

BEAR LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 2021

COMMISSIONERS' CHAMBERS, PARIS, IDAHO

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met in a special meeting and public hearings on Monday, October 4, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers, following the CDC's guidelines and Governor's order, in Paris, Idaho. Members present were Commissioners' Vaughn N. Rasmussen, Chairman, Bradley D. Jensen and Clerk of the Board, Cindy Garner. Commissioner Rex L. Payne appeared by Zoom.

Others attending were Chief Deputy Clerk Amy Bishop, Assessor Heber Dunford, Kathy Izatt, reporting for The News-Examiner, citizens Ted McGhee and Dan Porter.

APPROVE AGENDA – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda for October 4, 2021 as posted, seconded by Commissioner Payne, motion carried.

ARPA (America Rescue Program Act) – ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Rasmussen wanted to clarify that the official guidelines for the ARPA Funds are not out yet, there are interim guidelines at this point. Chief Deputy Clerk Amy Bishop presented information on the ARPA monies, first half has been received of \$594,854.00. Do not have to spend right away, have till 2024, want to do what we can to take care of some of the needs as we can. IAC (Idaho Association of Counties) indicated anything responding to Covid can take care of now, capital items do later. Someday it will have to be paid back and there are debates over whether to take it. Commissioner Rasmussen reported the guidelines may change and then they will take it back. Bishop advised looking at the things that will help the County long term.

Bishop started the expense list with Mag Chloride for the roads, CERT Classes, Senior Citizens Center, Oregon Trail Center, Relocation Center with cots, blankets, etc., Telephones/Satellite phone in EOC, Newer Computer for Planning and Zoning for remote work, Air Filters with UV lights that kill the virus, Radio Project and Employee Bonus working during Covid pandemic. Next was lost revenue of Assessors Fees, Highway Users, Highway Users HB, Court Fines and Fees, Review Sales Tax Money and Fair. The last was the requests from the Ambulance Service: 1. Lucas Devices (4), 2. Autovent 2 000, 3. Lifepak 15 (4), 4. I Gel Airways, 5. Repeater Grounding/Batteries, 6. Supplies-PPE O2 Tanks, High Flow Regulators, CPAP, Patient Movers, 7. AEDs (3), 8. Airway Manikin, 9. Quick Response Vehicle and 10. Extrication Tools.

Bishop brought up the CARE's Act money. Commissioner Payne spoke about the Allred Center building needing a new floor, ceiling tiles and a broken water line. There were a couple of letters requesting sidewalks to get around the Fairgrounds. They are still working on the ADA checklist. Several of the Fair buildings need work on the entry way areas and they definitely lost revenue. County had lost revenue, also employees Covid leave has been paid out with the CARES money for first responders leave time.

CERT training would be good, get with Alan Eborn regarding any FEMA money as do not want to double up.

Commissioner Payne mentioned the Senior Center definitely had lost revenue and plays an important part in our community. A gas pipe broke at several connections, other expenses on operating costs, food is always a big issue and the easiest money to go forward on. Our seniors were impacted more with being quarantined and no meals coming in. Bishop will come back with a proposal and will do the same with the Oregon Trail Center.

Commissioner Rasmussen would urge going forward with the CERT training and Relocation Center, having Emergency Manager, Alan Eborn put on the agenda for the next meeting in the afternoon. Have Eborn get with the hospital, check if they got money and have a partnership. As the Senior Center becomes a backup emergency center and need to use, works well as it is closer to the hospital than Paris. As a matter of information, Commissioner Rasmussen informed the group that Bear Lake County Covid cases had peaked two (2) weeks ago at 70 cases. It is hard on the hospital employees, burning them out. They have three (3) beds for Covid patients, are putting together another one, other hospitals are full and having to try to go to other areas finding the same problem.

Bishop mentioned the Planning and Zoning computer to work remotely and inquired about the air filters for the courthouse. They will listen to a presentation at their next meeting before deciding. The radio project will wait while it is still being worked on. Commissioner Rasmussen would like to take the recommendation from IAC's president to wait until January on the gray areas and be sure to spend it in the most beneficial way. Bishop informed the Commission she created a separate fund, so it is easy to track.

Regarding an employee bonus, Commissioner Rasmussen would like to table until after the 4-County meeting. Bishop reported there was leave granted to those off with the Covid virus through the CARES money. The Fair still needs to get her some figures showing the lost revenue broke down by category. Need to look at the other income lost from the ball games, etc. Commissioner Payne will check out lost revenue from the Airport.

Looking at the Ambulance requested items, move forward with all but hold off on #3, #9 and #10 at this point.

Bloomington City Mayor, Ted McGhee inquired if the cities were to receive any money, to which the Commissioners informed them the cities receive their own money but have to apply for it. Bishop will get the information to them. McGhee was wondering about the help if the County uses the Bloomington Hall as another emergency building. They were urged to work with Emergency Manager, Alan Eborn on that. City Councilman, Dan Porter informed the Commission they have an action committee looking at the issue of controlling speed mainly on Canyon Street and doing something electronically to help.

DEPUTY CLERK, MINDY WILLIAMSON – PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES

Deputy Clerk, Mindy Williamson presented the Commissioners with personnel policy updates to consider and has been working with ICRMP along the way. Each recommendation was highlighted to easily spot for review. Commissioners appreciated Mindy for going through the policy and helping to keep it updated.

MOTION: Commissioner Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

VAUGHN N. RASMUSSEN, Chairman

Date Approved

ATTEST: _____

CINDY GARNER, Clerk