

## BEAR LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TELECONFERENCE MEETING

APRIL 13, 2020

### BEAR LAKE COUNTY COURTROOM

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in their regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with at least one Commissioner at the Courthouse in Paris, Idaho, in accordance with the guidelines of Idaho Governor Little's "Stay at Home Order". Members present were Commissioners' Vaughn N. Rasmussen, Chairman, Bradley D. Jensen, Rex L. Payne and Clerk of the Board, Cindy Garner.

Several others present at the courthouse or through teleconference access were Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Sheriff Bart Heslington, Prosecutor Adam McKenzie, Emergency Manager Alan Eborn, Superintendent Scott Esquibel, Building Official Wayne Davidson, Assessor Heber Dunford, Chief Deputy Assessor Dale Thornock and Valerie Hayes, The News-Examiner Reporter.

#### APPROVE AGENDA

**MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda as posted, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioner Jensen mentioned all meetings regarding Landfill, Road and Bridge and Planning and Zoning had been cancelled due to COVID-19 and the "Stay at Home Order".

Commissioner Payne mentioned the date to move to the new courthouse would need to be moved back till the middle of May, rather than the first. The parking lot may be able to be paved the first or second week of May. The arena at the fairgrounds have been opened to ride horses if they keep social distance in practice. There has been work on the airport head gate on the dike and month of January they had sold about 1,200 gallons of fuel to the snowmobile club for the hill climbs. Forest Service are leaving campgrounds open, with restrooms open but no maintenance, cleaning or toilet paper. The Extension office has appointed Ben Eborn as interim agent till one can be officially obtained. The Extension office has the old 2007 Durango they would like to sell. Commissioners agreed to wait till there were a few more and bid them out together.

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen presented a cancellation for Parcel #02218.01 on an overage of \$801.00 for a garbage fee this year that had been charged in error.

**MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to cancel the overage on the 2020 garbage fee for Parcel #02218.01 in the amount of \$801.00, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

Sheriff Bart Heslington mentioned they were finalizing everything for the move to the new courthouse, working with the vendors, technicians, communication center and antenna. There has been lots of activity around the lake with so many of the summer residents coming up, camping and building fires. Sheriff Heslington mentioned the dispatchers were doing a good job in getting the information first, then alerting the officers or EMS prior to going to any call outs, protecting them during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned that the Golf Course would open on April 15, 2020, per the Governor guidelines for outdoor activity, but continue to keep social distancing, but the clubhouses, restaurants and bars would stay closed. The carts would be cleaned before and after each use, only one person per cart unless from the same household. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned Simplot wanting to use Stringtown Road, Commissioner Rasmussen informed them of the maintenance needed in order to use that road, it is too narrow and caving off on the west side. ICRMP is very prepared to help the County with any HR issues and various needs during this pandemic. The Southeast Idaho Health Department reports show that approximately 95% of all the COVID-19 confirmed cases are travel related. Commissioner Rasmussen urged citizens to continue to avoid unnecessary travel, especially to any hot spots, may wear a mask if out of the county, wash hands, don't have the whole family go to the grocery store, limit to one. Appreciated Broulims having the early hour on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for seniors or high-risk individuals.

Assessor Heber Dunford mentioned that the Idaho Parks and Recreation system has been down, not expected up till after the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Chief Deputy Assessor Dale Thornock mentioned the concern about the timing of the move to the new courthouse as they will be in their assessment drive and need to work with the State Tax Commission on tech support during that specific timeframe. Commissioner Payne and Building Inspector Davidson will work on making the move happen smoothly.

Clerk Garner had some housekeeping items.

#### **GENERAL ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **RATIFY CLAIMS**

**MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to ratify the claims, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, excluding himself from any he may be tied to, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

##### **APPROVE MINUTES**

**MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve minutes for March 9, two (2) on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 23 and 31, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

##### **RATIFY FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION**

**MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to ratify the Fair Housing Month Proclamation that is done each year, which helps out with grants, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

##### **MAY 19<sup>th</sup> ELECTION UPDATE**

Clerk Garner gave an update on the May 19, 2020 Primary Election. There will be no polling places for people to gather, protecting the poll workers as well as the voters. Everyone will need to indicate the ballot they would like according to party affiliation, then request an Absentee Ballot, which can be done on the Secretary of State's website at [www.IdahoVotes.gov](http://www.IdahoVotes.gov), or call the Clerk's office at 208-945-2212, ext. 5., or request by mail at P.O. Box 190, Paris, Idaho 83261. If not registered, that can be done in the same manner, prior to requesting an Absentee Ballot. Each ballot request will be mailed to the voter,

who in turn will vote their ballots and then return by postage paid envelopes to the Clerk's office by no later than 8:00 p.m., Tuesday June 2, 2020. Commissioner Rasmussen encouraged all to exercise their constitutional right and privilege to vote and appreciate all those who made it possible for our freedom to do so.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Emergency Manager Alan Eborn gave updated information on the COVID-19 pandemic for Idaho. 14,026 reported cases in Idaho, 11 cases on Saturday, 19 on Sunday, 132 hospitalizations, and concerning number is 153 are health care workers, which we need to take care of those folks. Caribou County has one (1) case, Bannock County has five (5) case, Power County has two (2) case, Bingham has two (2) cases, which those numbers are about a three (3) weeks old, which is a good sign. Bear Lake, Franklin and Oneida are COVID free which we are grateful for. Eborn has delivered hand sanitizers out to EMS, Sheriff's office, Police Department in Montpelier, the Courthouse and the Fire Department and has more sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer on order. The Fire Department has ordered an ozone gun which has decontamination potential. Clerk's office found a less expensive source and Eborn has ordered 1,000 more of the N95 masks, hope to have in by the 16<sup>th</sup>. Eborn feels things are running well and urges the public to continue to stay home, do social distancing and wash hands. Commissioner Rasmussen, along with the board, expressed appreciation to Eborn for all he has been doing and our hospital, even helping out others with supplies. It had been mentioned to Commissioner Rasmussen, if anyone needed training, Bear Lake County's Emergency Manager, Alan Eborn can do it and knows what is needed. They encouraged anyone coming in from another state, to self-quarantine for 14 days. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned appreciation for the ham radio operators and if anyone wanted to listen, the frequency is 147.120, they do a great job for our County.

### **GRANT OFFER – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) and AUDIT CERTIFICATION**

Commissioners discussed the grant offer, noting a typo on the sponsor portion of the cover letter, but was assured it was not in the actual grant document. This Airport Rehab Project bid was approved at the last meeting, just needed to be signed.

### **AIRPORT NOTICE OF AWARD, GRANT OFFER-REHABILITATE RUNWAY and CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

Commissioners noted that these documents were also part of the Airport Rehab Project bid approved from the last meeting and just needed the signatures to move forward the process.

### **WAYNE DAVIDSON – BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT/COURT HOUSE UPDATE**

Building Inspector Wayne Davidson reported five (5) new homes, usually slow early spring, some are holding off on homes for now to see where the economy will go. Contractors are all working. Update on the new courthouse has everything still moving, some things are slowed because of the pandemic with trucking and manufacturing plants, but hopeful to be able to move near the middle of May. Commissioners appreciated Davidson for doing a lot of the extra work to help keep the courthouse project moving towards completion.

### **DAVE LONGFELLOW – GARBAGE BILL**

Dave Longfellow did not call in, but Treasurer Poulsen stated he had requested a refund since being charged the wrong garbage pickup amount in past years.

**MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to refund garbage fees on Parcel #02218.00 based upon what Prosecutor McKenzie and Treasurer Poulsen find allowed, based on Idaho statute, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

#### **DENNIS HUNZEKER – SHEEP CREEK ROAD**

Dennis Hunzeker appeared by phone and mentioned years ago he had met with Conrad Michaelson concerning roads going southeast of Montpelier, specifically Sheep Creek Road, Wood Canyon, Bear Hollow and Emigration. It was brought to his attention about the county road going from Highway 30 to Bischoff cabin, which has always been a county road, but now it shows someone has penciled it in through his property and he felt it should not. Commissioners mentioned they were to hold a public hearing regarding county roads this month, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be postponed till we can meet together in public. Hunzeker will be notified, it will be posted on the website, Facebook, in the paper and on the radio. The Forest Service, BLM and Superintendent Esquibel will be notified to attend also.

#### **ROY BUNDERSON – USE COUNTY EQUIPMENT on PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Roy Bunderson asked if there was a policy or procedure for using county equipment on private property and what was the criteria to do so. Commissioner Jensen mentioned only when needed, to plow snow in order to open feed lots if they cannot get other equipment to do so. They are charged \$65.00 per hour. Commissioners agreed they need to come up with a policy for emergency cases and look at the amount charged, Prosecutor McKenzie will help work on a policy. Superintendent Esquibel mentioned taking into consideration the Fish and Game Department as they have requested help during winter for feeding the elk.

#### **SENIOR CENTER CAR BID OPENING/AIRPORT PLOW TRUCK BID OPENING**

There were no bids submitted for the Senior Center Car. One bid came in for the 1992 F8000 Airport Plow Truck with plow from Daniel Smith for \$500.00.

**MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to accept Daniel Smith's bid for \$500.00 for the 1992 F8000 Airport Plow Truck with plow, as is and to be moved, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.**

#### **SCOTT ESQUIBEL – COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

County Superintendent Scott Esquibel appeared by phone and reported there were many getting to the landfill early, same volume as summer months. Esquibel had attended the District Landfill meeting and the required reports were completed. Road and Bridge were plowing and maintaining county roads, repairing potholes weather permitting, cleaning culverts and removing beaver dams. They hauled chips getting ready for summer chip sealing of county roads and were repairing equipment for summer work. American Geotechnics drilled test holes at St. Charles Creek Bridge (Jericho Loop). Commissioner Jensen, Superintendent Esquibel and Prosecutor McKenzie will work on a policy for usage of county equipment and it will be put on the May agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

There were no appeals for the Board of Equalization.

#### **MITCH POULSEN-PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, JEFF SORENSEN-KELLER ASSOCIATES – ROAD STANDARDS CONTINUED DISCUSSION**

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Mitch Poulsen and Jeff Sorensen with Keller Associates encouraged the Commission to go forward with updating the Road Standards, as discussed several months ago. Sorensen noticed there are some things in the LHTAC document that the Commissioners would want to override. Do not want separate documents, just one to show it all. Superintendent Esquibel mentioned it looked overall for asphalt roads and Bear Lake County has gravel roads and they do not have the equipment to asphalt, only chip seal and equipment cannot go up the hills, only level ground. Sorensen mentioned these are minimum standards and it was in the cross section but could modify for Bear Lake County but felt it would be advantageous to include it, not having the county accept or maintain it at this point, but may be able to get a grant to do asphalt. Sorensen mentioned the task order would be approximately \$5,000 to work up the document. It was recommended to have them come up with a final document and present it at the May meeting.

#### **TYLER STUART – JONES & DeMILLE ENGINEERING, INC. – BUILD GRANT – ACTION ITEM**

Tyler Stuart with Jones & Demille Engineering, Inc. met with the Commissioner regarding resubmitting the 2020 Build Grant application for reconstruction of the East Shore Road and would request letters of support, needing to be in by May 18, 2020. Commissioners felt they should go forward and have Commissioner Jensen work with Stuart on the process. It will be \$3,000. The Commissioners appreciated Stuart and the extra work to improve Bear Lake County's position for the grant.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Idaho Code #74-206 (1) (d) Indigent Claim**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Payne made a motion to leave the regular meeting and go into an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code #74-206 (1) (d) 'To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code', seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Commissioner Jensen – "Yes", Commissioner Payne – "Yes", Commissioner Rasmussen – "Yes", voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Board out of executive session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jensen made a motion to deny Medical Indigent Claim #2020-1 as they decided not to file, seconded by Commissioner Payne. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jensen, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried. All Commissioners voted unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m

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**VAUGHN N. RASMUSSEN, Chairman**

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**Date Approved**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CINDY GARNER, Clerk**