Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

May 26, 2026

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9:00 am Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in the Commissioners' chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting was available via Zoom. Members present were Commission Chairman Rex Payne, Commissioner Wynn Olsen, Commissioner Alan Eborn, and Clerk of the Board, Amy Bishop. Also in attendance were Prosecutor Ronnie Keller, various staff, and members of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioner Payne reported that he had received a letter from the Idaho Wool Growers Association. The Association would like the Board to reappoint Dennis Hunzeker to serve on the Animal Damage Control Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Dennis Hunzeker to serve on the Animal Control Board. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

The Board held a discussion regarding the waiver of fees for the disposal of the demolition materials for the Bern School. Blake Phillips, member of the board for the Bern Recreation District, provided additional information about a Brownfield grant received by the district.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to waive the IDAWY disposal fees for the demolition of the Bern School. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen reported that the Fair Board needs a new tractor. Their budget is not sufficient to make this purchase. The Board discussed financing options.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to purchase a new tractor from Valley Implement for $80,800.00, exercising option 3 from the quote, and to pay for it out of the Commissioners' Contingency Funds for FY 2026 and FY 2027. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Prosecutor Ronnie Keller reported on efforts to obtain a piece of land south of the Bear Lake County Fairgrounds. The County has been maintaining the land for several decades. Keller drafted a Verified Complaint for Quiet Title and needs a signature from the Board Chairman.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to move forward with the Quiet Title action for the fairgrounds property as outlined in the Complaint and to authorize the board chairman to sign the Complaint. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Prosecutor Ronnie Keller reported on the proposed agreement with Barry Shelton, a landowner whose property access would be affected by the land exchange for the snowmobile parking lot in Mill Canyon. An updated proposal would place gates along Shelton's property, alleviating the need for an easement.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the agreement with Barry Shelton as stated by the prosecutor to continue with the land exchange and easement issue with Canyon Vista Ranch (CVR). The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

TJ BURBANK – SERVER CHANGES

TJ Burbank, Bear Lake County IT Specialist, reported on the changes needed for the county network servers. He reviewed the option he thought was best and indicated all products will be purchased rather than leased. Clerk Amy Bishop explained how the server project will be funded.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the server changes from the current server to a Microsoft server for $88,000.00. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

GEORGETOWN AREA OF IMPACT PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION: At 9:55 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into a public hearing for the Georgetown Area of Impact. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye.

Mitch Poulsen, Executive Director for the Bear Lake Regional Commission, reviewed the existing map of Georgetown and the proposed area of impact. There were no comments from the public.

MOTION: At 10:01 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to leave the public hearing and return to the regular meeting. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02 for the Georgetown Area of Impact. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON RAND ROBISON PRELIMINARY PLAT

Mitch Poulsen provided a history of the Rand Robison development on Sharon Loop Road. He reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that the plat be approved by the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Rand Robison along the Sharon Loop Road. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROPOSALS

The Board heard presentations from three vendors for rewriting the county's comprehensive plan: Hansen Planning Group, Houseal Lavigne, and Kimley-Horn. The Board reviewed written materials and bids for each vendor.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to table to decision to select a vendor for rewriting the county's comprehensive plan and to schedule a special meeting on June 1, 2026, at 9:00 am, to select a vendor. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne reported the bid amount for each vendor: Hansen Planning Group - $63,750.00; Houseal Lavigne - $241,025.00; Kimley-Horn - $70,000.00.

CANVASS ELECTION

Clerk Amy Bishop outlined the results from the May 19, 2026, primary election.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept the election results. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 11:33 am, Commissioner Eborn made a motion to go into executive session under IC § 74-206(1)(b); to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student; and IC § 74-206(1)(d); to consider the records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho code. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 11:54 am, Commissioner Eborn made a motion to leave executive session and return to the regular meeting. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

DECISION ON INDIGENT BURIAL

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve an indigent burial in the amount normally applied to these circumstances. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

DAN KUREK – PROPOSED AIRPORT LEASE FEE INCREASES

Dan Kurek, Bear Lake Airport Board Chairman, provided explanation about the proposed increase in lease fees at the airport. Clerk Amy Bishop proposed scheduling a public hearing for this matter on June 22, 2026, at a time to be determined later.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

6-8-26
Date Approved

ATTEST: Amy Bishop
Amy Bishop, Clerk

AUDITOR AND RECORDER
BEAR LAKE
COUNTY
STATE OF IDAHO