Kimberly Mosier and Mike Downing were appointed Baker City’s new mayor and vice mayor Tuesday.

By Gina K. Swartz

The first order of business conducted at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting was administering the Oaths of Office to new councilors Ben Merrill, Mack Augenfeld, James Thomas and Rosemary Abel.

Once sworn in, the council conducted the business of appointing one of its own as mayor.

Both Kim Mosier and Mike Downing were nominated. With a vote of 5:2, Mosier won the nomination.

Downing and Ben Merrill were nominated for the position of Vice Mayor, which Downing won with a 7:0 vote.

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B2H meetings come to county

By Todd Arriola

On Thursday, January 8, 2014, around 50 people attended an open house for the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, at the Best Western Sundown Inn, from 5 to 8 p.m.

On hand were project staff to discuss concerns, answer questions, and receive comments from those present. This open house was one of seven held in the project area, including one in Boardman on January 5, in Pendleton on January 6, in La Grande on January 7, in Dirksor on January 9, in Ontario on January 12, and in Manning, Idaho on January 13.

Idaho Power proposed this project, the result of which would be the addition of about 100 miles of new, 500 kV (kilovolt) transmission line from a proposed substation near Boardman, Oregon to the Hemingway Substation near McCall, Idaho, and the rebalancing of lines of existing 138 kV and 69 kV lines. The purpose of the project is to allow existing transmission constraints between the Pacific Northwest region and the Intermountain region of southern Idaho, by providing additional capacity to connect the two regions, and to meet current and future increases in customer demand.

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