

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 SESSION**

Fourth Day

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 1:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Muffy Davis; Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham, Human Resources Generalist Justin Highhouse; Administrative Assistant Morgan DeWitt; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

COLORADO GULCH HAZARD MITIGATION PHASE 1 GRANT

Also present: Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy; and Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator Chris Corwin.

FEMA has awarded Blaine County a Public Assistance Grant and Hazard Mitigation Grant to replace the Colorado Gulch bridge, which was damaged by high water several times over the years and finally destroyed by the 2017 flood. Total project cost is about \$800,000. The project will be done in two phases: stream restoration first; and once water flow is established, staff will prepare a bid package to re-engineer and finalize design and construction of the bridge and stream protection.

The Landowner, Wood River Land Trust, would like to complete this Phase I, if at all possible, before Fish and Game's mandatory stream "out" date of March 15, 2022. Biota Engineering has obtained all necessary permits and can begin work as soon as this agreement is signed. The FEMA grant is \$276,682.87. The County will receive 75% of the grant and is responsible for a 25% match.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve Idaho Office of Emergency Management 2020 Subrecipient Agreement Award #4313 HMGP BLAINE for Blaine County for Colorado Gulch Hazard Mitigation Phase One Grant for river restoration, and accept the award amount of \$276,682.87. Motion passed unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) FUNDING REQUESTS REVIEW

County staff established a process to receive and review requests from internal County departments and community service organizations for about \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. If accepted by the County Clerk and County Administrator, requests will be presented to the BCC in special meetings over the next few months. ARPA funds requests must fit into one of four categories:

- COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.
- Support essential workers during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- For the provision of government services, relative to lost revenue.
- Improve water and sewer or broadband infrastructure.

• **Swiftsure Ranch**

Disclosures: Commissioner Davis said her daughter had participated as a rider at Swiftsure.

Swiftsure Ranch Executive Director Paul Bennett requested \$12,000 to reimburse the Ranch for direct expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, such as sanitizing all equipment after each use.

Public Comment: None.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to direct staff to prepare a contract with Swiftsure Ranch for up to \$12,000 of ARPA funds for direct mitigation for COVID-19 for [Swiftsure] staff and participants. Motion passed unanimously.

• **Men's Second Chance Living**

Also present: Men's Second Chance Living Executive Director Sonya Wilander.

Men's Second Chance Living Administrative Assistant Caitlin Hegwood said MSCL currently has one sober living facility with eight beds that houses about 15 men annually. MSCL provides supervision and structure to individuals during the crucial first six months of recovery. The COVID pandemic and subsequent drug and alcohol problems resulted in a 150% increase in applications, resulting in 13 individuals having to search for accommodations away from their local sober support community.

MSCL wants to purchase a second living facility home in Hailey, to accommodate an additional 15 men per year. MSCL has raised \$450,000 of their budgeted \$900,000, and is requesting \$49,000 in ARPA funds as a contribution toward the remaining \$450,000 of their budget. Staff suggested approving the commitment of ARPA funds, with funds to be available to MSCL for startup cost associated with new house, to avoid any concerns about state or federal procurement regulations and actual purchase timeline.

Public Comment:

- Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis encouraged the BCC to approve the request. She said COVID increased Crisis Hotline call volume of male callers with substance abuse disorder.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to direct staff to prepare a contract with Men's Second Chance Living for ARPA funds for up to an amount of \$49,000 for start-up costs for a new Men's Second Chance Living house. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Blaine County Information Technology (IT)**

IT Security/Network Engineer Jon Eaton presented a request of \$116,416.75 to purchase a new replacement system of four firewalls, with licensing for five years. The purchase price is less than the threshold for formal bidding, and the equipment is under a state contract. BCC previously earmarked \$1.5 million in "Lost Revenue" ARPA funds to be used specifically for Blaine County projects.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to allocate up to \$120,000 of Blaine County's ARPA Funds for Lost Revenue to be used for IT firewall replacements, and to authorize staff to draft a contract and move forward ASAP with procuring the firewall replacements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Blaine County Housing Authority (BCHA)**

Also present: Blaine County Housing Authority Executive Director Nathan Harvill; Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis; Blaine County Charitable Fund Executive Director Mary Fauth; and Neighbors Helping Neighbors representative Herbert Romero.

BCHA Board Chair Sarah Michael requested \$45,000 in ARPA funds for three projects:

- \$15,000 to make additional Lift Tower units usable.
- \$15,000 to provide a central location for housing counseling and access to housing applications.
- \$15,000 "capacity building" for the Housing Authority to do strategic planning, recruit a new Executive Director and Administrator, upgrade computers and build a new website.
- \$115,000 for BCHA, in coordination with other local organizations—Crisis Hotline, Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN), and Blaine County Charitable Fund—to provide emergency relocation assistance when needed; and to set aside money to provide infrastructure, if needed, to provide new or temporary locations for the displaced mobile homes.

Crisis Hotline, NHN and BC Charitable Fund are currently helping 16 families relocate after they received eviction notices as a result of new housing development.

Public Comment:

- Herbert Romero said coordination and collaboration are key.
- Mary Fauth asked the County to support the Housing Authority in finding a new leader so the BCHA can take the lead and bring everyone together in a strong housing effort for the County and its residents.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham said the County had an earlier contract with BCHA for ARPA funds, but suggested this \$45,000 request be a separate new contract with BCHA.

McDougall Graham suggested the \$115,000 request be made as separate request from each partner organization at a later date.

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to direct staff to prepare a contract with the Blaine County Housing Authority for up to \$45,000 of ARPA funding for expenses related to the Lift Tower Lodge; an outreach coordinator to develop and plan and initiate new homeowner and rental housing counseling programs and services; and for additional funding for the Blaine County Housing Authority operations. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ARCH Community Housing**

ARCH Community Housing Trust Executive Director Michelle Griffith said that housing is a crisis nationwide for the people who need housing in their community and can't find it, and for the community at large.

ARCH is requesting \$1 million from Blaine County ARPA funds to combine with matching donor and individual donor contributions for a total of \$4 million to provide eight 3BR, 2½BA rental homes with attached garages on single family parcels in Hailey, Idaho. Griffith said this family housing will target local community educators, road and bridge people, nurses and people who provide community services for the whole community. The land should close in June, design and engineering completed later this year, and construction begun the next building season. She said the rent revenue will cover operational expenses, and provide revenue to provide more and more housing.

Griffith said ARCH is currently researching building SF units on three County-owned parcels that may use some of the \$1 million ARPA funds request for infrastructure expense.

Chairman Fosbury said ARCH had been producing actual housing in Blaine County for decades, and

supported giving ARCH the ARPA funds they requested.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham said this was a very large request, and asked for additional time to review the application before approving it. Commissioners McCleary and Davis also wanted a little more time to think about the request.

Public Comment: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – §74-206 (1)(a) Personnel

McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(a) to interview candidates for the Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission. Davis (aye), McCleary (aye) and Fosbury (aye). Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:27 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury
County Clerk Chairman