

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

March 23, 2026

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, March 23, 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, Commissioner Alan P. Eborn, and Clerk of the Board Amy Bishop. Also in attendance were Prosecutor Ronnie Keller, Sheriff Bart Heslington, Sheriff's Deputy Tye Graham, 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 was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

BOAT SAFETY GRANT AGREEMENT

Sheriff Bart Heslington reported that the boat grant is a continuation of a grant received in past years for water safety. He reported that the jetty and boat ramps at North Beach are being repaired right now.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the boat safety grant agreement for Idaho State Parks and Recreation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION – HEALTH WEST

The Montpelier branch of Health West, Inc. filed a Property Tax Exemption Application. They are registered as a tax-exempt business.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the property tax exemption application for Health West, Inc. under I.C. §63-602 C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

DRUG TESTING AND JUVENILE PROBATION WAGES

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that a new drug tester was hired last month. The juvenile community service supervisor position for females has been vacant due to not having any juvenile females required to do community service. The new drug tester has been hired as the

juvenile community service supervisor for females. Bishop proposed raising the wage for both the male and female community service positions to \$16.88 to correspond with the testing position. The previous rate for the community service supervisor was \$16.44.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to adjust the wages for the juvenile community service supervisors to \$16.88 per hour effective this pay period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MARNIE SPENCER – UNIVERISTY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

Marnie Spencer appeared via Zoom to discuss the resignation of Kari Ure, the extension educator at the Montpelier office. Spencer will be working closely with the office staff until a new extension educator can be hired. A discussion was held with the Board regarding a hiring panel.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to hire an extension educator with an emphasis in agriculture, livestock, and 4H youth development. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

ARPA FUND INTEREST / LATCF REVIEW

Commissioner Payne stated he would like to use the ARPA fund interest to update the comprehensive plan and land ordinances. Commissioners Olsen and Eborn agreed this needs to be done. Clerk Bishop asked if the Board would like to use the Request for Qualifications process.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to proceed with the process to update the county comprehensive plan and county land ordinances, beginning with the Request for Qualifications process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

DAN KUREK – AIRPORT COUNTY HANGERS PLANNING; REVISE LEASE AMOUNT FOR PARCEL C

Dan Kurek, the airport board chairman, came before the board to report about the airport. He outlined available hanger space and the amount the airport collects in rent in each month. Commissioner Payne reported that the acreage in Parcel C was reduced when a new runway was added, and it would be appropriate to reduce the lease payment for hay.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to reduce the lease payment for Parcel C by \$120.00 reflecting the reduced land available for hay. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to move forward with the airport proposal not to reserve land for another hanger. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

EPHRAIM AND TIFFANY HOGE – RIVER VALLEY SUBDIVISION REVIEW

Ephraim and Tiffany Hoge appeared before the Board after submitting a letter to the Board asking for a review of the previous decision declining to waive the required Conditional Use Permit for the River Valley Subdivision. Prosecutor Ronnie Keller addressed the Board about how potential conflicts of interest should be identified and remedied. Mitch Poulsen, administrator for the Planning and Zoning Commission, stated that the attorney for Planning and Zoning is looking at the potential conflict of interest issue now. Poulsen reported that in the past a public hearing was held instead of issuing a Conditional Use Permit. When the prosecutor reviewed the ordinance, he found that a Conditional Use Permit is required for all subdivisions.

Tiffany Hoge asked if the Board of Commissioners can overrule a decision made by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner Payne indicated the Board would follow the advice of their attorney.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to accept the advice of the Board’s legal counsel and request that the Planning and Zoning Commission review their conflict of interest and move forward with the Conditional Use Permit at that point. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 10:44 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into executive session under Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a); to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent; and Idaho Code §74-206(1)(d); to communicate with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 1:03 pm, Commissioner Eborn made a motion to amend the agenda to read “Decision on Hiring a Building Inspector”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne reported that four candidates were interviewed. The Board opted to not make a decision at this time, but would first like to check the references of those interviewed.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to hold a special meeting on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 9:00 am, for the building inspector position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Rex L. Payne

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

4-13-26

Date Approved

ATTEST: *Amy Bishop*

Amy Bishop, Clerk

