

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

December 8, 2025

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, December 8, 2025, 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 County Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Assessor Jannelle Jensen, Chief Deputy Sheriff Wes Barnhill, and 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 for the December 8, 2025, meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

TREASURER TRICIA POULSEN

Tricia Poulsen presented cancellation for taxes for exemptions and for garbage. Commissioner Alan Eborn made a motion to approve the tax cancellations. Commissioner Olsen seconded. The motion carried. Poulsen reported that 78 angels had been adopted from the angel tree and thanked those who had helped. She also reported that tax payments were coming in and collections were going well.

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Jannelle Jensen gave her monthly report for November. She also reported that there were 53 homes on the occupancy roll and that their notices would be going out soon.

CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF WES BARNHILL

Wes Barnhill gave the sheriff's office monthly report. The new dispatch equipment will be live by the beginning of year. Calls for service included extra paper service for jurors who did not appear. Training for dispatch went very well.

CLERK AMY BISHOP

Amy Bishop reported that data had been upload from the new e-poll books and after-election tasks were complete. The clerk's office had been busy with annual reports and other end of year items. The Trial Court Financing, Juvenile Justice, and Annual Transparency were completed. She also noted that Todd Boehme was unable to attend due to another meeting, but had submitted his written report.

WAYNE DAVIDSON – BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

Wayne Davidson reported that he had issued 2 or 3 house permits this month. More permits that average have been issued for new residences. Sheds and HVAC permits have been typical. He provided a written report that shows permits grouped by city.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ORDINANCE

Commissioner Payne noted that two hearings had already been held on the ordinance. Commissioner Eborn stated that he had some concerns. He reviewed the comments made at the most recent hearing. He wondered if they had adequately addressed the visual aspects of the wind generators and the effect on the wildlife refuge. He asked the board to consider eliminating wind generators entirely. Commissioner Olsen stated that a misdemeanor for a waste disposal violation may not be enough. He stated that the wind farm east of Idaho Falls had found disposing of oil in the blades in itself was difficult. He does not want the county be stuck with the disposal. Commissioner Payne felt the issue had been addressed in the ordinance. Commissioner Olsen felt that there may not be many proposals, because of limited ability to sell power and connect to the grid. Commissioner Eborn had reviewed the P&Z survey done in preparation for the comprehensive plan. 87% of people like the rural way of life and 73% appreciate the views and open space. His concern is in preserving this. Commissioner Olsen commented that the one proposed in Pegram had minimal visual effects in the valley but they were unable to hook to the grid. The concern is with large commercial operations. Commissioner Eborn said there may be some more suitable areas for wind generators than others. Commissioner Payne suggested to table the ordinance for today and come up with a new proposal.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to table the ordinance and re-look at it. Commissioner Payne said after additional discussion they may need to re-write the proposal. Olson feels P&Z could consider compatible use. Eborn mentioned that the comprehensive plan should drive the ordinance. Alan seconded the motion made by commissioner Olsen. The motion carried. Commissioner Olsen made a motion to revise the ordinance and set for another hearing as appropriate. Commissioner Eborn seconded. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported that the Road and Bridge department is getting ready for the winter season. He mentioned that the Bloomington canyon snowmobile parking lot is much larger than it used to be. That route has been plowed by a truck, but they will likely have to send a grader now due to the size. He also reported that Bomstas have built out the parking lot they are proposing to swap in Mill Canyon. Because the snowplow gets there later in day, Bomstas are proposing that they handle snow removal, but would like compensation. We would need an MOU for that. He asked to place the item on the agenda for the next meeting. He also thanked Tammy Stephens for her article in the News Examiner about the prosecutor. He clarified that Ronnie is contracted, not appointed.

Commissioner Eborn reported that he met with Snowmobile Program Coordinator Nic Higgins and the Chairman of the Tri-County Grooming, Brad Wilks on site of the proposed new parking lot. He mentioned that we could not promise to pay for gravel from a grant we have not yet received. He stated he feels we need to move ahead with the exchange, and feels we need a public hearing. The grant application deadline is January 31st. Nic will apply. He also noted that plowing the parking lot and the road are separate issues. The snowmobile program has a skid steer with blower that can be used to help plow.

Commissioner Eborn also complimented the Senior Center on their thanksgiving meal. Additionally, he reported that he attended a training for elected officials on emergency management. We need to review our old MOU on mutual aide with the surrounding counties.

Commissioner Rex Payne reported that he had received an email from Clayton Boeckel at IAC sharing information for from the Governor's Office for livestock producers. The Wolf and Grizzly Bear Conflict prevention program is open for proposals on projects that would reduce predation. Commissioner Payne also reported on the Bear Lake Regional Commission Meeting. The State of Idaho will contribute \$30,000 to a septic density study with funding from the DEQ drinking water program. Payne also reported that the Ambulance Service is recruiting new members. Steve Hill gave a good presentation on expectations for membership.

GENERAL BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

RATIFY CLAIMS

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes were presented to the Board for approval from the November 8th, 10th, 20th, and

24th, 2025 meetings. Commissioner Payne noted that the November 10th needs correction on prosecutor appointment process. He had mis-spoken when reading the Residence of Mr. Beckett. The home is owned by Edwin Izatt (not Kathi Izatt).

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the minutes with the change of ownership on the residence of Mr. Beckett. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ADA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE PATHOLOGY SERVICES AGREEMENT

Amy Bishop presented an agreement with Ada County for pathology services that can be requested by Coroner Chad Walker.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the agreement #31227, Agreement for Pathology Service between Bear Lake County and Ada County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCY

Clerk Bishop presented Certificates of Residency for Kailey Argyle and Corey King.

MOTION: Commission Olsen made a motion to approve the certificates. Commissioner Eborn seconded. The motion carried.

PASSTHROUGH FUNDS RECIPIENT AGREEMENT JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

Clerk Bishop presented the Passthrough Funds Recipient Agreement for Juvenile Corrections. The agreement is for funding for the Juvenile Probation Department

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to ratify the passthrough agreement. Commissioner Olsen seconded. The motion carried.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk Bishop presented the Juvenile Justice Annual Financial Report.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

MICHAEL BIRD- HARDSHIP EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Michael Bird provided a hardship exemption application to Commissioner Payne. He stated that he had previously received the circuit breaker exemption, but did not receive it this year. He said he used the funds he expected to receive to pay for propane. He stated that he has lived in the same location for 34 years, but is now surrounded by people from out of state. He feels that

it is unfair that he is assessed the same as his neighbors and it is causing him to go in debt. He wants to live within his means. Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, explained that the circuit breaker is a state program and that the commissioners cannot change the requirements to qualify. Assessor Jannelle Jensen stated that new legislation in January of 2023 requires that if the house value exceeds \$400,000 or 200% of average, it does not qualify for the program. She stated that Mr. Bird had lived in an older home on lakefront property, but had recently built new home. She suggested that Mr. Bird could apply for the property tax deferral program for next year if he is unable to pay the tax, but that program puts a lien on the house. Commissioner Payne reiterated that the commissioners cannot grant a state program.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion, based on testimony from Bird, Poulsen, and Jensen, to deny Bird's request for a hardship exemption. Commissioner Olsen seconded. The motion carried.

JULIE SCHEI – REQUEST TO WAIVE PENALTY AND INTEREST

Julie Schei was not in attendance. She will be rescheduled for a different time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IDAHO CODE 74-206 (1)(b)

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into executive session under Idaho Code 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 was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. Commissioner Olsen, aye. Commissioner Eborn, aye. Commissioner Payne, aye.

The board entered executive session at 10:42 am.

The board returned regular session.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to leave executive session and go to regular session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

The board returned to regular session at 11:06 am.

DECISION ON PERSONNEL ISSUE

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to address an issue in writing to a supervisor. Commissioner Olsen seconded. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eborn seconded. The motion carried.

Tricia Poulsen

Attest: *Amy Boyer*

