

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Meeting
February 13, 2023
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of the Bear Lake County Commissioners met in its regular meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, February 13, 2023, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting was available via Zoom. Members present were Commission Chairman Bradley D. Jensen, Commissioner Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen and Board Clerk Amy Bishop. Also in attendance were Attorney Adam McKenzie, Assessor Jannelle Sparks-Jensen, Superintendent Todd Boehme, Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, County Building Inspector Wayne Davidson, Sheriff Bart Heslington, Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen and various members of the public.

APPROVE AGENDA – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen presented two tax cancellations, totaling \$394.78, to the Board. The first, a cancellation of \$389.68 on parcel No. 1829, was requested because the owner had come into the Treasurer's Office on December 30, 2022, to sign up for a Homeowner's Property Tax Exemption. Because the office had already submitted the December taxes, this exemption did not take effect until January 3 when the office opened again for the first day of business in 2023, Poulsen said.

The second tax cancellation was in the amount of \$5.10 charged for penalty and interest. This was the result of a delayed postmark date – something that has been impacting treasurers' offices throughout Idaho. This is something she and the state's other treasurers are working to find a resolution for, Poulsen said.

Poulsen supplied the Board with a report that showed how the county is doing financially. Currently, the county has 430 outstanding check warrants. Additionally, the Treasurer's Office just finished its supplemental tax drive, which encompassed any new homes and anything missed during the regular drive. This resulted in a total of \$73,346 in new tax funds, collected from 50 new homes and one property that had been missed, Poulsen said.

The Idaho Legislature is working on legislation that will decree penalty and interest payments garnered from delinquent taxes stay within the counties and won't go to the special districts (e.g., cemetery districts), Poulsen said. This is something the Board should be planning for so it can act accordingly if and when that legislation is put into action.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to accept the two presented tax cancellations in the amount of \$394.78. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Assessor Jannelle Sparks-Jensen reported that DMV registration renewals done through the Idaho Transportation Department, through the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and via online and mail-in options had accounted for just 22 transactions in January. This data shows that most people are still electing to come directly to the courthouse for registration renewals, which provides the county with the funds rather than dividing them between various renewal-point sources.

The contracted commercial appraiser is working in our county Thursdays and Fridays, Sparks-Jensen reported. He will be providing his reports to the Assessor's Office shortly so that data can be put into the county computer system. The office deeds and mapping efforts are up to date, putting the office as a whole in a good position, she said.

Commissioner Payne said he had attended the 2023 Idaho Association of Counties Midwinter Legislative Conference – held January 30 through February 2 in Boise – and had learned that Emergency Medical Services responders are considered non-essential personnel. This effectively means that in the event of an emergency or accident, these EMS responders are not required by law to respond. He found this very surprising, and reported Senator Mark Harris is party to a bill that is being considered by the Idaho legislature that would make EMS an essential service. If it passes, Commissioner Payne said, additional funding for EMS departments will follow.

Commissioner Payne also said he had been contacted by Simplot to confirm the county had no issues with the agribusiness holding its Safety Days on May 9 for local fifth-grade students. He told Simplot that he saw no issues. The other commissioners concurred.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources is moving forward with water rights adjudication steps, Commissioner Payne said. Because of the many wells found on county property – including at the airport and on the land where the county shop resides – he said he would be attending an adjudication meeting following the conclusion of the Regular Commissioners Meeting. He said he needed some clarification for who should file for water rights concerning the land on which the Montpelier Golf Course sits.

County Attorney Adam McKenzie said that whoever is the owner of the land is the party who should apply for the water rights. He said it is his understanding that the golf course is on state lands that have been contracted to the City of Montpelier, and Bear Lake County has a memorandum of understanding in place with Montpelier. Because of this confusing chain, McKenzie said he would check the water records to see who last laid claim to it and return with an answer for the Board.

Commissioner Payne said the Bear Lake County Extension Office had received three applications for the open University of Idaho Extension Agent position. Of the three applicants, two had withdrawn before interviews were held. The remaining candidate had been interviewed and an offer of employment for Associate Extension Agent had been extended. Commissioner Payne said the candidate declined the offer, and the University of Idaho has authorized Bear Lake County to advertise the position again for four weeks. After that period, the applications will be reviewed, he said.

Commissioner Payne said the Idaho State Tax Commission will be conducting its annual county commissioner Board of Equalization training sessions throughout March and April. The commissioners –

depending on their individual schedules – have elected to either attend the April 5 training in Rigby or the April 6 training in Chubbuck.

Commissioner Olsen said he, too, had attended the IAC Legislative Conference in Boise. During the conference, he attended several Planning & Zoning sessions and learned the importance of having an up-to-date comprehensive plan – something to be discussed later in the meeting by Bear Lake Planning & Zoning Administrator Mitch Poulsen and Bear Lake County Planning & Zoning Chairman Albert Johnson.

Sheriff Bart Heslington said the county's emergency communications project is on schedule, with all contract agreements with Day Wireless Systems signed by Bear Lake County officials and now forwarded on to Day Wireless' authorized signatories. Heslington said Day Wireless views this project as two separate ventures – Bear Lake County Dispatch Center upgrade and repeater site changes, respectively. However, he said, the vendor is working to assign a project manager to be over both portions of the project so everything can be conducted in concert. Planning is being done to get all the necessary steps in place for the repeater site effort so that work can be started once the snow has melted enough to allow equipment to access the area, he said.

Heslington said he plans to meet with the Idaho Department of Lands to discuss ongoing enforcement efforts and necessary interagency coordination in regards to the exposed lake bed. He said he has identified six primary objectives that can go toward addressing these issues, but they may need some modification.

Commissioner Payne said he would reach out to all the groups that should participate in these discussions, set up the meeting and get Heslington the information.

Winter weather-related emergencies – stemmed from both severe low temperatures and high levels of snowfall – have contributed significantly to the Sheriff's Office call load, Heslington said. His department is doing its best to handle them accordingly and safely. He advised that a new snowmobile trail groomer had been delivered and was being put to use as needed.

Clerk Amy Bishop spoke briefly about the Public Defense reduction. She provided the Board with a formula she used to calculate the amount that will be provided to the Idaho State Tax Commission and said this will apply for a couple of years only. At that point, the state will take over the Public Defense program.

She said she met with many clerks from Idaho's other counties and found they are researching options for a software provider. Bear Lake County has had a contract with Computer Arts, Inc. since 2005, but recently that company has been sold. The new owners want to implement needed improvements, but the existing program runs on a computer software language that is outdated, Bishop said. Each county that elects to stay with Computer Arts will pay \$150,000, spread out over a four-year period.

Bishop said that Bear Lake County – as well as other Idaho counties that have contracts with Computer Arts – has expressed discontent with the company's service. When the Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office moved away from its use of Computer Arts a few years ago, there were issues with the office's data

being held hostage by the company. If the majority of other counties – especially those nearby – decide to use a different software provider, it could be in Bear Lake’s best interest to do the same because it’s beneficial to be on a united front if and when related legislation changes are proposed, she said.

The court is continuing its efforts to hire someone to fill the department’s open position, Bishop said. Additionally, a technician from the Idaho Supreme Court spent three days last week working to remedy sound equipment issues in the courtroom, and it appears improvements have been made. While Judge R. Todd Garbett is happy with the fixes, there have been questions raised about whose responsibility it is to maintain what court equipment. That is a topic Bishop and representatives with the Idaho Supreme Court are working through.

Commissioner Jensen said he had attended a meeting last week between the Road & Bridge Department, the City of Bloomington and the United States Forest Service. The City of Bloomington is working to obtain grant funding through the USFS that will help with improvements to Bloomington Canyon Road. Commissioner Jensen said that Bloomington is concerned with vehicles speeding as they enter and exit city limits on that roadway, and part of the grant funds will be used to purchase flashing radar speed signs to alert drivers of their rate of travel. At this point, Bloomington is just looking for support from the county and may ask for a letter of support in the future, Commissioner Jensen said.

WAYNE DAVIDSON – BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT

County Building Inspector Wayne Davidson said only a few building permits – nine in total – have been issued so far in 2023. In fact, there were no new housing starts in either December or January. However, that is pretty typical for Bear Lake County during the winter months, he said. Still, there are lots of inspections going on.

Davidson said he receives consistent calls from engineers regarding plans for future spring development. While there will be lots of new building in the spring, he said, Bear Lake County may not see quite the boom it has had in past years.

With the poor state of the economy, people are struggling to find places to live, Davidson said. There have been some people who have been living in campers, with desperate conditions forcing others to find more creative ways to find shelter. In Bear Lake County, there is little housing inventory available to rent, and what is available often is very expensive, he said. Because of these conditions, Davidson said he has not been very aggressive with enforcement efforts.

The commissioners asked about the permitting needs for cargo containers, and Davidson said that permits are still required for those types of structures – regardless of whether they are used for storage or for housing purposes. Additionally, as is the case with a home currently under construction within the county, any housing efforts using cargo containers have to navigate the issues of proper plumbing and insulation. This can be a challenge in itself, he said.

GENERAL BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

RATIFY CLAIMS

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to ratify the claims before the Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 9, 2023, and January 25, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

SET SPECIAL MEETING TO CANVASS ELECTION

Bishop advised there will be a School Supplemental Levy Election on March 14. The Board then will have 10 days to canvass the election results. This process to be completed by March 24, she said.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to set a Special Commissioners Meeting for March 21, 2023, to canvass election results. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

TRANSFER AMBULANCE 2 TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Bear Lake County Ambulance Service has its new ambulance up and running, Bishop said. That department wants to donate its old Ambulance 2 to the Search & Rescue Department. Because both agencies fall under the county, this vehicle can just be transferred between the departments, she said.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to transfer use of the former Ambulance 2 from the Bear Lake County Ambulance Service to the Search & Rescue Department. The motion received a second from Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOU FOR TREATMENT COURT COORDINATOR

Bishop reminded the Board that Bear Lake County is working with Caribou and Oneida Counties on a joint effort treatment court program. The counties will share the treatment court coordinator, but that individual will be primarily housed in Bear Lake County and will be required to travel two days a week to attend treatment courts in Caribou and Oneida, respectively.

Bishop said she had sent a memorandum of understanding to the Idaho Supreme Court, but it had revised the document to clarify who would supervise this treatment court coordinator. The MOU now needed to be signed by Bear Lake County's authorized signatory.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion for the signing of the Treatment Court Coordinator Memorandum of Understanding between Bear Lake County and the Idaho Supreme Court. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

TODD BOEHME – COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

County Superintendent Todd Boehme told the Board he had attended the previously discussed meeting with the United States Forest Service and the City of Bloomington. The USFS told him that – with only 64 percent payment compliance, at \$5 per car – it had collected about \$30,000 last year, between July and September, for entrances to Bloomington Lake. He said that he had learned of a 2018 survey that showed figures four years prior were close to 6,000 vehicles traveling on Bloomington Canyon Road, and this number could only have increased since that time.

Because of this increased travel on Bloomington Canyon Road, the Road & Bridge Department will increase DustGard efforts on approximately 2 miles of roadway, from the beginning of the canyon to Jarvis Springs. Additionally, a top coat will be applied to about 2.5 miles of gravel, and about 0.75 mile will be in need of excavation work to address narrow sections of that roadway, Boehme said. Graveling work has been done to the school bus turn but will be continued to Jarvis Springs. There will then be a section of roadway that will not see gravel applied, but the process will resume once the roadway enters into USFS land and continue up to Harry's Hollow.

Boehme said the cost of chip seal oil has risen about 17 percent since the last time the county purchased it, and patch material has increased 22 percent. Each year, the Road & Bridge Department tries to address the chip sealing and patching needs of 9 miles of roadway, but due to price increases it will likely only be able to address about 6 miles this year, he said.

The Jericho Loop Bridge, which has long been involved in a renovation and repair project, is temporarily open now and is useable, Boehme said. The contractor that has been working on the project has done what is possible, but efforts will be resumed and completed once summertime weather conditions return.

Boehme said that the Mule Deer Foundation of Idaho had asked for permission to put up flashing signs warning of winter range areas and encouraging travelers to drive with caution. These signs will be put in the areas of Dingle Hot Springs and the east side of Bear Lake, and will be put up and taken down at the foundation's expense.

A water leak in the middle of the Fish Haven Canyon roadway had been brought to Boehme's attention just prior to the meeting. While he had been informed this leak should be resolved within a day once work starts on it, Boehme said he is skeptical that will be the case. Because that roadway will have to be closed, the Road & Bridge Department will work to have a detour plowed and marked for through-traffic access, preventing any issues in the event of an emergency.

Boehme said the Bear Lake County Encroachment Permit was ready for Board approval. However, County Attorney Adam McKenzie said he had reviewed it and found a few areas that need small revisions – rewording and clarification – but nothing that will affect the substance of the permit itself.

Boehme said employees with the Bear Lake State Parks and Recreation Department had contacted him and asked that he, in his capacity as Bear Lake County Emergency Management Coordinator, provide them with a letter of support for the department's North Beach Boat Ramp grant submission it had previously discussed with the Board. He said he had been happy to fulfill this request.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the Bear Lake County Encroachment Permit, with Adam McKenzie's changes for clarification, punctuation and spelling errors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

BROOKE ALLEN – DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE AND INFO ON GRANTS FOR FIBER OPTIC EXPANSION

Brooke Allen from Direct Communications was scheduled to present to the Board information about grant opportunities for fiber optic expansion in Bear Lake County, but he was not in attendance at February 13, 2023, meeting.

MITCH POULSEN, ROY BUNDERSON, ALBERT JOHNSON – P&Z RECOMMENDATIONS BEAR RIVER ESTATE AND BALD MOUNTAIN PRELIMINARY PLATS / REQUEST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – ACTION ITEMS

Bear Lake County Planning & Zoning Administrator Mitch Poulsen said the Planning & Zoning Commission had met January 18 to take any public comment or concern regarding the Bear River Estates and bald Mountain Estates preliminary plats. No concerns or complaints had been raised, he said.

Poulsen presented the preliminary plat for the Bald Mountain Estates subdivision, which will subdivide 40 acres into eight equal-sized lots. Water will be supplied by the Bennington Water System, he said, and it is the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation that the Bear Lake County Board of Commissioners approve the preliminary plat.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Bald Mountain Estates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Poulsen next said that, concerning the proposed Bear River Estates subdivision, 40 acres of agricultural land will need to be rezoned to a rural community before a preliminary plat can be approved.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to rezone the concerned 40 acres of property – located at 1000 Lower Bern Road – from agricultural land into a rural community zone. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Poulsen presented the preliminary plat for the Bear River Estates subdivision. Similar to the Bald Mountain Estates subdivision, this property will see 40 acres divided into eight lots. He said it is the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation for the Board to approve this preliminary plat, subject to a few requirements as follows: staff need to follow-up with engineers on stormwater and best practices for lot No. 1 of the subdivision; shared driveways must be implemented; driveway approaches must be constructed prior to final approval; and the building envelope must be moved closer to the roadway.

Commissioner Olsen wondered if it would be possible to move the power boxes off the county right-of-way onto private property. This would serve as a means to prevent any damage to the power boxes

during snow removal, he said.

Poulsen said he couldn't speak for the Bear River Estates parties, but he would present this idea to them.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for the Bear River Estates subdivision, with the discussed requirements and an option to move the power boxes off the county right-of-way onto private property, if possible. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

Poulsen said he had reached out to a consultant in Rich County to discuss its newly updated comprehensive plan and get a cost estimate for these services for Bear Lake County. These services would include a community assessment to determine what the community is looking for; a community envision process; planning and development; and project management services. The estimated cost is \$62,250, and could begin – if this firm were to be hired following any required bidding processes – as soon as March, he said.

Bear Lake County Planning & Zoning Chairman Albert Johnson said the county's existing comprehensive plan has aged fairly well but is in need of an update. It was approved in 2002 – 21 years ago – and it is incumbent upon the P&Z Commission and the Board to look ahead and put together a plan that will stand up to future development in Bear Lake County, Johnson said.

Johnson wondered if there were any funds – possibly those provided to the county by the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic – that could be used to help pay for the cost of this update. Commissioner Payne said he wasn't sure those federal funds would be appropriate for this need and said that, if this is not a time-sensitive requirement, it would be better to plan for these costs at the time the Board sets the budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Attorney Adam McKenzie said it might be beneficial to reach out to the incorporated cities to see if they want to also update their comprehensive plans so this process could be done simultaneously across the board.

Johnson said he and Poulsen were just presenting this information to the Board so that it could keep this in mind going forward. He said P&Z is looking for support from the county in its efforts. The Board will discuss this more at a future date.

REVIEW AUDIT – GARY TEUSCHER

Gary Teuscher, certified public accountant and independent auditor, presented his report findings related to Bear Lake County's finances for Fiscal Year 2022, as of September 30, 2022. He said the audit – a deep analysis of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Bear Lake County for that time, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the county's basic financial statements – found no fraud or error and found the financial statements represented fairly the financial position of the county.

Clerk Amy Bishop said the county's bond rating – which it has through Moody's – has been revaluated and has risen after a change in methodology.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve and accept the independent audit conducted by Gary Teuscher. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

AUSTIN ATHAY – SET UP PAYMENT PLAN – PROPERTY TAXES – ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Payne made it known there is a relation between himself and Austin Athay through marriage. Athay is married to the daughter of Commissioner Payne's niece, making this relation to the third degree. Attorney Adam McKenzie said this met the requirement under Idaho law and Commissioner Payne would not need to recuse himself from this action item.

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen said the property associated with parcel 3081.01 had belonged to Kyle Athay but had been put into his son Austin's name when Kyle found ownership was preventing him from qualifying for Medicare, Social Security and disability benefits – which he is in need of. Prior to the transition of property from Kyle to Austin, the tax notices for the property had been received by Kyle Athay's now ex-wife, who hadn't paid the taxes for 2019, 2020 and 2021 while Kyle had been in and out of hospitals seeking medical treatment, Poulsen said.

Combined with parcel's 2022 property taxes, this has resulted in \$8,333.96 due for the property, Poulsen said. When Austin finally received notice of this error, he immediately contacted the Treasurer's Office to see what he could do to make things right. He now is requesting the county show leniency and accept him onto a payment plan arrangement to provide him an opportunity to catch up on the past due taxes.

Austin Athay said that his brother has recently moved in with his father and is able to supply some income to help get this situation caught up. Between the two of them, the brothers believe they can pay \$300 a month.

If the county chose to accept this payment arrangement and drop the interest and penalty charges of \$1,461.60, the family can be caught up within a couple of years, Poulsen said.

Commissioner Olsen said he would be in favor of ignoring the penalty and interest charges, but added that he believes there needs to be something put in place limiting the amount of time this payment plan could be in a delinquent status before it was reviewed again.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to drop the interest and penalties in the amount of \$1,461.60 and set up the Athay family on a payment plan of \$300 per month until it had paid the remaining back taxes of \$6,872.36, with the caveat that after three months of delinquency this case be reviewed in the fourth month. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made during the public comment section of the February 13, 2023 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IDAHO CODE 74-206(1)

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to go into executive session according to IDAHO CODE 74-601(1) (d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code; (f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. Roll Call Vote. Commissioner Payne, Aye. Commissioner Jensen, Aye. Commissioner Olsen, Aye.

The Board entered executive session at 11:47 a.m. and left executive session at 12:14 p.m.

From 12:03 p.m. to 12:08 p.m. the Board discussed litigation. From 12:09 to 12:14 p.m. the Board discussed records exempt from disclosure.

The Board had lunch from 12:15 p.m. to 12:26 p.m.

The Board reconvened its regular meeting, following lunch, at 12:26 p.m.

EXTENSION OFFICE STAFFING – ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Payne said that due to the resignation of one of its employees, the University of Idaho Extension in Bear Lake County was considering moving Jennifer Matthews – who currently serves in a part-time position – into the full-time position. At the behest of the university, the office will then advertise a job listing for the part-time position.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to advertise the open part-time position for the University of Idaho Extension in Bear Lake County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

JARED NORTON WITH T-O ENGINEERS – AGREEMENT FOR NEW TAXI LANE AT AIRPORT / SIGNING GRANT APPLICATION – ACTION ITEMS

Jared Norton, project manager with T-O Engineers, spoke to the Board via Zoom and reminded them T-O Engineers was offering its services for a project at the Bear Lake County Airport that would see the design of two new hangers that will be accompanied by two south-facing taxi lanes. If contracted, T-O Engineers will design and approach the bidding for construction, with construction to be started and completed in 2024.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the contract between Bear Lake County

and T-O Engineers that will allow the firm to helm the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve and sign the Federal Aviation Administration grant application for this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAMMING – ACTION ITEM

Clerk Amy Bishop said the County had previously opted into some opioid settlement programs and to date had received \$36,812 through the Janssen settlement. Bishop said she had received a letter from the Attorney General asking Bear Lake County to participate in settlements now available through five other providers – Walgreens, Allergan, Walmart, CVS and Teva. The terms of this participation would be the same as those terms in the Janssen settlement.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion that Bear Lake County participate in these opioid settlements with Walgreens, Allergan, Walmart, CVS and TEVA, pending Attorney Adam McKenzie’s review of the terms and conditions. Commissioner Olsen seconded this motion. The motion carried.

Bishop said the second part the Board needs to consider is how these settlement funds will be used. Approved strategies include treatment options – such as the drug court program the county has now; support of people who are in treatment and recovery, such as through housing payments for recovery court participants who, due to their circumstances, might not have resources available to provide for these needs; prevention efforts, which could see the School Resource Officer present material to students or implement a media campaign; and the training of first responders, planning coordination and leadership.

Some counties have provided their settlement funds to public health districts, Bishop said. Caribou County donated funds to the Hope and Recovery Center in American Falls.

Bishop said that while these decisions should be made by the Board, she thinks it would be wise to identify existing needs that these conditions would meet, rather than starting a new program.

PLANNING & ZONING APPOINTMENT AND FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENT – ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Jensen said that Lori Haddock, at the Board’s request, is willing to accept the position on the Planning & Zoning Commission if appointed.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Lori Haddock to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

Commissioner Olsen said that Shannon Heslington had asked to be released from her duties on the Bear Lake County Fair Board. Sonja Bassett is willing to replace her if appointed.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Sonja Bassett to the Bear Lake County Fair

Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

STACE GEARHART – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received an annual report presented by Stace Gearhart, the District 6 Liaison with the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. The report broke down Bear Lake County’s juvenile offender data and compared it with that of 2020 and 2021.

Bear Lake County had seven youth arrests in 2022, down from 14 the previous year. Detention admissions also had decreased in 2022, down to five admissions compared to the 11 from 2021. Youth petitions saw the largest decrease, lowering from 29 in 2021 to 10 in 2022.

There were 16 juvenile charges filed in 2022. These consisted of seven felonies and nine misdemeanors. The county had no status offenses last year, Gearhart said.

Gearhart presented information about Bear Lake County’s probation program, saying the program had gauged a 100-percent success rate in 2022. It received six probation releases and 21 intakes into the program, he said.

Gearhart said the average youth offender in Bear Lake County in 2022 was a 14- to 16-year-old white male, and this demographic was consistent with the state overall. In the county, juvenile probationers consist of 67 percent males and 33 percent females. Currently, 15 juveniles are on probation in the county, with 306 community service hours completed in 2022. Restitution in the amount of \$4,048 was collected.

County funds received were as follows: Juvenile Corrections Acts yielded \$20,080; tobacco provided \$14,410; and lottery provided \$2,134. State funds – from Community-Based Alternative Services – made \$3,900 available. These funds have been used for Medicaid and mental health services in the past, but the bulk were used for sex offender treatment, Gearhart said.

In 2022, 43 percent of the Juvenile Justice Budget was provided through state funding, he said.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

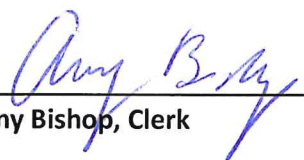
The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.



Bradley D. Jensen, Chairman

3-13-23

Date Approved

ATTEST: 

Amy Bishop, Clerk

