

**BENEWAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 27th, 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
	Janeen LeWan	Clerk
	Mariah Dunham	Attorney
	Jim Roletto	Public Works Director

The Board met at 8:02 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 and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approve Monthly Claims (ACTION): Discussion over coding on doors ordered for a shed project was brought forward by Commissioner Short. Clerk will investigate coding for this item. A motion to approve the claims was made by Commissioner Short and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried unanimously.
3. County Financial Update: Clerk Janeen LeWan presented a shortfall with the county budget for FY26. In this presentation points discussed were how the county has not overspent the budget, instead the revenue was overspent. Revenues were lower in FY25 in comparison with FY24, and revenues are estimated to be lower in FY26. Discussion of reserve funds being reduced to zero, spending recommendations for the coming year, levy recommendations for FY27, and as request to hold a special workshop with all elected officials and department heads. Treasurer Sara Sexton presented that she has closed out one CD and has moved funds out of a money market. No additional income will be in until property taxes have been collected. County has three months of income currently. Discussion over these points continued including how county budgets are created, recommendation made during budget discussion to cut the budget for FY26, more reporting on revenues, communication request to elected officials, and department heads, and a special workshop was scheduled for November 12th, 2025 @ 9:00 AM.
4. Benewah Community Hospital Agenda & Minutes – Review: Chairman Lampert confirmed they all read and reviewed this item. No further discussion.
5. Benewah Community Hospital Financial Performance Packet – Review: Chairman Lampert confirmed they all read and reviewed this item. No further discussion.
6. Republic Services Disposal Contract (ACTION): A motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Computer Arts, Inc / Harris Agreement Software & Support License – (ACTION): A motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Topics for Legislator & Senator meeting Oct. 27th: Noted a discrepancy on the agenda for this item. The meeting has been scheduled for November 10th. Chairman Lampert had a list of topics to add on behalf of the commissioners.

9. Public Defender’s Office Lease Agreement – (ACTION): Attorney Mariah Dunham noted there were still some final negotiations on effective date for this agreement. A motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds. Seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Benewah County Sheriff’s Agreement to Provide Dispatch Services – Plummer, ID – (ACTION): Attorney Mariah Dunham noted key differences with the dispatch agreements, year over year, and recommended approval of the agreements for Plummer and St. Maries. A motion to approve both contracts for Plummer and St. Maries was made by Commissioner Reynolds, and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Benewah County Sheriff’s Agreement to Provide Dispatch Services – St. Maries, ID – (ACTION) A motion to approve both contracts for Plummer and St. Maries was made by Commissioner Reynolds, and seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Holiday Scheduling Request for FTE for Nov. 28th, 2025 (ACTION): This item was tabled at the last meeting. Discussion on how the budget is affected by this was brought forth by Commissioner Short. Attorney Mariah Dunham noted Sara mentioned in past years a floating holiday was an option. Commissioner Reynolds clarified this day to be a voluntary day off or staff looks at running a skeleton crew. A motion was made to not pay this day as a holiday by Commissioner Short, and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried unanimously.
13. CSRBA Tribal Claims Water Adjudication – (ACTION): This item is to be discussed in executive session. Any action taken will be after executive session.
14. Equipment purchase discussion – per Mark Reynolds: Commissioner Reynolds working to turn the buyout amount for a piece of equipment into a couple new leases. He did not have it worked out yet. The buyout is for a grader which has helped cut down on maintenance. Commissioner Short mentioned maintenance for the solid waste trucks has increased.

JIM ROLETTO, BENEWAH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

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

Emergency Management: LEPC all hazardous plan has started.

Road Projects: Road inventory will be starting soon; this will be an ongoing project for several months. He has obtained maps from Tony and LTAHC. Seal coat request on this side of the Benewah is due by December.

Sewer System: Two pumps have been ordered.

Public Works: Striping of the Joe complete. Invoice incoming.

Solid Waste: Will wait to discuss until timed item comes up further down the agenda.

Airport: All expenditures tied to a grant with no match. Discussed new tanks and improvement to revenue for the airport. Will look further into where the revenue is coming in. Airport slightly in the red.

9:00 AM PLUMMER DUMPSTER RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS

This matter was taken up under public comment.

9:15 AM PUBLIC COMMENT

Hari Heath appeared before the board regarding the meeting scheduled for the 10th of November. Stated it was proving difficult to coordinate and would not take place. Provided contact information to the commissioners to contact the representatives. Also noted some may be there for the District 1 meeting in Coeur d' Alene in November. Clerk will email Hari the topics compiled by the elected officials.

Rick Wren the city engineer of Plummer appeared before the board to discuss the concerns of the Plummer dumpsters and what can be done to allow city residents to use dumpsters for household trash overflow. Noted they would like to work with the county to find a resolution.

Latisha Kenard a member of the Plummer city council appeared before the board to discuss the frustrations residents have shared with her on the trash situation. They are not being allowed to dump a simple garbage bag, asked for ID, and license plates are being written down. She noted this was not done appropriately and a city dumpster is not within the city's budget.

Discussion with Rick and Latisha continued with the commissioners. It was agreed that Rick & Latisha would work with Jim Roletto so see if there is a fee that can work for both parties.

Doug Pratt appeared before the board to discuss a property at the start of Meadowhurst that has trash piled up. He would like to know what enforcement the county has. Attorney Mariah Dunham clarified the county does not regulate these issues. Encouraged Mr. Pratt to reach out to the property owner.

Jen Izzarelli appeared before the board to recommend the hospital investigate an interim audit. She spoke of how this could help, when it can be done. She encouraged picking a new board member should be someone who had a background in financial.

Commissioner Reynolds requested the Attorney Mariah Dunham give an update after attending the last hospital board meeting. The update she provided was the audit revealed that the hospital is in a poor financial position, which will impact budget considerations. Several financial entries were corrected by auditors — not due to fraud, but because of unknown revenues, and no estimation made because they were unknown, providing a learning opportunity. The hospital also must now report accrued employee time off, and the board asked relevant, informed questions throughout the process.

Clayton Anderson appeared before the board to provide an update on the change over to the SPD. He said the transition had some growing pains but it has been going well.

9:30 AM TREASURER (ACTION)

This report was given during the financial update earlier in the meeting.

9:45 AM BENEWAH COUNTY ASSESSOR (ACTION)

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

- Federal building is having an issue with the exhaust smell through the building when the heat kicks on. A roof was removed years ago which started this issue. Donna and Sara have chatted DIVCO to confirm this is the issue and will create a quote to remedy the situation. Commissioners requested Jim look to see if there is a more cost-effective remedy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to enter executive session at 10:40 am pursuant to Idaho Code Sections 74-206(1)(f), 74-206(1)(c), 74-206(1)(a)(b); to consider items exempt from disclosure; seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried. Present: Commissioners Lampert, Reynolds and Short, Clerk Janeen LeWan, Public Works Director Jim Roletto and Attorney Mariah Dunham.

Exited executive session at 12:17 pm.

CSRBA Tribal Claims Water Adjudication – (ACTION): The board reviewed confidential settlement documents related to the US/Tribal claim litigation in executive session. Following executive session, a motion to approve the confidential settlement documents and authorize signature on final documents was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Short. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Minutes read and approved this 10th day of November, 2025.

By the Board of Benewah County Commissioners:

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

Attest:

 /s/
Janeen LeWan, Clerk