

Beaver County Commission Work Meeting  
Beaver, UT 84713  
May 16, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners met on May 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m. for its Commission Work Meeting. Attending were: Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, Chairman; Commissioner Tammy Pearson; Commissioner Brandon Yardley; Stephanie Laws, Commission Secretary; Jen Wakeland, Strategic Development Director and Leo Kanell, Deputy County Attorney.

Comm. Hollingshead called the meeting to order.

A prayer was offered by Commissioner Yardley

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Strategic Development Director Jen Wakeland

Approve Bills. Bills were presented for approval. Motion to accept bills as presented was made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Yardley, and the vote was made unanimous.

General Plan/Master Transportation Plan. Present as Jen Wakeland, Strategic Development Director; Ms. Wakeland presented the Beaver County General Plan and Master Transportation Plan from Sunrise Engineering. The General Plan will take 8-12 months to complete and will cost \$50,000. The Master Transportation Plan will take 3-4 months to complete and cost \$30,000. This will be paid for with a grant including a county donation of \$6000. Payment will be made to Sunrise Engineering upon deliverables, this will involve several county entities including the Road Department and the GIS director as these plans have not been updated for several years. County Planning and Zoning will be involved as well. Motion to accept Sunrise Engineering's proposal to create the Beaver County General Plan and Master Transportation Plan made by Comm. Yardley, seconded by Comm. Pearson, and the vote was made unanimous.

Consider County Road Name Change. Present was Brandon Barnes, Property Owner and Keven Whicker County GIS director. There are two roads off of highway 357, one called Last Chance Bench Road and the other is Last Chance Road which is a subdivision and was assigned the address of 3700 N, the residents of 3700 N has since been deemed Last Chance Road. Mr. Barnes is building a house on the Last Chance Bench Road. Mr. Whicker explained that there are mail delivery issues because the roads are similarly named. Mr. Barnes suggested the name Ridge View Drive. Other options are Deer Hollow Lane or Hillside Drive. Mr. Whicker will research on any conflicting road names with Ridge View Drive. Motion to change Last Chance Bench Road to Ridge View Drive upon no other conflicts found by Mr. Whicker made by Comm. Yardley seconded by Comm. Pearson and the vote was made unanimous.

Tourism Updates: Present was Ms. Wakeland to give a tourism update, she is currently working on the Co-op grant for 2024 which is in the amount of \$450,000. Of that, \$50,000 will be allotted to Eagle Point for their Stay and Play campaign. Taste of Utah which is a television program on KUTV 2 will be spotlighting Craig O's Pizza, Beaver Taco, The Drive Inn, and Maria's Cocina. This will air in segments on different days. Craigo's Pizza and Maria's Cocina will also be featured in longer episodes to be aired at

another time. The Utah Restaurants Association will pay for those spots. Road Trippin', which is another program on KUTV 2 will be filming at the Minersville Reservoir on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July and will air on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. Ms. Wakeland stated that the reschedule of the Jamboree which was originally to take place this week was a good decision, as we have had weather and flooding issues. The date for the Jamboree is now July 11-14. Ms. Wakeland will look at the dynamics on how the July dates work out as to see if the Jamboree will be permanently held in July. Ms. Wakeland also gave an update on the NICA bicycle course as 48 kids came to the trail building event on May 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be an official trail opening at the course on July 18<sup>th</sup>, with a ribbon cutting. It was mentioned that there will possibly be a contest for naming the NICA course.

Ratify Newly Hired Employees. Present was Heidi Eyre, HR Director. Ms. Eyre updated on recent county hires. Lori Beebe was hired as a secretary at the Attorney's Office, Cutler Edwards is the new Road Department hire and Zach Wright is a new hire in Corrections. Ms. Eyre mentioned that the Council on Aging is still looking to hire. Motion to ratify current County hires made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Yardley and the vote was made unanimous.

Ms. Eyre also presented the Paylocity payroll contract, which has been discussed and approved in a previous Commission Meeting. Motion made to sign the Paylocity contract made by Comm. Pearson seconded by Comm. Yardley and the vote was made unanimous.

Ms. Eyre also mentioned that scholarships are being given from the Sheriff's Office again this year. There are a few applications from Beaver High School and she is not sure if there are any from Milford.

Consider signing Ordinance 2023-05; An Ordinance Establishing the County Recorder Appeal Authority. Present was Cindy Peterson, County Recorder. Ms. Peterson explained that House Bill 351 was passed in this year's Legislative Session, requiring each County to set recorder standards in case there are any appeals on recording. Motion to sign Ordinance 2023-05 made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Yardley Comm. Pearson, "aye" Comm. Yardley, "aye," Comm. Hollingshead "aye". Motion made unanimous.

Grazing Rights Discussion Forest Service/BLM CRMP. Present were Dan Fletcher, BLM; Paul Briggs, BLM; Keven Whicker, County GIS Director; Nyk Ferrer, Forest Service; Cole LaCroix, Senator Lee Rep.; Kyle Wilson, Senator Romney Rep. Commissioner Pearson discussed the need for quarterly meetings with the BLM for updates on projects, etc. Mr. Briggs mentioned that the BLM meets with Iron County Commission twice a year in the spring and fall. Mr. Briggs will set up a work meeting with Ms. Laws for those dates in the future. Summer grazing permits: Mr. Fletcher of the BLM expressed that turnout looks good for the range and most herds will be turned out by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Full herd numbers will be allowed. Mr. Ferrer with the Forest Service commented that they are looking at full numbers as well with no limits. Mr. Ferrer also mentioned that there will be a grazing audit and the federal government will be looking for unpaid fees and non-compliance.

Also discussed was the Land Restoration and Resiliency Act. Cole LaCroix the area representative from Senator Lee's Office as well as Kyle Wilson the area representative for Senator Romney's Office, spoke about the proposed act and explained it as an effort to restore any landscapes that have been degraded,

such as diminished range lands and abandon mines. However, there is confusion because the Act also states that it is both for degraded and intact land. The question is does this include grazing, recreational activities etc.? It is suspected that NGO's will use this act to restore their "Carbon Footprint." Mr. Briggs is waiting to hear what part the local BLM will have in this action. The comment period deadline for the Land Restoration and Resiliency Act is June 20<sup>th</sup>, however PLPCO is trying to extend that time. Commissioner Pearson urged all who will be affected to write a letter stating specific bullet points in the effects that this Act will have and not just fill out a form in opposition if the Act. Mr. Briggs expressed that the BLM will continue to work with grazers and projects for local and national interests and do what they've always been doing to maintain good relationships.

Commissioner Yardley spoke of the virtual public meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> regarding right-of-way applications for solar energy. There will be a Q&A period during the meeting for people to identify concerns. Commissioner Pearson expressed that Beaver County is against solar on public land as it affects grazing. Mr. Briggs stressed that the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting is not the initiation of the NEPA process it is to hear concerns etc., after which if it is approved they will move forward.

High Desert Trail. Commissioner Pearson asked Mr. Jacobsen of the BLM where the NEPA process for High Desert Trails stands. Mr. Jacobsen expressed that they don't have a final approval from State of Utah BLM Office, as they are making sure every trail head and piece of trail is being gone over thoroughly. They are also still waiting on approval from the Box Elder Commission and Washington County has yet to approve. Commissioner Pearson stated that she will do what she can to help the HDT be approved in remaining counties.

Mammoth Bridge Replacement. Present were Keven Whicker, GIS; Jason Brown, Beaver City Manager; Phil Jolley, Mammoth Canal Chairman. Robin Bradshaw, Mammoth Canal board member via phone. Mr. Jolley, stated that initially they wanted the bridge to be able to be moved in order to clean under the bridge for flooding and debris. Their concerns are with liability and indemnification if something were to happen to the bridge while moving it or someone gets injured while crossing it. Mr. Whicker expressed that the bridge is a county project and the BLM has a partnership. The County should be responsible to move the bridge and they correlate with Beaver City for any cleaning of debris. The Mammoth Canal Board will not be responsible for any damage or injury. Mr. Brown from Beaver City agreed. County Deputy Attorney Leo Kanell will create an MOU for the bridge with all parties involved.

Consider Signing Iron, Garfield, Beaver Counties Task Force Interlocal Agreement. Present were Sheriff Cody Black and Under Sheriff Kylie Maycock. Sheriff Black explained how the agreement will work with all of the parties involved. The biggest part is the critical incident task force which is anything officer involved including an officer injury or death which would have to be investigated externally by one of the other parties in the agreement. Sheriff Black updated that Kane County has agreed to be a part of the task force. Deputy Attorney Kanell stated that this is a renewal of the agreement that has already been already adopted and Kane County needs to be added to the agreement. Motion to sign the agreement with the addition of Kane County made by Commissioner Pearson, seconded by Commissioner Yardley and the vote was made unanimous.

Motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; discuss strategy for pending or reasonably imminent litigation, real property negotiation, was made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Yardley, and the vote was made unanimous. Roll call vote Comm. Pearson "aye", Comm. Yardley "aye", Comm. Hollingshead "aye".

Closed session declared closed by Comm. Hollingshead.

FORGE Update. Present was Dr. Joseph Moore to update the commissioners on the FORGE project. Dr. Moore update on the drilling process, 6000 feet the vertical section has been drilled so far. Dr. Moore informed the Commissioners that on May 25<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary Alejandro Moreno and some Department of Energy staff members will be visiting the FORGE site. Also on June 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cox and Governor Polis from Colorado will be visiting. Dr. Moore thanked Comm. Pearson for her participation on the Earth Shot Engagement Panel last Thursday via Zoom, in which she talked about community engagement with renewable energy. Dr. Moore has submitted a proposal for an extension of the project as equipment and supplies have significantly risen in costs as the FORGE project could possibly run out of funding sooner than expected.

Flood Mitigation updates, present were Cory Beebe County Road Supervisor, Sheriff Cody Black and Craig Wright Beaver County SAR. Mr. Beebe stated that the canals are flowing well as of now, and they are monitoring the flow of the river including a few bridges in the grove area that are of concern. They continue to watch the flow and the melting of the snow pack on the mountain. Mr. Wright stated that the Fire Dept. will be burning the remaining river clean out piles for the rest of the week. Comm. Pearson stated that we need to make sure that UDOT is ready to do their due diligence for whatever flooding may occur and is concerned about the Hay Springs diversion. Mr. Beebe has talked to Milford UDOT about the diversion to 129 which won't be a problem. Sheriff Black stated that he will contact Beaver UDOT and make sure that they are ready for action with all flooding procedures. Mr. Wright stated that the Search and Rescue water rescue gear is up to date and each of the county deputies have rescue throw bags in their patrol cars. Mr. Wright questioned signage in case of any road closures. Mr. Beebe will coordinate with the SAR on signage.

County Order of Emergency Interim Successors. Present were Cory Beebe road supervisor, Cody Black Sheriff, Craig Wright Search and Rescue, Les Whitney Emergency Management Director via Phone. After discussing the emergency succession of the county interim successors and promulgation statement, the titles and names of the positions held need to be updated. Mr. Whitney will update all state documents and email for signature. Commissioner Pearson suggested a resolution be created for Beaver County emergency succession. Deputy Attorney Kanell will see that a resolution with the correct chain of command order is created and it will either be brought to the next Commission Meeting for signature or ratified after signature.

Ratify Signing of IDC Grant. This was a Grant for Indigent Defense that Commissioner Hollingshead signed via DocuSign last week in order to receive funding for council for Juvenile defenders. Motion made to ratify signing of IDC Grant made by Comm. Pearson seconded by Commissioner Yardley and the motion was made unanimous.

Present was Paula Spencer, Beaver County DUP President to discuss any needs for the Commission Meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> which will be held in the Old Courthouse Museum. Ms. Spencer will not be in attendance but Beverly Abbott will be in her place. Comm. Pearson asked that Ms. Spencer invite all members of the DUP for recognition of their efforts.

#### Commission Updates

Comm. Yardley gave an update on the purchase of the Tamra copper mine as the new owners have shown dedication and efforts to get it producing soon.

No further business meeting adjourned.