

COMMISSIONER MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2015

The Caribou County Commissioners met in regular session on April 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance for the first hour were Earl Somsen, Commissioner Chairman, Phil Christensen and Mark Mathews, Commissioners. Also in attendance were Caribou County Clerk Denise Horsley, Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood, Caribou County Sheriff Ric Anderson, Road and Bridge Supervisor Kim Spencer, Lead man Brett Barfuss, Building Inspector Ralph Hopkins, Weed Supervisor Scott Shuler, Indigent Director Wendy Rasmussen, P&Z Subdivision Roads/Blackfoot Property Estates Joel Murray, Carol Call, Senior Center Stacie Watkins, Bonneville Power Admin. John Williams.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and prayer.

Commissioner Mathews made the motion to add Angie Mendenhall Caribou County Treasurer to the agenda. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. The vote was Somsen-yes, Christensen-yes, Mathews-yes.

Brett Barfuss, Road and Bridge Lead man:

- Brett informed the Commissioners that the Track Hoe that was approved on the April 13th Commissioners meeting at a cost of \$100,000 was sold. A different Track Hoe was found that is two models newer and a 1000 less hours for a cost of \$120,000 the county would still be able to piggy back this Track Hoe with Bingham County. Commissioner Mathews made the motion to approve the purchase of the new Track Hoe at the cost of \$120,000 which will be piggy backed with Bingham County in lieu of the original Track Hoe. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. The vote was Somsen-yes, Christensen-yes, and Mathews-yes.

Ralph Hopkins, Building Inspector:

- Ralph informed the Commissioners that he has issued 11 building permits and he has 2 permits pending waiting for addressing. 3 Residential, 1 used Mobile Home, 1 office building, 1 variance, 4 storage bins, and 1 tack shed. Total valuation is \$581,245.55, and fees collected is a total of \$5,476.

Scott Shuler, Weed Supervisor:

- Scott informed the Commissioners that the RAC fund was reauthorized through the Medicare Bill and the Eight Counties that are in this district will receive about \$400,000. No projects have been set yet, but the counties will know what projects will be selected by July.
- Scott rehired one person for summer help on April 13th. The Weed Department will start spraying today and Scott feels the new truck is going to work out great.
- The Cloud Seeder will run to the end of April. NRCS says we are about 69 to 70% of normal. The weed department will go out and pick up the Cloud Seeder in the next few weeks.

- Scott is working with Grant Simmons of CV Ranches. They will work with the weed department so they will be able to spray the roadside. They will use the CV Ranches fence line as the buffer zone.
- Scott attended the Highlands meeting on April 9th in Montpelier. The weed department received word that our funding was approved and they have the go ahead for summer projects. They will receive about \$46,000 from the State on the summer projects. Scott told the Commissioner that he meet with the Upper Blackfoot Assoc. which consists of Monsanto, Agrium, Simplot, Trout Unlimited, and Idaho Conservation League. They will be receiving an additional \$5,000 from them. This money will have to be used in the Blackfoot and Wayan areas.
- Scott went to the area schools to present the Highlands program for the Weed Essays for the 6th grade classes. Bancroft and Soda will be participating this year. The prizes are 1st- \$100, 2nd- \$50, and 3rd- \$25 plus all the first place winners will be able to compete in a State wide contest where the winner will receive \$200.
- Scott had a help wanted ad for a 2nd driver in the local paper and he only received one application. He was approached by someone that works in the County for Road & Bridge. He told Scott he was interested in doing the summer job for the Weed Department and snow removal for Road & Bridge in the winter if Kim and the Commissioners had no objections. Scott thought this would be a great idea because in six months he is thinking about retiring. Scott told the Commissioners that in June they will have a 3 day class in Idaho Falls that he felt would be very beneficial. The Commissioners thought that it was a excellent idea and would be good for the county.

Michael Haderlie, Sheriff's Chief Deputy:

- Mike brought the issue that CBM Food Service is having a hard time retaining their employees because of the low wages to the attention of the commissioners. The Sheriff Office and CBM have been discussing increasing the meals by .40 cents so they would be able to increase the wages. The Food Service Director wage would increase from \$12.00 to \$15.00 dollars and the part time would go from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Mike has an amended contract between CBM and the County for the Commissioners to sign. Commissioner Mathews made the motion to sign the amended contract to increase the meal by .40 cents so the wages for the two employees could be increased. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. The vote was Somsen-yes, Christensen-yes, and Mathews-yes.

Angie Mendenhall, Caribou County Treasurer:

- Angie wanted to let the Commissioners know that the Treasurer's Office has had an issue with balancing the checking account since 2012. The treasurer's Office thinks that it started out as an NSF check from the Court. Angie had some training with Computer Arts last week and she asked them about how to fix the problem and they advised her to have the Commissioners approve to write off \$91 to balance the check book. Commissioner Mathews made the motion to write off the

\$91 from with a court adjustment so that the Treasure will be able to balance the checking account. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. The vote was Somsen-yes, Christensen-yes, and Mathews-yes.

Joel Murray, property owner

- Commissioner Somsen advised Joel to be careful on what he would be discussing with the Commissioners today. If it would be something that the Commissioners would have to make a decision on from P&Z there could be a conflict. Joel told the Commissioners that he wanted to discuss having the County take over a 2000 foot road for access to his property from the Bureau or Indian Affairs. The property is located by the Blackfoot Reservoir. Joel has an approved Right of Way accesses from the BLM and BIA. The BLM will no longer be involved with the right of way. They have turned over their jurisdiction to the BIA. After further discussion the Commissioners had some concerns about not having the County's Attorney and the Road & Bridge Supervisor present for their input. The Commissioners wanted Joel to see the County's Building Inspector before going to the BIA. The Commissioners wanted Joel to let the BIA know that they would work with them on the type of access they would want for the above mentioned road, be it a Public or Restricted access. They also wanted Joel to know that the road would not be maintained by the County and he would have to follow the specs that the BIA would require.

Stacy Watkins, Senior Citizen Center:

- Stacy presented the quarterly report for Commissioner's review and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. Stacy informed the Commissioners about several of the fund raisers that the Senior Citizen Center will be having which will include a Golf Scramble that will be held on May 30th and also a gun raffle.

John Williams, Erich Orth, Project Manager, and Joe Cottrell, Realty Specialist Bonneville Power Administration, Marvin Brown HDR Engineering, Jim Smith & Trent Clark, Monsanto:

- The John Williams with BPA wanted to give the Commissioners an update on the Hooper Springs Transmission Project. John informed the Commissioners that there are three utilities companies, Lower Valley, Rocky Mountain Power and Bonneville Power that are working in a partnership on the Hooper Springs Transmission Project. BPA has worked very hard with the Commissioners and the Community and have listened to them about reconsidering the route from the northern to a southern route. The Record of Decision was signed over a month ago so BPA is in the next steps.

Erich Orth told the Commissioners that the Record of Decision was signed to move forward with the construction of the project. The final EIS option was 3A of the Southern alternative. Erich said that the next step is working with Private & State Land Owners to purchase easements. They are also working with the Forest Service which has to approve their own Record of Decision. They have not done the Record of Decision yet. There was one objection by the Idaho Conservation League and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition so now BPA is on a 90 day resolution with them. They have been working on an appraisal for the last 6 months to present to the land owners. The purchasing of easements can take up to 9 to 12 months. Then they will start putting out bids for the construction this fall for the Substation and the Transmission line. This process should take about 4 months. BPA is hoping to start construction in June of 2016. Joe Cottrell informed the Commissioners that BPA has now moved into the acquisition side of the project. They have had a local group do the appraisals so BPA feels that the appraisals are a fair market value. BPA will submit to the land owners an offer based on the appraisals if the land owner agrees with the offer they will sign the papers and the deal is done. If the land owner does not agree they may have their own appraisal done and then BPA will take their appraisal under advisement. If there is justification to increase the value above the fair market value they will increase the offer, if there is no justification then the fair market value will stand. BPA will be acquiring easements for the Transmission line and buying the property for the Substation in fee ownership. The fee ownership process is more difficult because the owners will have to remove everything from the property. Commissioner Somsen stated that he has been receiving a lot of phone calls from farmers in the area about their concerns with the power line going through their property. He also wanted to let BPA know that the Commission is very upset with them on how they proceeded with their decision. He felt there was no discussion and they did not coordinate with the County or Monsanto on their decision. He and the other Commissioners felt that the letter that was submitted to BPA by the County was not taken under advisement. The Commissioners felt that BPA disregarded their concerns about going through prime farm lands and the Commission felt that the Monsanto right of way was the best way to proceed for the County and Farmers. He wanted the BPA to know that Monsanto has always been a good partner with the County. Commissioner Somsen wanted the BPA to know how much he appreciated the move that they have made on the first half of the Transmission line in moving it to the southern route. He felt that they listened to the concerns of the County and land owners and that it was the right thing to do. He stated that the right thing to do from mile post 11 would be to follow the Monsanto haul road. He feels this would be the best route. The Commissioners have been trying to decide what to do about their concerns. The County Attorney has been researching Idaho Code, but there are no guide lines in Idaho Code of when or where the Commission can designate a power line Transmission corridor. The Commission has not wanted to step in. They would like to work things out with the BPA, but as of right now they are not pleased with how things have been worked out. The most disturbing thing is going through prime agricultural land, and this is not what the commission wanted to happen. It would be a detriment to the farmers from now on. Commissioner Somsen felt he could not just sit back without commenting

because the farmers have asked him to represent them to resolve this problem. Erich thanked the Commission for their comments and concerns. The BPA understands that the Transmission Line will have a negative impact to the farmers, and the appraised value for the long term will not equal out. The BPA is trying to work with the farmers about moving the line out far enough so they will be able to farm in between the power poles and the State or County Roads. The BPA said that the farmers they have talked with said they could live with this because it is a lot less disturbing to their land use. The BPA understands the Commission's comments about using the Monsanto haul road, but the BPA stands by their decision. They feel that using the Monsanto haul road 24/7 without notification to Monsanto would create safety hazards to their maintenance and operation crew. They felt putting the line in an area with active mining was not feasible. They received the Commissioners comments and did consider them but were not willing to make the changes. Commissioner Somsen told the BPA he felt that they did what was the best for BPA and not the best for Caribou County. Commissioner Christensen said one of his concerns is that the farmers are responsible for any damages that they may cause and that it could be a big expense to them. The BPA told the Commission that if any damage is done by the BPA to the farmer's land they would cover all expenses. Erich talked with a concerned person about the public access to the Dry Valley Road to the Forest Service land. He showed him some maps of the roads, explained they would be improving the trail, access would not be impacted, and Erich felt that he satisfied his concerns. Jim Smith wanted BPA to know that the idea that utilities and other individuals have used the haul road for maintenance and access. Jim told BPA that Monsanto has a procedure in place to be notified by the utilities because it is private property. Then they would be able to coordinate with the utilities and their truck drivers could be notified. Jim disagreed with the BPA's position that it was not feasible to have a structure that would work with both power lines. Monsanto told them that they have worked with Lower Valley and Rocky Mountain Power and have engineering drawings that have been done that shows it is feasible and would work. Monsanto has worked diligently identifying spots where those lines could be put through Monsanto's mine so as to not interfere with active mining areas causing problems. Monsanto wanted the BPA to know that they have worked with all the entities in the County and will continue to be a good partner. The BPA still has a concern with using the haul road and going through an active mine for the safety with their long term maintenance crew on the line. One of largest concerns Erich noted was the active mining at the site called the Blackfoot Bridge Mine as this is right where the Transmission line would be going through. The BPA spent a lot of time investigating and planning to avoid a lot of mining areas east of there. So to go through an active mine just did not feel right to the BPA. The BPA has not reached out to Monsanto yet but they will to get easements on other locations. The BPA still feels that the main concerns would be safety for the Transmission line crews. Monsanto and the Commissioners do not feel that there is a problem with safety if the BPA used Monsanto Haul Road. The Commissioners stated they don't agree with the BPA's concerns and they are not certain on what actions will be taken at this point. The BPA just wanted to let the Commissioners know that they are moving ahead with the project, and will continue to keep the Commissioners

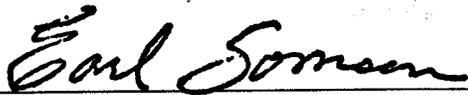
informed. Trent Clark with Monsanto wanted to know if the BPA has informed the Commissioner about the pending litigation. The BPA stated that they did inform the Commission about the litigation with the Conservation League and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and that they are on a 90 day resolution. Trent's response was that while it may appear there is a Record of Decision it is not final until the outcome of the court case is decided.

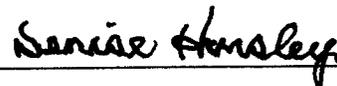
Other:

- Commissioner Christensen moved to pay the claims in the amount of \$452,777.34 and payroll claims in the amount of \$148,384.56, and to approve the minutes of April 13, 2015, as amended. Commissioner Mathews seconded the motion. The vote was Somsen-yes, Christensen-yes and Mathews-yes.
- The State of Idaho Department of Agriculture presented a letter for a budget request for the FY 2016 for the Animal Damage Control District #4. The amount requested is \$4,500. The Commissioners agreed to the request.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet May 11, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Earl Somsen, Commissioner Chairman

Attested: Denise Horsley





Approved Payment of Bills

	27-Apr-15	Claims	Payroll
Current Expense		\$ 10,489.35	
Indigent		\$ 2,145.28	
Road & Bridge		\$ 14,888.78	
Special Highway		\$ 645.05	
Justice		\$ 8,486.15	
Consolidated Election			
Weed Control		\$ 70.28	
Solid Waste		\$ 324.70	
Reappraisal			
Health			
Hospital M&O			
Ambulance		\$ 1,947.93	
Parks & Recreation		\$ 72.03	
Tort		\$ 64,034.00	
County Fair		\$ -	
County Court Facility			
District Court		\$ 3,869.52	
Court Services			
Juvenile Justice		\$ 357.18	
Veteran's Memorial			
Mineral Leasing		\$ 330,000.00	
PILT		\$ 1,870.00	
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		\$ 292.00	
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		\$ 7,887.00	
Centennial Trust			
College Trust		\$ 50.00	
Treasurer's Trust		\$ 1,348.09	
ID Trust			
Concealed Weapon's Trust			
Motor Vehicle Trust			
911 Trust		\$ 4,000.00	
Public Safety Trust			
Weed Control Trust			
Drug Court Trust			
Youth Court Trust			
Vessel Account			
Grand Total		\$ 452,777.34	\$ 148,384.56