

**BENEWAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**August 25, 2025**

Be it remembered that at this time the Board of County Commissioners met in regular session. The meeting was opened by Commissioner Lampert.

Present:	Philip R. Lampert	Chairman
	Robert Short	Commissioner
	Mark Reynolds	Commissioner
	Deanna Bramblett	Clerk
	Janeen LeWan	Appointed Clerk
	Mariah Dunham	Attorney (ABSENT)
	Jim Roletto	Public Works Director

The Board met at 8:00 a.m., whereupon the following proceedings were had to-wit.

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s) (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
2. Benewah Community Hospital Agenda & Minutes: Reviewed by the board.
3. Benewah Creek Road Rock N' Road LLC – Rock Purchase Agreement (ACTION): A motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
4. Clerk's Request for Authorization to Grant L2 Extension Requests (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
5. City of St Maries Letter & Request for Meeting – Discuss Alternate Dates: Reviewed by the board. Jim Roletto will try to come up with a date in the next few weeks.
6. Compression ("Jake") Brake Regulation Options to Review: Discussed whether the county has authority to enforce it this item on a state highway.
7. FY2026 Proposed Fee Changes for Review: Reviewed by the board. Jim Roletto explained the research that was done on the solid waste proposed new fees. Treasurer Sara Sexton and Jim Roletto discussed a proposal for a flat fee on every residential and recreational parcel in the county and remove the levy rate. A motion to set the public hearing date for September 22, 2025 at 9:00 am was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Lampert. Motion carried.
8. Groomer Shed in Clarkia Area - Purchase & Sale Agreement (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried pending legal review.
9. Idaho Fish & Game Commissioner – Concerned Citizen Letter: Reviewed by the board. The commissioners expressed some of the same concerns.
10. Idaho Dept of Commerce FY26 EdPro/Timber Plus Agreement (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Short and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
11. LHTAC Quarterly Progress Report for Review: Reviewed by the board.
12. Land Exchange with State – Resolution/Approval Documents (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried pending finalized documents.
13. Notice of Public Hearing – Drake Rural Subdivision: Reviewed by the board.

14. Oath of Office for Appointed Clerk Appointment (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Lampert and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried. Janeen Lewan was sworn in as County Clerk effective September 1, 2025.
15. Preliminary Plat Bailey Rural Subdivision – Order Approving (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
16. Planning & Zoning Board Member(s) Reappointment Resolution (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
17. Prosecution Services for Cities of Plummer & St Maries Contracts FY26 (ACTION): No changes were recommended by the prosecutor. A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
18. Public Defense Office Space – Consider Rental Fee Amount (ACTION): A motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
19. Vacation of Alleys & Portions of 1<sup>st</sup> Street Fernwood – Order Denying (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Short and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
20. Validation of Old Sheep Creek Road Santa – Order Denying (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Short and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
21. Vacation of Portion of Old Sheep Creek Rd Tensed – Approval & Easement (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

**8:45 A.M. JIM ROLETT, BENEWAH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Emergency Management	Road Projects	Public Works	Solid Waste
	Sewer System	Airport	Planning & Zoning

- EM: Finalizing the all-hazard mitigation.
- GR: Discussed paving the parking lot at 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. Rock crushing project in process and working on the Rock N Road agreement. Ordered replacement culvert for Brebner Road.
- EMS: Working on shed in Emida. Will get more estimates.
- SWR: Would like to order another pump.
- AP: Working on getting a bigger tank for aviation fuel.
- SW: Would like to start an “adopt a dumpster” program for the county. Discussed the new fees proposed earlier in the meeting.

**9:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING BENEWAH COUNTY FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The hearing was opened at 9:00 am. Cody Crandall stated he was in favor of the solid waste proposed flat fee. He discussed privatizing commercial and residential pickup. He would like to see the board not approve the increase requests from non-county agencies. Charles Craig agreed with Cody Crandall’s comments. Would like to see some reduced spending to relieve the tax burden on residents. Maureen Hodgson commented on the age of county’s heavy equipment used for road maintenance. The hearing closed at 9:13 am.

### **9:15 A.M. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maureen Hodgson commented that she appreciates the county road crew's maintenance efforts. She also discussed the rates at the transfer station and the Rock N Road agreement. There are a couple of things she would like amended.

Charles Craig commented that he lives on Crystal Peak that is a privately maintained road in Fernwood. They have placed some rock on it, but it is used by multiple other people and logging companies and it needs more maintenance. Discussion followed regarding creating an owner's association to assist with road maintenance costs and issues.

### **BENEWAH COUNTY TREASURER (ACTION)**

Treasurer Sara Sexton appeared before the board regarding the following item(s):

- Possible Tax Cancellation/Hardship Request(s): None.
- Solid Waste Fee Discussion: The Tribe will be starting a recycling program.
- Financial Review: She reached out to BCH and let them know what their monthly payment is. Also, the county cash balance increased due to the receipt of the quarterly payments from the State in July.
- Delinquent Taxes: She reviewed the current list of delinquencies.

### **BENEWAH COUNTY ASSESSOR (ACTION)**

Assessor Donna Spier appeared before the board regarding the following item(s):

- Possible Tax Cancellation Request(s): None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to enter into executive session at 9:40 am pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(d)(a)(b); To consider records that are exempt from disclosure and Personnel; seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried. Present: Commissioners Lampert, Reynolds and Short, Clerk Deanna Bramblett, Appointed Clerk Janeen Lewan, Public Works Director Jim Roletto and Attorney Freudenthal. Exited executive session at 10:41 am.

### **10:30 A.M. LHTAC UPDATE WITH LAILA KRAL AND JIM ROLETT**

Laila Kral appeared before the board to present an update to the board. She discussed the upcoming federal aid funding sources and that they are focusing on timber bridges. The Leading Idaho Bridge program is on hold at the moment. She presented Commissioner Lampert with a token of appreciation and thanked him for his years of service to the LHTAC Board.

### **10:45 A.M. PEGGY CUVALA, PHD REPRESENTATIVE – UPDATE**

Peggy Cuvala appeared before the board to update them on the Panhandle Health District board meeting topics. She has been representing Benewah County for about six months now and discussed some information with them regarding vaccinations and informed consent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to enter into executive session at 11:03 am pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(d)(a)(b); To consider records that are exempt from disclosure and Personnel; seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried. Present: Commissioners Lampert, Reynolds and Short, Clerk Deanna Bramblett, Appointed Clerk Janeen Lewan, Public Works Director Jim Roletto and Undersheriff Tyler Morris. Exited executive session at 11:19 pm.

The meeting convened at 11:30 am.

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The board reconvened at 1:30 pm for the Budget Workshop.

**1:30 P.M. REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY26 BUDGET/MAKE FINAL REVISIONS**

• **Consider Approval of the FY2026 Budget (ACTION)**

Benewah County Attendees: Philip Lampert, Robert Short, Mark Reynolds, Deanna Bramblett, Janeen Lewan, Sara Sexton, Donna Spier, and Lauren King. Also in attendance were several members of the public.

The board reviewed each department request and all departmental proposed budgets. Each department head present reviewed their requests with the board. Several line-item transfers were made as well as several small reductions.

A motion to approve the proposed budget with the changes that were made during the workshop was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

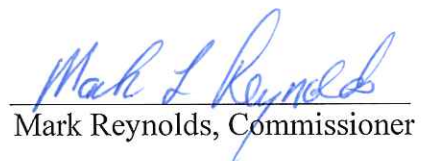
The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.

Minutes read and approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

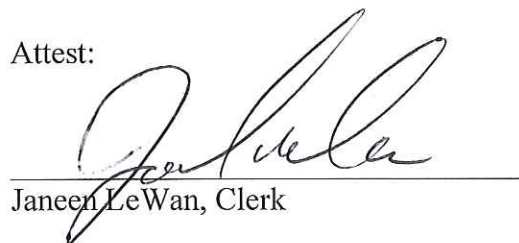
By the Board of Benewah County Commissioners:

  
Philip R. Lampert, Chairman

  
Robert Short, Commissioner

  
Mark Reynolds, Commissioner

Attest:

  
Janeen LeWan, Clerk