

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING MEETING OF THE MAY 2013 SESSION**

First Day

Tuesday, May 1, 2013

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Lawrence Schoen, Vice-Chairman Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Jacob Greenberg; County Administrator Derek Voss; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman Schoen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION FY2014 FUNDING REQUESTS

St. Luke's Center for Community Health – Erin Pfaeffle

Also present: Mental Health Task Force Chairman/Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves; Blaine County Chief Probation Officer Teresa Espedal; Wood River High School social worker Julie Carney; St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center Board of Directors member Eric Thomas.

The Wood River Valley no longer has a full-time psychiatrist. There are no Medicaid providers for mental health patients. Idaho Health and Welfare severely cut services in Blaine County to adults and children with mental health needs. As a result, concerned citizens created a Community Mental Health Task Force. St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center agreed to provide a mental health clinic, which is now under construction. The clinic will accept all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

St. Luke's Center for Community Health requests \$10,000 from Blaine County to provide access to critical mental health services in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Blaine County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves said the Center for Community Health provides a service to Blaine County by keeping mentally ill people out of the court system. The mentally ill who can't or don't get help often end up as involuntary commitments or in the criminal process, which is very expensive in human, community and financial costs.

Fly Sun Valley Alliance – Carol Waller

Also present: Fly Sun Valley Alliance President Eric Seder; FSVA member Maurice Charlat; and Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird.

Sustain Blaine's 2011 economic analysis revealed that 4,000 jobs and nearly half the entire Blaine County Gross Domestic Product are related to promoting air service. Air service is one of the Blaine County Commissioners' guiding principles for the airport replacement project. Air service relates to each of Blaine County's strategic objectives.

In 2012, 39,000 visitors and second homeowner passengers spent \$66 million in Blaine County and about \$93 million in total economic impact. 45% of local residents' air travel is business-related.

Fly Sun Valley Alliance is asking Blaine County for \$20,000. The request is based on a full-year, but FSVA hopes to get a 1% local option tax passed in Ketchum and Hailey, which will provide funding to FSVA starting in January 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Friedman Memorial Airport Manager Rick Baird strongly supported the request.

Chairman Schoen noted that public funds can be used for operational or administrative expenses of a 501(c)4 organization.

Blaine County Community Drug Coalition – Michael David

Also present: BCCDC Board member Shawn Carty.

The Blaine County Community Drug Coalition requests \$10,000 from Blaine County. Blaine County funds support Idaho Drug-Free Youth (iDFY) local chapters and programs for high school and middle school kids. iDFY members agree to be substance free. iDFY programs cost about \$1,000 per child.

Other BCCDC funding includes:

- The BCCDC's Sun Valley Road Rally provides about 50% of the annual budget. The BCCDC is working to develop a more professional event and looking for more major sponsors.
- Federal Drug-Free Community grants fund environmental policies, including compliance checks with retail establishments.

The BCCDC partners with the County Sheriff and Probation to keep kids safe and healthy, out of jail and the court system, which saves the County court and social costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The effects of early drug and alcohol use are a terrible cost to the community in crime, destroyed relationships, and mental health.

Sawtooth Snowmobile Club – Stephanie Eisenbarth

Also present: Sawtooth Snowmobile Club members Marsha Riemann and Bryan Baird

Blaine County is required to provide a snowmobile grooming program using snowmobile registration fees collected in the county. Blaine County has an annual contract for services with the Sawtooth Snowmobile Club to provide the grooming services.

The Sawtooth Snowmobile Club’s 2014 budget request totals \$13,500.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

South Central Community Action Partnership (SCCAP) – Ken Robinette

The SCCAP is a non-profit organization in the Magic Valley with an annual budget of \$3+ million. Since 1967, the SCCAP started five senior centers that now operate independently, a Boys and Girls Club, and a homeless shelter. The SCCAP operates family health services, which provide emergency assistance for rent, food, heat bills, medical assistance, gas vouchers, heat bills, etc. Most of these programs are federally funded, which is getting more and more difficult to rely on. The SCCAP also facilitates affordable housing through a mutual self help “sweat equity” program, where a group of people builds each others' homes.

The SCCAP constantly reviews local county needs assessments and revises its directions to meet the county’s current needs. SCCAP has a satellite office in Hailey that is open October to March; and partners with other Blaine County social welfare agencies.

The SCCAP requests \$3,000 from Blaine County for FY2014.

BREAK

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION FY2014 FUNDING REQUESTS, continued

Hunger Coalition – Jeanne Liston

The Hunger Coalition was founded in 2003 in response to the lack of a coordinated effort to deal with hunger in Blaine County. The coalition hired its first staff in 2007, and is now a seven-member team. The Hunger Coalition is a frontline organization with eight interrelated programs that provide food and support services to move people out of food insecurity.

The Hope Garden (on Blaine County property) is a community asset in growing food and food awareness. Last year, a pilot program titled “Grow Your Own” provided four individuals with their own plots to learn how to grow food and use it. This year, the program will expand to provide beginner and advanced plots. The Coalition encourages everyone, including food recipients, to get involved; and many food recipients volunteer.

The Hunger Coalition strives to improve the nutritional value of the food provided, and now includes more fresh and frozen produce. One donor provides vouchers for local produce from Idaho’s Bounty. 84% of food recipients choose fresh produce; 96% think the Coalition provides healthy food.

The Hunger Coalition saves the County money by providing food to people who don’t have to approach County Services as indigents, and to indigents who request food from County Services. The number of people the Coalition served last year is down by 100, but remains basically stable at a relatively high number. The Hunger Coalition requests \$10,000 from Blaine County for FY2014, same as in the last two years.

Blaine County Fair Board – Amy Federko

Also present: Fair Board President Kyle Green; Fair Board members Morgan Drage and Devra Mary.

The Blaine County Fair Board requests \$21,000 from Blaine County for F2014 operating expenses and \$15,000 for capital improvements. The Fair Board has worked very hard to improve and grow the fair, and expand its horizons. The Fairgrounds need bathrooms, additional electrical outlets, and building improvements. Fair Board members have done much of the labor themselves on past fairgrounds improvements, and professionals have donated their time as well.

The Fair and 4-H serve Blaine County by teaching leadership, public speaking and business skills to the community’s youth. Members of the Fair Board have visited each grade school in the County to inform students about all aspects of 4-H.

Board members want to collaborate with each city and participate in civic events: 4th of July, Wagon Days, Bellevue Labor Day, and the Ketchum-Sun Valley Rotary Club Duck Race.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 2:23 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage County Clerk Lawrence Schoen Chairman