

BEAR LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

AUGUST 12, 2019

SCHOOL DISTRICT #33 BOARD ROOM

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in their regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the School District #33 Board Room in Paris, Idaho. Members present were Commissioners' Vaughn N. Rasmussen, Chairman, Bradley D. Jensen, Rex L. Payne and Clerk of the Board, Cindy Garner.

Others present were Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Sheriff Bart Heslington, Assessor Heber Dunford, County Superintendent Scott Esquibel, Pamela Harmon, Reporter for The News-Examiner and citizens Jean Alleman, Robin Owsley and Joan Maiorana.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the agenda as posted, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen just came back from a very informative NAFTCO conference, had invited the State Treasurer, Julie Elsworth and she stayed the whole time and did a presentation on unclaimed money. Treasurer Poulsen had her run a report for Bear Lake County and there is money to be claimed out there. It would benefit Bear Lake County residents to check and see if they have unclaimed property as there is money to be claimed and if not, it is regulated by law that if not collected, that remaining amount is sent to the state. Check online at this site 'yourmoney.idaho.gov'. Treasurer Poulsen has been the President of the Treasurer's Association this past year and has now been elected as the NAFTCO director. Commissioners appreciate all Poulsen does and the manner in which she invests and takes care of the county money.

Sheriff Bart Heslington stated they were extra busy with Raspberry Days and had brought in officers from neighboring counties to assist and feel that the presence over the past few years has reduced the number of incidents that have been reported. They have put more focus on the campgrounds along the lake, had eighty citations, primarily speed, some boat and driver's license citations. Overall, they mostly get positive response from their presence, had a lot of injury accidents, on and off road. His department is working with Montpelier City as there are some youngsters involved in some burglaries, shooting out windows and will face charges. The new equipment will be coming and have interoperability with mapping and will be testing dispatch. Once ready, they will put out public information on the testing abilities to 911 capability. Sheriff Heslington stated the 'Star' card will be needed for travel by next year and it would be beneficial to call and find out all the information needed prior to coming over to the office and it will help speed up the process and not have to come back several times.

Assessor Heber Dunford stated two (2) of his deputies had completed the needed schooling to keep them in line with certification. Dunford again mentioned he had to have a third window in the new building, however, the Commissioners stated it was a change order that would not happen. The Commissioners questioned the status of where his office was on getting caught up on the deed transfers and Dunford stated it was about a year and they were working on it. Commissioner Rasmussen stated

they had checked with other counties and they state a transfer should not take more than ninety days. Commissioners encouraged Dunford to come to the next Four-County meeting and have the other Assessors there to compare. Commissioner Rasmussen again encouraged Dunford to work on keeping the office open during the lunch hour.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

Building Inspector, Wayne Davidson, presented his monthly report and new residences are still increasing. The time of year with the influx of people seems to create more conflict with neighbors regarding setbacks or complaints on other issues, the ordinances have helped to clear that up. Commissioner Payne mentioned the need to figure out winter parking for employees and patrons, he and Davidson will work with the City of Paris on it. Twisted Technology has been working on the technical side of things with the IT for the new courthouse. They have meet with a couple of furniture companies and they seem quite high, so they may outsource other places.

Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned an email regarding option to carry, which the Sheriff Heslington had also received, referencing a Facebook post from Representative Chad Christensen regarding openly carrying sidearms at the fairgrounds. There are a lot that carry responsibly, however, it would have been preferred they received a phone call prior and they could discuss it with the Fair Board. It has never been posted and there is no ordinance or statute. Sheriff Heslington does support peoples' rights, however, would like everyone to be on the same page.

Commissioner Payne stated he had talked with ITD and they did say the stripping around the Ovid bridges were wrong and they would double stripe it. He mentioned a stop light in St. Charles at the intersection by North Beach and Highway 89 and was told it would be \$500,000. ITD stated it needs to be a part of a five (5) year plan and wondered who would be sponsoring it. Commissioner Payne stated it would be State Parks, the County, Rocky Mountain Power and the City of St. Charles. ITD wondered about doing a round-a-bout, Commissioner Payne stated he did not feel it was a benefit as there are so many directions to look at and people here are not used to them and they are not wide enough, especially with farm or big equipment. The airport had met and have hired a new airport maintenance person, Trevor Keetch and will start the first of next week. The board had asked if the County could pick up garbage twice a month in the summer as it is getting a lot of use. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned Logan airport students are using it as a touch and go base. Commissioner Payne mentioned next spring they will be tearing up the both runways with that grant to repair them, so they will be controlling the water to help with that. The Senior Citizen Center will start bids in January, Myers and Anderson will write the publication notice. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned he would be meeting with Krystal Harmon, SICO, a week from Thursday, along with Simplot and the City of Georgetown and one item they will be discussing is a county road off from Left Hand Canyon Road that is caving off really bad. Commissioner Payne stated the Road and Bridge received another compliment about how well Georgetown Canyon looks, appreciated the grading. Commissioner Rasmussen also stated a resident from Caribou County had contacted him and mentioned the difference in Bear Lake County road and Caribou County roads is that you can drive on Bear Lake County roads. Commissioner Payne has sent Prosecutor McKenzie the IRS information and the bylaws from the Montpelier Foundation, as they were wondering about legally forgiving taxation. Commissioner Rasmussen stated he could not be supportive of that and the issue had been addressed at a previous time. Commissioner Payne had several calls regarding three (3) inch rock on the road, Esquibel stated they were working on it.

BURN ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to leave the regular meeting and go to into a public hearing for the County Burn Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried.

Commissioner Rasmussen read the publication notice for the burn ordinance regarding any burning throughout unincorporated areas in Bear Lake County. Commissioner Rasmussen asked if anyone wanted to comment and stated his appreciation for the Bear Lake County Fire Department and the quick service they provide. Pamela Harmon, The News-Examiner Report, asked about the 12' circle if it was new and the Commissioners stated, yes, and there is also a statement that the Fire Chief will give authority to dispatchers for certain fires, and there will be penalties if violations occur.

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to leave the public hearing and go back to the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve Ordinance #2019-5, Burn Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fire Chief, Mark Parker, mentioned the status of the road near the equipment shed and was assured it would be worked on. Commissioner Rasmussen wanted to thank the Senior Center for the extra help when the power was out and helping the hospital. Jean Alleman again thanked the Commission for working with them. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned the hospital has a new administrator who will start September 2, 2019, should be an announcement coming out in the paper and appreciated all Leslie Crane has done filling in over the past months, one of the best CFO's he's dealt with. Robin Owsley wanted to compliment their site manager for doing a great job, tightening the budget and appreciate the community support of the great valley we live in. Commissioner Payne mentioned the sad news of the coal mine in Kemmerer shutting down and the lost jobs created.

SCOTT ESQUIBEL – COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

County Superintendent, Scott Esquibel, presented his monthly reports. Esquibel stated they had been chip sealing and putting dust retardant on the roads, but the budget the last two (2) years has only been \$40,000, which they did raise to \$70,000 for the new budget. At this point, they are already at the budget limit and that only allows them to work as far as they have gone at this point, asked if they should stop. The Commissioners felt it is extremely important to try to keep up on the roads as much as possible and would have Deputy Bishop find an additional \$30,000. Esquibel stated the Road and Bridge had been hauling material for the Eight Mile Bridge, as they start the bridge a week from Monday, before they could get back to putting the dust retardant on the roads. The road will be shut down all next week, notice has been put in several papers, the radio, Facebook, and notice went out to Rick Merritt for the church. Commissioner Payne asked about a culvert out in Geneva that was tearing tires, Esquibel stated it was on the list and will be done. The speed report shows maybe should have the Sheriff put an officer out in the Ovid to Bern area as most are speeding. Esquibel will put up another sign after the bridge project and Commissioner Rasmussen will help him monitor to see how long it takes before it is shot up. The landfill report shows the month of July for tonnage was similar to June and it does slow down now, which helps and should be okay this year. They have had a lot of dead animals, especially cows.

RATIFY CLAIMS

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to ratify the claims, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the minutes for 7-8, and 7-29-2019 with deletion of a duplicate line, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen felt everything was covered with Superintendent Esquibel's report.

Clerk Garner gave the letter Commissioner Payne had constructed regarding the Senior Center meals and fees needing to be increased. Commissioners would like to see what the state contributes be raised and the letter to will go to Senator Harris and Representative Gibbs prior to going further to the state. Clerk Garner showed them the quotes to repair the Sugarloaf repeater for the Ambulance, which looked as if it was hit by lightning, and it has been sent to ICRMP.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.