

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Special Meeting

August 29, 2022

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met for a special meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, August 29, 2022, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Members present were Commission Chairman Vaughn N. Rasmussen, Commissioners Bradley D. Jensen and Rex L. Payne, and Amy Bishop, Clerk of the Board.

Also in attendance were Assessor Heber Dunford, Deputy Appraiser Jannelle Jensen, Treasurer Tricia Poulsen, Bart Heslington, Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen, Republican Party Commissioner Nominee Wynn Olsen and members of the public.

APPROVE AGENDA – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

BUDGET HEARING – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to enter into the regular budget public hearing. Commissioner Jensen seconded. The motion carried.

While discussing the agenda on the docket, the three commissioners discussed how costs have risen within the past year for nearly all items within budgeted for by county officials. Assessor Heber Dunford said that increases in his department's budget have been primarily due to evaluation costs. He continued by saying these added costs are necessary in order to keep county values where they are in order to generate tax base. Dunford said he has seen some properties increase in value between 20 and 25 percent over the past year.

Commissioner Rasmussen said he has read and seen evidence that the housing market has peaked in Bear Lake County, though that may not be the case in other areas of Idaho. He said history has shown Bear Lake County's valuation trends often follow behind statewide and national movements with a delay of several months to a few years.

Commissioner Rasmussen suggested the Board place an action item on an upcoming regular Commissioner Meeting agenda in order to approve a redistribution of unused funds from one account to be used for the purchase of a new lawn mower for the Montpelier Golf Course. He advised the golf course plans to purchase a mower with a cost of about \$45,000. Commissioner Rasmussen suggested the Board consider reallocating funds that have been flagged for the communications radio budget to help with this cost, with the stipulation that the golf course will pay that money back to the county and it go back into the communications budget. Clerk of the Board Amy Bishop said this is something the Board can look at but believes there are better areas where this money could be found. The board will discuss this item further at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Rasmussen said that he believed the 2022 Bear Lake County Fair had been a successful endeavor. However, he said, he had been contacted by a commissioner from another Idaho county and informed Bear Lake should examine the Idaho Statute 22-206, which examines what funds may be raised by taxes for county fair purposes. The anonymous commissioner informed Commissioner Rasmussen that Bear Lake County may be in violation of this statute and the Bear Lake County Commissioners – incoming, outgoing and sitting – should ensure they are following state decree. Wynn Olsen, who was elected in the May 2022 Bear Lake County Primary Election to serve as the Republican nominee for Commissioner District III, said he agreed and looked forward to working with the commissioners to ensure Bear Lake was following the law while also making future Bear Lake County Fairs successful.

Treasurer Tricia Poulsen informed the Commission of a possible change and upgrade to computer servers in Bear Lake and Franklin Counties. Clerk Amy Bishop said the Board is aware of this and will consult with Bear Lake County’s IT professional TJ Burbank in order to evaluate if this will be a major cost for the county. Burbank is scheduled to be on-site in Bear Lake on August 30, 2022, and the subject will be discussed then. It is possible the county may be able to get a lower cost for this upgrade through the state.

MOTION: Following the public hearing, Commissioner Payne made a motion to return to the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jensen. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – LIQUOR LICENSE – RADIK KONARIK

Clerk Amy Bishop told the Board it needed to make a decision about the award of a beer- and wine-type liquor license to Radik Konarik, for use by Butch Cassidy Southern, LLC, in a business location in Montpelier. Konarik already has received a state license for this establishment and has been pre-approved by the City of Montpelier with a plan to open the weekend following the Commissioners’ Special Meeting. Bishop said the Board’s approval would grant Konarik the ability to serve bottled and canned beer, beer on tap, retail wine and wine by the drink. No liquor service will be included in this provision.

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to accept Konarik’s application for a Bear Lake County Liquor License. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

MOTION: Following the completion of the special meeting agenda, Commissioner Payne made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jensen. The motion Carried.

VAUGHN N. RASMUSSEN, Chairman

Date Approved

ATTEST: _____
Amy Bishop, Clerk