

**COMMISSIONER MEETING OF August 24, 2020**

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on August 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance, Commissioner Chairman Phil Christensen, Mark Mathews and Bryce Somsen Commissioners. Also in attendance were Caribou County Clerk Denise Horsley, Deputy Clerk Jessica Zander, Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood, Road and Bridge Supervisor Kim Spencer, Leadman Brett Barfuss, Public Safety Director Eric Hobson, Planning & Zoning Director JoAnna Ashley, IT/GIS Director Jacob Farnes, Caribou County Treasurer Angie Mendenhall, Caribou County Assessor Aaron Cook, Thomas Sumner, Kim Obele, Bryan Fuell, Thomas E. Brown, Dan Thomas, Brooks Jensen, Ryan Rasmussen, Ken Rasmussen, Justin Hatch, Michael Parrish, Daniel Parrish, Stacey Bingham, Gentry Weber, and Duayne Sims.

The meeting opened with Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood giving the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

**Kim Spencer, Road and Bridge:**

- Road and Bridge will be working with the Forest Service throughout the month of September.
- Simplot wants us to work with them on the Smokey Canyon Road and Timber Creek. They would like to include this portion on the Schedule A. The Forest Service is in favor of this proposal. Simplot will draw up a contract so we can get reimbursed \$1200 per mile for the maintenance. Eventually when they get into Slug Creek, they would like to get that portion added to the Schedule A agreement as well.

**Eric Hobson, Public Safety:**

- Eric explained that the fuel moistures are dropping due to the hot, dry weather that we have had lately. We have dropped 40 points per week for the last two weeks. We are currently sitting at a high fire level.
- Eric would like to purchase firefighting gear for one of the new firefighters. The cost is approximately \$1800. The firefighter joined the crew over 6 months ago and has been active within the department.
- Eric would also like to start a rotation for replacing radios. He would like to purchase 10 radios with his current budget at a cost of \$2800 each. He has the funds available. Eric believes changing them out on a regular rotation will avoid having to purchase more radios that the budget allows in the future. He continually faces challenges trying to get radios repaired. Motorola will not provide the parts to replace broken radios.
- Commissioner Mathews motioned to purchase 10 Motorola APX 900 radios at the cost of \$2800 each. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion carried

### **Jacob Farnes, GIS/IT:**

- Jacob explained that the grant for the Internet expansion project in the Niter/Lago area has been approved. The projected cost is \$958,792.00.
- The State of Idaho will reimburse Caribou County if the deadline of December 15 is met and proper documentation is submitted.
- Commissioner Mathews explained that his understanding is the county is just a pass through and we are not providing any funding.
- Doug Wood said the county is not responsible for the installation of the fiber optic line. We need to come to a complete understanding with Direct Communications as to what the county is obligated to do. Doug would like documentation indicating that the county holds no obligation to the cost if certain requirements are not met.
- Jacob will contact Direct Communications to have them attend a meeting to discuss this issue further. Per Doug, this needs to be discussed in an open meeting.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to go into executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206(b) at 9:59 A.M. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Mathews suggested to reconvene to regular meeting at 10:12 A.M. No decisions were made.

### **Planning & Zoning, Public Hearing:**

- Commissioner Mathews motioned to enter into a public hearing to discuss a request for a setback variance at 10:29 A.M. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- JoAnna Ashley presented an aerial view of Thomas Sumner's home and land at 631 Bench View Drive. She explained that she has taken everything into account including the fact that there is a lava reef near his property. After reviewing and visiting the actual site, JoAnna has come to the conclusion that Mr. Sumner doesn't have a better option to place a barn. JoAnna recommends that his request for a setback variance be approved as drafted.
- JoAnna also explained that one neighbor is in opposition to the proposed location. He expressed the opinion that a better location could be chosen. The Planning and Zoning Board voted 3 in favor of granting the variance request and 1 opposing the request.

- Commissioner Mathews asked JoAnna what the setback requirement is for non-agricultural. JoAnna explained that the setback requirement is 40 feet and this request is above that requirement.
- Mr. Sumner explained that he also is working around a main water line on the south end of the property in his proposal.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to approve a 60-foot variance to the 100-foot front yard agricultural setback requirement for Thomas Sumner since he inquires an undue hardship. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- JoAnna presented the next setback variance request. The request has been made by Paul and Angie Mendenhall for their property at 391 Highway 34 near Grace. The request is a 70-foot variance for the front yard setback requirement. JoAnna has taken into account the site view and the significant elevation change from the highway to the Mendenhall's property. She also looked at the 2 access points and they do not pose a problem. JoAnna asked that the Commissioners approve the request as drafted.
- Commissioner Mathews asked about the utility line on the property. JoAnna said the setback request will not create an issue with the utility lines.
- Commissioner Somsen recused himself from voting due to being related to the landowner.
- Commissioner Mathews motioned to approve the setback variance request made by Paul and Angie Mendenhall as presented. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to reconvene to regular meeting. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing, Caribou County FY2021 Budget:**

- Commissioner Mathews motioned to enter into a public hearing to discuss the upcoming fiscal year 2021 budget.
- Denise Horsley explained that in the proposed budget, the allowed 3% increase was not taken and the Commissioners chose not to include any federal aid due to the COVID-19 virus.
- Denise further explained that the levied amount is higher due to increased values and newly constructed homes within the county.
- Commissioner Mathews motioned to approve the Caribou County budget for the fiscal year 2021 in the amount of \$15,437,898.00. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to come out of a public hearing. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Adoption of Caribou County's Bond Ordinance to refund Caribou County's 2012 Jail Bond:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 authorizing the issuance of a refund of our current jail bond in the amount of \$2,195,000.00. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Denise Horsley said the new agreement is still going back and forth between parties to make sure everything is drafted correctly.

#### **Dwight Lloyd, Weed:**

- Dwight was unable to attend the meeting today.

#### **Caribou County Extension Office, Interviews:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene to executive session at 1:34 P.M. pursuant to I.C. 74-206(a). Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Mathews suggested to reconvene to regular session at 2:40 P.M.

#### **Kim Obele, Bryan Fuell, Thomas E. Brown, U.S. Forest Service:**

- Kim Obele introduced herself. She works out of the Pocatello office. She explained that they are here today to discuss roads on the Schedule A.
- Thomas Brown explained that now is a good time to update the lists. A project cannot be proposed if the road is not on the list.
- Thomas explained that The Great American Outdoor Act was signed by the President a few weeks ago. This act provides funding for deferred maintenance and also comes with a transportation component to it as well. They would like to partner with counties and get some maintenance done on both county roads and Forest Service roads that access public lands. They are focusing on fiscal years 2022 to 2025. This is an evolving situation. They would like the Commissioners input on any projects that they would like to see on the Schedule A agreement.
- Commissioner Somsen said he has noticed a lot of dozer work on UTV trails in the Greys Lake area. Did this funding allow that work to be performed. Thomas said no, this funding will not be available to use until next Spring.

- Commissioner Somsen asked about Big Springs Campground Road. Commissioner Somsen explained that we have concerns with getting emergency response personnel to individuals in that subdivision. Thomas explained that the width of the road is a concern. He further explained that road would be considered a high dollar project. This is something that they are discussing. It is a competitive process. He believes Pebble Creek would show a lot of deferred maintenance due to the high use and the hazards. The Forest Service would also like to increase safety in the Pebble Creek Subdivision.
- Thomas would like to work directly with Kim on projects for fiscal year 2022 and 2023. They will be focusing on fiscal year 2022 in December. The Commissioners said that would be fine to work directly with Kim Spencer.
- Thomas appreciates our partnership and the success we have had with them on past agreements. The current Schedule A agreement expires at the end of September. They will get the new agreement ready to be signed sometime in September.
- Thomas explained that they are in negotiations with the Department of Lands on the state section of Divide Creek. They should know something soon about adding that section and Thomas will contact Kim.

**Justin Hatch, Extension Office:**

- Justin explained that they have been having multiple problems with one of their office computers. He would like to have the computer replaced.
- Justin has researched the cost of a new computer and docking station. The cost will be \$1,788 and he has the funds available in the current budget.
- Commissioner Mathews motioned to purchase and accept the bid for \$1788.09 from Ryan Flynn for a computer and docking station for the Extension Office. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene to executive session at 4:33 P.M. pursuant to I.C. 74-206(a). Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Mathews suggested that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 4:37 P.M.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to hire Rachel Hamilton as an Administrative Assistant at the Caribou County Extension Office. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Jacob Farnes, IT/GIS Department and Daniel and Michael Parrish, Direct Communications:**

- Commissioner Mathews asked about the grant for the Internet expansion in our county. Commissioner Mathews explained that the Commissioners do not want to be responsible for the \$900,000 bill if certain deadlines are not met.
- Daniel Parrish explained that Direct Communications will be sending us a memorandum of understanding. He further explained that if Direct Communications doesn't meet the deadlines due to their own failure, Caribou County will not be responsible for the cost.
- Michael Parrish said they have concerns since they will be dealing with a state highway. The State of Idaho has said they will work with them as much as possible. They also realize that the weather could be a problem as well.
- Michael explained that they will try to avoid cutting into the road and they will also try to run parallel to the existing utilities.
- They asked if we have a problem with them strapping on to any of our bridges. Kim Spencer suggested that they go under our bridges. Kim has seen problems with individuals hanging on utilities that are easily accessible.
- Daniel Parrish said turning dirt under bridges can result in permitting delays. The Commissioners asked them to work directly with Kim Spencer on this project.

**Stacey Bingham/Gentry Weber/Ken Rasmussen, Ryan Rasmussen, Burton Canyon Estates:**

- Dan Thomas with Keller Williams Realty in Idaho Falls explained that several questions have arose concerning the property taxes for the individuals residing in the Burton Canyon Estates in Grace.
- Dan further explained that the Rasmussen's sold an unoccupied home and within 48 hours the taxes went up. The estimation did not comply with the Idaho Code.
- Dan explained that he is in favor of seeing Caribou County continue to grow. They went to the City of Grace to discuss the property tax issue and they referred them to the Caribou County Board of Commissioners.
- Dan also explained that he has researched other subdivisions that have been newly established within the county and has discovered a difference between \$4,000 to \$7,000 in annual property taxes between one of them and Burton Canyon Estates. He referenced Afton's Way Subdivision being the most recent developed subdivision.
- Dan said they will not hesitate to file a complaint with the Idaho State Tax Commission if needed. They feel that a tax relief option could be offered.

- Ken Rasmussen said some residents are paying between \$500 to \$800 each month just for property taxes. He said the current homeowner's exemption is \$100,000 regardless of the age and value of your home.
- Stacey Bingham explained that she and her spouse recently refinanced their home and their payment is \$300 more per month even with a lower interest rate. It came as a shock to them when they were presented the new payment amount. She would like to know why her property taxes took such a big jump this year and caused the increase in her monthly payment.
- Aaron Cook explained that as part of his 5-year plan he does a ratio study with the State of Idaho. He had to increase values within the City of Grace to remain in compliance. Aaron also explained that the homeowner's exemption is set by legislation. Aaron explained that the topic has been discussed to increase the amount in the future.
- Doug Wood asked Aaron when he most recently did an assessment evaluation in Grace. Aaron explained that he did the most recent one if 2019. Doug also asked if all Caribou County residents taxes are based on the same formula. Aaron Cook said yes they are.
- Ryan Rasmussen asked what they can do to be provided some tax relief. Aaron said the best place to start would be to attend the budget meetings hosted by the various taxing districts.
- Angie Mendenhall said she doesn't think anyone looks at their actual assessment notices. Most people wait until they receive their tax bill notice and it is too late to appeal at that point.

**Caribou Memorial Hospital:**

- Commissioner Christensen asked Denise Horsley if they could get a bond for vote on the November election. Denise explained that notice has to be provided by September 4. Realistically, there is not enough time to make that happen.
- Commissioner Mathews suggested that the Commissioners attend the Caribou Memorial Hospital Board meeting this Wednesday and discuss the issue further.

**Other:**

- Commissioner Somsen moved to pay the claims and remittances dated August 24, 2020 in the amount of \$331,370.15 and payroll claims in the amount of \$341,692.58 and to approve the minutes of August 10, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

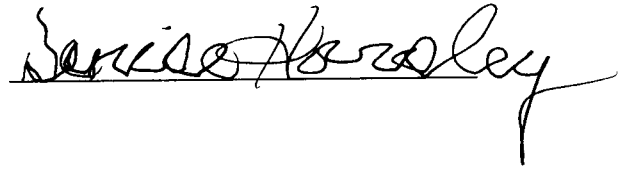
- The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet September 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Phil Christensen, Commissioner Chairman

Attested: Denise Horsley



Handwritten signature of Phil Christensen, Commissioner Chairman, written in cursive and underlined.



Handwritten signature of Denise Horsley, Attested, written in cursive and underlined.



Approved Payment of Bills

8/24/2020	Claims	Payroll
Current Expense	\$ 8,391.56	
Indigent	\$ 13,290.82	
Road & Bridge	\$ 68,366.80	
Special Highway	\$ 159,845.21	
Justice	\$ 33,423.96	
Consolidated Election		
Weed Control	\$ 923.07	
Solid Waste	\$ 5,467.68	
Reappraisal	\$ 9,478.39	
Health	\$ 759.79	
Hospital M&O		
Ambulance	\$ 1,550.61	
Parks & Recreation	\$ 85.93	
Tort		
County Fair		
County Court Facility		
District Court	\$ 2,484.05	
Court Services		
Juvenile Justice	\$ 1,188.76	
Veteran's Memorial		
Mineral Leasing		
PILT	\$ 55.05	
City of Soda Springs		
City of Bancroft		
City of Grace		
Bancroft Cemetery		
Central Cemetery		
Fairview Cemetery		
Freedom Cemetery		
Grace Cemetery		
Lago Cemetery		
Lava Cemetery		
Lund Cemetery		
Thatcher Cemetery		
Turner Cemetery		
School District #148		
School District #149		
School District #150		
School District #21		
Grace Free Library		
Water District		
TV Translator		
Bailey Creek Fire District		
Freedom Fire District		
Auditor's Trust	\$ 40.00	
Adult Probation Fee		
Diversion Education Trust		
Juvenile Housing Trust		
Remittances	\$ 20,098.01	
Range Improvement Trust		
Court Trust		
Centennial Trust		
College Trust		
Treasurer's Trust		
ID Trust		
Concealed Weapon's Trust	\$ 786.00	
Motor Vehicle Trust		
911 Trust	\$ 1,738.70	
Public Safety Trust	\$ 3,395.76	
Drug Court Trust		
Farmer's Land & Irrigation LID		
Odyssey Court Payments		
Youth Court Trust		
Waterways Fund		
Vessel Account		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 331,370.15</b>	<b>\$ 341,692.58</b>

## CARIBOU COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA

Date: 8/24/2020

ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS

Time	Name of Person/Party	Concerning
9:00 AM	Bills & Minutes	
9:15 AM	Kim Spencer	Road & Bridge - Smoky Canyon Rd (Simplot)
9:30 AM	Eric Hobson / Larry Weaver	EMS / Ambulance
9:45 AM	Jacob Farnes	IT / GIS - Broadband grant plan
10:00 AM		
10:15 AM		
10:30 AM	Planning & Zoning - Public Hearings	Thomas Sumner Variance - front yard setback
10:45 AM		Angie Mendenhall Variance - front yard setback
11:00 AM	Public Hearing/ Budget	
11:15 AM		
11:30 AM	Adoption Countys	Bond Ordinance to refund County's 2012 Bond
11:45 AM		
Noon	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 PM		
1:15 PM	Dwight Lloyd	Weed Control
1:30 PM		
1:45 PM	Caribou County Extention	Interview #1
2:00 PM		Interview #2
2:15 PM		Interview #3
2:30 PM		Interview #4
2:45 PM		Interview #5
3:00 PM	Kim Obele - US Forest Service	proposal for county roads - follow up from 8/10/20 meeting
3:15 PM	Justin Hatch	computer purchase & fuel card
3:30 PM	Stacey Bingham / Gentry Weber	Property taxes - Burton Canyon Estate
3:45 PM		
4:00 PM		
4:15 PM	Caribou Memorial Hospital Discussion	
4:30 PM		
4:45 PM		
5:00 PM		

OTHER BUSINESS: Executive Session I.C. 74-206

BOE

Anyone needing special assistance to attend the above noticed meeting should contact the Clerk's Office at (208)547-4324.