The Canyon County Board of Commissioners considered and adopted the following resolution which shall be effective on the 30th day of August, 2023.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Holton and the second by Commissioner Van Beek the Board resolves as follows:

As publicly noticed, and pursuant to Idaho Code §31-1604 and §31-1605, the fiscal year 2024 budget hearing for Canyon County was held on August 30, 2023. Having held the public hearing, and pursuant to Idaho Code §31-1605A, the Board hereby resolves to adopt a fiscal year 2024 expenditure budget for Canyon County in the amount of **$165,656,554**, a fiscal year 2024 expenditure budget for the Canyon County Pest Control District in the amount of **$320,122**, and a fiscal year 2024 expenditure budget for the Melba Gopher District in the amount of **$12,000**. Sufficient revenue is anticipated to meet the appropriations of each office, department, service agency or institution for fiscal year 2024 barring unforeseen emergencies.

✓ Motion Carried Unanimously
___ Motion Carried/Split Vote Below
___ Motion Defeated/Split Vote Below

	Yes	No	Did Not Vote
Brad Holton Commissioner Brad Holton	X		
Commissioner Leslie Van Beek	X		
Commissioner Zach Brooks	X		

Attest: CHRIS YAMAMOTO, CLERK

M. Reeves
Deputy Clerk

Date: 8-30-23

#23-203

Commissioners Minutes
August 30, 2023 – 5:18 p.m. to 7:06 p.m.
FY2024 BUDGET HEARING
Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks and Leslie Van Beek
Chief Operating Officer Greg Rast, Clerk Chris Yamamoto, Controller Zach Wagoner, Treasurer Tracie Lloyd, Chief Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Mercado, Assessor Brian Stender, Sheriff Kieran Donahue, Chief Deputy Sheriff Doug Hart, Chief Civil Deputy PA Carl Ericson, PA Office Manager Melinda Longoria, Public Defender Aaron Bazzoli, Juvenile Probation Director Elda Catalano, Director of Misdemeanor Probation Jeff Breach, Assistant Director of Misdemeanor Probation Mary Gomez, Solid Waste Director David Loper, Fair Director Diana Sinner, Fleet Director Mark Tolman, HR Director Kate Rice, Wage and Compensation Analyst Bosco Baldwin, DSD Director Sabrina Minshall, Sheriff's PIO Joe Decker, Parks Director Nicki Schwend, Facilities Director Rick Britton, Juvenile Detention Center Director Sean Brown, Acting TCA Benita Miller, Judge Juneal Kerrick, Ambulance District Director Michael Stowell, County Agent Tasha Howard, JoDee Arnold, Colleen Schaub, Ginny Ernsberger, Larry Stevenson, Hubert Osborn, Keri Smith, Chris Smith, and other interested citizens

Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves Monica Reeves

FY2024 BUDGET HEARING

The Board met today at 5:18 p.m. to conduct the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Hearing, which was held in the public meeting room of the Administration Building located at 111 11th Avenue North in Caldwell. Tonight's hearing was streamed on YouTube. Present were: Commissioners Brad Holton, Zach Brooks and Leslie Van Beek, Chief Operating Officer Greg Rast, Clerk Chris Yamamoto, Controller Zach Wagoner, Treasurer Tracie Lloyd, Chief Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Mercado, Assessor Brian Stender, Sheriff Kieran Donahue, Chief Deputy Sheriff Doug Hart, Chief Civil Deputy PA Carl Ericson, PA Office Manager Melinda Longoria, Public Defender Aaron Bazzoli, Juvenile Probation Director Elda Catalano, Director of Misdemeanor Probation Jeff Breach, Assistant Director of Misdemeanor Probation Mary Gomez, Solid Waste Director David Loper, Fair Director Diana Sinner, Fleet Director Mark Tolman, HR Director Kate Rice, Wage and Compensation Analyst Bosco Baldwin, DSD Director Sabrina Minshall, Sheriff's PIO Joe Decker, Parks Director Nicki Schwend, Facilities Director Rick Britton, Juvenile Detention Center Director Sean Brown, Acting TCA Benita Miller, Judge Juneal Kerrick, Ambulance District Director Michael Stowell, County Agent Tasha Howard, JoDee Arnold, Colleen Schaub, Ginny Ernsberger, Larry Stevenson, Hubert Osborn, Keri Smith, Chris Smith, other interested citizens, and Deputy Clerk Monica Reeves.

Chairman Holton opened the hearing and spoke of the mandated services the County has to provide and he also spoke about this year's lengthy budget process which included many hours of meetings. A PowerPoint presentation was given, and highlights included:

- The FY2024 budget schedule.
- Last year's suggested budget had zero taxes levied that would have used 100% fund balance and while great for the taxpayer for one year that is not sustainable going forward for County finances. The Assessor provided several options for the Board last year in reduced property taxes that they could take if they didn't want to take the full amount, and they chose $40 million which leaves $14 million in potential levied property taxes on the table. This was approved by a prior Board majority and that left the current Board in a fiscal position to do things that prior Boards have typically not done.
- The $14 million that was not taken could have been certified as forgone taxes. There is a resolution where we say we could leave the forgone on the table with the right to take it later. That could have been done with the $14 million last year and it was not. It had been done in the past so that leaves forgone for us to potentially take.
- Last year with the increase in the compensation and the decrease in the $14 million that was not taken in revenue left a $25 million hit to the County's fund balance.
- This year when considering funding requests from community groups the criteria the Board looked at is the benefit in tax reduction to taxpayers and what the County was required to provide in services by statute.
- There was a large shift from commercial valuation to residential and there was not a one-to-one benefit of reducing that, a large portion of the reduction got eaten up in the transfer of the lessor value proportionally of commercial compared to the value of the residential. On occupancies that were authorized in the County there was $1.1 billion worth of value, but just because you get that much growth it is not proportional.
- A review of Canyon County's valuation history of property values. We have $129% growth in values across the County from $15.2 billion to $34.9 billion.

Year-to-Date FY2023 County Revenue:

- Projected revenues are $107 million when the numbers were pulled
- Actual revenues are just under $90 million

FY2023 Salaries and Benefits:

- Budgeted is $86,264,409
- Actual is $71,132,035

FY2023 Operating Expenses:

- Budgeted was $46,481,680
- Actual is $31,565,132

Unspent expenses: we typically see upwards of 13% unspent that's budgeted for that comes back to fund balances. If it comes ends up at the expected amount of $14.6 million that will

help the County make up for the $14 million that was left on the table for the levied property tax.

The Clerk's suggested budget from August 4, 2023, did not include any compensation or new position. There were 28 position requests across the County. There was nothing to address the 6 positions in law enforcement.

Elections equipment: The Board did not request $968,000 worth of equipment, that was in the Clerk's requested budget for the Elections Office. The Clerk came back with a suggested budget and that had been removed. Commissioner Brooks had worked with Elections staff to come up with a number to address equipment purchases and the $40,000 needed to upgrade the software on the machines. The other $260,000 is for the Elections Office to purchase machines that will help reduce lines and help with voting. They have secured a second early voting location in Nampa and are hopeful people will participate in early voting.

There was a misrepresentation of the actual budget numbers. In the suggested budget we were short $15 million in revenue, but $14 million of that was the $14 million that was left on the table but that was not explained. This Board has a different take on what the actual revenue coming into the County looks like.

The tentative budget approved for publication is a modest 3% for current employees in compensation. Last year there was an "uproar" over the compensation package and part of that was because prior Boards passed budgets that had a zero to 2% compensation through a highly inflationary and volatile job market. There were high turnover and low retention rates, and it necessitated something being done.

There are several single points of failure. There are multiple County positions where one person is trying to do a particular job but if that person can no longer do the job the County has a big problem. There are 17 positions being approved to help with the single points of failure and get some cross-training.

The Board believes it is important to address the issue of law enforcement expansion within the Sheriff's Office. We have not added anyone to patrol in the last 20 years.

There has been relatively no increase over the approved FY2023 budget.

FY2023		FY2024 Tentative	
Total Expenses	$132,746,089	Total Expenses	$165,988,673
ARPA	$ 5,180,000	ARPA	$ 38,106,837
Expenses w/o ARPA	$127,566,089	Expenses w/o ARPA	$127,881,836
Total Revenues	$107,043,972	Total Revenues	$153,360,431
ARPA	$ 5,180,000	ARPA	$ 38,106,837
Revenues w/o ARPA	$101,863,972	Revenues w/o ARPA	$115,253,594

ARPA funds will be used for identified priority projects.

Canyon County had approximately $9 million in forgone because of the new formula (HB 292) and we could get $2.2 million of the $9 million that was there. Of the $2.2 million in forgone we must spend at least $1.6 million on capital projects.

There was a review of the consolidation of fuel costs and facilities costs.

Sheriff Donahue addressed the public safety priorities:

- Local - Adding Deputy Positions
  4 patrol deputies
  1 marine deputy

- State and National Awareness

It has been 25 years since they have added patrol officers to the Sheriff's Office. They will be requesting more positions again next year. He reported on increases in growth, response times, and crime rates and the infiltration of the Mexican cartels. Sheriff Donahue thanked the previous Board who helped build the salary compensation plan to help address the retention and the turnover and for the first time in 20 years they are now fully staffed in patrol and dispatch, and nearly fully staffed in the jail. The jail continues to be a problem but they are looking at solution. The legislature needs to look at the local option sales tax, there is a bill that a Canyon County representative has written and it will help solve the issue without burdening the property owners.

Reviewed the FY2024 Capital Projects – Non-ARPA Expenditures

- Allocated forgone capital project expenditures total: $1,816,262

Reviewed of Park Expansion Opportunities

- Celebration Park Museum air cooling systems: $44,000
- George Nourse Gun Range safety plan and improvements $150,000 for phase I
- Pedestrian decking replacement: $227,500

FY2024 ARPA Expenditures

American Rescue Plan Act federal funds $38,106,840

- West Valley Humane Society Roof Project
- FY2024 Pod 6 Annual Lease Payment
- New Canyon County Warehouse Project
- New Canyon County Elections Building – (Caldwell, Graye Ln.)

- 6 Canyon County Ambulance Unit Replacements
- Phase 1 – Jail Project – Sheriff's Administration Building

Public comments were as follows:

Larry Stevenson spoke about the need for teamwork to address public safety issues. He said the 2023 total budget was $132 million, less the ARPA funds of $5.6 million, and an operating budget of $126.4 million. The 2024 total budget went to $166 million, but a lot of that was $38 million of ARPA funds. It looks like a good operating budget. He said the funding mechanisms are taking the 3% increase and some of the forgone, and both mechanisms unfortunately increase the mil levy rate. The 2023 budget funded $40 million from property tax. In 2024 it is proposed they pay $56 million. His taxable property value in 2023 went down by 27% and this could cause another mil levy increase with the smaller tax base. The biggest criticism he hears is that Ada County's tax rate is half of what Canyon County. He would like to see the Board focus on decreasing the mil levy rate. As of July 31, 2023, the Canyon County investment fund is at $129 million, and $47.4 million is available for liquid funds. This could help provide the $16 million the taxpayers are being asked for.

Ginny Ernsberger expressed concern that the public hasn't been allowed to make comments or concerns during the workshops that were held earlier this year and she asked the Board to take another look at that because that's where citizens need to speak if they have concerns over budget increases. Ms. Ernsberger also referred to two salary resolutions that were recently approved for the Elections Office and questioned what she saw as the doubling of salary rates for two managerial positions. Commissioner Holton said the action was for two existing employees whose wages were brought up to a comparable level through reclassified job titles and responsibilities.

JoDee Arnold commended the Board for the beautiful presentation and voiced her concerns about the voting machines and new software for the Elections Office.

Keri Smith said there have been comments about being in the hole and not recovering without taking forgone taxes but that is not the case. From last year's FY2023 budget, $66 million was projected as remaining fund balance as of the end of September 2023. In today's presentation it shows $14 million in projected unspent funds from the FY2023 budget including approximately $5 million unspent from the planned ARPA funds so with that simple math that would still leave approximately $75 million, including the landfill, in the general fund as unspent funds and unallocated. Canyon County is not in the hole, and it is now receiving the sunsetted revenue from the Caldwell Urban Renewal which helps balance the budget. She supports a legally adopted and noticed FY2024 budget and she supports the need to move the County forward, however, the actions of the Board have been less than transparent because they hosted very limited public open meetings in the month of August where they clearly worked on and built out this budget. She cited the Idaho Open Meeting Law and statutes 74-201 to 74-208 and spoke of how the Idaho Attorney General has a handbook that provides guidance on the open meeting law and sets the standards

for what an open meeting law is. At this point Commissioner Holton asked Ms. Smith to keep her comments to the budget and said he does not need to be tutored with the law, and if she continues to not recognize the Chair she will be removed from the room. She was asked to stick to the budget; budget is not state statute and other categories that don't deal directly to the budget. This is a budget hearing. Ms. Smith said she has a right to speak and the budget must comply with the open meeting law which the Board has violated. Commissioner Holton then asked if there is an officer who is willing to be ready to have Ms. Smith removed for not following the rule. Ms. Smith said she will submit it through a formal action for a violation for the open meeting law as this was not a legal proceeding with the amount of work that was put on the record - hundreds of hours - reviewing and proposing the budget off the record which is not legal. (*Commissioner Brooks indicated that the three minute time limit had expired.*) Ms. Smith said this is a clear example of how the Board does not want a fair open meeting. She said the public noticed that the Board did not host opportunities for the public to have input; it was done behind the scenes using a go-between which is a clear violation of the open meeting law, and they continue to do that.

Colleen Schaub is happy to hear the Sheriff's Office is nearly fully staffed and she supports the request for new positions, and she urged the Board to prioritize the budgeting for more Sheriff's officers. She is tired of vehicles speeding past her house because speeding is a detriment, and the law enforcement officers need to issue tickets to speeders. Commissioner Holton asked her to send in written comments for next year's budget process.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Holton and the second by Commissioner Brooks, the Board voted unanimously to close public testimony.

Commissioner Brooks said he wanted to address the accusation of the open meeting violation. The Board has a chief operating officer that was approved by the prior Board and initially he was opposed to the position, but because of the person who has filled the seat and the efficiency the position provides for Board, other elected offices, and departments under the Board, it's obvious the position is valuable to the Board and the County at large. There was no meeting violation because each individual Commissioner met separately with the chief operating officer to go over a budget that was exported from the budgeting software into an Excel spreadsheet. He personally went through each budget line-by-line. They put in hundreds of hours, but decisions were not made on the budget that would qualify as an open meeting violation. He is comfortable with the tentative budget that was approved a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Van Beek said this Board is vested in the process of open government, of embracing change and doing a deep dive. The chief operating officer knew the Board needed assistance with the accounting software and so he and his wife built the software into an Excel spreadsheet and ideas were generated on the public record. The alleged allegations are unfounded. Chief Rast is seasoned in many aspects, and he served many years under Lawrence Wasden and he is well versed with open meeting laws and he was a part of the special crimes division and he understands

what government is about and she won't have a reputation tarnished by people that may have some bitterness at not having been returned to office. In summary, she supports the budget.

Commissioner Holton said he's heard the personal accounts of peoples experience from last year and he is frustrated with any of that being brought forward tonight. The Board has worked through the budget and it's not an exaggeration to say the Commissioners have spent over 1,000 hours on the budget. He spoke of his 28 years in public service and his knowledge of the open meeting law and he does not see a violation. People are entitled to their opinion but it needs to be done in the right format and at the right venue. Commissioner Holton made a motion to approve the Canyon County Budget for 2024, including the Pest Control District, and the Melba Gopher Control District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Beek who said this is the first budget she has approved and it's because of the due diligence, attention to detail, the vetting, and in fairly compensating our employees. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Brooks made a motion to approve the L-2 form as publicly noticed and pursuant to Idaho Code §63-802(1)(e) Canyon County's fiscal year 2024 property tax levy of $56,364,662 which includes $2,202,314 of available property tax increases forgone in prior years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Beek and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Holton opened the public hearing on the forgone amount.

Public comments were as follows:

Keri Smith said there is not a need for forgone taxes to be taken. There are still available funds in the general fund and to continue taxing the taxpayer is against what the Commissioners campaigned for, and she thinks they should consider not continuing to tax all citizens to the maximum amount that they have chosen to do.

Commissioner Van Beek said at last year's hearing she had no knowledge of a request for an additional $2 million in a retention bonus after a 14.5% increase in salaries. It passed by a Board majority, and had that Board majority not passed that we might be in a position where we did not have to. A statement that "*we will not take any new construction and no increase*" makes the headlines but it's a short-lived accolade for people to posture but in the long run with a 130% increase in the market assessed value and the increase in population that posture is simply not a sustainable reality. We are looking at providing mandated services and she was alone in wanting the deep dive but with the previous two Boards that has not been the case. We want to keep the tax burden low, the customer service high and the services provided.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Holton and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to close public testimony.

Commissioner Holton expressed his opinions on HB 389 and HB 292. Commissioner Brooks made the following motion: As publicly noticed, and pursuant to Idaho Code §63-802(1)(e) Canyon County's fiscal year 2024 property tax levy of $56,364,662 which includes $2,202,314 of available property tax increases forgone in prior years, he moves that the Board of County Commissioners

approves the collection of the $2,202,314 for forgone taxes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Beek and carried unanimously. (Resolution Nos. 23-203 and 23-204 are on file with this day's minutes.) Upon the motion of Commissioner Brooks and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The hearing concluded at 7:06 p.m. An audio recording is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

Canyon County Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget and Property Taxes

County Funds	2024 tentative expenditure budget	2024 anticipated revenue from sources other than current property tax	2024 property tax dollars levied	2024 budgetary use of fund balance	Projected fund balance 09/30/2023	Calculated fund balance 09/30/2024
Current expense	$ 45,138,798	$ 22,391,318	$ 13,224,662	$ (9,522,818)	$ 22,398,796	$ 12,875,978
County weed control	398,759	125,000	255,000	(18,759)	154,555	135,796
Assessor's reappraisal	4,370,461	61,000	3,600,000	(709,461)	1,231,422	521,961
District court	12,812,808	4,028,301	5,650,000	(3,134,507)	4,605,291	1,470,784
Southwest district health	2,337,527	35,000	2,335,000	32,473	217,389	249,862
County fair	2,475,596	1,408,496	1,400,000	332,900	133,992	466,892
Parks and recreation	2,044,257	411,640	1,600,000	(32,617)	446,232	413,615
Historical society	50,456	1,000	50,000	544	18,978	19,522
Tort	1,450,000	20,000	1,500,000	70,000	455,192	525,192
Justice	42,288,652	15,951,103	26,750,000	412,451	8,993,750	9,406,201
Court device	75,000	21,860	-	(53,140)	173,436	120,296
Waterways	303,670	260,000	-	(43,670)	58,325	14,655
American Rescue Plan	38,106,840	38,106,840	-	-	-	-
Court facilities	70,000	80,000	-	10,000	265,515	275,515
Emergency communications	1,371,642	1,643,900	-	272,258	3,989,860	4,262,118
Treatment courts	526,861	444,170	-	(82,691)	283,809	201,118
Consolidated elections	522,950	488,000	-	(34,950)	59,994	25,044
Canyon County dispatch	2,770,224	2,671,230	-	(98,994)	207,047	108,053
Landfill	8,542,053	8,492,840	-	(49,213)	17,023,450	16,974,237
Total county operating funds	165,656,554	96,641,698	56,364,662	(12,650,194)	60,717,033	48,066,839
Special revenue taxing districts						
Pest control	320,122	52,246	289,309	21,433	315,004	336,437
Melba gopher	12,000	518	12,000	518	14,156	14,674
Grand total	$ 165,988,676	$ 96,694,462	$ 56,665,971	$ (12,628,243)	$ 61,046,193	$ 48,417,950

In compliance with Idaho Code Sections 31-1604, 31-1605 and 31-1605A, the Board of Commissioners of Canyon County, Idaho will meet on Wednesday August 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the administration building public meeting room, 111 N. 11th Ave. Room 130, Caldwell Idaho, at which time the tentative budget for fiscal year 2024 will be heard. Any and all taxpayers and or residents of Canyon County are invited to attend and be heard upon any part of said budget for fiscal year 2024. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, those requesting accommodations please contact the County Commissioners Office at 208-454-7507 by August 25, 2023.

Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 63-802(1)(e), the Board of Commissioners of Canyon County, Idaho intends to include in its fiscal year 2024 property tax levy a forgone increase. A public hearing on the forgone increase will be held in conjunction with the County's annual budget hearing at the time and place noted herein.

Sufficient revenue is anticipated to meet the tentative budget for fiscal year 2024 as advertised, barring any unforeseen emergencies.

Approved this 17th day of August, 2023 at Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho.

Attest:
Christopher W. Yamamoto
M. Reeves, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Brad Holton
Commissioner Leslie Van Beek
Commissioner Zach Brooks

Date: August 17, 2023