

*****Monday, July 13, 2015**, Commissioners met in regular session with Chairman Dan Dinning, Commissioner LeAlan Pinkerton, Commissioner Walt Kirby, Clerk Glenda Poston, and Deputy Clerk Michelle Rohrwasser.

Commissioners gave the opening invocation and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 a.m., Road and Bridge Assistant Superintendent Ken Arthur joined the meeting to give the departmental report. Also present were Paradise Valley residents John Taft and Linda Fontanas, and Walter Burrow from Fawn Lane.

Mr. Taft said he just wanted to know what was in the plan to improve traffic flow at the top of Paradise Valley Hill. Mr. Arthur said nothing has been initiated as of yet, but he and Mr. Gutshall have spoken about it. Chairman Dinning questioned if this would be something to look at during next year's budget, and Mr. Arthur said he doesn't know what this project will entail, but it will have to involve an outside engineer at some point. Mr. Taft said he would like it resolved as it is a major problem because drivers don't know where to yield so now is the time to act.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Jeff Gutshall joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

The discussion regarding traffic flow at the top of Paradise Valley Hill continued. Mr. Gutshall said Sewell Engineering had been to the site once and came up with the option of the island that was discussed at Commissioners' last meeting. Mr. Gutshall said he had obtained an estimate for traffic markings and a curb around the island. Mr. Gutshall mentioned contacting the engineering firm to start looking at this project. Road and Bridge had not budgeted for this project, but the cost could most likely come out of professional services line item. There should be a preliminary meeting to make sure we are still on the same page. Mr. Gutshall said this area is a collector route we so need to make sure the standards are met. Mr. Gutshall said it is possible to get this project started in the fall of this year.

Mr. Taft said the city stripes their street centerlines and the bottom of Paradise Valley Hill is striped until the county line so is striping something the county can do as well? Mr. Gutshall said the city has a striping machine and if the county were to get into striping roads, there are several liabilities and it becomes like a state highway that has to be redone a couple times per year. Mr. Taft asked what the traffic count is on Paradise Valley Hill. Mr. Gutshall said approximately 100.

Mr. Taft mentioned the traffic issue at the intersection of Blue Sky Road and Shamrock Road and said even just putting in a three way stop would be a remedy that would make a lot of difference. Mr. Gutshall said he would have to take a look at it as there would be a lot of opposition from drivers who would have to make multiple stops.

Ms. Fontanas explained how many close calls there have been at the top of Paradise Valley Hill. Mr. Gutshall said an island will ensure people will be directed where they need to go. Mr. Taft agreed that an island is the only answer. Mr. Gutshall said he will contact the engineer today.

Mr. Taft and Ms. Fontanas left the meeting.

Mr. Burrow asked when Fawn Lane is on the schedule to be chipsealed. Mr. Arthur said Lyons Den Road and all roads south of Bonners Ferry will be chipsealed starting next Tuesday. After approximately two or three weeks, Road and Bridge will work on roads to the north and Fawn Lane will be the first road

Road and Bridge crew work on. Mr. Burrow mentioned the process of chipsealing and asked if it is similar to how it is done back east. Mr. Gutshall explained the process of chipsealing. Mr. Burrow asked about signage. Mr. Gutshall said there will be signs about fresh oil and loose gravel, and the importance of slow travel was discussed.

Mr. Burrow left the meeting.

Mr. Arthur presented a written report. The report included a list of roads that have received grading and preparation for dust abatement. Mr. Arthur spoke of providing dust abatement at the fairgrounds parking lot. Chairman Dinning said he isn't sure what the budgets for the Parks and Recreation Department and Fair Board can handle, but he asked Mr. Arthur to get the costs together. Commissioner Pinkerton spoke of trying to find and obtain a small water truck so Road and Bridge doesn't need to worry about issues with the larger trucks. Mr. Arthur said right now Road and Bridge needs their existing water trucks for dust abatement. Commissioner Kirby spoke about trying to see what old vehicles North Bench Fire Association may have. Commissioner Pinkerton said a small water truck would serve the purpose of providing dust abatement for the fairgrounds, etc. These trucks may not be worth much, but they would be extra vehicles on hand. Commissioner Pinkerton said this is just a thought for the future.

Mr. Arthur and Mr. Gutshall left the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Commissioners addressed the Findings and Decision for Planning and Zoning Application 15-023, for Ordinance 2015-1, the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The proceedings were recorded.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to approve the Findings and Decision for Application 15-023, Boundary County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2015-1. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to go out for bids for the Rock Point Boat docks. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kirby moved to approve the minutes of June 22 and 23, 2015. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to appoint Ken Arthur Acting Road and Bridge Superintendent as of August 1, 2015 for a term not to exceed 90 days. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

9:53 a.m., Chief Deputy Clerk Tracie Isaac briefly joined the meeting at Commissioners' requests to discuss job vacancies.

10:02 a.m., Treasurer Sue Larson joined the meeting.

Chief Deputy Clerk Isaac left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Treasurer Larson met with Commissioners to provide an update on Boundary County's accounts. Treasurer Larson said the county is not to exceed 50% on any type or specific account so she is tracking that to make sure the county stays within that policy and she added that all of these establishments are

insured. Treasurer Larson said this is somewhat non-traditional, but as of July 1, 2015, she purchased a bond and reduced the checking account so the bottom line is correct. Chairman Dinning said the county has approximately \$10.9 million in cash. Treasurer Larson said yes, but the county has not yet paid any of the other taxing districts for the June 2015 tax collection. The percent of unpaid taxes is shrinking so that is an improvement. Treasurer Larson said funds have been moved to the Diversified Bond Fund for landfill closure purposes so that is at \$100,000 and she is under the impression that Clerk Poston is going to add \$50,000 to that. Due to percentages one million dollars has been moved to the State Pool fund for now. The issue is that there are no good interest rates for the funds that are needed immediately and Treasurer Larson said she thinks that is across the board.

Those present discussed various matters pertaining to interest rates, etc.

Treasurer Larson left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Commissioners reviewed claims for payment. Fund totals are as follows:

Current Expense	\$96,448.88
Road & Bridge	19,083.88
Airport	16,698.83
District Court	4,310.65
Fair, County	41,000.00
Justice Fund	34,923.31
911 Funds	10,119.75
Health District	13,675.50
Indigent & Charity	7,316.61
Parks and Recreation	15,064.34
Animal Damage Control	5,000.00
Revaluation	1,661.52
Solid Waste	15,186.82
Tort	98,443.00
Veterans Memorial	47.26
Weeds	2,260.22
County EMS	3,000.00
Restorium	12,880.17
Waterways	227.44
Grants, Fire Mitigation	14,700.00
TOTAL	\$412,048.18
<u>Trusts</u>	
Sales Tax Collected	332.58
State Unclaimed Property	57.29
Driver's License Trust	8,853.00
Magistrate Trust	38,015.61
Indigent Reimbursement	12,076.36
Motor Vehicle Trust	105,263.19
Sheriff's Trust Fund	462.20
Restorium Memorial Trust Fund	388.80
Weed Trust	<u>11,250.00</u>

TOTAL	\$176,699.03
GRAND TOTAL	\$588,747.21

Citizens are invited to inspect detailed records on file in the Courthouse (individual claims & Commissioners' allowance & warrant register record 2014-2015).

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to approve the Certificate of Residency forms for: L. Carpenter, N. Havens-Boone, S. Robles, I. Lavala, J. Pullium-LaBau, S. Robles, and L. Hamilton. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to cancel year 2014 taxes in the amount of \$95.16 and penalties in the amount of \$1.90 for a total of \$97.06 for parcel #RP003500010030A due to error. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

10:24 a.m., Patty Perry and Sue Ireland with the Kootenai Tribe joined the meeting to discuss the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project. Bonners Ferry District Forest Ranger Kevin Knauth joined the meeting via telephone for the purpose of updating Commissioners on the local forest fire situation.

Mr. Knauth said a Type 3 team is still managing the three fires, which are the Blacktail and Granite fires on Priest Lake and the Baker's Camp fire. Firefighters are getting a good handle on most of those fires, but the Baker's Camp fire is giving them the biggest challenge due to the steep rocky terrain. There is a lot of helicopter bucket work using fire retardant. There are two to two and one half acres in that area that are more of a problem. If the work utilizing aviation was not being done, the fire would most likely come out of this area and the firefighters would have to get after it. Crews are getting pretty beat up as it isn't very good ground. The hope is that the weather will cooperate, but the fire is in an area with vegetation so it's creeping up into these areas and torching off and on and it is hard to knock the fire down. Mr. Knauth said it could take as much as another 10 days to wrestle the fire down.

New fires put the Forest Service at a total of seven fires staffed and all but three of those have been controlled. Those three fires consist of Myrtle, Caribou Ridge, and Boulder Creek. Boulder Creek is approximately four acres and is close enough to the road that with the hoses and pumps the firefighters should have control in the next day or so. Mr. Knauth said the Forest Service doesn't want to bring in the crews for these fires as they want to make sure the other fires are out first. Fires have caught on the Smith Ridge line, Trout Creek off of a trail, and there is another fire at Boulder Creek that firefighters have got a handle on. There is a new report of smoke in the Deer Ridge/Deer Creek area, but Mr. Knauth said he anticipates more calls as that area got hit fairly hard. The Selkirks from Roman Nose through Myrtle got hit hard, but the rain came and settled in that country. Mr. Knauth said with the weather changing there may be a delay in some of these fires popping up.

Stage 2 restrictions go into effect Tuesday night and Hoot Owl will come into play as well so no combustible engines are allowed in the woods between certain hours. Chairman Dinning asked about off road vehicles. Mr. Knauth said off road vehicles are supposed to stay on designated trails and roads, but he doesn't believe there are any restrictions. The Forest Service doesn't want people to drive over trails and park with the hot exhaust pipes, etc. Chairman Dinning said there is already a rumor that the forest has been shut down. Mr. Knauth said no, there are no extremes like that, but people are aware that conditions are dry. Commissioner Pinkerton asked where the fire is at in the Long Canyon area. Mr. Knauth said initially the Forest Service received a couple of smoke reports from two different planes.

One report was at Smith Creek on the ridge and the second report was the Long Canyon fire, but the question is if it's the same fire as there are no other reports on the Long Canyon fire.

Commissioners talked about when to have the next meeting with Mr. Knauth and Ms. Perry, which normally would be set for this next Monday. It was decided to cancel the meeting with Ms. Perry and Mr. Knauth for the month of July.

Mr. Knauth spoke of having three visible smoke reports from the Cascade area. Commissioner Pinkerton asked how far back the Myrtle Creek fire is. Mr. Knauth said initially crews are going in at Ruby Creek and heading uphill to the site as you can't get to the area by helicopter. Mr. Knauth said access is a closed labeled road so crews came in through Ruby and straight up an old system of roads that are not open to anyone. A lot of the sites are on company land so the Forest Service would need to tie in with Hancock Timber Resource Group or Molpus Timber to see if they would allow access.

The call with Mr. Knauth ended at 10:41 a.m.

Ms. Ireland said the Tribe is getting ready to start the Kootenai River Habitat project, but they may have a coordination issue. There had been a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board this last May and that Board recommended looking at the possibility of closing the back half of Riverside Park south of the ballfields near the river for safety purposes. Chairman Dinning said as you turn off the county road you head straight west. Ms. Ireland said it would be everything south of the ballfields and she added that she knows this area is used by the public, but it may be too much intermingling with the public once construction is started. The Tribe also spoke with the representatives for District 2 about closing the dike road and the district has agreed to that.

Chairman Dinning said this habitat project came about as a condition of a lawsuit settlement where the Center for Biological Diversity removed 1770 as the level of flow that would recover sturgeon. This group requested two more turbines and more water footage. The Kootenai Tribe intervened and the county provided some funds to help. The Tribe wanted to address depth velocity and to deepen parts of the channel. A habitat proposal was already in the works to restore conditions for native local fish species affected by Libby Dam and this project was viewed as a way to address the issue while working with the community, etc. The judge agreed to the approach and it is listed in the settlement. This project will help address both fish and human needs, according to Ms. Ireland. Chairman Dinning referred back to the area near the ballfield and said for clarification the area in question is coming off the county road at 90 degrees. Ms. Ireland said the county referred to this area as the old soccer field. Ms. Ireland said the Tribe would like the county's permission to close this portion of the park. The Tribe is looking to stage the area the end of this month and be in place until the first week in November. Ms. Ireland said she would like the contractors to be aware any county safety concerns. Commissioner Pinkerton said that is something Commissioners should be aware of as that is a lot of ground to close.

Ms. Ireland said she wanted to also engage the county park for staging if need be, but if there are any issues or concerns and if that needs to be changed, she wanted to get Commissioners' feelings on that. Ms. Perry suggested Commissioners think about it just in case the Tribe has to go that route. Commissioner Pinkerton said he thinks Commissioners could allow for that as a back-up plan.

Ms. Ireland, Ms. Perry, and Commissioners reviewed a map of the site in question and existing utilities.

Ms. Ireland said another issue is dust abatement. The Tribe would like to apply magnesium or calcium chloride to the entire county road and access road for dust abatement. Chairman Dinning said to

coordinate that with Road and Bridge Superintendent Jeff Gutshall. Commissioners had no other questions.

The meeting with Ms. Ireland and Ms. Perry ended at 10:57 a.m.

11:00 a.m., Sheriff Greg Sprungl and Administrative Deputy Crystal Denton joined the meeting to discuss budget matters. Chief Deputy Clerk Tracie Isaac also joined the meeting.

Sheriff Sprungl said his office has been experiencing staffing issues mostly pertaining to patrol deputies, although he does have a prospect coming in November. A lot of work hours have built up for the deputies as the office is short basically two deputy positions. The Sheriff's Office has one deputy in training as he is switching from the detention deputy position and another deputy has a non-work related injury so the remaining staff are trying to cover everything. The Patrol Sergeant has moved to the graveyard shift and Chief Deputy Sheriff Rich Stephens has been working nights. Sheriff Sprungl said he would like to pay down the vacation and compensatory time hours as they have built up. There are two patrolmen who want to be paid for these hours. Ms. Denton and Chief Deputy Clerk Isaac reviewed how much time each deputy has built up. One deputy will accrue more hours once their hire anniversary date comes.

Commissioner Pinkerton asked if someone could show him anywhere in the County's Personnel Policy that says these employees can be paid for these hours. Commissioner Pinkerton asked Sheriff Sprungl if there were any instances in which an employee had requested leave in writing, but had that request denied. According to the policy, if there is a written request for leave that has been denied, that is when Commissioners can allow that time or the cap on the time that employees has to be carried forward. The county can't just pay an employee double time, but the county can allow the employee to carry that time into the next year. Compensatory (comp) time is a different story as an employee should be able to use that time in the same month, but if those comp hours flow into the next month, the county has to reimburse the employee for that time. Ms. Denton asked if there is something about the written request for time off in the personnel policy. Commissioner Pinkerton said in the event of an emergency an employee should submit a request for leave. If an emergency comes up at work and the employee cannot take their leave, it allows the county the authority to extend that time the employee has to use up those hours. There has got to be an opportunity to take that leave, but there is nothing in the policy that states these hours can be paid for, with the exception of comp time. There is really little comp time affected, according to Ms. Denton. Commissioner Pinkerton said it clearly states in the policy that compensation for vacation hours shall not be allowed unless it is upon the employee severing ties from the county. Sheriff Sprungl said something has to change. The City of Bonners Ferry pays their officers a starting wage of \$18.12 per hour and the county starts at approximately \$16 per hour. Sheriff Sprungl said he cannot get people to work for him at that wage so his office is continually running short handed. Sheriff Sprungl said he did have 10 employees at one point making \$14 per hour, but then he had left a position vacant. Sheriff Sprungl said if his deputies have more than a few kids, they can be on food stamps. Commissioner Pinkerton said he understands and feels the county is going beyond what most commissioners would do to try to attract a pool of potential employees. In the last few years there has been a cost of living increase for the county, but Commissioners have also come up with other ways to compensate staff at the Sheriff's Office although he is not saying it still isn't a struggle. At \$16 per hour it is still less than Commissioners would like to see, but they can't take it all right off the top. Sheriff Sprungl said he has his detective responding to dog calls and then the county ends up taking away hours at the end of the year. Chairman Dinning said Commissioner Pinkerton indicated that if there is documentation that vacation was denied, the county can carry those hours over to allow that time to be taken off. Sheriff Sprungl asked if that is by county policy. Commissioners said yes. Sheriff Sprungl said

the policy needs to change to make this workable. Chairman Dinning said he feels the policy is workable. There is one employee at the Sheriff's Office who has typically had an excessive amount of hours and if he had requested the time off and that request was denied, he could have carried those hours forward. Commissioner Pinkerton said it is very important to find a way to give that time off otherwise office moral declines. Burnout is a big deal in law enforcement. If you have people who continually work more than they should, they burn out. If there is a police dog, how often is that dog being used, and how critical is that dog to the operation. Sheriff Sprungl said he's been in law enforcement a long time, but it gets to the point when you've done everything you can do. Commissioner Pinkerton suggested trying to expedite some of the hiring. Sheriff Sprungl said you have to have applicants to expedite that process. Commissioner Pinkerton said to Sheriff Sprungl that Commissioners are trying to work with him, but it is not within the personnel policy to pay for these hours. Commissioner Pinkerton said he agrees with Sheriff Sprungl in that there are things in the policy that need to change, but until the policy changes, this is what we have to work with and Commissioners are trying to work within the boundaries that are set. Commissioner Pinkerton said he doesn't like it either so the next thing is to at least extend the hours into the next year so those hours are not lost and as it stands right now the county has to go through simple steps to extend the cap. Chairman Dinning said this year employees should see an increase of 40 cents per hour in this next budget and he mentioned trying to increase starting wages. Sheriff Sprungl said that is why he has a core group who have been there through the step increases. Commissioner Pinkerton mentioned going outside of the norm when Commissioners implemented the night differential, Sunday pay, and the additional 4% off the top so they are doing what they can, but it is a work in progress.

Sheriff Sprungl left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Chairman Dinning spoke of the cost of health insurance covered by the county for family coverage. Ms. Denton said she wished she had known about the matter of the written requests for leave as there would not be hours lost. Chairman Dinning mentioned the ability to pay, but with the budget in progress Commissioners have to preserve funds as the budget is almost set. There isn't any wriggle room in the Justice Fund although Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) said the legislature will probably increase the levy for the Justice fund. Chief Deputy Clerk Isaac explained how in the past there had been some employees who had a high number of vacation hours and the county had to pay for those hours and it left that department without the ability to hire a new employee so that is why the personnel policy is written the way it is. Ms. Denton said this year, with the Sheriff's Office being so short-handed, is the reason why Sheriff Sprungl wanted to do something to take care of those hours. Ms. Denton explained that the hiring pool for the Sheriff's Office has not been very good.

The meeting with Ms. Denton ended at 11:37 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to have the County Road and Bridge Department contract with Oxford Inc. for the purpose of providing dust abatement to the fairgrounds parking lot for a total of \$4,000. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Nancy Ryals joined the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to go into closed session under Idaho Code 31-874. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously. 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Kirby moved to go out of closed session. Commissioner Pinkerton second. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to put indigent application #2015-24 in suspension upon determination of insurance or social security insurance. Commissioner Kirby second. Motion passed unanimously.

11:49 a.m., Assessor Dave Ryals stopped by Commissioners' Office.

Assessor Ryals said the Subaru his office uses has continual computer and transmission problems and he is tired of fixing the car. Assessor Ryals said he has modified his budget as he would like to trade in the Subaru. Chairman Dinning asked Assessor Ryals if he could wait until October. Assessor Ryals said yes as he was also thinking about the next budget year. Chairman Dinning said Commissioners still have a week or more so there is time to talk about it again. Assessor Ryals said he was thinking of trading the Subaru for a Tahoe for approximately \$25,000.

Assessor Ryals left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Commissioners reviewed the County's Personnel Policy.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

Chairman Dinning said the Idaho Association of Counties has discussed allowing county legal notices to be posted online as opposed to paying for publications in the newspaper. Chairman Dinning said using our community as an example, people do not refer to Boundary County's website very often so he was thinking that a shortened version of something advertised could be posted in the newspaper and just refer people to visit the county's website for further information.

Commissioners tended to administrative duties.

There being no further business, the meetings adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DAN R. DINNING, Chairman

ATTEST:

GLENDIA POSTON, Clerk
By: Michelle Rohrwasser, Deputy Clerk