

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF February 22, 2021

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on February 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance, Commissioner Chairman Mark Mathews, Commissioner Bryce Somsen, Commissioner Marty McCullough. Also, in attendance were Caribou County Clerk Denise Horsley, Chief Deputy Clerk Jill Stoor, Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood, Road and Bridge Supervisor Kim Spencer, Road & Bridge Leadman Brett Barfuss, Chief Sheriff Deputy Russ Roper, Public Safety Director Eric Hobson, IT/GIS Director Jacob Farnes, County Sheriff J.Adam Mabey, Caribou County Assessor Aaron Cook, Planning & Zoning Director JoAnna Ashley, Chuck Watson, Jerrod Cantrell, Jonathan Housley, Kirk Young, Raelene Young, Kent Clegg, Nathan Hale, Beth Rasmussen, E Todd Jorgensen, Jeff Taggart, Pauline Bassett, Robert Comish, Craig Mansfield, Chris Thomas, Dillon Liechthey, and Bob?

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

Kim Spencer, Road and Bridge:

- Kim presented a spreadsheet showing costs associated with road maintenance. It included the cost per mile for chloride, double chip seal, and asphalt.
- The culvert at Mill Creek / Blackfoot River Narrows will be scheduled soon to replace the culvert. A decision needs to be made on closing the road for two weeks during the project, or if a bypass road needs to be constructed. The area involved is difficult because of the wetlands. Commissioners discussed the options and decided that they would need to build the bypass road in order to not cut off public access. Kim said the project would be after the high-water mark in July. He is hoping the project will be scheduled this year, but there is a possibility it will not happen until 2022.
- The state is having an auction soon. Kim is considering a sander body if available; estimated cost at approximately \$5000. Commissioners agreed to the purchase.
- Russ Roper & Kim presented a traffic survey at the intersection of Reservoir Road and Larsen Road.

Jacob Farnes, IT/GIS Director:

- The new GIS technician Ally Schwulst will begin March 1. Jacob requested approval to purchase a new work station for this position. He has funds available in his capital outlay budget line item; Commissioners approved the request
- Jacob is researching costs for costs associated with desktop licensing fees for ESRI. The costs would be adjusted dependent upon the number of work stations needed.

J. Adam Mabey, Sheriff:

- Sheriff Mabey reported that they have had two injuries at the sheriff's office this last month.
- The jail will be opening to outside inmates today. They have received several hundred rapid COVID tests from the state. They will now be able to test incoming inmates before they are received in. This will allow them to protect the current population.
- The IDOC has informed the jail that they are pulling their inmates from our facility. They have decided to contract out of state and since they have beds available there, they will be pulling inmates from the county jails. IDOC said that as trials start to begin, they will utilize the county beds. Sheriff Mabey said he is contacting surrounding counties about the possibility of increasing their contracts. The commissioner advised Sheriff to find out the rates for the out of state contracts, and to contact our legislators for help on this matter. In the past, they have been advocates of keeping our inmates in state.
- Sheriff is working with Eric Hobson and the schools on installing VHF repeaters on Woodall and Sedgwick Mountains.
- Deputies have been working on snowmobile enforcement. They are encouraging use of beacons and working to increase education on avalanche safety.
- The department is up 200 traffic stops over last year for the same time period. Public service is up 175%, and DUI arrests are up 150%. He stated that he is proud of his deputies for their efforts.

JoAnna Ashley, Planning & Zoning

Public Hearing:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to open a public hearing with Charles Watson, a representative of Barry Basset, for a condition use permit for a sawmill in an agricultural zone. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Somsen recused himself from the vote due to business dealings with the applicant.
- The conditional use permit would allow the installation and use of commercial saw mill at 1150 Hegstrom Road, Grace. Notice was sent to neighbors and there is no public comment to date. Planning & Zoning recommended to approve the draft as recommended.
- Commissioner McCullough made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Charles Watson for the sawmill. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Hearing:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to open a public hearing with Jonathan and Kristine Housley for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a home that would exceed the maximum height allowance in the Soda Springs Area of Impact. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The conditional use permit would allow for an eleven- foot increase over the height restriction in the area of impact. The home would be built at 1572 Larsen Road, Soda Springs. The Planning and Zoning board recommended approval of the variance with two votes yes and one vote no. JoAnna Ashley presented the plans and explanation of the requirements. The Planning and Zoning board recommended approval of the variance with a vote of 2 aye and 1 nay.

- Public Comment:

Jonathan Housley stated that he would be willing to install a culvert to address the neighbor's complaint. He is still developing the driveway and will have a 75 foot turn around at the to accommodate EMS requirements.

Jerrold Cantrell has no objections to the house height and stated his concern is with the road and drainage issues only.

The City of Soda Springs sent the board a letter stating that their concern is with the ladder truck being only 30 feet.

- Commissioner McCullough motioned to accept the application of Jonathon and Kristine Housley for a variance of 11 feet to the 2- foot height requirement for their home in the Soda Springs Area of Impact. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

Public Hearing:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to open a public hearing with Whiskey Creek Ranch LLC for a conditional use permit to allow the current family recreational complex to be utilized for 62 days a year for commercial accommodations. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Chairman Mark Mathews recused himself from the vote for personal reasons.

- Nathan Hale of Whiskey Creek Ranch LLC is requesting approval of Conditional Use Permit for his property at 301 Bench Lago Rd., Grace, ID. He stated that he would like to use the property for a limited time of the year more like a bed and breakfast operation. They are requesting 62 days per year and up to 6 quests at a time. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the permit with conditions and a recommendation for a one year trial period.
- Nathan Hale: Nathan made comments on the background on the property and explained his reasons for wanting to use the facility for commercial use. He would like to clarify that the concept was to run like a bed and breakfast but not be limited to only hunting. He would still be willing to limit the operation to 62 days a year, but only limit the number of guests to 6 during the hunting time period. Recreation would have been better wording for his purposes. The biggest concerns would be if the zoning needed to be changed. Culinary water was a concern, but has been checked and approved for use. Liability issues have been handled as well. Discussion was held on the helicopter, but that is not included in the scope of this application. Nathan did say that the helicopter is for personal use only and will not be a service offered at the facility.
- Public Comment:

Barbara Green spoke in opposition to the application. She said she is negatively affected by the helicopter noise and the shooting. Barbara state that she has lived there for most of her life and she feels that it is going over the top.

Beth Rasmussen also owns property near the facility. She has concerns about future expansion and the helicopter noise. Beth said Nathan has listened to her concerns and she feels there should be some kind of middle ground. She feels he should be able to use his property but not impact the neighbors. She stated the gun noise is disturbing to cattle. She urged the commissioners to listen to the neighbors as well.

Nathan addressed the commissioners again and said that he will make every attempt to accommodate the neighbors. His goal is to be a good neighbor. He stated that his is not the only hunter in the area. The property was purchased because of his love for hunting. He will not be giving helicopter rides; he simply wants to have the ability to have quests come in to use his facility. He would ask that some of the conditions be altered to follow the hunting preserve regulations.

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to accept the Conditional Use Permit for Nathan Hale, owner of Whiskey Creek Ranch LLC, to have a recreational complex and allow the property to be used for commercial accommodations for 62 days a year with 6 guests at a time. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Commissioner Somsen voted aye. Commissioner McCullough voted nay.

- Commissioner McCullough made a motion to delay the decision on the Whiskey Creek Ranch LLC Conditional Use Permit until March 22, 2021. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Hearing:

- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to open a public hearing with Kirk & Raelene Young for a variance on a front yard setback. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Kirk & Raelene Young are requesting approval of a variance of ten feet to the thirty-foot front yard setback for the High-Density Residential Zone. The addition would be on the west side of their home and placed twenty feet from the right-of-way.
- Public Comment: Two letters of support were received from adjoining property owners, Tyson and Heather Christman as well as Dr. Gary M. Lemarr. Another neighbor, Aaron Cook, also spoke to offer no objection.
- The Planning & Zoning board recommended to approve the variance as drafted.
- Commissioner Somsen made a motion to accept the application for a setback variance for Kirk & Raelene Young. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kim Spencer / Road & Bridge:

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene and executive session pursuant to I.C 74-206(a) at 11:27 a.m. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Somsen suggested reconvening into regular session at 11:49 a.m. Commissioners McCullough and Mathews agreed.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to hire Todd Jorgensen for the open Road & Bridge crewman position at 80% of full-wage with the stipulation that he passes a physical and drug test. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pauline Bassett / Caribou Soil Conservation District:

- Pauline Bassett brought a presentation to the commissioners on the purpose of the Soil Conservation Districts in our area. She explained the purpose of the program and explained where the funds are spent. She spoke about projects in our area including the education programs for students in our area as well as the state. Their biggest goal is to teach students about our natural resources and how we can care for them and provide a future for generations to come. Pauline

spoke about Chris Banks and Allan Johnson and their work this past year to ensure the programs success. When asked how long she has worked with the district, Pauline informed the commissioners it would be 40 years this next month. The commissioners commended her for her efforts and longevity with the district.

- Pauling requested funding for the program and the commissioners agreed to the budgeted amount of \$12,000 and will look at the possibility of increasing that budget for the next fiscal year.

Eric Hobson / Public Safety :

- Eric informed the commissioners that the emergency declaration is due to expire and he has prepared an extension if they approved. Commissioner Somsen made a motion to adopt the Caribou County Resolution 2021-05 Emergency Declaration Extension. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Eric informed the commissioners that we are in stage 2 for the administration of vaccines. The limited quantities are making the roll-out slower than anticipated. We should finish vaccines for 65 and older in April and be looking at May and June for the general population.
- He presented a contract for a Rabbit Hill Facilities lease with Teton Communication, Inc. This addition should help lower the shared costs for all involved.
- Eric would like to get an old plow truck from the Road & Bridge Department. The cost of a new pump would be approximately \$10,000. Commissioners approved.
- Eric is looking to finish up the college courses he started before they were delayed by COVID. There is a possibility of doing the work remotely ore he may need to travel back to Emmitsburg, MD. The commissioners approved.

Aaron Cook / Assessor:

- Aaron presented a chart on the DMV Registration Administration Fees. He has been looing into restructuring the fee, but after studying it, saw no substantial benefit to the tax payer for change.

Caribou County Fair Board:

- Due to a resignation, the Caribou County Fair Board has a vacancy. Shannon Whitney has been asked and is willing to accept the appointment.
- Commissioner Somsen mad a motion to appoint Shannon Whitney to the Caribou County Fair Board. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Chris Thomas / Caribou Memorial Hospital:

- Hospital Administrator Chris Thomas appeared to speak with the commissioner about the transition timeline for the nursing home. They are down to nine residents with one leaving in two weeks. There is also a facility in Pocatello that is considering taking the remaining residents if they wish. The nursing home is not accepting new residents at this time. If the transfer of assets is completed earlier, the licensing would not need to be renewed. Timelines were discussed and May 1 was set as a closing timeline. A severance package for the employees is being presented to the hospital board for approval. Financing is still being worked out with the USDA still being a possibility. The MOU will need to be modified.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to amend the original MOU with Caribou Memorial Hospital to close the nursing home on May 1st due to relicensing and attrition of residents. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dillon Liechty has been working on the documents for the transfer of assets. They are preparing deeds and a new assessment for the entire property will be hopefully completed within the next two weeks.

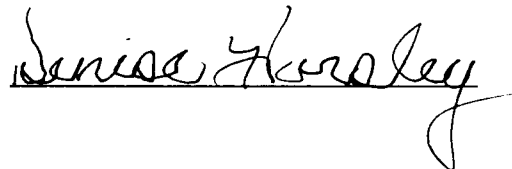
Other:

- Commissioner Somsen moved to pay the claims, and remittances for FY 2021 in the amount of \$1,172,686.33 and payroll claims in the amount of \$294381.36, and to approve the minutes of February 8, 2021 as presented. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet March 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman



Attested: Denise Horsley, Clerk



Approved Payment of Bills

| 22 FEB. 2021 | Claims | Payroll |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Current Expense | \$ 6,643.57 | |
| Indigent | \$ 3,113.14 | |
| Road & Bridge | \$ 57,675.87 | |
| Special Highway | | |
| Justice | \$ 11,484.42 | |
| Consolidated Election | \$ 634.10 | |
| Weed Control | \$ 508.15 | |
| Solid Waste | | |
| Reappraisal | \$ 700.16 | |
| Health | \$ 1,185.52 | |
| Hospital M&O | | |
| Ambulance | \$ 2,327.71 | |
| Parks & Recreation | \$ 216.67 | |
| Tort | | |
| County Fair | | |
| County Court Facility | | |
| District Court | \$ 929.43 | |
| Court Services | | |
| Juvenile Justice | \$ 237.61 | |
| Veteran's Memorial | | |
| Mineral Leasing | \$ 24,021.77 | |
| PILT | \$ 1,056.62 | |
| Waterways | \$ 1,277.86 | |
| Odyssey Court Payments | | |
| 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 | | |
| Adult Probation Fee | | |
| Diversion Education Trust | | |
| Juvenile Housing Trust | | |
| Range Improvement Trust | | |
| Court Trust | | |
| Centennial Trust | | |
| College Trust | \$ 500.00 | |
| Treasurer's Trust | \$ 953,792.00 | |
| ID Trust | | |
| Concealed Weapon's Trust | | |
| Motor Vehicle Trust | | |
| 911 Trust | | |
| Public Safety Trust | \$ 247.57 | |
| Weed Control Trust | | |
| Drug Court Trust | | |
| Youth Court Trust | | |
| Remittances | \$ 106,134.16 | |
| Grand Total | \$ 1,172,686.33 | \$ 294,381.36 |

CARIBOU COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA

Date: 2/22/2021

ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS

| Time | Name of Person/Party | Concerning |
|----------|--|---|
| 9:00 AM | Bills & Minutes | |
| 9:15 AM | Kim Spencer | Road & Bridge -Narrows/Mill Canyon Road |
| 9:30 AM | Jacob Farnes | IT / GIS |
| 9:45 AM | J. Adam Mabey | Sheriff |
| 10:00 AM | JoAnna Ashley/Planning and Zoning Public Hearings | Chuck Watson - Conditional use permit for a Saw Mill |
| 10:15 AM | | Jonathan & Kristine Housley- SS A01 Conditional use permit House Height |
| 10:30 AM | | Whiskey Creek - Conditional use permit for Villas & Structures Host Commercially |
| 10:45 AM | | Kirk & Raelene Young - 10' Variance to front yard setback |
| 11:00 AM | | Road & Bridge interviews |
| 11:15 AM | Kim Spencer -Exec. Session I.C.74-206(a) | Road & Bridge interviews |
| 11:30 AM | | |
| 11:45 AM | | |
| Noon | | LUNCH BREAK |
| 1:00 PM | | |
| 1:15 PM | Caribou Soil Conservation District | Pauline Bassett - Funding |
| 1:30 PM | Eric Hobson | Rabbit Hill Lease/Emergency Declaration |
| 1:45 PM | Aaron Cook | DMV Admin. Fees |
| 2:00 PM | Caribou Memorial Hospital | Chris Thomas - Property/501 3c transition |
| 2:15 PM | | |
| 2:30 PM | | |
| 2:45 PM | | |
| 3:00 PM | | |
| 3:15 PM | | |
| 3:30 PM | | |
| 3:45 PM | | |
| 4:00 PM | | |
| 4:15 PM | | |
| 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.