

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

March 9, 2026

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, March 9, 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, Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Assessor Jannelle Jensen, Chief Deputy Sheriff Wes Barnhill, 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.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

TREASURER TRICIA POULSEN

Tricia Poulsen presented two tax cancellations. In one case, a cabin had burned down in 2024 but the owner was still being charged for the garbage fee. In the other case, a home owner was charged for three garbage cans but only had two.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the cancellation of taxes for parcel 29384 in the amount of \$270.00 and for parcel 3738.01 in the amount of \$240.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Poulsen reported that 53 new homes have been added this year and tax bills have been sent out. She is working on the delinquent taxes for the past 3 years.

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Jannelle Jensen presented a report with the amounts received by the DMV and Parks and Recreation for the month of February. She noted that there is a new option to send assessment notices electronically. A flyer with the information to sign up for this option will be sent out the first Monday in June.

Jensen reported that a new public map is now available on the county website. Additionally, a new version of Pictometry is available on the county website. It has better resolution than previous versions and is updated every night.

CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF WES BARNHILL

Wes Barnhill reported that a new deputy, Walker Pelto, started work today. He reported that local deputies responded to an incident in Caribou County the day prior. He felt like the agencies did a fantastic job working together.

CLERK AMY BISHOP

Amy Bishop reported that a representative from the Idaho Supreme Court IT Department was here last week to pull cables that will be used when the courts move to the Idaho Supreme Court network. The Idaho Supreme Court has committed to supporting the Commissioners' Room as a second courtroom. Bishop is hopeful that this will resolve the sound problems with Zoom in that room.

Bishop reported that online filing for candidates has been going mostly smoothly. The two-step process seemed easy to understand. There is ongoing training in her office; it is going well.

Bishop stated that Computer Arts has a new financial system ready to roll out. We will switch after the pilot county works through the process. She reported that Deputy Clerk Mindy Williamson has been working diligently to ensure that the transition to biweekly paychecks goes smoothly. Bishop reported that there will be a training provided by Idaho Association of Counties in Downey later this month.

PROSECUTOR RONNIE KELLER

Ronnie Keller gave credit to the Sheriff's Office for their good work. He feels like every department in the county works hard to help each other. He is looking forward to an upcoming training addressing sexual assault and domestic violence cases. Additionally, he will be attending the final session of training provided by the Idaho State Bar.

Commissioners Payne and Eborn reported that members of the public had approached them with positive feedback about the work Keller is doing.

BUILDING INSPECTOR WAYNE DAVIDSON

Wayne Davidson reported that the building activity is normal for this time of year. Building at Bear Lake West and on the east side of Bear Lake have slowed down, but builders anticipate things will pick up during the summer. Davidson reported that there are no outstanding code enforcement issues right now.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported on legislation that was signed by the governor and pending legislation in the Idaho legislature. He spoke with a representative from Rocky Mountain Power about who is responsible for streetlights around the county. Olsen reported that cuts to Medicare and Medicaid are hurting rural hospitals, but Bear Lake Memorial Healthcare is okay for now. He reported on road maintenance and the need for a new gravel pit. Olsen reported that the Road and Bridge surplus auction went well.

Commissioner Eborn reported that there is a beekeeper who is concerned that aerial spraying by the Mosquito Abatement District is killing his bees. The Mosquito Abatement District has referred the beekeeper to their retained counsel. Eborn reported that the Senior Center is struggling financially. They have asked to have a class to teach their board members how to use Zoom. Eborn reported that the snowmobile parking lot at Copenhagen Basin was full by 8:15 am the previous Saturday morning.

Commissioner Payne reported that he had been notified by Kari Ure, the county extension agent, that her last day of employment will be April 3, 2026. Payne attended a meeting for the ambulance service. They have been practicing their skills and working hard. Payne reported that the new ambulance will be ready for delivery in approximately two years. Payne has considered the possibility of hiring a professional to rewrite the comprehensive land use plan. Payne and Clerk Bishop discussed the range of amounts paid by surrounding counties to hire a professional.

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Minutes were presented to the Board for approval from the February 23, 2026, meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2026, meeting. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Clerk Bishop read an amendment to the personnel policy regarding the amended payroll schedule.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the amended payroll schedule as presented, effective April 26, 2026. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

COUNTY WEBSITE DISCUSSION

Clerk Bishop reported that she held a Zoom call with one company regarding the implementation of a new county website. Discussion was held among the Board about what features and information the new website should have.

MOTION: At 9:55 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion for a 15-minute break. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 10:14 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to resume the meeting. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

HAY BIDS

Clerk Bishop reported that the county had received bids from two individuals. Commissioner Olsen opened the sealed envelopes containing the bids. A bid was received from Clay Lloyd in the amount of \$6,250.00 per year for Parcel A. A bid was received from Payne Livestock in the amount of \$6,037 per year for Parcel A.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to accept Clay Lloyd's bid of \$6,250 per year for a period of five years for Parcel A. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

A bid was received from Clay Lloyd in the amount of \$5,100 per year for Parcel B. A bid was received from Payne Livestock in the amount of \$5,057 per year for Parcel B.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to accept Clay Lloyd's bid of \$5,100 per year for a period of five years for Parcel B. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

GEORGETOWN AREA OF IMPACT

Mitch Poulsen presented a map of the proposed areas of impact for the city of Georgetown. He has had discussions with the Georgetown city council about extending the areas of impact. Poulsen will draft a letter to educate land owners about the current and proposed impact areas. He will present a draft of the letter for the Board of Commissioners' approval.

Ronnie Keller explained that the Serenity Hills subdivision was looking for their plat to be vacated. He went on to explain that anyone looking to vacate a plat must petition the Board of Commissioners if the plat is located within the unincorporated areas of the county. Commissioner Payne addressed the time requirements for publishing a proposal, notifying landowners, and holding a hearing.

DELL TRANSTRUM – FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Dell Transtrum appeared before the Board as the acting district ranger. He reported on the ongoing fuel reduction work in Emigration Canyon. The Forest Service will be conducting prescribed burns this spring; they are waiting for the right weather conditions. Transtrum reported that the Bear Lake West fuel reduction project should be completed this fall.

Transtrum reported that the Forest Service has had a significant reduction in their work force. They are working with limited resources and some of the work load will not be completed due to reduced staff. They lost a law enforcement officer in the staffing changes, but hope to have a new one hired by next month. Transtrum reported that the fire suppression staff has not been cut.

Transtrum reported that the Forest Service owns a rock crusher that serves the Intermountain West region. Our area can use it after June 1. He would like to clean up Bloomington Canyon Road, although this would mean the road would have to be closed. Transtrum indicated that the Forest Service road crew would help to get the road cleaned up before and after the rock crusher was used.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

County Superintendent Todd Boehme reported that the Road and Bridge Department will begin grading roads as the weather conditions allow. He has upcoming meetings with the five-county coalition and LEPC. Boehme reported that the surplus auction is nearly finalized. He outlined the plans for oiling county roads this year.

Boehme reported that a landowner west of the Lanark Cemetery has talked to Boehme about road maintenance. Commissioner Olsen asked Prosecutor Keller to review the county ordinances before taking any action on this matter.

Boehme reported a request to place a sign on Bern Road where there is limited sight.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the placement of a new sign on Bern Road to alert drivers of reduced visibility. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to go into executive session under IC §74-206(1)(a), to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need; and IC §74-206(1)(f), to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Olsen. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

The Board was in executive session at 11:13 am.

MOTION: At 12:43 pm, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to leave executive session and return to the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.


SCHEDULE BUILDING INSPECTOR INTERVIEWS

Discussion was held between the Board members about when to hold the interviews.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to schedule interviews for the building inspector position on March 23, 2026, at 1:00 pm, and to interview five candidates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

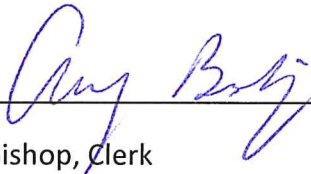
The meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.



Rex L. Payne, Chairman

4-13-26

Date Approved

ATTEST: 

Amy Bishop, Clerk

