

BEAR LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC HEARING-FY2020 BUDGET

AUGUST 19, 2019

SCHOOL DISTRICT #33 BOARD ROOM

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in a public hearing for the 2020 Budget Hearing on Monday, August 19, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. 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 attending were Chief Deputy Clerk, Amy Bishop, citizens Spencer and Laurie Rich and Roy Bunderson.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the agenda and go into a public hearing for the 2020 Budget Hearing, as required by Idaho statute, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned the public hearing instructions and turned the time over to Chief Deputy Clerk, Amy Bishop, who stated there were no changes, other than the changes from the previous meetings. Deputy Bishop did meet with Judge Brown, ADJ and Kerry Hong, TCA, who requested a line item reflecting interpretation funds, which an amount will be taken from the District Court supply line item. Commissioner Payne mentioned they did hire to get some fencing done at the airport, but should be in this year's budget, also the equipment failure caused from the power outage. ICRMP, the County's insurance has paid, but will have to open the budget for spending authority and usually do that later in the year. Commissioner Rasmussen stated appreciation to Deputy Bishop and Clerk Garner for all the work done to get the budget prepared. Commissioner Payne stated the Gem Plan insurance went up three percent (3%), only on medical and that looks good as other counties have gone up as much as 25% to 31%. Commissioner Rasmussen stated they are adding a couple of other counties and some cities. Commissioner Rasmussen asked for public comment and to state name and address first.

Laurie Rich, 155 W. 2nd S., Paris, Idaho, mentioned questions about the budget and the old courthouse, felt that in December the Commissioners stated if a group came forward and had the money, and no taxpayer dollars were used, they would consider keeping the courthouse. Six months later, it was stated that the courthouse would be torn down and replace with a parking lot and war memorial.

Commissioner Rasmussen felt it was taken out of context as the comment has always been that if someone came with a plan and money that would get it up to standards and maintain it and use no tax dollars, they could support them, but if not, then it would be torn down and build a veteran's memorial. Rich asked how much that would be and Commissioner Rasmussen said an estimate of about \$2,000,000 by an engineer that was given to us some time ago. Rich asked if it was to be taken down, is it in the budget, Commissioner Rasmussen stated it would be in the next year's budget as it would take time to move in. Commissioner Rasmussen stated there has been nothing done towards taking it down as there is a group looking at doing something with it. Rich mentioned they had Randy Long come in and there was an opportunity for a \$750,000 grant and the commission could use it to fix several buildings. Commissioners stated if federal money is used, they would not use it. The Commissioners would prefer to not to sell and have someone own the building and the County own the property. Commissioners need to see a plan from a non-profit organization and what would be done with it, as

they have not seen a valid plan. The Commission needs to see a maintenance plan, what the use of the building would be, what it will look like, the funding for how ever many years to keep it up. Commissioner Rasmussen stated this is not part of the budget hearing and no decisions could be made unless it is an action item on the official agenda. Commissioner Jensen stated until the building is finished, employees moved in and functioning, nothing will be decided and not without seeing a plan. Commissioner Payne stated that Jerry Myers did state the use of the building would come to play in any decision.

Spencer Rich, 155 W. 2nd S., Paris, Idaho, mentioned about a 20% tax credit for investment for a private entity to take over the building. Josh Norman did come and look at the courthouse and has an interest in purchasing the building. Rich would hope these people who show interest would be given some consideration. Rich does not want to see it sit as the Oneida Academy, but seems that there is a possibility to have someone purchase and keep it where it is, it is not financially feasibly to move the courthouse. Rich would have liked to see some money put into the maintenance of the courthouse, feel tremendous amounts of money is being used by Road and Bridge and Solid Waste and employees should be doing more to defer the expense. Deputy Bishop wanted to make it clear that the money for Road and Bridge and Solid Waste are dedicated funds and it cannot be spent on the courthouse. Solid Waste is a fee, it goes to Solid Waste, no reshuffling can be done and do not levy any tax dollars for Solid Waste. Road and Bridge, we do levy a small amount there, but have reduced that and put a lot more in Current Expense in current years, but that's because we have SRS and other funds that can only be spent on roads. Commissioner Rasmussen mentioned how tight our County budget is and out of 44 counties our County was 42nd in the state for the lowest levy as far as what is taxed. Commissioner Payne stated that our budget played a large role in how the County was rated in obtaining the loan for the courthouse, in comparison with other counties, if we had outstanding debts and it played into the Moody credit rating, which played into the percent to pay on the interest on the loan.

Roy Bunderson, 165 S. Main, Bloomington, Idaho, appreciated Amy providing him the information on the budget and looking at revenue, noticed a difference and felt it may be just a transposition. Bishop will look at it. Bunderson asked about net to be raised by taxes, asked if taking the full 3%, if the other was new construction, to which Bishop stated it was. Bishop stated there are two (2) things, the \$173,725 we can levy on top of the 3%, plus the new construction. Bunderson mentioned the expense side of things, the 3% increase on the elected officials offices, with the exception of the Assessor, which shows an 11% increase, to which Commissioner Rasmussen stated they were looking at a regular part time employee to start training on mapping for succession in case of an employee leaving. Bunderson mentioned District Court and a smaller amount from last year, Bishop stated it was a transfer into the Courthouse Capital fund and had to be shown as expense to pay into the Courthouse fund. Bunderson stated Courthouse Capital showing money as other revenue, to which Bishop stated most of it was PILT. Bunderson asked if there was a total PILT revenue and SRS revenue, Bishop stated it was roughly about \$650,000 and SRS was \$135,900 and that number could be up in the air, we hope it will pass. Bunderson asked about Courthouse Capital, wondered what would be an estimated amount spent on the courthouse, Bishop has a spreadsheet which shows it and feels it should be expended by the end of the fiscal year. Bishop will get him the spreadsheet she had presented to the Commissioners at a previous meeting. Bunderson asked about Parks and Recreation, Bishop stated it is the Golf Course, and Commissioner Rasmussen stated there was a \$30,000 donation, the \$20,000 comes from the green fees. The net cost to the County is \$38,000, Bishop stated because it is a new fund, have been trying to create

a fund balance, but it has been holding it's own pretty good, haven't spent much more than Allinger Park. Basically exchanged the maintenance with Montpelier City and Commissioner Rasmussen stated the projected plan is to be self-sufficient. Bunderson does recognize that a golf course does play a role in attracting people to the community.

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to set another date for a public hearing if needed to correct the budget for August 30, 2019, at the School District #33 Board Room in Paris, Idaho, seconded by Commissioner Jensen, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.