

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Special Meeting

January 25, 2023

Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met for a special meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 25, 2023, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Members present were Commissioner Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen and Amy Bishop, Clerk of the Board. Also in attendance were County Attorney Adam McKenzie, Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Ryan Larsen, Bear Lake State Park Ranger Sheila Clements and Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen.

Commission Chairman Bradley D. Jensen was absent due to a scheduling conflict. In his absence, Commissioner Payne led the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

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

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT

County Attorney Adam McKenzie said he had reviewed and verified that Day Wireless Systems – an emergency radio communications equipment vendor – already had submitted a bid at the state level for Motorola radios that bring the state onto a Federal Communications Commission-compliant emergency communications structure. He said this fulfilled the bidding and sole-source requirements set forth by the State of Idaho.

Additionally, McKenzie said he had reviewed the proposed procurement contract Day Wireless Systems had provided to Bear Lake County for the purchase of new emergency radio communications equipment to be utilized by all of the county's emergency response agencies – an item that had been discussed at length at the Board's regular monthly meeting held January 9, 2023. The total cost for the included Motorola Direct equipment and professional services will be \$263,815.11.

McKenzie said Sheriff Bart Heslington had checked with Day Wireless Systems to ensure the vendor would honor any proposed discounts they had previously provided to Bear Lake County. This had been a concern because the original procurement proposal had included significant price reductions if the contract was approved prior to the Board's regular meeting on January 9, 2023. Because the Board had tabled this item to be voted upon at the January 25 special meeting, and because a contract could only go forward after Board approval, Day Wireless Systems had assured Heslington that all the price reductions quoted previously would be honored, McKenzie said.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to set the radio communications procurement contract with Day Wireless Systems, subject to County Attorney Adam McKenzie's review. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) APPLICATION – RADIOS

Clerk Amy Bishop said Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Hymas is applying for grant funding through the Idaho State Police in its federal pass-through program. This funding is available through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application program and, if secured, will be used to purchase new handheld and in-vehicle emergency communications radios to be used by the Sheriff's Office. This project is separate from the previously approved radio communications project that will see Bear Lake County pay for the equipment, infrastructure, installation and servicing of new radio towers, Bishop said.

Hymas, upon submission of the grant, will have to attest digitally that the Board has approved of this funding application and request. Because of this, the Board has to acknowledge and state its approval for Hymas to submit on its behalf, Bishop said.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to allow Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Hymas to submit the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant with the Board's approval. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – SENIOR / COMMUNITY CENTER

Bishop said the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center wants to submit a grant application through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. If secured, this grant funding will be used for a phase 2 improvement project to update the center's kitchen and conduct some needed remodeling on the building.

Because the Board of Commissioners is required to deem pass-through approval for the CDBG grant, the Southeast Idaho Council of Government requires a public hearing be held before the submission of the application, Bishop said. The grant submission has to be made before March 3, 2023, and this will allow the Board time to hold the hearing in conjunction with its February regular meeting.

Commissioner Payne, who had previously served as Board liaison to the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center, said the center had discussed previously an option to remodel one of the entranceways. The entry currently has a steep angle that visitors have to navigate in order to get inside the building, and remodeling it will make it more handicap-accessible.

Commissioner Olsen, the Board's current liaison to the center, said there was some damage to the outside of the existing building that the Senior/Community Center leaders have been told will never qualify for grant funding unless it is included with a grant that addresses remodeling needs inside the building. Fortunately, Olsen said, there is much work that can be done inside – including the discussed kitchen needs and entryways – and this presents an opportunity to bundle all the remodeling needs.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center's submission of a Community Development Block Grant, following a public hearing that will be held February 13, 2023 as part of the Board's Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Payne. The motion carried.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT FUND (WIF) GRANT APPLICATION – NORTH BEACH BOAT RAMP

Bear Lake State Park Ranger Sheila Clements told the Board that Bear Lake State Park is working on securing grant funding through the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) in the amount of \$180,000. The WIF grant funding will be used to help fix the North Beach boat ramp, which is closest to Bear Lake State Park's gate house kiosk.

The WIF is funded annually with a portion of the total state gas tax revenues, Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Ryan Larsen said.

Part of the existing boat ramp has eroded and is in need of repair or replacement, and the park has identified the need to make the ramp wider in order to be in compliance with existing State Parks requirements, Clements said. Additionally, grant funding will be used to pave the area at the top of the ramp – a move that will allow the park to map out and implement needed traffic lanes to better direct recreators through the boat launch area.

Because Bear Lake County does not have an active Waterways program, the grant application requires the Board to approve and sign the submission, she said. This does not require a funding match from the county. All match funds have been budgeted for and are available through the Bear Lake State Parks Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept and approve the Bear Lake State Park's grant funding application through the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Waterways Improvement Fund. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

In Chairman Jensen's absence, The WIF grant application was signed by Commissioner Payne.

Establishing a local Waterways committee would be highly beneficial to the county going forward, Larsen said. This would better direct how waterways funding is spent and what improvements projects it is used for. Commissioner Payne agreed and said this is something the Board can look at implementing going forward.

OPEN SNOW GROOMER BIDS

Commissioner Payne said Bear Lake County and the Idaho Tri-County Snowmobile Program had advertised and published an open bids request for a snowmobile trail groomer. This legal listing had run in the News-Examiner On January 4 and January 11, 2023 and required bids be submitted to the Idaho Tri-County Snowmobile Program at the Bear Lake County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on January 25, 2023.

A single bid for \$185,000.00 had been received from Tucker Sno-Cat Corporation out of Medford, Oregon. The offer was for a 2017 2000G-38-6 Tucker Sno-Cat, equipped with a tiller and used for only

1,575 hours of operation. This met the program's requirements by including a diesel fuel engine, front 12-way blade and trail grooming attachment with rear hydraulics, Payne said. The cost for freight and delivery was not included in the bid, and a 25 percent deposit was due before shipment.

Larsen said this groomer would be a great option for the Tri-County trail grooming program. Additionally, he said, this piece of equipment could be more easily serviced in the future because replacement parts are available locally. Through grant funding the county had been awarded and the county's budgeted funds match, there is enough to pay for this trail groomer. It's possible that remaining grant funds can be put toward the freight costs, Larsen said, but this would need to be checked on through the grant manager.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the \$185,000.00 bid from Tucker Sno-Cat Corporation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

DESIGNATE POLLING PLACES FOR MARCH ELECTION

Bishop said there were no polling location changes proposed for the March 14, 2023, school levy election. With past levy and similar small-scale elections, the county has tried to consolidate areas in order to have fewer polling places. However, Bishop said, this has proved to be confusing for many voters who report to what they believe to be their regular polling location only to find they are to vote at an entirely different place.

To avoid voter confusion, polling locations will remain constant for this election and will be the same locations that were designated for the previous General Election, which was held November 8, 2022, Bishop said. The precinct list will be as follows:

Montpelier Precinct No. 1 votes at the Allred Center; Montpelier Precinct No. 2 votes at the Grace Thiel Community Center; Montpelier Precinct No. 3 votes at the Montpelier Fire Station; Bennington votes at the Bennington LDS Recreation Hall; Bloomington votes at the Bloomington City Office; Dingle votes at the Dingle LDS Recreation Hall; Fish Haven votes at the Reserve Club House; Georgetown votes at Georgetown City Hall; Paris votes at the Paris Tabernacle's rear annex; and St. Charles votes at the St. Charles City Hall.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the designated polling places as they exist for the March 14, 2023, election. The motion received a second from Commissioner Payne. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – IDAHO CODE 74-206(1)

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to go into executive session according to IDAHO CODE 74-601(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. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general; 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 mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement.

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

The Board entered executive session at 5:33 p.m.

From 5:33 p.m. to 5:38 p.m. the Board discussed potential personnel to fill some pending vacancies.

From 5:38 p.m. to 5:49 p.m. the Board discussed legal options for possible litigation.

The Board left executive session and re-entered its special meeting at 5:49 p.m.

FAIR BOARD MEMBER

The Board elected to take no action on this item. The issue will be tabled until a future meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Rex L. Payne, Commissioner

2/13/23

Date Approved

ATTEST: 
