

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CASCADE, IDAHO  
March 15, 2010**

**PRESENT: GERALD “JERRY” WINKLE) CHAIRMAN  
FRANK W. ELD) COMMISSIONERS  
GORDON L. CRUICKSHANK) Vice Chair**

**ARCHIE N. BANBURY, CLERK**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Winkle at 9:00 a.m.

On motion of Commissioner Cruickshank, second by Commissioner Eld, the Proposed Agenda (as previously amended) for Monday, March 15, 2010 was adopted. Clerk Banbury is taking the minutes.

A workshop with Elected Officials and Department Heads convened with the following individuals present:

Karen Campbell, Glenna Young , Cynda Herrick, Greg Malmen, John Coombs, Patti Bolen, Ralph McKenzie, Jerry Robinson, Paula Fodrea, Steve Brown, Rick Ridenour, Doug Miller and Matt Williams.

Commissioner Cruickshank explained the purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for a free exchange between the Department Heads and Elected Officials and the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Eld echoed those sentiments.

Matt explained that the Commissioners could provide guidance to those Department Heads under their aegis. So that some decisions may be made, items requiring a decision, should be provided to the Clerk so that the item can be listed and noted appropriately. All contracts to be signed should be placed on the agenda, including those that are redundant.

Processes involved in records retention in the Building Department were discussed.

Cynda Herrick discussed impact areas. Presently, Donnelly and Cascade are considering their impact areas and may be submitting their questions to the Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission. Cynda outlined and discussed the process which any revisions proposed must follow. She has three public hearings that can be set for the Special Meeting of April 5, 2010.

She is working on a new contract for the County Surveyor. For the meeting of March 22, the reappointment of Ronda Sandmeyer should be placed on the agenda.

Valley County Planning and Zoning plans to meet and hold a workshop with the Valley County Board of Commissioners and then formally submit their recommendations to the BOCC concerning proposed amendments to ordinances.

Greg Malmen discussed the web site. He cannot foresee an early completion date, and is searching for a contractor to potentially finish the site.

Jerry Robinson inquired as to hiring an engineering intern for the summer. He has the funding in his budget and will work with Glenna to get it done.

Doug Miller has three seasonal positions to fill, a youth tracker and 2 juvenile probation officers and he needs to set the salaries and establish position descriptions.

Matt Williams discussed that ICRMP provided policy concerning employees running against their elected superiors. He cited the recording of the meeting on January 14, 2008 as clearly demonstrating that he did not present it as being recommended by ICRMP. Commissioners Cruickshank and Eld apologized to Matt. Commissioner Cruickshank admitted he had not listened to the recording and had only reviewed the brief minutes.

Sheriff Bolen and John Coombs discussed several issues regarding emergency response and communications. They receive emergency funds from the Bureau of Homeland Security. John asked if the Commission would like to have approval over these items, or simply be kept in the loop. They deferred their decision to Matt. Matt advised that the current processes of BHS purchasing is acceptable. Sheriff Bolen wants a Resolution on the agenda for 3/22/2010 to implement Idaho Region 3 Interoperability Governance Board, and to have RBS Sub-Grant Agreement signed.

Steve Brown confirmed a request that he may waive the fee for some improvements to the Sheriff's Boat Barn.

JABG Grant needs to be on the agenda for 3/22/10. Greg also has the XEROX lease for approval and signature at that time.

Concerning motor vehicles – get rid of some vehicles? Pay mileage instead? This is a question that should be answered. More discussion would be appropriate at a later date. The Commissioners asked that everyone be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon.

Reconvened at 1:08 p.m.

Michelle Groenveld, City of McCall Planning and Zoning, appeared and discussed the minimum standards for lot sites along or around Big Payette Lake. The proposed ordinance would increase density slightly, and only directly affect a few lots, and would have no impact on structures as conforming or nonconforming. Commissioner Cruickshank noted that this proceeding was to be a public hearing and has not been noticed as a public hearing. The proceeding is driven by the McCall Planning and Zoning Commission. A primary concern is boat traffic creating a hazardous situation with the density of the homes in the area, most of which have docks. Michelle advised that the City of McCall has deferred its public hearing until April 9, 2010. Chairman Winkle asked Michelle to put this aside until this summer.

Commissioner Cruickshank would like to hear from the homeowners who are here during the summer. Commissioner Eld agreed. Commissioner Cruickshank moved to table this issue until July, providing the City hold a public hearing to hear from the property owners. Commissioner Eld seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

John Blaye appeared to discuss his Economic Development activities.

John Blaye provided a letter addressing current issues and proceeded to read the same (Copy attached). He said that he tried to structure a work plan for each of the communities in Valley County. This is primarily job-oriented. He has a list of some 260 companies he tries to work with to bring employment up here. He also did a 6,800 business mailing to attempt to develop occupancies in McCall. He continued to discuss other initiatives.

Chairman Winkle said he knows his track record. He congratulated him on what he has done for Valley County. He cited letters he received from the cities of Donnelly and McCall, critical in nature.

Commissioner Frank Eld added he had supported Blaye for a long time. They had followed the system, the UPRED Council, a partnership, of Boise and Valley Counties as well as our three cities. When things were flush, we lost our funding from the Department of Commerce. We agreed to work together and continue. This we did. When we lost the funding, it became an economic relationship, where the partners were committed to funds that would pay for it, some \$98,000 per year.

We noted difficulties a year or so ago, and one by one we lost the support of some of the partners attributable to John Blaye's management style. We lost Donnelly, McCall and Boise County. We have lost our partners, except for the City of Cascade because Blaye's management style was not acceptable to them. In December, Blaye was asked by the Commissioners to put together an economic summit for the County, to occur in January. All were to be invited, and as a group, there was to be discussion about ideas for Valley-wide economic development. He was also asked to call a meeting of the UPRED Board to discuss the future of UPREDC.

John Blaye's January report was too little and too late to provide meaningful input for an economic summit at any time in January. He was considered ineffective by our partners, Donnelly and McCall, who withdrew their financial support. (Boise County withdrew on March 8, 2010.) This Council needs to be regionally driven, an inclusive program with a working relationship with our partners.

John Blaye provided a document designed to be a regional Economic Development Summit Workshop in McCall, and tried to schedule it for November with the McCall Area Merchant's Association. It went back and forth for three months, and Frank Eld cancelled it because it conflicted with McCall's meeting. It still hasn't been accomplished as a regional meeting.

Frank Eld added that it was cancelled by him and the Idaho Department of Commerce because it did not include McCall, or the McCall Chamber of Commerce. In December, the McCall meeting was held with all involved, including the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, the Chamber, the McCall Merchant's Association, and businesses. It was a success. Thereafter, they, the Commissioners, asked Blaye to set up such a meeting on a regional basis, not just McCall, in Cascade.

John Blaye then began a long discussion. He cited difficulties with the City of Donnelly with their financial statements, including many items that involved the Donnelly Depot. He attributed these difficulties with the City of Donnelly, lasting some three months or more as reasons. This, upon question by Frank Eld, was the reason he cited a communication failure with Donnelly.

Two weeks later, a secretary, or City Clerk let him go, i.e. dismissed him as manager of the Donnelly Depot. He may have said something to Katie (Durfee) that Donnelly was no longer a member of UPREDC. (This was in response to a question by Commissioner Eld if he had told Katie to remove Donnelly from UPREDC notice of meetings.) The City of Donnelly was incommunicative. They did not respond to businesses.

John Blaye introduced a letter from Bill Robertson, (a former Mayor of McCall) which he stated is properly identified as "favorable" to his efforts, and wanting to continue with UPREDC as well as committing finances to that effort. (This letter is from 2007) Commissioner Eld responded that times have changed; they do not currently support him as they had in the past.

He then discussed a long list of difficulties in dealing with the City of McCall, its Mayor and City Manager.

A short break was called by Chairman Winkle, 10 minutes.

Commissioner Cruickshank cited a prior motion (from the September 28, 2009 Commission meeting) that should the partner(s) fail to fund the UPRED Council, it would be necessary to revise the funding agreement. He then reviewed some provisions/notes from the UPRED Council meetings. He then provided a variety of comments from the Board of County Commissioners as well as the UPRED Council. He cited successes of the program, including grants to Donnelly, taxes paid by economic expansion in McCall and others.

He then cited a number of favorable comments received from the public at large. He asked, is it salvageable? Can we make it work? Where do we go from here, he asked Mr. Blaye.

John suggested the formation of a non-profit corporation, under the aegis of 501C (6), to raise both public and private funds. There may be funds available, up to about \$35,000. John says he is willing to give it a try, he will work with us. This is salvageable, we need to find a way to fund it.

Commissioner Eld, asked John Blaye why he didn't say anything about our former partners. Blaye responded that he would be pleased to work with both Donnelly and McCall. He asked that if we negotiate a new contract, how can we work it out? If they don't fund, do they still have a vote.

Commissioner Eld asked Don Bailey how he would respond for McCall. He replied that it is not his call. They have taken a different direction. He does not know how they would respond to a request for funding. Mr. Bert Kulesza, 118 E. Forest Street, representative of McCall for UPREDC. They support Economic Development, and UPREDC. They will not be providing the funding for UPREDC as long as Blaye is the coordinator. To him, this is a personality issue. They have lost confidence with Mr. Blaye to be an effective person for Economic Development.

Commissioner Eld asked if a new contract were negotiated, is there any possibility for a trial period, to give it a try. He does not speak for the Donnelly City Council.

Brad Backus, Mayor of Donnelly, does not wish to proceed with Mr. Blaye at the helm.

Fred Lawson, former Boise County Commissioner, spoke in support of Blaye and his abilities. He recommended going forward with or without our partners in UPREDC. Business is slow, getting rid of John won't make it better. Commissioner Eld read a letter from Boise County, stating their dissatisfaction with what had been accomplished.

Dick Carter, Mayor of Cascade, and currently the President of UPREDC stated that they, the Mayors of Donnelly, McCall and Cascade should have stepped up sooner. He spoke of many things John Blaye has done and said that if he had strayed, they should have “nipped it right in the bud.” He added that we shouldn’t end this without an alternative, and doesn’t know where we could find an alternative.

He recommended retention of John Blaye, at least until someone equal or better than he is can be found.

Commissioner Cruickshank moved to start negotiations with John Blaye to move forward with Economic Development in Valley County via a new contract. Second by Commissioner Winkle. Commissioner Eld wants to know where this leaves UPREDC. His response is that there are two separate issues. Funding will have to be part of the negotiations. Commissioner Cruickshank wants to discuss this with Blaye, and funding will be part of that negotiation process.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Commissioner Cruickshank asked if he would look at contingent funds for a source and both Commissioner Eld and Chairman Winkle agreed that they would consider such funding. The possibility of adding business persons to the Board would also be considered appropriate.

Commissioner Cruickshank moved to have the minutes of this meeting approved and available to the public on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Seconded by Commissioner Eld, and carried.

Adjourned at 4:44 p.m. on motion of Chairman Winkle, second by Commissioner Cruickshank and carried.

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**GERALD “JERRY” WINKLE, CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

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**ARCHIE N. BANBURY, CLERK**