

**BENEWAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 26, 2026**

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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Robert Short</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Mark Reynolds</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
	<b>Scott Manes</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 8:05 a.m., whereupon the following proceedings were had to-wit.**

**8:00 a.m. Shoshone County Ambulance Dispatch (ACTION) – Kristin Compton EMS**

*Director:* Due to technical difficulties Kristin was unable to speak to the commissioners and this item was postponed until the next meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s) (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Manes, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
2. Expenditure Requests:
  - a) Travel Request – Mark J. Martin, Chief Probation Officer (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes. Motion carried.
3. Canvass May 19, 2026 Primary Election Results (ACTION): A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes.  
Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously.
4. FY2027 Hospital Budget Review – Request for Additional Clarification (ACTION): Clerk LeWan reviewed that the hospital had submitted their budget for FY2027 and there were some questions within this information. The Clerk would like to request clarifying information ahead of the budget presentation from the hospital for the Commissioners. A motion to approve the request for addition clarification was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes. Motion carried.
5. Budget Workshop Schedule for FY2027 (ACTION): Clerk LeWan and the Commissioners discussed a schedule for budget workshops for the FY2027. Clerk was tasked with creating a memo for all departments, will send out to the commissioners along with the document of budgets, and who will be invited to the workshops. For the workshop on July 20<sup>th</sup> all departments are requested to attend as overall county budget review will take place.
6. Clerk Financial Update – Clerk LeWan provided the Commissioners with an update on the current cash balances for each fund, with particular attention given to the Current Expense and Road Funds. It was noted that expenditures are projected to exceed revenues this year, and continued mindful management of spending will be important moving forward.
7. Flat Creek Dumpsters (ACTION): Public Works Director Roletto noted the plan was to remove the dumpsters from this site, signs are in place to notify the public, discussed plans once dumpsters are removed. Discussions are in place with Rayioner about property to

- potentially put dumpsters in the future. Commissioner Manes made a motion to move forward in the direction stated, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
8. Dust Abatement Program 2026 (ACTION): Public Works Director Roletto discussed the program outline with the Commissioners. Attorney Dunham noted the next procedural steps including setting a public hearing. A motion to accept the prices and to move forward with a public hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes. A public hearing date was set for June 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. A motion to accept the public hearing date was made by Commissioner Reynolds, and seconded by Commissioner Manes. Motion carried.
  9. 2026 Southlake Solid Waste Independent Contractor Agreement (ACTION): Public Works Director Roletto updated the Commissioners on the negotiations with Southlake. Discussed contract additions that have been requested. A motion to table this item until the end of the meeting for legal review to the additions was made by Commissioner Manes, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
  10. Equipment List for Auction (ACTION): Discussion on revenue received from the sale and disbursement, more clarification will be looked into specifically for a piece of equipment at the fairgrounds. Attorney Dunham detailed the process to declare the equipment as surplus. A motion to surplus the list of machinery was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes.  
Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously
  11. Lolo Creek Rural Subdivision Preliminary Plat Approval (ACTION): Public Works Director Roletto introduced the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning board after the public hearing on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Dunham noted that comment was received late last week after the conclusion of the hearing and noted the commissioners have an option to hold a public hearing on the matter as well if they so choose. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to have another public hearing and set it on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Manes seconded the motion.  
Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously.
  12. Taxilane Project - Selland Construction Agreement and Notice of Award (ACTION): Public Works Director Roletto noted the documents presented are to move forward with the project. Noted there is a 2.5% match on the project. Discussion over available funds and grant funding that is pending. Attorney Dunham noted today for review & approval is for the grant award letter. The contract will be officially presented at another time. A motion to approve the award was made by Commissioner Manes, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.
  13. Lease Agreement for Benewah County EMS District Building (ACTION): Commissioners discussed the agreement details that have been reviewed with the City of St. Maries and are now ready for action at the city and county levels. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes. Motion carried.
  14. Idaho Plan for Deferred Compensation 457(b) Resolution 2026-09 (ACTION): A motion to accept this plan for the county Resolution 2026-09 was made by Commissioner Reynolds, seconded by Commissioner Manes.  
Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Casey Wahlen – discussed the public’s right to speak freely regarding county employees and elected officials. It was stated that limiting the ability to discuss employees by name was not believed to be supported under the U.S. Constitution or Idaho Constitution. Comments were made supporting the allowance of public comments pertaining to public employees and elected officials during public meetings.

James Comstock – asked if the Lolo Creek Subdivision will be continued until June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Response was yes.

Michael W Steffen – discussed his professional background, the notice he received on the Lolo Creek Subdivision. Discussion with the Attorney on how to get written documents and comments compiled for the public hearing through the Clerk’s office. Also explained how to complete a public records request.

Amy Boe - regarding comments made by the Hospital Committee concerning Hospital Motivational Week and employee morale. Concerns were expressed that some remarks were perceived as disparaging and taken personally. It was further stated that the intent of public discussion was not to persecute hospital employees, but rather to ask questions and seek understanding regarding events and circumstances that had occurred.

Doug Smith - requested to be placed on the June 22 agenda to discuss concerns regarding property access off John’s Creek Road. Concerns were raised about road conditions, emergency vehicle and fire access, and deferred maintenance related to the subdivision. He expressed interest in working with the county to improve the road for emergency access.

Discussion was also held regarding subdivision setbacks and the county’s authority related to private roads.

Tim Grubham – noted during Mr. Smith’s public comment his situation was similar to the property owners on Homer Drive and the steps they are taking to work through concerns.

Doug Pratt- expressed concerns of a gravel truck tipping over on private property. Commissioner Short noted he had not heard of any incident like that.

Jen Izzareli - regarding BCH Board appointments and governance concerns. Comments were made that responsibility for board appointments lies with the Commissioners and that strong, qualified board members should be selected whenever possible. Recommendations were made for the Commissioners to remain actively involved in the appointment process, including interviewing candidates for board positions.

**9:30 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>

**Emergency Management:** FEMA portal is now open they will start submitting the costs incurred during the storm. Discussion on reimbursement for leaning trees. All hazardous plan is still in progress.

**Roads:** Tina is helping work through the road study and it is progressing. Discussion on culverts available and possible up for review. Bridge inspections will take place in June for 4-5 sites.

**Planning & Zoning:** Research packet has started for \$300 fee for the county. New form for the research being created by Assessor Spier.

**Public Works:** ICRMP claim for the Santa shed is moving along and funding should be received soon. Masonic Lodge is being reviewed still.

**Solid Waste:** Another conversation took place with Washington, will look into why other counties have pulled out and is waiting on a disposal only agreement with Washington.

**9:45 A.M. Benewah County Assessor (ACTION)**

- Possible Tax Cancellation Request(s) None noted.
- Operational Changes – Discussion was held regarding changes in appraisal practices following the passage of a law limiting the ability to enter private property without permission. The previous appraisal process was reviewed, and it was explained that staff will now only enter private property with permission. It was further noted that the IAAO has approved standards for aerial photography, and cost comparisons showed the county could obtain that level of photography for less than the cost of one employee. Assessor Spier plans to reduce appraisal staff from four appraisers to three effective July 1.
- Estimated Value & New Construction – report of preliminary property values was presented, noting significant new construction activity throughout the county. It was stated that the values are preliminary and intended to provide an overview of current trends and estimated values.

**10:00 A.M. Benewah County Treasurer:**

- Possible Tax Cancellation/Hardship Request(s) – None noted.
- Financial Review/Cash Balance Review – Treasurer Sexton provided an update on current accounting and tax collections. Accounting was reported to be in balance, with 32% of taxes still outstanding. It was noted that the bank balance has decreased by \$165,000 compared to two weeks prior. The hospital was reported delinquent on payments for April and May.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Manes to enter executive session @ 10:04 am for reasons listed on the agenda: 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)(f); possible litigation; Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(c) Real Property, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Present: Commissioner Reynolds, Commissioner Short, Commissioner Manes, Clerk Janeen LeWan, Attorney Mariah Dunham, & Public Works Director Jim Roletto.

Exited executive session 10:57 am.

Open Session Resumed to discuss previously tabled item:

- 2026 Southlake Solid Waste Independent Contractor Agreement (ACTION): Discussion was held with Rob Wineclaw regarding the Southlake service agreement and proposed contract revisions. Topics included contract rates, contract term length, proposed termination language, and annual cost adjustment provisions. A motion was made by Commissioner Manes to move forward with this item as presented. Commissioner Reynolds seconded.  
Roll call vote: Manes – aye, Reynolds – aye, Short – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

Minutes read and approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

By the Board of Benewah County Commissioners:

      /s/                                  /s/                                  /s/        
Robert Short, Commissioner      Mark Reynolds, Commissioner      Scott Manes, Commissioner

Attest:

      /s/        
Janeen LeWan, Clerk