

**BENEWAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 23, 2026**

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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Philip R. Lampert</b>	<b>Chairman - Absent</b>
	<b>Robert Short</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
	<b>Mark Reynolds</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
	<b>Janeen LeWan</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
	<b>Mariah Dunham</b>	<b>Attorney</b>
	<b>Jim Roletto</b>	<b>Public Works Director</b>

**The Board met at 8:01 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.
2. Expenditure Requests (ACTION):
  - a. Sheriff's Office Computer – Sheriff Anthony J. Eells (ACTION) A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
  - b. Sheriff's Office Training – Sheriff Anthony J. Eells (ACTION) A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
  - c. Clerk's Office IAC Spring County Officials Institute – Clerk Janeen LeWan (ACTION) A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
  - d. Assessor's Office IAC Spring County Officials Institute – Assessor Donna Spier (ACTION) A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
  - e. Probation Services Training – Mark Martin (ACTION) motion to approve with looking at total cost. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
  - f. Ambulance Christmas Dinner – Ambulance Director Kristin Compton (ACTION) Table until EMS Director appeared later in the morning.
  - g. University of Idaho Extension Travel Request – Lauren King (ACTION) A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.
3. Sheriff's Office Staffing Update – per Sheriff Anthony J. Eells – This item was reviewed by commissioners.
4. ID Office of Emergency Management Final Reimbursements (ACTION) - Jim explained that the reimbursement dates back to 2016 and is intended to reconcile amounts from prior years. The state's portion was discussed, noting that the state will cover part of the payments. The incident timeline was reviewed, and when asked about the total amount, it was noted that additional applications are still pending, so a final total is not yet available. A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

5. Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation Notice of Application L95S6199 (ACTION): It was noted that this information is sent over to the commissioners to review and the action is if they would like to comment on the application. No response needed, no action taken.
6. Flat Creek Dumpsters Request Update (ACTION): Commissioners reviewed the email from Mrs. Wilson. Commissioner Short mentioned he had some ideas on how to keep the trash from spreading at that location they will explore.
7. Proposed Fee Changes Update: Attorney Dunham noted there were some updates to the last list of fees. There will be a public hearing to discuss then the commissioners can take action. Review over the public works fees that were added for planning & zoning.
8. Budget Discussion – per Commissioner Reynolds: Commissioner Reynolds discussed the reductions they have proposed. Commissioners also confirmed they will not be ordering road oil. Discussion on using a water truck at night to help dust abatement. Discussion about if funds come in rock would need to be purchased. Commissioner Short & Reynolds noted their supplies were running low.
9. Update on Support Letter Requests – per Commissioner Reynolds: Discussion on when letters are needed who is supplying the letter.

**8:45 AM JIM ROLETTO, BENEWAH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:**

<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>Road Projects</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>Solid Waste</b>
	<b>Sewer System</b>	<b>Airport</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b>

**EM:** Jim noted there would be a meeting Wednesday to discuss the FEMA funding in CDA. Courthouse planning is in progress as well as the all hazardous plan. LEPC meeting will be in April.

The river gauge at St. Maries & St. Joe is no longer funded, NOAA has been giving updates. There are funds available from USGS to get it back. Would cost 10k to be operational, grant is \$6,000, City of St. Maries will contribute \$2,000, county portion is \$2,000. Jim will reach out to the dike districts to see if they can help support the funding.

**Roads:** Road Inventory still in progress including evaluating roads vs state reimbursement.

**Wetland Property:** Property owner will be coming to the commissioners with a request to enter property into a conservation easement up the St. Joe River.

**Sealcoat vs MagCl:** Jim noted Commissioner Lampert requested if funds are available to utilize them for sealcoating the Benewah.

**City & County Meeting #1 Update** – Jim updated the meeting went well with himself, Commissioner Reynolds, Jeff Pugh & Waylon Newton. They discussed many topics, and the next meeting will involve water and solid waste. Commissioner Short and Jim to attend this meeting.

**Airport:** There is a hangar for sale, creating a lot of traffic at the airport. Still working on the shed at the airport, equipment ordered should arrive by the end of the month, paid for by the no match grant. Next repair requested is the gas pumps as storage is limited. Airport is very popular and brings in visitors from all over who can utilize the courtesy cars.

**Planning & Zoning:** Meeting Thursday. Ordinance code change to be reviewed by Planning & Zoning.

**Roads:** District 2 had a couple of roads with flooding, noting there are 4-5 areas that could utilize new culverts if funding is available.

**Solid Waste:** Bids are due by the 25<sup>th</sup>. Washington permit has been submitted. Reviewing the waste energy, planning to meet with DEQ. Avista is interested in partnering.

Tim Grubham was allowed to speak at this time. He noted he had met with Avista, he has looked over a couple of sites. There will be challenges on the west side of the county, and public sentiment has been another he has encountered. Would be the first waste energy plant in Idaho.

**9:00 AM Consider Exempt Property Applications Renewals (ACTION):**

Lauren Harrah for the Assessor's office introduced the applications. Clerk LeWan also noted there were multiple types of applications. A motion to approve each type would need to be made.

A motion to approve the full exemption under Idaho Code 63-602B for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, College Avenue Baptist Church, St. Maries SDA Church, & Society of Saint Pius X was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion Carried.

It was noted the St. Maries Lodge Exemption had already been reviewed and approved however after review it was noted this should be a partial due to parking lot rent. A motion to approve the partial exemption under Idaho Code 63-602C for American Legion Plummer and St. Maries Lodge was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the full exemption under Idaho Code 63-602C for Benewah Humane Society, St Maries Elks, Emida Community, Fernwood Senior, St. Vincent De Paul Salvage, Upriver Community, Veterans Outreach, Benewah County Senior Citizens was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

Discussion over the property applied for under the Idaho Code 63-602GG noting this was for low income housing and covered two properties. A motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

**9:10 A.M. Consider Exempt Property – New Application (Action):**

Questions on if this needed to be a partial application, how funding is utilized. Attorney Dunham will work with the Assessor's office to answer some legal questions before this is reviewed again. No action taken on this item.

**9:15 A.M. Public Comment**

Kim Schwanz – Noted Potlatch East would potentially partner on the rain gauge. Kim also noted the culverts purposed would need to have the elevation raised in order to fully fix the issue. Mentioned pit run helping.

Kenny Osier – Asked about the rain gauge purpose and if information was used when blocking the dike. Mentioned there may be businesses there that would contribute funding as well.

Maureen Hodgson – presented a newspaper article from 1953. Also said the state and DEQ was helpful to work with.

Jennifer Izzarelli – Questioned the ambulance Christmas dinner. Commissioners noted the ambulance fund is fee based, expenditure is built into the budget each year.

Mike Stoltey – Asked if Commissioner Lampert had officially rendered his resignation as he received a text from him he had. Confirmation from county personnel that no resignation has been received at the county level.

Tim Grubham – Noted there is usable rock in the ditch. Berms of gravel that are on the side of the road, asking if the road crew can pull it in and use it. Commissioners noted they get complaints of mud. Training has been offered in the past and they will review hosting the training again as they have a newer crew.

Maureen Hodgson – Complimented Joe on his use of the belly dump. Asked if this was usable for all the districts.

**9:30 a.m. Easements / Splits: Rachael Johnson**

Rachael noted she has problems in her area up Highland Springs for the past two years with her neighbors blocking a road. Asked if commissioners approved them of blocking this road. She would like to know who gave permission for their house being built so close to the road. She also requested to know where to find out about the road being renamed, noting it was a private road. Attorney Dunham explained the building permit process, Jim will go to the area and review the concerns.

**9:45 A.M. Humane Society – Contract Agreement – Nancy FitzGerald, Amy Reid, Debbie Mortenson**

They presented contract amendments they would like to propose. Review over the event that triggered these amendments was discussed. Discussion on how reimbursements were made in the past by dog owners directly to the Humane Society. Attorney Dunham encouraged the Commissioners to review the agreement carefully as there are many financial obligations that are additional for the county. Commissioners requested legal and the Sheriff's office to review this agreement. This item was tabled until a later date.

**10:00 A.M. Mutual Aid Agreement & Shoshone Calls – Ambulance Director Kristin Compton**

Review on where the funds for the Christmas dinner come from, how they were classified in the budget, and what was remaining on that line item. A motion was made to approve the Christmas dinner by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried.

Kristin presented the Mutual Aid Agreement with Plummer. Noting there were no changes to the agreement other than a name update.

Shoshone County mutual agreement has not moved forward. She has reached out, expressed the importance of an agreement. Gave an update on communication challenges when responding to calls up the St. Joe River.

Update on the landing pad in Emida and said it has been working out well and is working for approval to add on her map.

Meeting adjourned for a break before executive session at 10:33 am

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to enter executive session @ 10:38 am pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(d); to consider items exempt from disclosure; Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(a)(b); personnel; & Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(c); real property; seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried. Present: Commissioner Reynolds, Commissioner Short, Clerk Janeen LeWan, Attorney Mariah Dunham, & Public Works Director Jim Roletto.

Exited executive session & meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

