

**BENEWAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 22, 2025**

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

Present:	Robert Short	Commissioner
	Mark Reynolds	Commissioner
	Janeen LeWan	Clerk

The Board met at 8:08 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 by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Expenditure Requests (ACTION): Clerk LeWan noted this will be a reoccurring item on the agenda for any departments to have the opportunity to submit expenditure requests that fall within the procurement policy. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Benewah Community Hospital Agenda & Minutes – Review: Commissioner Reynolds noted that the meeting was cancelled but he had time to review the packet. He said steps they have been taking the past few months are starting to show from revenue and surgeries. Commissioner Short asked if this information also concluded the financial review. Commissioner Reynolds said it did.
4. Benewah Community Hospital Financial Report – Review: Reviewed within item #3.
5. Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency Recommendation (ACTION): Commissioner Reynolds stated it looked like they were making it official since Chairman Lampert declared the emergency on December 18th. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Resolution Declaring an Emergency – Resolution Number 2025-15 (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
7. 2026 Avista Corporation Wildfire Mitigation Plan – Review: Commissioners reviewed this is that plan Avista has been working on for a while, they have used the fairgrounds for their local area in the past. There are certain dates that have not been available to them. Avista is showing progress.
8. Hayden Ross Engagement Letter for FY2025 (ACTION): Clerk noted this is a standard letter for the audit of FY25. Commissioner Reynolds asked if there was a three-year agreement. Clerk LeWan will investigate this but was not aware of one at this time. Commissioner Reynolds asked for an update on getting information to the auditors in a timely manner. Clerk LeWan update they are already working on a list of reports for and with the auditor. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Collections Contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP (ACTION): Clerk LeWan explained this was a collections agreement for court fines and fees that have been outstanding. Noted this was not at a cost to the county as the collections company adds a statutory fee. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
10. IDPR Vessel Report & Request for Retention of County Vessel Funds (ACTION): Clerk LeWan reviewed the report with the Commissioners, noting this was an annual report and a retention request. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Annual Road & Street Financial Report (ACTION): Commissioner Reynolds reviewed some of the equipment maintenance costs on the report, asked about the funding projects noting the county will not be doing these projects unless revenue to cover them is received. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Stimson Lumber Company donation to Benewah County – Review: Commissioners reviewed the options of distributing the funds. Commissioner Reynolds requested a breakdown of the funds if they were to be distributed to the taxing districts. Commissioner Short requested this item be placed back on the agenda for January 12, 2026.
13. Approve 2026 Alcohol Beverage License Applications (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Notice of Application – L95S2399F- IDPR – Extend Public Boat Launch on Lake Chatcolet in Plummer, ID – Review: Commissioner Reynolds noted Chairman Lampert has been keeping up on this item. Noted they have until January 20th to note any comments if needed.
15. Grant Agreement – Idaho Airport Aid Program – (ACTION): Clerk LeWan noted that this item is Resolution No. 2025-14. Commissioner Short explained that the resolution pertains to a no-match grant in the amount of \$170,000, which will be used to purchase snow removal equipment. Commissioner Reynolds added that District 1 has assisted with snow removal in the past; however, this purchase will provide a better solution, as the new equipment will be more compatible with the runway’s coating. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Airport Equipment Purchase (ACTION): Commissioners noted that a skid steer equipped with snow removal attachments for brushing and sweeping has been identified. A motion to approve the expenditure for the airport using the grant funds was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.

9:15 A.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Blake provided feedback following the previous meeting expressing concerns about dust abatement and gravel cuts. Questions were raised about whether dust abatement had been removed from the budget; Commissioner Short indicated the budget review was not far enough along to determine that. Commissioner Reynolds discussed the importance of dust control as a safety issue, challenges in determining which areas to treat, rising costs since 2021, and potential alternatives such as water trucks, noting that this option would require additional staffing. Community concern regarding the issue was reiterated by Cheryl.

Jen Izzareli asked whether there were any projects that, in hindsight, should not have been completed. Commissioners discussed some of the jobs that had been completed. Commissioner

Reynolds noted in the past they were working within the budget however the expenditures did not match the revenue. He also reviewed some other projects they would like to complete but they will have to wait for funding to complete. Going forward they are working closely with the Clerk to review revenues. Commissioner Short iterated there were not any projects completed that were not needed.

8:35 A.M. BENEWAH COUNTY TREASURER (ACTION)

Treasurer Sexton was unable to attend as this is the last day for tax payments. Her verbal report to Clerk LeWan was that 50% of the taxes have been collected.

8:40 A.M. BENEWAH COUNTY ASSESSOR (ACTION)

No items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to enter executive session @ 8:42 am pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(a)(b); to consider items exempt from disclosure; seconded by Chairman Short. Motion carried unanimously. Present: Commissioners Reynolds, and Short, Clerk Janeen LeWan. Exited executive session & meeting adjourned at 8:54 am.

Minutes read and approved this 12th day of January, 2026.

By the Board of Benewah County Commissioners:

_____/s/_____
Philip R. Lampert, Chairman Robert Short, Commissioner Mark Reynolds, Commissioner

Attest:

_____/s/_____
Janeen LeWan, Clerk