

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

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Dick Fosbury, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Muffy Davis; Administrative Services Manager Stephanie Carlson; Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero. Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy and County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham, Facilities Manager Pat Boyle, Blaine County Housing Authority Executive Director Nathan Harvill, Hunger Coalition Executive Director Krista Felton, Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis, Administrative Services Support Specialist Kay Draper, Hunger Coalition Executive Director Jeanne Liston, IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker, IT Network Engineer Jon Eaton, Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Blaine County Housing Authority Board Chair Sarah Michael, WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears, The Space Co-Founder Kate Ristow, The Space Executive Director Tamar Dolgen, I Have a Dream Foundation Executive Director Laura Rose, The Argyros Operations Director Michael Hoover, I Have a Dream Treasure Jacob Greenberg was present.

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

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

**ARPA FUNDING REQUESTS REVIEW**

Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy explained the spreadsheet that County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham and his department prepared. Pomeroy alerted the BCC that there is approximately 2.44 million dollars of ARPA funds remaining and that amount does include the Lost Revenue Bucket that has not yet been assigned. The Lost Revenue Bucket has \$1.5 million with a \$540,000 already committed that leaves \$960,000 remaining in the Revenue Bucket. The total available monies \$1.48 million dollars for distribution. McDougall Graham and Pomeroy discussed setting aside \$217,000 of the ARPA funds to fund the reoccurring community services organization contracts. Pomeroy asked if the BCC would like for those funds to be set aside to fund those contracts. If so rounding up to \$250,000 for FY23 and \$250,000 for FY24 would bringing the total to \$500,000. That would then leave a little under \$1 million in funds to distribute. Fosbury was supportive of reserving \$800,000 for the reoccurring community services contracts for the next three years.

County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham asked for the BCC and applicants to be and transparent as possible and to state any disclosures.

**IT Department** - IT Enterprise Architect Ben Parker

- Office 365 & CompuNet

Current Blaine County is using an Exchange 2019 server. The IT department would like to convert to Office 365. Office 365 is more advanced and would be a greater server for Blaine County. The current server Blaine County has is backed up by IT on site. The current server has worked great but when there are updates the entire server goes offline for roughly three hours. These updates are currently being done quarterly but should be done monthly. When IT conducts an update, it takes Emergency Services Dispatch Center offline. Not doing regular updates impacts the security of Blaine County's emails and file sharing. Blaine County IT wants to purchase an additional add-on which is the Multipack Two-Factor that the Elections, County Court House and the Sheriff's Department are required on a state level to have. The state will be making it a requirement for all County Offices to have this additional add-on for security purposed. Blaine County IT has a hard time working with state-level entities because the county's server is outdated and doesn't have the required security. Office 365 would give all departments the ability to have team calendars, file structure and team file. This upgrade would not be just to upgrade email it upgrades the entire server gives the needed security that government entities need. Office 365 allows for some application services to be available at no cost and or replace some applications such as Drop Box. CompuNet proposed an affordable quote for this upgraded. Pomeroy believes this is extremely important for cyber security and if its not done through ARPA funds it'll have to be pursued through other funds. Fosbury asked if there are any other federal or state grants for cyber security.

The cost of Office 365 is determined on how many accounts and the different types of accounts. Microsoft Office 365 has 3 different licenses E1, E2 and E3. E1 would allow you access to the cloud but allow any download options of Microsoft Office 365. E3 allows user to get full accesses to all Microsoft Products and would be able to install their account to 5 different computers. This would benefit employees that work remotely. The total cost for a five-year subscription with everything included would be \$570,000. For a one-year subscription, with the annual and startup cost, the fees included would be around \$131,000. The \$131,000 would be the recurring fee in the future to resubscribe.

McCleary would prefer to get a one-year subscription to determine if funds should be allocated for the future. The first year she would like to use ARPA funds and would like to have it budgeted in the future. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham alerted the BCC that purchasing a five-year subscription

would not qualify for ARPA's timeline. ARPA Funds can be committed up to FY2024 but would need to be spent by FY2026. The BCC is fully supportive to transition Blaine County to an updated more secure sever.

**Public Comment:**

IT Network Engineer Jon Eaton – Web-Cam

Eaton is fully supportive of this software and appreciates Parker for presenting this to the BCC.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve up to \$132,000 of Lost Revenue ARPA Funds to be used by Blaine County IT for Office 365 Migration and request staff to prepare staff to prepare a contract for the Blaine County Commissioners to consider. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Blaine County Facilities**

- Public Safety Building HVAC Upgrade

Facilities Manager Pat Boyle alerted the BCC that the automated control system is close to its end of life. They can still order parts and receive software upgrades but not software support. Boyle was alerted the manufacturer that in the near future, parts, software upgrades and support will not be available starting FY2024. There are currently 46 heat pumps, 2 industrial boilers, 5 exhaust fans, 2 duct heaters, 1 kitchen air unit, 2 cooling towers and a domestic hot water pump. Boyle stated that would falls under Category 3 for Lost Revenue. Boyle has a quoted for \$70,000 and has another quote but the other quote has wiring included and needs to be revised. The system Boyle is looking for is a non-proprietary system where the county can pick and choose who they want to work on the system.

**Public Comment:** NONE

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to direct staff to approve a budget not to exceed \$70,000 for Blaine County Facilities to replace and upgrade obsolete direct digital control systems for The Public Safety Facility HVAC using ARPA funds from The Lost Revenue Fund. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Blaine County Facilities**

- Lighting Upgrade

Idaho Power will provide funds to convert Blaine County Facilities current lighting to LED lighting. The county does have to use the Idaho Power Electrician in order to receive the funds. Boyle would like to finish upgrading the lighting in the Annex Building and The Judicial Building. If Idaho Power provides enough funding, he would like to upgrade the Recycle Center and the south valley Road and Bridge Shop and the Utilities Shop in Carey. Based on Boyle's calculations the project will pay for itself in two-years with the saving of energy and would save maintenance on the replacement of florescent. Boyle current replaces around 350-400 bulbs a year. By doing this it would contribute to the Blaine County sustainability goals.

**Disclosure:** Fosbury advised Boyle to apply for ARPA funds because it would fall under sustainability goals.

**Public Comment:** NONE

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis to approve up to \$100,000 of Lost Revenue ARPA funds being used to upgrade lighting fixtures with in Blaine County Facilities.**

**The Space Idaho**

The Space Co-Founder Kate Ristow explained how this program academically aids kids. The Space Idaho is a bilingual academic tutoring program for kids' 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. They base their tutoring curriculum based on student needs. It could be college essay coaching or basic math tutoring. They currently have 100 students attending their program. Many of the students were impacted by COVID-19. Some of the students experience hardship because of COVID such as learning barriers, food and housing security, and loss of school time. Most of the student that attend this program are referred by school counselors, teachers and even outside organizations like The Advocates and Hunger Coalition. The Space Executive Director Tamar Dolgen stated they usually have around 10-15 students at a time and are rapidly growing. They want to make the study space clean, distanced, quiet and private for the students to receive the academic support they need without distractions. The Space Idaho has had a hard time finding a permanent location due to COVID and the rising rental prices. They do want to remain within walking or biking distance from the schools. Fosbury believes this is a great and critical program. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham stated that this could be used under non-profit that has experienced hardship due to the pandemic. McCleary thinks this is an excellent program for students.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to direct staff to create a contract for The Space Idaho for \$20,900 to assist with upgrading cubical, cleaning supplies and rental assistance due to COVID related expenses and challenges. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Blaine County Housing Authority**

Blaine County Housing Authority Executive Director Nathan Harvill requested \$49,000 to provide

funding to aid displaced families and help relocate those families. There are numerous families that are being evicted due to the rentals being sold or the rise in rental pricing. Blaine County Housing Authority Board Chair Sarah Michael and Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis are working on allocating funding to get the electrical wiring, plumbing, and carpentry at the Lift Tower Lodge. They are also working with local contractors and architects to move the mobile homes at the JJ Trailer Park and Blue Haven Cottages. McCleary asked for Michael to clarify the application and to be specific on what the funds are going to be used for. McCleary was confused on if these funds were going to be used on an "Emergency Relocation Situations". They recently awarded The Blaine County Charitable Fund ARPA monies for similar causes. Michael explained that the funds would be used for infrastructure repairs and improvements for the JJ Mobile Homes and Blue Haven Cottages. It would be for repairs such as electrical and plumbing. McCleary asked if Michael had a total cost of the repairs, unfortunately Michael did not have a total amount. Michael said she believes the amount that is being asked for will cover the repairs that are needed. Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy and County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham reviewed the submitted documents and are requiring for the application to be modified and resubmitted. The contract application needs to be clear on what the funds will be utilized for. Michael expressed that they don't have any estimates on the total cost of repairs for the mobile homes or cottages. Fosbury explained that the monies awarded to The Blaine County Charitable Fund is to pay and subsidize rent for hotel rooms for temporary lodging for the 12 families who are being evicted. The awarded monies to BCHA are being used to help repair sewage and service lines and make the lower units available at the Lift Tower Lodge.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis advocated that BCHA is working diligently to on the housing crisis.

**The BCC requested for the Blaine County Housing Authority to revise their application.**

**Crisis Hotline**

Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis is requesting \$29,200 for enhanced bilingual outreach and collaboration. The hotline also aids families and individuals that need mental assistance or education. Davis and WRV NAMI Director of Diversity and Outreach Herbert Romero have been working on aiding Hispanic families who have been impacted by the pandemic. They are teaming up with other non-profit organizations like The Blaine County Housing Authority, Blaine County Charitable Fund and The Hunger Coalition to provide as much support for these families as possible. They aid in translation and assist with filling out applications and they refer applicants to the correct non-profit organization to that fits their needs. The Crisis Hotline has grown significantly since the pandemic and is in need of more volunteers and supplies.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Blaine County Housing Authority Executive Director Nathan Harvill supports the Crisis Hotline application and expressed that without The Crisis Hotline's public bilingual outreach they would not have progressed on helping the evicted families.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, move to approve \$29,200 of ARPA funds for the Crisis Hotline to enhance bilingual outreach and collaboration work and direct staff to prepare a contract for Blaine County Commissioners approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Argyros**

The Argyros Operations Director Michael Hoover requested \$42,845.50 for an upgraded air ventilation system. The ventilation system would aid the airflow inside the building, helping expel COVID-19 particles. The system is similar to a dental quality cleaning system that attaches to the COVID-19 particles and eliminates the virus, providing clean and safe air. The Argyros wants to keep their staff and patrons as safe as possible. The pandemic affected The Argyros being high congregated setting they were not able to hold events. Due to the drop of revenue, employees took a 20% pay cut. Hoover explained that this upcoming summer they will be hosting around 160 events with 100 to 500 patrons each.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**Davis moved, seconded by McCleary, to direct staff to create a contract for The Argyros using ARPA funds in the amount of \$42,845.50 for HVAC upgrades. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Hunger Coalition**

Hunger Coalition Executive Director Jeanne Liston introduced the future Hunger Coalition Executive Director Krista Felton to the BCC. The Hunger Coalition has doubled the number of customers they serve due to the pandemic. They conducted a study that concluded that 86% of their customers stated that they have depleted their savings due to the pandemic. The number of customers The Hunger Coalition serves does not seem likely to drop any time soon. The Bloom Food Truck has also seen an increase in children getting lunch in the summer months. Due to the significant growth of customers needing assistance The Hunger Coalition has hired new staff to accommodate growth. They applied for \$49,990 of ARPA funds to be able to continue assisting the community. The BCC gave Jeanne Liston a huge thank you for all her hard work and dedication to The Hunger Coalition.

**Public Comment:**

Crisis Hotline Executive Director Tammy Davis supports the application and is extremely supportive of that hard work they The Hunger Coalition does to support the community.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve \$49,990 of ARPA funds to be used towards The COVID Relief Program at The Hunger Coalition and directs staff to prepare a contract for the Blaine County Commissioners to approve. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Wood River Fire and Rescue**

WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears is requesting \$118,720.08 to improve radio communications infrastructure for South County Fire and EMS Agencies. Sears would like to have two repeaters installed. A repeater is a device that automatically retransmits or amplifies electronic transmitted messages. Sears explained that 15 years ago the radios they had received better service because cell phones weren't interfering with the repeater towers. Sears explained that there are areas South Valley that are dead spots. His main concern is that there have been times during an emergency when they cannot communicate with other EMS, Law Enforcement units and Fire Truck units. The lack of service in these areas make it hard to communicate the severity of any emergency. Sears stated that with the population growth and the growth of residential construction, people are going out further for recreational fun. He would like to have a new repeater tower at the Picabo Hills and the second repeater replace the old repeater on Bald Mountain.

McCleary asked if Ketchum and Sun Valley Fire would be using the same repeaters? Sears explained that Sun Valley and Ketchum Fire use a repeater that is located in a different area that serves north county with better service. Using the same repeater tower would give both north and south county coverage. Fosbury was questioning if there were other grants or funding options available to upgrade these repeater towers. Sears stated that they have not looked into other grants and funds that are currently working on the department's budget. The BCC would like for Ambulance District to convene and discuss other possible funding or cost matching for this project and gather feedback from other ambulance and fire departments. The BCC mentioned working on creating a Master Communications Plan to replace or add more repeater towers. County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham is going to meet with Sears and discuss the topic further. McDougall Graham is going to research other funding possibilities and report back to the BCC. No action was made and they are planning to revisit the topic at a later date.

**Public Comment:** No Comment

**I Have a Dream Foundation**

The Foundation is requesting \$25,000 for the Elementary Program. The program provides academic & emotional support for low-income students. They have 40-60 elementary students currently enrolled in the program and have 56 students in the high school graduating this year. They have a 98-100% graduation rate and an 80% college/trade school rate. The tutors meet with the children's families, who often need mental support and aid them in the right direction to get that support. The Foundation is working with Swiftsure Ranch on creating a mental and emotional support program. They are planning a summer program with The Blaine County School District for kids who have fallen behind in school due to the pandemic. There are planning to have a vigorous summer camp with intense math and literacy programs. The foundation has been experiencing hardship with the cost of rent rising and with the rapid growth of students enrolling in the program and lack of employees.

**Public Comment:**

Ex Commissioner/ I Have a Dream Secretary Jacob Greenberg was in full support of The I Have a Dream Foundations application.

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to approve \$25,000 of ARPA fund for I Have a Dream Foundation and direct staff to create a contract for the Blaine County Commissioners to approve. Motion passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 4:30 p.m., with no more business before them, the County Commissioners adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury  
County Clerk Chairman