

**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES**  
**Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners**  
**February 23, 2024**  
**Boise, Idaho**

President Gary Cooper called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 12:15 p.m. at the Law Center, in Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Kristin Bjorkman, Mary York, Jillian Caires and Judge Bob Jackson, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Legal and Education Director Teresa Baker, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Consistent with the authority granted in Idaho Code §3-408, and under the supervisory power of the Idaho Supreme Court and acting as an agency thereof for purposes of Idaho Code §74-202(4)(a), it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Board move into a confidential session to discuss matters involving admissions and professional discipline as provided under Idaho Bar Commission Rules 223 and 521. It was also moved, seconded and passed, after an aye vote was recorded from each Commissioner, to move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(d) and (f), to: (1) review personal records of attorneys for licensing purposes; (2) consider information obtained as part of an inquiry into an individual's fitness to practice law; and (3) discuss with legal counsel.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Minutes** – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting as amended.

**Law School Visit Update** – The Commissioners briefly discussed the law school earlier in the day. The visit included reports from faculty, a conversation with students, a reception with students and faculty and a final meeting with the dean. The Commissioners agreed to recommend that the meet and greet be shortened for the next visit.

**Legislative Update** – Two legislative issues were noted: a proposed change in the Plan B options for judges and the appointment of Scott Madison to replace Phil Reberger on the Idaho Judicial Council.

**BOC Election Timeline** – The Commissioners were provided with a timeline for the upcoming Board of Commissioners election: nominating petitions are due on April 2nd, ballots will be sent electronically on April 20th, and the election concludes on May 7th. President Gary Cooper's term expires in July. His position will be filled by an attorney from the 7<sup>th</sup> District.

**2024 Professional Awards** – The Executive Director noted that the Commissioners select award recipients at their April meeting. The Commissioners were provided with the award categories and previous recipients. She requested nominations for this year's awards be submitted by March 29th.

**2024 District Bar Officer Election** – The Executive Director reported district bar association elections should take place in March. The staff is working with current officers on the election process for each district.

**Licensing/Bar Exam** – The Commissioners were provided with a 2024 licensing update as of 2/15/24. Eighty-two percent of attorneys used the online licensing portal, 3% have not yet paid. The final licensing deadline is March 1st.

Associate director Maureen Braley reported on the February 27-28 bar exam. She anticipates about 45 test takers, the lowest number in many years,

**2024 BOC Meeting Schedule** – The Commissioners were provided with the BOC meeting and event schedule through December 2024.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**October and November 2023 Financial Reports** – The Commissioners were provided with the October 31 and November 30 financial reports. As of November 30, 100.5% of the budgeted revenue was received, 94.3% of the expenses incurred.

**2024 Budget– Capital Expenditures** – The Commissioners were provided with an estimate of capital expenditures for 2024, totaling \$53,000, of which \$30,000 was previously approved for the development of the portal. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the 2024 capital expenditures as proposed.

**Auditors’ Engagement Letters** – Bar Counsel reported he negotiated with Eide Bailly to amend the two paragraphs discussed at the last meeting. The revisions are being finalized and the engagement letters will be signed.

**Diversity Section Initiatives** – Commissioner York and Bar Counsel reported on their discussion with the Diversity Section leaders regarding the proposed section initiatives. They strongly recommended a conservative approach and noted some activities may need to be done in conjunction with other entities, rather than the section.

### **MEMBER SERVICES**

**Anniversary Celebration** – The Executive Director reported that staff is finalizing the committee membership based on the list discussed at the last meeting.

**Podcast Proposal** – The Commissioners briefly discussed a proposal from attorney Jamie Schropshire to do podcasts about ISB functions and services. The Commissioners deferred further discussion to the April meeting.

Letters, reports, and news clippings for the past month were provided to the Commissioners. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 2:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich  
Executive Director