Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

August 10, 2026
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9:00 am Monday, August 10, 2026, 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, and Commissioner Alan P. Eborn. Amy Bishop, Clerk of the Board, was excused. Also in attendance were Prosecutor Ronnie Keller, Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Assessor Jannelle Jensen, Sheriff Bart Heslington, 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.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

TREASURER TRICIA POULSEN

Tricia Poulsen reported that she attended a meeting with all the county treasurers. At that meeting, many of the counties reported that they have seen an increase in attempted check fraud. Poulsen reported that she contacted the bank and will individually approve each check that is presented on the county's bank account to prevent fraud.

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Jannelle Jensen presented the amounts collected for Idaho Transportation Department ($141,648.58) and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation ($5,086.00) for the month of July. She reported that she is working on revaluation for next year. She will be attending the annual Assessor's Conference in Nampa next week.

SHERIFF BART HESLINGTON

Sheriff Bart Heslington reported that his office hosted a National Night Out Against Crime. He expressed his appreciation for his staff and their hard work. He reported on law enforcement efforts around the county and at Bear Lake. Heslington reported that he was hoping to fill the open deputy position soon. He reviewed plans for first aid and

foot patrols at the upcoming Bear Lake County Fair. Heslington reported that his office has received a lot of calls from people reporting scam phone calls.

PROSECUTOR RONNIE KELLER

Ronnie Keller reported that the summer months have been busy in his office. He is working on ways to equalize the burden for law enforcement when the county experiences an influx of visitors. He reported that his office is working to make the process for mental commitments more streamlined.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

Mason Garbett reported that he issued three building permits for new residences. The year-to-date total for building permits was $93,326.94. Garbett reported that there were three red tags issued in July.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported that at the last meeting with the Idaho Department of Transportation, Idaho State Police addressed concerns with the number of people visiting Bear Lake. At the same meeting, there was a discussion about possible streetlight placement at the intersections of Highway 30/Boise Street and Highway 30/Clay Street in Montpelier. Olsen reported on progress being made on the IDAWY facility. He reported that the Four County Alliance has obtained heavy-equipment simulators from Western States CAT to be used in local high schools. Olsen reported that the Fall Festival will be held September 21 at the Bear Lake County Fairgrounds. This year they will have truck pulls instead of a demolition derby. Olsen reported that delegations from the state representatives' offices will be in Bear Lake County on September 18 to look at the Highway 30 wildlife underpass project.

Commissioner Eborn reported that local mayors have reported that their cities are feeling the impact from the influx of summer visitors. They report that the quality of life is diminishing, and the financial impact is felt by residents not by the parties making money. Eborn reported that he is working on the next phase of the plan to acquire federal land. Seven areas in the county have been identified. He spoke with a representative from the US Department of Agriculture about drought assistance for local farmers.

Commissioner Payne reported that interviews for the county extension agent would be held soon. He reported that Bear Lake Watch has been working with the US Department of Agriculture to get the decontamination station placed at North Beach. Payne reported that the issue would be revisited at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

RATIFY CLAIMS

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

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings held July 13, 2026, and July 27, 2026. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-11 – RENAMING OF SOUTH CANYON ROAD TO BUCKS LANDING LANE

Commissioner Eborn read proposed Resolution 2026-11.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-11 for the renaming of South Canyon Road. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

DECISION ON APPROVING BUDGET FOR PUBLICATION

Commissioner Payne reviewed revisions made to the budget since the last meeting. He read proposed Resolution 2026-12. Prosecutor Ronnie Keller informed the Board that Resolution 2026-12 was not listed as an agenda item. He stated that it would be best to place Resolution 2026-12 on the agenda for the next meeting. Commissioner Payne said the budget decision would be postponed until the next meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

The Board discussed a few individuals who may be willing to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

RAV 4 LEASE

Commissioner Payne reported that the new Toyota Rav 4 was delivered the previous week. He outlined the terms of the lease.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the Bancorp lease for the 2026 Toyota Rav 4 in the amount of $4,865.66 per year for three years. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ROGER SORENSEN – ROAD GRANT ASSISTANCE

Roger Sorenson was present to apprise the board about FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) grants that may be beneficial to Bear Lake County. Sorenson has been a licensed engineer for thirty years. He reported that the FLAP grants allow communities to improve transportation access to federal and state recreational destinations. Sorenson discussed several locations in the county that may benefit from the grant funds. Commissioner Payne asked Commissioner Eborn to attend an upcoming meeting hosted by Idaho Transportation Department District Five to discuss transportation needs in Southeast Idaho.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Eborn to work with Roger Sorenson for road grant assistance. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

TODD BOEHME – COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Todd Boehme reported on ongoing projects for the Road and Bridge Department. He reported that chip sealing is complete for the year, and patching and oiling roads is nearly complete. Boehme reported that a new tractor, mower, and snowblades are on order. He has also ordered a new dump truck. Boehme reported that he is looking for grant funds to replace a bridge on Center Lane in Geneva. It is made of wood and in poor condition. The Board held a discussion about vacating roads and changes to the county road map.

RIVER VALLEY SUBDIVISION – CONDITIONAL USE APPEAL

Ephraim and Tiffany Hoge were present to appeal the requirement from the Planning and Zoning Commission for a vegetation barrier in their subdivision. The Hoges argued that the impact of the requirements would be minimal, if any at all. The Board held a discussion about the location of the subdivision, water rights within the subdivision, and fencing between the subdivision and the stockyards.

Mitch Poulsen, administrator for the Planning and Zoning Commission, reviewed the timeline of hearings for the River Valley Subdivision. He relayed information about how the decision was reached by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to accept the appeal by the Hoge family to eliminate the requirement to establish a vegetation barrier between their development and the stockyards, however, they will be required to build and maintain a five-wire fence surrounding the subdivision. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Prosecutor Ronnie Keller clarified the requirements for the Hoges.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

8/13/24
Date Approved

ATTEST: Amy Bishop

Amy Bishop, Clerk

AUDITOR AND RECORDER
BEAR LAKE
COUNTY
STATE OF IDAHO