Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

June 22, 2026
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, June 22, 2026, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting was available via Zoom. Members present were Board 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, 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

TRACTOR LEASE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY

Commissioner Olsen reported that the fair board is going to lease a new tractor. He provided the details of the 5-year lease. He reported the fair board would like to sell the old tractor as surplus, with bids to start at $2,500.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to sell the existing tractor as surplus. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Valley Implement for a new tractor. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCY

Commissioner Payne reported that Adreina Smith was requesting the Board sign a certification of residency. Smith plans on attending College of Southern Idaho in the fall.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the certificate of residency for Adreina Smith to attend College of Southern Idaho. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

CAI ANNUAL AGREEMENT

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that the Clerk's Office uses several CAI programs. The Treasurer's Office uses a CAI program to interface with the Clerk's Office.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the CAI Annual Agreement for software support. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

RONNIE KELLER UPCOMING ATTENDANCE

Prosecutor Ronnie Keller reported that he will be accepting a temporary teaching position for the Fall 2026 semester at the University of Idaho Law School in Moscow, Idaho. He reported that he will be available for county business and committed to attending at least one commissioner meeting in person each month during the semester.

PUBLIC HEARING – PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FEES

MOTION: At 9:20 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into a public hearing for public record request fees. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that the county will not be changing any practices with this resolution. There hasn't been a resolution in the past; this will put the existing practices into writing. Bishop outlined what the resolution will cover and the associated pricing.

MOTION: At 9:28 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-09 concerning the fee schedule for public records requests. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – AIRPORT HANGAR FEES

MOTION: At 9:30 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into a public hearing for airport hangar fees. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne reported there has not been an increase in hangar rental fees for quite a few years. He reported that most of the members of the airport board hold leases and it could be a conflict of interest for them to be paying less.

Clerk Bishop reported that airport received federal grants from the Federal Aviation Administration, and they receive income from the hay leases.

MOTION: At 9:35 am, Commissioner Eborn made a motion to leave the public hearing. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 concerning the airport hangar fee schedule. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ROBERT ALLRED – NORTH BEAR RENTALS LIQUOR LICENSE

Clerk Bishop reported that the county received a new application for a liquor license to be sold at 101 North Beach Road, St Charles, Idaho. North Bear Rentals, LLC is proposing to sell beer and wine by the bottle, not to be served on the premises. She reported that the application has already been approved by Idaho State Police.

The Board had a discussion about alcohol sales in the county.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the application for the sale of beer and wine at North Bear Rentals, not to be consumed on the premises. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

JALENE PETERSON – HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION REFUND

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen reported that the homeowner's tax exemption was removed from Jalene Peterson's home in 2020 or 2019 for unknown reasons. Poulsen reported this was a mistake and resulted in the Petersons overpaying by $3,111.57.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the refund to Jalene Peterson in the amount of $3,111.57. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

NIC HIGGINS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM REPORTS

Emergency Management Coordinator Nic Higgins presented an Emergency Management Performance Grant authorization letter to be signed by the board. The grant is in the amount of $19,596.28.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of $19,596.28. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Higgins reported on the ongoing collaboration between Bear Lake County and Rich County for emergencies at Bear Lake. He invited the members of the board to attend the Local Emergency

Planning Committee meetings every third Friday. Higgins reported that State Homeland Security Program funds are distributed during those meeting. Commissioner Payne assigned Commissioner Eborn to attend the LEPC meetings. Higgins reported the County Fire Chief implemented a fire ban beginning June 20, 2026.

BRANDEE WELLS – BEAR LAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT

Clerk Bishop reported that the county has contributed $12,000 yearly. The Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District was seeking a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners for funds for the upcoming year.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve a letter of support for the Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Clerk Amy Bishop reviewed items in the proposed budget for the 2027 fiscal year. She expects the budget to remain mostly flat in the coming year with the exception of the Road and Bridge budget. She reported that individual offices will be attending the July meeting to address the board.

DANA IZATT – COUNTY AUDIT PRESENTATION

Dana Izatt from Searle Hart & Associates, PLLC presented the highlights of the county audit. He requested the Board sign a letter of representation to keep with his records.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to sign a representation letter for the county audit. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

FAIR BOARD PROPOSAL – ALCOHOL SALES

Melissa and Jake Taylor were present on behalf of the fair board to request the Board allow the VFW to sponsor a beer garden at the Bear Lake County Fair this year. The Board held discussion about the proposal and the Taylors answered questions.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the July 13, 2026 Commissioners' Meeting.

MOTION: At 12:16 pm, Commissioner Olsen 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. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 12:39 pm, 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.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the Performance Improvement Plan to successfully complete the requirements of the job description. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to go into Board of Equalization hearing. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne outlined the rules and procedures for the Board of Equalization.

Linda Preece, Appeal 2026-01, RP16S43E024500, 546 South Canyon Rd, Fish Haven, Idaho

Preece was unable to attend in person and asked the Board to make a decision based on the information she submitted prior to the hearing. Clerk Amy Bishop read aloud the materials submitted by Preece in their entirety. Preece appealed the assessed value due to the property reclassification, asserting that "the assessed value does not align with comparable sales of similar access limitations".

Assessor Jannelle Jensen provided rebuttal based on comparable parcels following the state appraisal statutes. She asked the Board to uphold the assessed value.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to deny the appeal for reassessed property tax for Linda Preece parcel RP16S43E024500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Thomas Hatch, Appeal 2026-02, RPM4840041000M, 360 N 8th St, Montpelier, Idaho

Thomas Hatch, Appeal 2026-03, RPM4240001012A, 823 Monroe St, Montpelier, Idaho

Devin Skinner, property manager for Thomas Hatch, was present to ask the Board to reduce the assessed value. The owner tries to keep monthly rent affordable in their units for low-income renters.

Commercial appraiser, Kevin Franck, appeared by phone and provided rebuttal based on comparable parcels following the state appraisal statutes. He asked the Board to uphold the assessed value.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to uphold the appraised values as set by the assessor's office for the properties at 823 Monroe and 360 N 8th St, Montpelier, Idaho. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Brady Bargar, Appeal 2026-04, RPORBL50000990, 50 Blue Sage Drive, Fish Haven, Idaho

Bargar was unable to attend in person and asked the Board to make a decision based on the information he submitted prior to the hearing. Clerk Amy Bishop read aloud the materials submitted by Bargar in their entirety.

Assessor Jannelle Jensen provided rebuttal based on comparable parcels following the state appraisal statutes. She asked the Board to uphold the assessed value.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to uphold the appraised value of the property at 50 Blue Sage Drive, Fish Haven, Idaho. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Elaine Andreasen, Appeal 2026-05, RPORBL60001130, 452 Lotus Drive, Fish Haven, Idaho

Andreasen's appeal was received the morning of the Board of Equalization. The application received was incomplete, but the Board reviewed her materials due to the close deadline. Clerk Amy Bishop read aloud the materials submitted by Andreasen in their entirety.

Assessor Jannelle Jensen provided rebuttal based on comparable parcels following the state appraisal statutes. She asked the Board to uphold the assessed value.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to deny the approval of an assessed value change. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Clerk Amy Bishop advised the Board that she would like to close the Board of Equalization now and reopen it if another appeal is received before 5:00 pm tonight.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to close the Board of Equalization. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

7-13-26
Date Approved

ATTEST: _____

Amy Bishop, Clerk