

**Franklin County Commissioners**  
**April 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Attendance:** Commissioner Chair Robert Swainston, Commissioner Zan Bowles, Commissioner Zach Stewart, Vic Pearson, County Attorney, and Deputy Clerk Cessilee Weeks.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Adopt Agenda.** Zan Bowles made the motion to approve the agenda. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**3. Approval of Bills.** Zach Stewart made the motion to pay the bills. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**4. Approval of Minutes.** Zach Stewart made the motion to approve the April 13, 2026 and April 17, 2026 Minutes. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**5. Review Courthouse Addition/Remodel and Other County Buildings.** Randy Henrie, Maintenance, reported the Prosecuting Attorney's Office is being painted and trim and ceiling work is scheduled for next week. The Courthouse foyer trim will need to be sanded and refinished to preserve the historical appearance. Concrete work for the sheep and goat barn is expected to begin next week. The Quonsets have been removed and the goal is to have the electrical work completed by May. The County is waiting on the contractor to begin the Event Center addition. Randy Henrie requested the beef scale pad specifications before the footings are poured. Zach Stewart stated he would work with Randy Henrie on the details.

**6. Open Bids for Robinson Building Carpet.** Randy Henrie reported he has only received two carpet bids and is still waiting on additional bids. Robert Swainston requested the item be tabled until the next meeting.

**7. Oxford Park Maintenance Bid.** Two bids were received for the Oxford Park maintenance. Altitude Construction Services submitted a bid for \$1,500 and Zach Cox submitted a bid for \$1,000. Zach Stewart made the motion to accept the bid from Zach Cox. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**8. Adopt Franklin County Development Code and Subdivision Ordinance Amendments.** Zan Bowles made the motion to adopt the Franklin County Development Code and Subdivision Ordinance Amendments from the public hearing held on April 17, 2026. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**9. Interagency Ambulance Housing.** The Franklin Fire Station has offered to house an ambulance in one of their bays. Zan Bowles made the motion to approve the interagency ambulance housing arrangement. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**10. Gold Cross Ambulance Rates.** Gold Cross representatives recommended that Franklin County bill all patients equally and apply any resident discounts after insurance payments are received. Zan Bowles made the motion to approve the updated billing recommendation. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**11. Bancorp Lease Ratification for Sheriff Vehicles.** Zach Stewart made the motion to ratify the Bancorp lease agreement for Sheriff vehicles. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**12. Historical Society Grant Update.** The Historical Society received the \$2500 America 250 Grant that will be utilized during county celebrations.

**13. April Fair Housing Proclamation.** Kate Selvage, SICO, presented the Fair Housing Proclamation, explaining it is required for the Senior Center grant and ensures fair housing practices without discrimination. Zan Bowles made the motion to approve the proclamation. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**14. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Factor Analysis.** Kate Selvage, SICO, explained the LEP analysis requirement for the Senior Center grant. Census data shows approximately 1.3% of residents speak English less than very well. Camille Larsen updated the County information for the analysis. The County currently utilizes bilingual staff, allows residents to bring translators, and the County website offers Google Translate services. Based on the census data and existing accommodations, a formal Language Access Plan is not required. Zach Stewart made the motion to approve the LEP Factor Analysis. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous. Commissioner Bowles requested to be included in the pre-construction planning meeting for the Senior Center remodel.

**15. Southeastern Idaho Public Health Budget Request.** Maggie Mann, Director of Southeastern Idaho Public Health, presented the Fiscal Year 2027 budget request. The Public Health District budget hearing will be held May 28, 2026 in Bannock County. Maggie Mann reported reductions in personnel and operating costs, largely due to a decrease in vaccinations administered. The District is requesting a 1% increase from the counties as outlined by Idaho Code. Franklin County experienced the highest growth in assessed value within the district. Robert Swainston discussed the importance of maintaining the District's draw down fund as a safety net. Zach Stewart made the motion to approve the budget request. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

**16. Audit Review and Adoption.** Jay Doman, Rudd & Company, reviewed the County audit and reported the County received a clean audit opinion and that the financial statements were presented fairly. Jay Doman explained that new GASB requirements and auditing standards resulted in additional journal entry adjustments and a material weakness finding regarding internal controls. He clarified the finding was not related to fraud. Janet Kimpton, Treasurer, discussed concerns regarding communication during the audit process. Robert Swainston noted the County still received a clean audit opinion. Zan Bowles and Janet Kimpton both expressed a desire for improved communication moving forward.

**17. Public Comment Regarding Bees Near the Flume.** Sarah Bateman addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns with large numbers of bees near her property by the flume. She stated the bees are affecting their quality of life, preventing use of their property, and causing issues with watering livestock. Sarah Bateman requested regulations regarding the number of hives and water sources for the bees. Dave Jeppsen, owner of the bee hives, stated they have not increased the number of hives in the area and explained the location is used to stage hives during the winter before relocating them throughout surrounding counties. He stated many of the hives would be moved within the next few weeks. Robert Swainston advised that the Idaho Department of Agriculture oversees bee regulations and recommended additional follow up with the Department. The Commissioners stated they would continue to study the matter further.

**18. Open and Award Bid for Treasureton Road Improvement.** Troy Moser, Road and Bridge Director, reported five bids were received for the Treasureton Road Improvement project. The bids were: Staker Parsons \$157,205; Facer Excavation \$120,142; BSC Excavation \$113,700; Bear River Rock Products \$74,050; and DA Contracting \$69,750. Troy Moser stated he met with each contractor onsite and reviewed the project specifications. Zach Stewart made the motion to accept the bid from DA Contracting. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous. Troy Moser stated the project would not begin until the end of May and no work would begin until the contractor completed the required paperwork and 125% bond requirements.

**19. Highway Standards and Roadway Development Procedures.** Troy Moser discussed updating the Highway Standards and Roadway Development Procedures to simplify forms and remove outdated requirements. Troy Moser stated a public hearing would likely be required before adopting any changes.

**20. Discuss Dissolving Herd Districts and Proposed Livestock Ordinance.** The Commissioners discussed the recent public hearing regarding herd districts and a livestock ordinance. Zach Stewart stated the hearing was well attended and productive, with many attendees in favor of dissolving the herd districts and implementing a new ordinance. Zan Bowles stated additional education and research are needed before moving forward. Vic Pearson explained that some herd districts are grandfathered in and may not currently be functioning properly. Rick Hydrick expressed concerns regarding wording changes related to lawful and adequate fencing and the ability to implement an ordinance in open range areas. Beverly Hydrick suggested including educational resources regarding fence maintenance and livestock responsibilities. Sheriff Stoker stated he had received one written letter regarding the matter. The Commissioners stated no decisions would be made at this time and additional research would be conducted.

**21. Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(a and b) consider personnel matters.** At 11:17 a.m. Zan Bowles made the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1)(a and b). Zach Stewart second. Vote was in the affirmative.

Zan Bowles made the motion to end Executive Session at 11:57 a.m. Zach Stewart second. Vote was unanimous.

**22. Appoint Franklin County District #4 Animal Damage Control Board.** Zach Stewart made the motion to appoint Lynn Garner to the District #4 Animal Damage Control Board. Zan Bowles second. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. Next meeting May 11, 2026.

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Attest, Cessilee Weeks

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Robert Swainston, Chair