

## COMMISSIONER MEETING OF April 12, 2021

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on April 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance, Chairman Mark Mathews, Commissioner Bryce Somsen, Commissioner Marty McCullough. Also, in attendance were Caribou County Clerk Denise Horsley, Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood, Road and Bridge Supervisor Kim Spencer, Road & Bridge Leadman Brett Barfuss, Public Safety Director Eric Hobson, IT/GIS Director Jacob Farnes, County Sheriff J.Adam Mabey, Planning & Zoning Director JoAnna Ashley, Jackie Barthlome, Stace Gearhart, Irene Jerome, Willy Peck, Bill Horsley, Galen Wilson, Mitchell W Brown, Wendy Rasmussen, Jason Greene, Trent Clark, Monica Rosen, David Patterson, and Larry Simmons.

Those in attendance for the Public Hearings, Aaron Cook, Raliegth Scott, John Bear, Kent Clegg, Randy Budge, Shelly Steadman, Rikki Wood, Amity Hansen, Todd Hunzeker, Megan Torman, Josh Torman, Hayley Meyers, Babe Meyers, Jerry Lakey, and Shaun Anderson.

The Commissioners added Indigent to the Agenda.

The meeting opened with Commissioner Mark Mathews giving the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

### **Kim Spencer, Road and Bridge:**

- Kim would like to increase the temporary summer help employees to 5 this year. He has enough work to keep 4 busy, and still keep one employee on the roller. Kim checked on budgets with Denise and the feels that he has the budget to handle the extra employee. Commissioners gave him approval.
- The project up Mill Canyon in the Narrows has been postponed until 2022. There is engineering work that needs to be completed before the bridge work can begin.
- The project in Diamond Creek area above the youth camp has been approved for work this year. The work will be done in August and September during the low water flow time of year.
- Kim has been watching for a new D8 Cat. He has a potential deal that may need to be completed before the next budget cycle in order to get the better price. He would be able to secure financing if necessary.
- Discussion was held on signage in the Freedom area prohibiting compression brakes. Contact will be made with the state for approval on installing a sign.

### **Eric Hobson, Fire & Ambulance:**

- COVID 19 numbers have been slowly increasing in the county at a rate of 2 or 3 a day. Eric will watch the numbers closely.
- Eric presented data from the National Weather Service. They are anticipating drought conditions for this coming summer season. Snowpack levels are 20 to 25 percent low in the area. April

through June predictions for precipitation come in as normal, but July through September predictions come in much lower than normal. Eric's concerns are for fire safety. He stated that across the district, we are already double the normal amount of fire activity. He is also watching conditions for agricultural producers. If necessary, the county will need to declare a disaster for them to be able to apply for federally funded programs. Predictions are all agreeing to a long, dry year.

**Blake Poulsen, Courthouse Maintenance/Building department:**

- Blake is expecting the roof project to begin this week. Original estimates were for June, but they have been able to move to April as a beginning date.
- Blake presented a quarterly report for building permits.

**Dwight Lloyd, Weed Control: Was unable to attend the meeting.**

- Commissioner Mathews explained that he and Dwight had met last week with Oneida and Franklin Counties along with Senator Harris and Representative Gibbs. They were given a brief update on the CMA funds that were pulled and are still waiting for a full reporting.

**Denise Horsley, Indigent:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to approve the initial determination for county assistance application 2021-4 because the applicant was found medically indigent, the county is the last resource, and the case was deemed medical necessary and submitted with a complete application. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Commissioners signed the indigent liens for Case 2021-04.

**Public Hearing, P&Z Whiskey Creek Variance:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to open a public hearing to discuss a variance application for Nathan Hale on a riparian setback. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- This application is for Nathan Hale on his Whiskey Creek development at 301 Bench Lago Rd. in Grace. Nathan is requesting a variance of 50' to the 100' setback from a waterway for the construction of a single-family home. JoAnna Ashley stated that the request is in compliance with the county ordinance and there was no objection to the variance at the public hearing held. Because the application is in compliance with the draft of county zoning in the codification process, no recommendation from Planning and Zoning is required. No public input was offered.

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to accept the variance of fifty-feet to the riparian setback because it is compliance with the county ordinances. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Public Hearing, P&Z Whiskey Creek Conditional Use Permit / Shooting Preserve and Skeet Range:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned that they convene a public hearing to discuss the conditional use permit for Whiskey Creek's proposed shooting preserve. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Nathan Hale with Whiskey Creek Ranch LLC is requesting a conditional use permit from the county for a shooting preserve and skeet range. The 660-acre property is at 301 Bench Lago Rd. Mr. Hale has made application with the State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game for this preserve. They strongly recommended checking with the county planning and zoning commission to make sure it is in compliance with county ordinances. They conditional use permit is required. Maps were presented of the proposed area. No formal recommendation from the Planning and Zoning board was received because they lacked a quorum at the public hearing.

- Public Input:

Randy Budge walked through the application and gave a history of Nathan Hale's ownership, improvement, and stewardship of the property since 2008. It is understood that the conditions required on the previous conditional use permit would be accepted with this application. He noted that they have done a sound test with the closest neighbor and the sound was minimal. Mr. Budge reviewed the county zoning rules and believes that this application is in compliance with the county comprehensive plan.

Raliegh Scott with Idaho Fish and Game said he is here for clarification of any question. The Idaho Fish and game has issued the hunting preserve permit to Mr. Hale. It is reviewed on a yearly basis and inspected to make sure things are in place. They do regular checks and at the last check all was in compliance.

Angie Mendenhall questioned the hunting season timelines. Mr. Hale has the right to hunt at any time during the season, but the hunting preserve is limited as stated on the conditional use permit. Her concern who is policing the requirements. She also feels that it is detrimental to her market value to have a hunting preserve and skeet range next door to her property.

Kent Clegg stated that in many cases property values have increased because of the recreation opportunities in the area.

- Commissioner Mathews stated that their decision will be delayed until after the Planning and Zoning meeting meets to make a recommendation. They will address the application at the next commissioner meeting on April 26, 2021.
- Commissioner Somsen motion to come out of the public hearing. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**City/ County Meeting:**

- There will be a 5 County meeting in Malad on Thursday. One discussion point will be Highway 34 north to the Wyoming line.
- Free cleanup week will be the first week of May. Grace city will extend that into the second week as well.
- Discussion was held on legislation regarding reserve funds.

**Public Hearing P&Z Shaun Anderson Conditional Use Permit / Butcher & Processing Shop:**

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to convene a public hearing on the conditional use permit application for Shaun Anderson for a butcher and processing shop. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motioned passed.
- JoAnna Ashley presented the application. The proposed location would be at his residence at 1918 Niter Bench Road, Grace. The road and bridge supervisor has no concerns with traffic. A Planning and Zoning public hearing was held on April 1 with no public input. Mr. Anderson presented a plan for timely removal of all carcasses from the facility. The only concern presented is with the DEQ and Health Department and the issuing of a septic or waste management permit for the structure. Mr. Anderson is in the process of working with both departments to satisfy their requirements.
- No public input was received. Commissioner Mathews stated that the two Planning and Zoning members in attendance at the public hearing were in favor of the application. Because they did not have a quorum present, they were not able to make a recommendation. They will meet and make a recommendation before the next commissioners meeting. A decision on the application will be made at that meeting on April 26, 2021.
- Commissioner Somsen motion to come out of the public hearing. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Public Hearing P&Z Babe Meyers Zone Amendment / from AG to HDR:

- Commissioner Somsen motioned to enter a public hearing regarding the zoning amendment for Jerry Lakey to move property from the Agricultural Zone to High-Density Residential Zone. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- JoAnna Ashley presented the application and mapping to commissioners. This application would change the zoning from Agriculture which allows 40 acre lots to High Density Residential which allows 5 acre lots. The property is 295 acres and is directly east of Gunnel Road north of Highway 30 in the county. It is adjacent to the Wood Canyon Subdivision which is already zoned HDR. There is on small strip of land that would remain agricultural in between the two subdivisions. Public input concerns included wells and septic systems. Each landowner would be responsible to permit and install those. The developer would bring in electrical services. JoAnna stated that a Geo Technical survey of the area would be required to determine viability of the septic systems and Idaho Department of Water Resources would be asked to provide input on the proposal as well. Duplexes were also listed as a concern.
- Public Input:  
Hayley Meyers presented the request on behalf of Jerry Lakey. They feel that the subdivision would benefit Caribou County turning this into residential property instead of agricultural and increase property tax rolls. There would be an entrance and exit both coming off of Gunnell Road. They feel the growth in the county warrants the need for new homes, and where it is so close to town it would be beneficial to local businesses to have those additional homes available. Babe Meyers also spoke to the benefit of the new subdivision for Caribou County. He stated that many employees of the local mines and industries are not able to live here in the county. With new mines opening and some moving closer to Soda Springs, they want to help provide more housing for the area.

Megan Torman spoke from a realtor's standpoint. Lots and homes are in high demand and the growth is exceeding what we have available in Caribou County. She is in favor of allowing the zone change.

Rikki Wood agreed that the housing market is not meeting the demand. After meetings with Bayer, she stated that only 40 percent of the employees live here in town. She is in favor of growth to try and help meet the demand for employees of the area. She is in support of the zone change.

Aaron Cook is not opposed to the subdivision, but is concerned about duplexes and the water availability in the area. He does see the need for housing in the county.

- Commissioner Mathews thanked all who attended for their input. Because a recommendation has not been received from the Planning and Zoning Board, their decision will be delayed until the next commissioner meeting on April 26, 2021.
- Commissioner Somsen motion to come out of the public hearing. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Stace Gearhart / Dept. Juvenile Corrections:**

- Mr. Gearhart presented the 2020 Caribou County Annual Juvenile Justice Report. He stated that juvenile arrests were down significantly from the previous two years. Detention admissions were steady over the past two years. Juvenile petitions were very low last year; they are low across the state and he feels that is partially due to COVID. Probation and Diversion success rates were on track with previous years. Mr. Gearhart complimented Justin Steele and his staff here in Caribou County for their work to handle juvenile issues within the county system.

**Caribou Forest Initiative:**

- Irene Jerome and Willy Peck presented information on the Caribou Forest Initiative. They encouraged attendance at the group meetings and complimented the commissioners on their value to the group. They noted that timber, grazing, mining, and recreation are all important components of the forest ground in Caribou County. They are looking to the county for suggestions for administrative support. The commissioners will discuss more with our neighboring counties at the next 4-county meeting. They are willing to help advocate with the legislators on the counties behalf to make sure the county is receiving all federal funding available because of public lands in the county.

**Wendy Rasmussen / 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Resolution:**

- Wendy Rasmussen presented the proposed Custer County 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment resolution and the signed Bannock County resolution. Jason Greene was also present with the petition signatures that he has collected. Discussion was held on the value of a resolution. The commissioners feel strongly that they have taken an oath to uphold the constitution and that the resolutions are redundant and have no legal binding authority. They are not comfortable with some of the wording in the resolutions that have previously been presented. Concerns are also that the citizens may become complacent with the signing of this resolution. Discussion on wording was continued with Sheriff Mabey. The Commissioners thanked Wendy for her time and presentation.

**Denise Horsley/Galen Wilson:**

- Denise Horsley, Galen Wilson, and Bill Horsley presented a request for funding to the Caribou Historical Society. Denise noted that 10 to 15 counties in the state levy for their historical societies. Galen noted that the electrical work is almost complete, and the plumbing work is close. They have been working for just over two years now to clean and restore the building. They would like to see a furnace installed and need to secure insurance for the building before they can open the doors. Funding so far for the project has all been through private donations. The noted that the Kackley family has been very generous. The commissioners recommended working toward grants and suggested several individuals that may be able to assist them with grant writing.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to donate \$5000 to the Caribou Historical Society. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The commissioners will request that \$10,000 be budgeted in the future as a yearly budget item.

**Adam Mabey, Sheriff:**

- Sheriff Maybe presented the marine patrol agreement with the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation to be reviewed and signed by the Commissioner Chairman.
- Sheriff also presented the Co-operative Law Enforcement Annual Operating and Financial Plan between the Sheriff's Department and the Caribou Targhee National Forest for reimbursement on patrolling forest service roads to be reviewed and signed by the Commissioner Chairman.

**Zoom Meeting with Oneida County:**

- Oneida County approached our county commissioners as well as the Sheriff and Jail Commander on a proposal to temporarily reduce costs. Currently they are contracted for 8 inmates per month at the Caribou County jail. With COVID they have only been having 3 to 4 inmates housed at the jail. After discussion, an agreement was reached to temporarily reduce the contract to 4 inmates for the next 4 months. They will review the contract after that time period.

**Trent Clark, Larry Simmons, Dave Patterson / Caribou Highlanders:**

- Caribou Highlanders presented themselves as a service group organized to take care of the community. They are community-based organization and interested in a wide range of emergency preparedness, disaster response, communications, food and water storage, etc.

They have been in contact with Eric Hobson about the possibility of being trained as a community response team. Sheriff Mabey has also been contacted about community watch in the future.

They stated that they are just in the beginning stages and wanted the commissioners to know of their intent and introduce themselves as a beneficial group to the county.

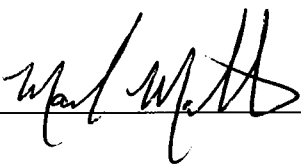
**Jacob Farnes, IT/GIS:**

- Jacob presented an updated discussion on remote access to documents. He will continue to explore options.

**Other:**

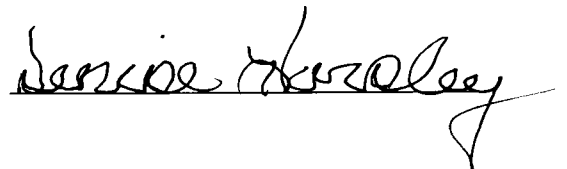
- Commissioner Somsen moved to pay the claims, for FY 2021 in the amount of \$327,328.52 and payroll claims in the amount of \$535,010.65 and to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021 as amended. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner McCullough motioned to accept Caribou County Resolution 2021-06 to adopt the policy regarding the division of land in Caribou County for the purpose of a caretaker land splits. Commissioner Somsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Somsen made the motion to appoint JoAnna Ashley as the Fair Housing Resource Person for Caribou County. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Somsen motioned to approved a new contract with Valley Office Systems for a copy/fax/scan machine in the Clerk's Office. Commissioner McCullough seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet April 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Mark Mathews, Commissioner Chairman



---

Attested: Denise Horsley



---



Approved Payment of Bills

12-Apr-21	Claims	Payroll
Current Expense	\$ 34,419.36	
Indigent	\$ 7,437.15	
Road & Bridge	\$ 122,557.25	
Special Highway	\$ -	
Justice	\$ 18,108.30	
Consolidated Election	\$ 2,944.26	
Weed Control	\$ 333.22	
Solid Waste	\$ 2.55	
Reappraisal	\$ 1,444.40	
Health	\$ 2,587.01	
Hospital M&O		
Ambulance	\$ 45,538.64	
Parks & Recreation	\$ 16.36	
County Fair	\$ -	
County Court Facility		
District Court	\$ 1,272.82	
Court Services	\$ 42.80	
Juvenile Justice	\$ 231.31	
Veteran's Memorial	\$ -	
Mineral Leasing	\$ 10,602.03	
PILT	\$ 1,979.77	
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		
Waterways	\$ 1,825.00	
County Judgement Trust		
Landfill		
Bailey Creek Fire District		
Freedom Fire District		
Auditor's Trust	\$ 40.00	
Adult Probation Fee		
Diversion Education Trust		
Juvenile Housing Trust		
Range Improvement Trust		
Court Trust	\$ 3,439.12	
Centennial Trust		
College Trust	\$ 500.00	
Treasurer's Trust	\$ 818.80	
ID Trust		
Concealed Weapon's Trust	\$ 952.25	
Motor Vehicle Trust	\$ 62,750.62	
911 Trust	\$ 7,205.01	
Public Safety Trust	\$ 280.49	
Weed Control Trust		
Drug Court Trust		
Farmers Land & Irrigation LID		
Vessel Account		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 327,328.52</b>	<b>\$ 535,010.65</b>

**CARIBOU COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA**

**Date: 4/12/2021**

ACTION ITEMS / BUSINESS

<b>Time</b>	<b>Name of Person/Party</b>	<b>Concerning</b>
9:00 AM	Bills & Minutes	
9:15 AM	Kim Spencer	Road & Bridge
9:30 AM	Eric Hobson / Larry Weaver	Fire / Ambulance
9:45 AM	Blake Poulsen	Courthouse Maintenance / Building Department
10:00 AM	Dwight Lloyd	Weed Control
10:15 AM	Public Hearings P&Z	Nathan Hale-Variance to Riparian Setback
10:30 AM	Public Hearings P&Z	Whiskey Creek Cond Use Shooting Preserve
10:45 AM	Public Hearings P&Z	and Skeet Range
11:00 AM	City / County Meeting	
11:15 AM		
11:30 AM	Public Hearings P&Z	Shaun anderson-Cond Use Butcher & Processing Shop
11:45 AM	Public Hearings P&Z	Babe Meyers Zone Amendment Ag to HDR
Noon	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 PM		
1:15 PM	Dept. Juvenile Corrections	Annual Report
1:30 PM	Caribou Forest Initiative Irene	Update
1:45 PM		
2:00 PM		
2:15 PM	Wendy Rasmussen/Sheriff Mabey	2nd Amendment Sarctuary Resolution
2:30 PM	Denise Horsley/Galen Wilson	Donation Historical Society
2:45 PM	Adam Mabey	Sign Forest Service Park & Rec. Agreement
3:00 PM	Zoom Meeting Oneida County	Inmates
3:15 PM		
3:30 PM	Larry Simmons Caribou Highlander	Introduction
3:45 PM	Jacob Farns	Public Records Request
4:00 PM		
4:15 PM		
4:30 PM		
4:45 PM		
5:00 PM		

OTHER BUSINESS: Executive Session I.C. (74-206) Sign contract for Copier Lease for Clerk

B.O.E. Sign Resolution 2021-06 Caretaker Split Appoint Fair Housing Resource Person

---



---



---



---



---

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

.....