Valley County Board of County Commissioners

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IN THE OFFICE OF THE VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CASCADE, IDAHO
July 6, 2026

PRESENT: **SHERRY MAUPIN (CHAIRMAN)**
NEAL THOMPSON (COMMISSIONER)
KATLIN CALDWELL (COMMISSIONER)
GABRIELLE KNAPP (CLERK)

Chairman Maupin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Item (1): Chairman Maupin presented the commissioners' agenda for June 6, 2026, and amended it by adding an "Action Item: Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Trails Program (RT27-3-43-1) to support purchase of a Snow Grooming Machine by the VC Recreation Department." Commissioner Caldwell made a motion to approve the amendment to add "Action Item (33): Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Trails Program (RT27-3-43-1) to support purchase of a Snow Grooming Machine by the VC Recreation Department." to the commissioners' agenda for June 6, 2026, as amended. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the commissioners' agenda for June 6, 2026, as amended.

Action Item (2): Chairman Maupin presented the commissioners' minutes for June 15, 2026, and June 22, 2026. Commissioner Caldwell made a motion to approve the commissioners' minutes for June 15, 2026, and June 22, 2026. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the commissioners' minutes for June 15, 2026, and June 22, 2026.

Action Item (3): Chairman Maupin presented the change of verbiage from payout PTO into payout comp time max accrual for solid waste employees. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve the payout comp time max accrual for solid waste employees. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve payout comp time max accrual for solid waste employees. Chairman Maupin added that this is not County policy to payout comp time. Employees need to take their time off. Facilities and Solid Waste Dept have been instructed to hire another person so that the other employees can take vacations.

Action Item (4): Commissioner Caldwell motioned to table the Stroth General Pay Application with the Road and Bridge Director Kerstin Dettrich's presentation at 11:30am. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to table the Stroth General Pay Application to 11:30am. At 11:30am Director Dettrich presented the Stroth General Pay Application. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve the Stroth General Pay Application. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the Stroth General Pay Application.

Action Item (5): Commissioner Thompson motioned to vote on ADA County Commissioners' Appointment of Dr. Ryan Cole to Central District Board of Health. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve to vote on ADA County Commissioners' Appointment of Dr. Ryan Cole to Central District Board of Health.

Action Item (6): Clerk Knapp presented to Set Secure Rural Schools Percentages of Disbursements and recommended keeping it at 85% for Title I, 8% for Title II and 7% for Title III like it was done in the past. The commissioners had a discussion. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve Clerk Knapp's recommendations for the Secure Rural Schools Percentages of Disbursements to keep it at 85% for Title I, 8% for Title II and 7% for Title III. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve Clerk Knapp's recommendations for the Secure Rural Schools Percentages of Disbursements to keep it at 85% for Title I, 8% for Title II and 7% for Title III.

Department Head Reports

- **Building Department:** Annette Derrick reported that they have issued 190 permits so far, compared to 150 permits at this time last year. The department is having a soft launch of their new permitting system, starting with commercial permits; however, starting October 1st, it will be the standard process. They will provide training for the public on the website and Facebook. The extra staff hired have helped significantly. Permits are being issued within a week, compared to other counties where it takes 2–3 weeks. They are completely caught up on inspections. Additionally, the Annex building is too cold; the thermostat may need some maintenance.

- **Court Services:** Dee Dee Phillips reported that they currently have about 150 DUI cases, consisting of 64 supervised cases, 64 unsupervised cases, and the remainder involve charges such as disturbing the peace, domestic violence, resisting arrest, and reckless driving. Director Phillips noted that the number of DUI cases is high for the area and recommended exploring intervention solutions, such as educational and sober campaigns. She is currently reaching out to the County Sheriff and McCall Police Department to collaborate on preventive steps that can be taken to combat alcohol abuse.

- **Extension Office:** Melissa Hamilton – Absent

- **Human Resources/Risk Management:** Mike Savoie reported that the department currently has 163 employees on payroll, which is the highest headcount the County has ever recorded. There are four inbound employees joining the team soon, and there are currently 10 open positions (including road technicians, 911 dispatchers, and a custodian). Director Savoie is finalizing compensation recommendations for the next fiscal year, taking into account COLA, various equity adjustments, and recruitment needs. He is also drafting the final version of the compensation policy. The comprehensive policy is approximately 28 to 29 pages long and will be presented to the Commissioners upon completion. He hopes to implement the new policy in

October. Once the policy and compensation details are finalized, he will begin updating the employee handbook.

- **Information Technology** – Jeremy Wilcox reported that he is working with the jail to prepare for the dental onsite. He has also been fixing the radios for the Sheriff's Dept and those seem to be doing ok now. Last month he did a server migration for the CAD software, and it went well. He was also working He's been participating in meetings with the State on their consolidation statewide of standardized 911 apps on a singular system. He has met with all the Directors about the software updates.

- **Planning and Zoning**-Cynda Herrick reported that she will prepare the letter for the nominee for the Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture. Her dept is about to start the Cloud Permit software for electronic submittals and administration organization.

Action Item (7): Planning and Zoning Director Cynda Herrick presented the Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-006 Idaho Tree Equipment Storage and Employee. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-006 Idaho Tree Equipment Storage and Employee. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-006 Idaho Tree Equipment Storage and Employee.

Action Item (8): Planning and Zoning Director Cynda Herrick presented the Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-009 CM Backcountry Amendment. Director Herrick answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-009 CM Backcountry Amendment. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the Waive Development Agreement for CUP 26-009 CM Backcountry Amendment.

- **Parks and Recreation:** Dave Bingaman reported that the department was awarded three out of the five IDPR (Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation) grants they applied for: (1) Wellington improvements for the campground, warming hut, and facilities; (2) the parking lot at Francis Wallace; and (3) the Snow bike lease match amount from Perpetua. Staff are currently working on Request for Qualifications (RFQs), as the funds were received on July 2nd. Once the Board signs the grant agreement, the department can move forward with implementation. While they did not receive the grants for technology upgrades or snowmobiles and trailers, securing three out of five is a strong outcome. Director Bingaman noted he is learning a lot about budgeting and is collaborating with Clerk Knapp to improve the department's budget strategy.

  Additionally, the department has begun organizing a summer recreation forum to mirror the successful winter recreation forum. Chair Maupin suggested inviting the Sheriff's Office and other departments to the meeting to collaborate on making the season safer and more efficient. Finally, the department is not accepting reservations currently due to a system glitch. Staff are working on a solution and will likely transition to the state-based system, as it is the most favorable option.

- **Wildfire Mitigation Program**: Mara Hlawatschek reported that the new hired help is supporting her a lot. They are talking to 50-60 landowners to create and educate for wildfire mitigation.

Action Item (9): Director Hlawatschek presented the East McCall Unit 6 Contract with DND for $22,310.00 for approval and signature. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve the East McCall Unit 6 Contract with DND for $22,310.00 for approval and signature. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the East McCall Unit 6 Contract with DND for $22,310.00 for approval and signature.

Action Item (10): Director Hlawatschek presented Sign and Approve East McCall 22WFM-Valley Reimbursement & progress report 22WFM-Valley. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to Sign and Approve East McCall 22WFM-Valley Reimbursement & progress report 22WFM-Valley. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to Sign and Approve East McCall 22WFM-Valley Reimbursement & progress report 22WFM-Valley.

Action Item (11): Director Hlawatschek presented Sign and Approve GNA Agreement 2026 Q3 Reimbursement 23-GN11041200-038. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Thompson motioned to sign and approve GNA Agreement 2026 Q3 Reimbursement 23-GN11041200-038. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to sign and approve GNA Agreement 2026 Q3 Reimbursement 23-GN11041200-038.

Action Item (12): Director Hlawatschek presented Sign and Approve East Mountain Q3 Progress report 25IRAP-Valley. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to sign and approve East Mountain Q3 Progress report 25IRAP-Valley. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve to sign and approve East Mountain Q3 Progress report 25IRAP-Valley.

Action Item (13): Director Hlawatschek presented Sign and Approve Tamarack Progress Report 25HFR-Valley. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Thompson motioned to sign and approve Tamarack Progress Report 25HFR-Valley. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to sign and approve Tamarack Progress Report 25HFR-Valley.

Action Item (14): Director Hlawatschek presented the Accept and sign forfeiture letter of Specialized land works for unit 6 east McCall 22WFM-Valley. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the Accept and sign forfeiture letter of Specialized land works for unit 6 east McCall 22WFM-Valley. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the Accept and sign forfeiture letter of Specialized land works for unit 6 east McCall 22WFM-Valley.

Action Item (15): Director Herrick presented The VAR 26-003 Rogers Cabin LLC Setback Variance. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve The VAR 26-003 Rogers Cabin LLC Setback Variance. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve The VAR 26-003 Rogers Cabin LLC Setback Variance.

Action Item (16): Director Herrick presented The VAR 26-004 Holden Setback Variance. She answered some questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve The VAR 26-004 Holden Setback Variance. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve The VAR 26-004 Holden Setback Variance.

Action Item (17): The presenter Joseph Rogan was absent, so the Commissioners decided to hold the Request for Action on Dust and Airborne Particulate Impacts from Smiths Ferry IDL Logging Operations until they have more information. No action was taken.

- **Buildings and Grounds / Solid Waste**: Terri Kenneda gave an update on her dept. They are checking the jail boiler that was recently installed. She is working on some leases and disputes. She is also working with the engineers to figure out the wood debris area. She is still trying to figure out the heating and cooling at the Annex building. The Chairman Maupin suggested to turn on the heater one hour earlier so that it would be comfortable for the employees when they begin their shift.

- **Public Relations** – McKenzie Kraemer, absent, schedule misunderstanding.

- **Road and Bridge** presentation, welcoming new Operations Manager John Stevenson and detailing his collaborative workflow with Director Kerstin Dettrich. Before transitioning to the presentation, the Board approved a change order pay application for Stroth General LLC totaling $54,260.16 to cover anticipated project variations and final punch list items. Director Dettrich and Mr. Stevenson then outlined a structural modernization plan for the understaffed department, shifting from a reactive troubleshooting model to a proactive, data-driven maintenance strategy split into in-house county maintenance and subcontracted capital projects. To support this transition, the department is introducing an objective, engineering-based rapid assessment system via the iWork portal to functionally prioritize crumbling, lifecycle-depleted asphalt networks and gravel surfacing without personal bias. Additionally, the department has launched a communication triaging framework—including a new Facebook page, direct department workflows, and a forthcoming website work-ticket queue—to categorize public requests into safety emergencies (Priority 1), urgent issues (Priority 2), and general maintenance complaints (Priority 3). Acknowledging that the downsized department cannot sustain the road network under its current financial structure, Director Dettrich emphasized the necessity of exploring outside consultants to analyze long-term funding mechanisms, including levies, impact fees, and community infrastructure districts, ahead of the fiscal year 2027 budget.

The commissioners recessed for lunch at 12:05pm

The commissioners returned from lunch at 1:02pm

Action Item (18): Joseph Dalrymple and Kim Dalrymple spoke on behalf of the Dalrymple construction. Travis Pyle made a recommendation to move forward with the Decision on Transfer Station Project and accept the Dalrymple payment credit. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve the credit payment for the Transfer Station Project. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the credit payment for the Transfer Station Project. Chairman Maupin added that other items need to be completed before the credit payment be processed. Joseph Dalrymple agreed.

Action Item (19): The Forest Service Patrol Contract was approved last week. No action was taken.

Clerk, Gabby Knapp, began budget workshops with the listed departments. The first Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Workshop was for the Sheriff's department and in attendance was Sheriff, Kevin Copperi for account 100-04, 100-20 and 100-28.

- Summary: During the fiscal year 2027 budget workshop, the Valley County Sheriff's Department outlined a multi-year communication modernization strategy, reducing a projected $5 million infrastructure cost to a $600,000 package for 90 multi-connectivity radios and dispatch upgrades by negotiating a sharing agreement to use the Idaho State Police's 700 MHz network antenna on Snowbank Mountain. Financed through a multi-year Motorola purchasing plan, this radio upgrade will be supported by a rolling 20% to 25% equipment replacement rotation, a newly formed multi-agency dispatch working group for cost-sharing, and reallocated funds to cover expanded cellular costs for emergency backcountry Starlink units. Beyond communications, the workshop established a predictable 20% annual replacement rotation for patrol rifles rather than a reactive one-time fix, added a $10,000 investigative allocation for a Cellebrite phone download system, centralized VPN line items within the IT budget, and expanded allocations for mandated taser training and Quick Response Team munitions. To resolve backcountry logistical issues without depleting state recreation sticker funds, the Board approved a $5,000 increase for a rolling snowmobile lease program offset by older sled trade-ins, before concluding with the approval of pre-employment psychological screenings and a proactive, three-prong deputy wellness program partnered with St. Luke's to mandate physical, mental health, and medical diagnostics for staff.

Clerk, Gabby Knapp, began budget workshops with the listed departments. The first Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Workshop was for the Recreation Department and in attendance was Director, Dave Bingaman for accounts 100-32, 139, 140, 141, 175, 176 and 177.

- Summary: During the Valley County recreation budget workshop, the department discussed modernizing communication at campgrounds like Horse Thief, Wellington, and Francie Wallace by shifting from Garmin in-Reach devices to Starlink units, though solar power constraints present an ongoing challenge at Francie Wallace. To establish a more realistic baseline, the inflated $2 million grant line was scaled back to $750,000, while the travel and project design budgets were increased to accommodate rising costs and expensive NEPA forest consultations. Due to the addition of a new fleet vehicle, the fuel budget was expanded to $10,000, and a dedicated $5,000 donation line item was introduced to seamlessly track contributions from local snowmobile clubs for trail upkeep and repairs. Despite a significant 45% statewide drop in snowmobile registrations, carryover funds will sustain the local snowmobile budget, which was also adjusted to level-set the "extraordinary expenses" repair fund to $35,000 and bump up the electricity allowance. Additionally, a $25,000 deficit in snow plowing funds—caused by a missing Local Option Tax (LOT) grant application during a city administrative transition—will be covered using snowmobile carryover reserves. Finally, to clean up accounting tracking and ensure strict compliance with state lease terms, the county isolated revenue streams by pulling Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and site-specific user fees out of the general fund and placing them into specialized, self-sustaining fund lines to directly offset localized operational expenses.

Action Item (20): Treasurer Johanna Defoort presented The Tax Cancellation 25-08 Parcel: MHC0918000015B. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve The Tax Cancellation 25-08 Parcel: MHC0918000015B. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve The Tax Cancellation 25-08 Parcel: MHC0918000015B.

Action Item (21): Treasurer Johanna Defoort presented Tax Cancellation 25-09 – MH00174000040A. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve The VAR 26-004 Holden Setback Variance.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve Tax Cancellation 25-09 – MH00174000040A.

Action Item (22): Treasurer Johanna Defoort presented Tax Cancellation 25-10 – RP00174000040A Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve Tax Cancellation 25-10 – RP00174000040A. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve Tax Cancellation 25-10 – RP00174000040A.

Action Item (23): Alzar School was represented by Legal Counsel Amy Holm and spoke on behalf of Cofounder & Executive Director Kristin Bierle who was not present. Counsel Holme pleaded with the commissioners to make an exception since Alzar School was a not-for-profit business. The Chairman Maupin spoke for the Board and the State that the Board must follow the April 15th deadline to file to waive property taxes. Chairman Maupin also stated that she, the Board and Legal have tried to find ways to help Alzar School but all the avenues to relieve the tax burden are all expired including the hardship application option. The Commissioners regretted being in the position to make the decision, but it had to be made. The Board kept their decision from last week of denying. No action was taken.

Action Item (24): Discussion of nonprofit property tax waivers

Treasurer Defoort spoke on behalf of the County

Legal Counsel Amy Holm spoke on behalf of Alzar School and Big Lake Properties

Linda Clan testified in favor

John Zabala testified in favor

Chairman Maupin expressed her sadness in making the decision but there is nothing more the Board can do because they are bounded by the State's deadline. Chairman Maupin suggested that they appeal to their legislature new legislation on how to apply for an appeal after the deadline.

Board of Equalization (BOE)

Action Item (25): Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented Alzar School, Parcel #RPC00000083006; Protest #SL2611 Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Alzar School. Commissioner Thompson motioned to deny the appeal for Parcel #RPC00000083006; Protest #SL2611. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to deny the appeal for Parcel #RPC00000083006; Protest #SL2611.

Action Item (26): Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented Alzar School, Parcel #RPC00000083515; Protest #SL2612. Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Alzar School. Commissioner Thompson motioned to deny the appeal for Parcel #RPC00000083515; Protest #SL2612. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to deny the appeal for Parcel #RPC00000083515; Protest #SL2612.

Action Item (27): Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented Alzar School, Parcel #RP13N04E082406; Protest #SL2613 Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Alzar School. Commissioner Thompson motioned to deny the appeal for Parcel #RP13N04E082406; Protest #SL2613. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to deny the appeal for Parcel #RP13N04E082406; Protest #SL2613.

Action Item (28): Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented Alzar School, Parcel #RP13N04E087806; Protest #SL2614 Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Alzar School. Commissioner Thompson motioned to deny the appeal for Parcel #RP13N04E087806; Protest #SL2614. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to deny the appeal for Parcel #RP13N04E087806; Protest #SL2614.

Action Item (29): Commissioner Thompson motioned to remove the Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002001A; Protest #JB2603 item from the table. Commissioner Caldwell seconded, No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to remove Parcel # RPM0173002001A; Protest #JB2603 from the table.

Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented the Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002001A; Protest #JB2603.

Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Big Lake Properties

Owner Rick Fereday spoke

Owner Scott Fereday spoke

Commissioner Caldwell motioned to table the Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002001A; Protest #JB2603 to next meeting for owners to provide more information. Commissioner Thompson seconded, No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed table Parcel # RPM0173002001A; Protest #JB2603 to next meeting for owners to provide more information

Action Item (30): Director Leeper and Assessor Boyd presented Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002004A; Protest #JB2604:

Counsel Holme spoke on behalf of Big Lake Properties

Owner Rick Fereday spoke

Owner Scott Fereday spoke

Commissioner Thompson motioned to deny the appeal for Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002004A; Protest #JB2604. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to deny the appeal Big Lake Properties LLC, Parcel # RPM0173002004A; Protest #JB2604.

Action Item (31): Grant Writer Ken Schlegel presented the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Vehicle Grant, RV27-3-43-1 to support the Wellington RV Park Site Improvements Project. Commissioner Thompson motioned to approve the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Vehicle Grant. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Vehicle Grant.

Action Item (32): Grant Writer Ken Schlegel presented the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Road and Bridge Grant, RB27-3-43-1, to support the Francis Wallace Parking Lot Improvements Project. Commissioner Caldwell motioned to approve the Accepting the award for the

IDPR FY27 Recreational Road and Bridge Grant, RB27-3-43-1. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Road and Bridge Grant, RB27-3-43-1.

Action Item (33): Grant Writer Ken Schlegel presented the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Trails Program (RT27-3-43-1) to support purchase of a Snow Grooming Machine by the VC Recreation Department. Commissioner Caldwell made a motion to approve the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Trails Program (RT27-3-43-1). Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to approve presented the Accepting the award for the IDPR FY27 Recreational Trails Program (RT27-3-43-1)

Opportunity for General Public to Present to Commissioners

Adjourn

The commissioners adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Sherry Maupin

Chairman Sherry Maupin

Attest:

Maria Guest

Maria Guest, Admin Assistant