Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting

September 14, 2026
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9:00 am Monday, September 14, 2026, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting was available via Zoom. Members present were Board Chairman Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen, Commissioner Alan P. Eborn, and Clerk of the Board Amy Bishop. Also in attendance were Assessor Jannelle Jensen, various staff, and members of the public. Treasurer Tricia Poulsen and Sheriff Bart Heslington were excused. Prosecutor Ronnie Keller appeared by Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board reviewed the agenda. Clerk Amy Bishop advised the Board that the agenda would need to be amended to extend the certification of levies rather than certifying the levies today.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the agenda with the change to extend the certification of levies rather than certification of levies. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATE

ASSESSOR JANNELLE JENSEN

Assessor Jannelle Jensen presented the amounts collected for Idaho Transportation Department ($139,543.25) and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation ($1,565.50) for the month of August. She reported that one of her deputy clerks will be attending a leadership conference in Boise. Jannelle will be working at the DMV window in her place.

SHERIFF BART HESLINGTON

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that Sheriff Heslington had to be out of the office last minute but had sent a written report for the Board to review.

CLERK AMY BISHOP

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that her office is working on ballot preparation for the upcoming election. She reported that the purchase of the ballot tabulator had been postponed. Bishop spoke briefly about the contract with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, and Sampson, LLC for the collection of delinquent court fines. She indicated that agenda

item would need to be tabled today to allow for edits to the contract. Bishop reported that the clerk's timeline for completing their portion of the levy process is nearly unmanageable. The clerks were provided with the information three hours before the submission deadline last week. Bishop advised that the budget year ends September 30. She requested that departments make purchases now to get them paid for in this fiscal year.

PROSECUTOR RONNIE KELLER

Prosecutor Ronnie Keller reported that his secretary would be out of the office at the end of September. He will direct people to email him with issues that arise while she is gone.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

Mason Garbett reported that August was a busy month for the building department. He issued nine new permits over $5,000.00. The year-to-date total for building permits was $103,025.88. Garbett reported that there were no red tags issued in August.

FAIRGROUNDS BATHROOM AND SEWER ISSUES

Commissioner Olsen reported that the bathrooms at the fairgrounds use a sewer lift pump to access the city sewer system. The pump often becomes overwhelmed on busy weekends and during the week of the fair. He would like to see a new building dedicated to bathrooms. He discussed the adequacy of the current sewer line and the cost of a new pump. Olsen reported that the fair board is looking for grants to help offset the cost of the new system.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Olsen reported that Idaho Congressmen Crapo, Simpson, and Risch sent committees to observe the progress on the Rocky Point Wildlife Crossing Project. Olsen reported that Bear Lake County ranks third highest county for comprehensive collision claims in Idaho. He reported that the Rocky Point Wildlife Crossing Project is estimated to be completed six million dollars under budget. Olsen also reported that he attended the 4-County Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Eborn reported that he has been working with Roger Sorenson to obtain grants to place stoplights at US Hwy 89 and North Beach Road. Sorenson was hoping to use a drone over Labor Day weekend to assess the amount of traffic congestion on a busy weekend. Unfortunately, the drone was not available that weekend.

Commissioner Eborn reported that the county is moving forward on acquiring land from the state to increase accessibility to radio towers. Eborn reported that the Senior Center will be

holding a Donor Appreciation Dinner in September. He attended the 4-County Commissioners' Meeting and reported that other counties are experiencing the same type of problems Bear Lake County is experiencing.

Commissioner Payne reported that he met with Bear Lake Watch on September 8, 2026. He is supportive of the efforts of Bear Lake Watch to get a decontamination station placed but is concerned with the proposed placement being near the intersection of US Hwy 89 and North Beach Road. Additionally, Bear Lake Watch has requested materials from the county Road and Bridge Department totaling approximately $30,000.00. Payne is concerned that this would deplete the reserves in the Wardboro gravel pit. Payne stated his hesitancy to donate such a large amount of material that may be useless if Bear Lake Watch loses their lease. Prosecutor Ronnie Keller asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda to be formally addressed in the next meeting.

Commissioner Payne reported that he had several calls about people living off the grid in recreational vehicles throughout the county. He stated there was no clear path for enforcement in the existing county ordinances for a matter like this. Payne reported that he asked Mitch Poulsen, administrator of the Bear Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission, to ensure that an enforcement mechanism is included in the new county comprehensive plan.

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 Eborn made a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held August 13, 2026, August 24, 2026, and September 1, 2026. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

U OF I EXTENSION AGREEMENT

The Board held a discussion regarding the ongoing hiring process for a new county extension agent. Commissioner Payne reminded the Board that there is an existing agreement to provide a county agent, but there haven't been many candidates with the desired credentials to apply for the position. Clerk Bishop outlined the extension office budget for the year. She indicated there was a small change where two line items from the previous year's budget were combined into one line item in the proposed budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the cooperative agreement with the University of Idaho with the outlined budget changes. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

EAGLEVIEW / PICTOMETRY AGREEMENT

Clerk Amy Bishop reminded the Board that at a previous meeting they discussed conducting a yearly aerial assessment due to new laws restricting access to private property.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the Eagleview / Pictometry agreement allowing the county to be able to assess property with an aerial view on a yearly basis. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

ESRI / GIS AGREEMENT

Assessor Jannelle Jensen explained that ESRI /GIS is the mapping program used by her office. The agreement is to be reviewed every three years. The current program provides more services than previous versions. Jensen explained that there are plenty of program licenses available for other county entities to use.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the ESRI / GIS agreement. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

APPRAISAL DEPARTMENT LLC AGREEMENT FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL VALUATIONS

Assessor Jannelle Jensen reported that a commercial appraiser will be assessing the short-term rentals in Bear Lake County. Clerk Bishop added that this would be an addendum to the existing contract.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to add the proposal for short term rental appraisals to the existing contract beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2026. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH LINEBARGER, GOGGAN, BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP FOR COLLECTIONS OF OUTSTANDING COURT FINES AND FEES

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to table the contract until the next meeting or until the concerns from the prosecuting attorney were addressed. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

FINDINGS OF FACT – RIVER VIEW SUBDIVISION

The Board discussed the Findings of Fact for the River View Subdivision to determine if all the changes previously discussed were addressed. Commissioner Payne read the modifications to the Findings of Fact.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact and Conclusions for the River View Subdivision The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Board held a discussion about the needs of the airport board and the term limits of its members.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Garin Hess to the Bear Lake County Airport Board for the remaining three months of Kip Motta's term and for a complete term beginning January 2027 until January 2031. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that the budget was previously adopted, but a resolution needs to be signed to solidify the adoption.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-13 to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2027. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FEES

Clerk Amy Bishop reported that landfill fees increased for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed resolution is to formalize the changes as included in the adopted budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-14; a resolution of the County of Bear Lake Board of Commissioners to establish fees for the users of solid waste disposal facilities within Bear Lake; prescribing the amount of said fees; repealing all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution; and establishing an effective date of this resolution. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

CERTIFICATION OF LEVIES

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion for an extension for the certification of levies. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

TODD BOEHME – COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Todd Boehme reported on ongoing projects for the Road and Bridge Department. He reported that his crew is working on hand-patching spots on some county roads. The crew is seeing some vandalism on roads from 4-wheelers and side-by-sides. He reported that the oil fund from the current fiscal year is expended. He has been working with Keller Engineering to find funds for replacement of the Center Lane bridge in Geneva. Boehme reported that he will buy blended fuel at the end of the month. He plans on attending the annual Idaho Association of County Engineers and Road Supervisors (IACERS) meeting in Coeur D'Alene in November.

The Board discussed increased usage of the road leading to the airport. Boehme reported that road stabilization measures will be needed if the road gets much more traffic.

Boehme reported that he is working on getting the in-house crane up to operational standards. He is looking to spend a significant amount of money to get it to pass certification. The crane is functional now but is restricted to light use until it can get the necessary repairs.

Commissioner Olsen reported that the county needs to look into hiring an outside company to provide high-visibility clothing. He stated that each employee needs proper attire including safety shoes, and that the county should standardize the process rather than letting each employee buy their own uniform.

Commissioner Eborn reported that he likes the idea of the Road and Bridge Department having regular safety meetings. He reported that the blading done on the road below Bloomington was very well done.

Clerk Bishop reported that Mason Garbett, County Building Inspector, will oversee holding quarterly safety meetings. She requested that the Board determine who they want to serve on the safety committee.

PRESENTATION FROM CES REGARDING PROCUREMENT

Steve Brown, Regional Manager for Cooperative Educational Services (CES), was present to educate the Board about the partnership between CES and Idaho Association of Counties. CES holds agreements with numerous agencies to leverage purchasing power. Brown explained their business model.

MOTION: At 11:30 am, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into executive session under IC §74-206 (1) (b); to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student; 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 to be litigated. The motion received a

second from Commissioner Eborn. Roll call: Commissioner Payne, aye; Commissioner Eborn, aye; Commissioner Olsen, aye. The motion carried.

MOTION: At 12:31 pm, Commissioner Olsen made a motion to leave executive session and return to the regular meeting. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

Commissioner Payne briefly outlined the information discussed in the executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Eborn made a motion to continue to work with an employee to continue with the guidance to improve. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to have a survey done on a piece of county property to establish the boundaries in light of possible litigation. The motion received a second from Commissioner Eborn. The motion carried.

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 12:33 pm.

Rex L. Payne, Chairman

8/13/26
Date Approved

ATTEST: _____
Amy Bishop, Clerk

AUDITOR AND RECORDER BEAR LAKE COUNTY STATE OF IDAHO