecutor's Office in reference to IC §31-200. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Keller presented a second resolution to clarify the prosecutor's role with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve resolution 2026-06 to clarify that the prosecuting attorney is and ex-officio member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

BUILDING INSPECTOR MASON GARBETT

Mason Garbett reported that the permit revenue year-to-date is $65,418.70. He reported that there were two red tag situations, but both have since been resolved. Garbett and the Board discussed the existing procedure for permit revenue between the cities and the county.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported that Bear Lake Memorial Healthcare had its lowest bad debt month since he has been on the Board. The Road and Bridge Department has been working on dust control on unpaved roads. He met with Fair Board and things are going well for them. They are hoping to get an extension agent soon. The Idaho Transportation Department superintendent reported to Commissioner Olsen that he is sending out crews daily to collect construction and demolition debris found along road sides. ITD will post signs directing drivers to ensure their loads are secured.

Commissioner Eborn reported that the senior center staff is doing a great job, and their Mother's Day breakfast fundraiser generated $1600 in donations. Commissioner Eborn reported that the Oregon Trail Center has a new director. They will be increasing their fees. The local Historical Society is going to be mounting brands in the Rails and Trails Museum.

Commissioner Eborn asked to have the Prosecuting Attorney's budget added to the agenda for the 4-County meeting. Commissioner Eborn reported that he spoke with the County Emergency Manager, Nic Higgins, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for emergency management between Bear Lake, Franklin, and Oneida Counties. He asked Higgins to get the MOUs in place before we need them.

Commissioner Payne reported that me met with Eric Bomsta and Barry Shelton regarding the snowmobile parking lot up Mill Canyon.

GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the claims. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2026, and April 27, 2026, Commissioners' Meetings. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Clerk Amy Bishop notified the Board that the proposed resolution for a fee schedule for public records doesn't change anything, but formalizes the process the county has already been following.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to schedule a public hearing on June 22, 2026, for the proposed resolution for fee schedule for public records. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne reported that Bear Lake Watch is requesting a letter of support to set up an inspection and decontamination station on North Beach Road at Pole Line Road.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to send a letter of support for an Aquatic Invasive Species inspection and decontamination station on North Beach Road. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

County Superintendent Todd Boehme reported that the Road and Bridge Department has been continuing equipment and road repairs. They are looking to have all cemetery roads finished prior to Memorial Day. Road and Bridge is preparing for chip sealing on roads; they will start in Bailey Creek.

Boehme reported that other counties are vacating roads if they don't lead to public access areas. The Board discussed the pros and cons of vacating roads. Boehme reported that he is working with PacifiCorp to place a crosswalk with a light at Camp Lifton.

Boehme reported that the roadside mower needs repair, but it may be more cost efficient to purchase a new mower. He reported that Rocky Mountain Power is having a hard time finding replacements bulbs and parts for the county streetlights that require such parts. Discussion was held among the Board about light locations and possible solutions.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to replace streetlights for safety reasons and to have the cost come out of the Road and Bridge Department's budget. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Boehme reported that the Jericho Loop Bridge was a project completed by the state. The state is requesting a letter from the Board stating that they are happy with the work that was done.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the final signatures for LTAC for the Jericho Loop Bridge project. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE FINANCING WITH IDAHO HEALTH FACILITIES AUTHORITY AND BEAR LAKE MEMORIAL

Ronnie Keller reported that the lease allows the hospital to obtain financing to update facilities. Chelsea Porter, attorney with Hawley Troxell, appeared by Zoom and reported that Bear Lake

Memorial Healthcare has used this program three times and has paid off the financing each time.

Commissioner Payne reported that the hospital is debt free. They are planning on replacing aging equipment with the funding.

Commissioner Olsen reported that the Bear Lake Memorial Healthcare Foundation is holding fundraisers as well as receiving grants to help with the costs of new equipment.

Clerk Bishop read the proposed resolution

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-07 to authorize the chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the delivery of the primary lease agreement. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

6-8-26
Date Approved

ATTEST: _____
Amy Bishop, Clerk

AUDITOR AND RECORDER
BEAR LAKE
COUNTY
STATE OF IDAHO