Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

June 8, 2026
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9:00 am Monday, June 8, 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 Olsen made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

TREASURER TRICIA POULSEN

Tricia Poulsen reported that the new software in her office is working well. Homeowners are now able to search for their parcel number and pay taxes online.

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Jannelle Jensen presented the amounts collected for Idaho Transportation Department ($205,884.99) and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation ($7,494.00) for the month of May. She reported that tax notices went out last week and one homeowner has filed an appeal of assessment so far.

CLERK AMY BISHOP

Amy Bishop reported that a representative from Representative Mike Simpson's office delivered a flag to her office. The flag was flown over the capitol building in Washington D.C. Bishop reported that budget preparation is beginning for the next fiscal year. She will have each department come to the July Commissioners' meeting to discuss their proposed budgets. Bishop reported that training is ongoing with the court staff.

SHERIFF BART HESLINGTON

Bart Heslington reported that the dive team was called in over the weekend to assist Rich County. He reported that changes in legislation regarding private property protection has the potential to change his department's response on Department of Lands property. His office is preemptively contacting homeowners to gain permission for access. Heslington reported that his office is working on testing and background checks for a new dispatcher.

PROSECUTOR RONNIE KELLER

Ronnie Keller reported that he attended a Juvenile Justice Forum in Idaho Falls last month. He spoke briefly about the proposed resolution for records destruction. Keller addressed one bullet point he believed had a typographical error, but otherwise recommended the Board pass the resolution.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-08 with an amendment under Sheriff's Office, bullet point 3, to change 2025 to 2015. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

Mason Garbett reported that eighteen building permits were issued in May. The year-to-date total for building permits was $71,62.86. Garbett reported that there were no red tags issued in May.

ROY BUNDERSON – SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Roy Bunderson appeared before the Board to discuss short-term rentals. He stated he would like the Board to be proactive and to investigate facts.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported that IDAWY has a new pit being lined this month and the transfer station should be completed this fall. He reported that the Bear Lake County Fair Board purchased a new tractor. He reported that Bear Lake Memorial Healthcare had a rough month in May, but the staff is preparing for a busy summer.

Commissioner Eborn reported that county fire restrictions will begin June 20, 2026. He addressed concerns he had received from members of the public regarding the timing of the LOTOJA bike race and the LDS temple open house. He reported that the Senior Center is holding a luncheon on Friday, June 12, 2026. Several local entities have donated items for a raffle that will be held that day. Commissioner Eborn reported that the Oregon Trail Center will be having dinner and entertainment on the evening of July 2, 2026. He reported that the Mosquito Abatement District has been working through some issues, but is up and running now.

Commissioner Payne attended a meeting for Bear Lake Watch. This group would like to set up a check station on North Beach. They have the funding to keep the station going for several years and proposed selling packaged food during the summer for additional funds. Commissioner Payne reported that the Southeast Idaho Public Health Department held a meeting in May to pass their budget. Bear Lake County's contribution to the budget was discussed in an earlier meeting.

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 for the meetings held May 11, 2026, May 26, 2026, and June 1, 2026. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Commissioner Payne presented a plaque to Tyson Boehme in recognition of his emergency response efforts on May 11, 2026.

FOREST SERVICE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PAYMENTS

Clerk Amy Bishop provided information and instructions for the Board for the Secure Rural Schools Act money.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the 2026 SRS funds and to have them distributed the same as in the past. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

AIRPORT GRANT AGREEMENT

Commissioner Payne outlined the airport project and budget. Clerk Bishop reminded the Board that this project is still in the design phase, no construction has begun.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the US Department of Transportation FAA Grant. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

AGREEMENT WITH HANSEN PLANNING FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROJECT

Clerk Bishop reported that she received a proposed agreement with a public engagement timeline from Hansen Planning. She informed the Board that Mike Hansen will be attending the Planning and Zoning Meeting in June and would like a representative from the Board of Commissioners to attend as well.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept the service agreement for the Comprehensive Plan project with Hansen Planning. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

RAND ROBISON

Rand Robison appeared before the Board with suggestions on how the process for creating a subdivision could be streamlined.

BRET KUNZ

Bret Kunz, insurance representative for the county's ICRMP policy, presented the yearly policy renewal. He indicated he would make any changes the county requested. Clerk Amy Bishop reported the premium rate increased 2% over the previous year.

WES BARNHILL

Chief Deputy Sheriff Wes Barnhill reported that the Sheriff's Office had a deputy quit recently, but will remain employed on as a reserve officer. With that change, the department will have more reserve officers than full-time officers. The City of Georgetown has an outfitted patrol vehicle they are willing to sell for $4,000.00. The Georgetown City Council has requested that the Sheriff's Office pay for the vehicle by reducing the contract payment amount from the city each quarter. Clerk Amy Bishop reported there is a contract in place, but she would like the prosecuting attorney to review the agreement before anything is decided.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to work with the City of Georgetown to obtain their patrol vehicle and move it into the Sheriff's Office with the prosecutor reviewing the current contract. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 10:46 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to enter 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. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 11:31 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.

Commissioner Payne stated that the Board discussed a Performance Improvement Plan for an individual during the executive session.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

7-13-26
Date Approved

ATTEST: Amy Bishop

Amy Bishop, Clerk

AUDITOR AND RECORDER
BEAR LAKE
COUNTY
STATE OF IDAHO