

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAY 2016 SESSION**

Third Day

Monday, May 9, 2016

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 10:00 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chair Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen, County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy Clerk Leslie Londos; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

**COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT THEIR FY2017 FUNDING REQUESTS
TO THE BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Blaine Soil Conservation District

Blaine Soil Conservation District Administrative Assistant Cassie Lundergreen; and Kathy Noble.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$18,000.

The Soil Conservation District has several new projects this year:

- Working with the school district and students to build owl boxes to encourage owls to control voles and mice instead of using pesticides.
- Sent several students to Natural Resource Camp; sent two Blaine County teams to the Envirothon; and working to establish gardens on school grounds.
- Hosted a no till drill (cover crop) workshop in Blaine County in cooperation with other soil conservation districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). One BSCD Board member is putting in a cover crop that will be monitored for results by BSCD and Blaine County Extension Educator Lauren Golden.
- Blaine County and Gooding Soil Conservation District received a \$100,000 grant to provide variable rate pivots for eight landowners for three years.
- Working with Trout Unlimited, Silver Creek, and the Wood River Land Trust on a river restoration project.
- The BSCD would like to send Administrative Assistant Lundergreen to a grant writing workshop.

Mountain Rides Transportation Authority

Executive Director Jason Miller.
FY2017 Budget Request \$130,000.

Mountain Rides has a very positive FY2016 report:

- Ridership the last two years has broken all public transit records in Blaine County.
- Safety record, efficiency, performance, and organization are solid.
- The local economy is improving, and federal funding is up.
- Youth and millennials are using public transportation more than other generations.
- Mountain Rides will release a five-year plan that shows projections for FY2018, '19, and '20 in the next couple weeks.
- Mountain Rides promotes all non-single-occupancy vehicle transportation modes, and supports the Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mountain Rides multiplies local funds with federal grants. The City of Ketchum contributes \$590,000; Sun Valley \$295,000; Hailey \$75,000; Bellevue \$3,500, and Sun Valley Company \$300,000. The City of Carey doesn't contribute money yet, but is getting more active in Mountain Rides. The bulk of local funding is used for operations ... moving people. Additional service buses on the Valley route are planned for the coming year; and Mountain Rides hopes to add service to the airport and Galena Summit this winter.

Chairman Greenberg noted that transit agencies typically get about 20% of state funds; and Mountain Rides only gets .01% state funds.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

NAMI Wood River Valley President Tom Hanson; Administrative Assistant Carla Young; and new Marketing and Outreach Director Christina Cernansky.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$33,152

NAMI is seeking funding in FY2017 for:

- office rent and operational staff, shared with two other entities.
- providing local mental health services, which were drastically reduced in the Wood River Valley due to the recession. Care for someone in a mental health crisis could be in an emergency room or jail, and is more expensive than proactive programs.

- the new Marketing and Outreach Director position includes fundraising and membership, which will increase funding.

NAMI has a discounted Tuesday lunch program at The Senior Connection; discounted bus passes for people with mental illness; and is working to get discounted membership at various gyms. NAMI has a \$25,000 grant from Wood River Women's Foundation for new office software and a database program to include surveys and tracking NAMI programs.

Blaine County Fair Board

Blaine County Fair Board President Morgan Drage; and Board member Amy Federko.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$30,780.

The Fair Board's vision is to improve and grow the Blaine County Fair:

- The past four years has seen a 30% increase in the market animal program. As a result, the Fairgrounds has an increased number of lamb and swine pens, an improved beef barn, and will soon have more lamb pens and wash racks. The market animal program is seeing a significant increase in 4-Hers from the north county with chickens and small animals.
- The Fair Board's main goal is to develop the fairgrounds for use and lease for year-round educational programs and countywide events. Such a facility needs a shower and restrooms.

The BCC thanked the Fair Board for conceptualizing the future of the fair and fairgrounds and their extraordinary volunteer efforts. Commissioner Schoen asked the Fair Board to provide a capital needs budget to bring the Fair buildings to code and provide heat and air conditioning for year-round use.

County Administrator Voss suggested the BCC consider the Fairgrounds a County-owned facility, under the care and maintenance of the County Facilities Manager; while retaining the Fair Board with full autonomy of operation. The BCC and Fair Board President Morgan Drage agreed that was a great idea.

Sun Valley Economic Development

SVED Chairman of the Board Steve Mills; Executive Director Harry Griffith; and Outreach and Membership Director Doug Brown.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$25,000.

SVED Executive Director Harry Griffith said the County's financial support enabled SVED to get a Department of Commerce grant and money from the private sector. SVED key accomplishments:

- SVED has located three new businesses in Blaine County and secured three tax reimbursement incentives out of 18 for the State of Idaho.
- SVED partners with the Ketchum Innovation Center to connect local entrepreneurs and start-ups, and identify new relocations. New companies would provide new jobs.
- Tourism is a major part of the local economy, and SVED promotes new air routes and hotel rooms.
- SVED continues to develop a culinarium and Olympic training site that could be expanded into a human performance laboratory.
- In its sixth year, SVED may go beyond breaking even; but SVED will probably always need public sector support.
- Shortage of workforce housing is the biggest risk to sustainable growth in the community. Companies and people want to come here, but can't afford to live here.

Region IV Development Association

Region IV Development Association President Joe Herring.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$2,424.

Region IV Development offered their resources for financing housing and housing infrastructure.

- City of Bellevue received \$413,000 Community Development Block Grant to finish its wastewater system.
- Region IV sends a loan officer to Blaine County about once a month to meet with potential borrowers and bankers.
- Region IV recently introduced 17 people to the area. They were impressed with the airport, Ketchum restaurants, the scenery, the community and the friendliness of the people.
- Region IV works with South Central Community Action Partnership on a "Self Help Housing" program funded by US Department of Agriculture Rural Community Assistance Corporation to help income-qualified people build their own homes with low interest loans. The program is challenged in Blaine County by the cost of land.

Commissioner Schoen suggested Region IV help Blaine County coordinate with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) about wastewater infrastructure for the Gateway area.

BREAK

The (formerly Senior) Connection

The Connection Executive Director Teresa Beahen Lipman; and St. Luke's Center for Community Health Manager Erin Pfaeffle.
FY2017 Budget Request: \$50,000.

The Connection is the only organization that specifically serves seniors in Blaine County:

- The cost to feed a senior for a year is the equivalent of a one-day stay in a hospital or six days in a nursing home.
- Two-thirds of seniors 60 years or older need help doing one or more daily activities, which The Connection can provide with in-home care services.
- 15.8% of Blaine County's population is 65 or older, and that percentage continues to grow.
- The Connection served 577 unduplicated active seniors in 2015; and may well serve over 700 people by year end 2016.
- The Connection provides nutritious meals, health and fitness, transportation, family care, adult day care, support services for caregivers, and senior leadership/retirement leisure and enrichment activities.
- The Connection serves mentally and/or physically disabled, transient, and people in short-term need.
- Local businesses and organizations regularly join The Connection for lunch.

The Connection has operated at a deficit for the last few years and has used reserve funds. The Board is establishing key performance indicators to monitor success, and growing partnerships with St. Luke's Community Health, The Hunger Coalition, CSI, YMCA, and Mountain Rides.

St. Luke's Clinic for Mental Health Services

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

FY2017 Budget Request: \$25,000. The Clinic loses about \$125,000 annually.

St. Luke's Clinic is 2½ years old, and has served almost 1000 patients. The Clinic encourages people who can be well managed by a family practitioner to continue with that practitioner; but the Clinic's staff psychiatrist still sees 8 or 9 new patients with critical mental health needs per week. The Clinic now has two full time therapists, and could use a third therapist with substance abuse training. Clinic accomplishments in FY2016:

- The Clinic can see patients as young as age 13.
- The Clinic has group therapy, which is less expensive.
- St. Luke's Foundation funds mental health scholarships to pay for care for mental health patients who may discontinue treatment because they can't afford it.
- Staff is working with County Probation to provide easy-access treatment for people on probation.
- The clinic is creating a community care team comprised of representatives of agencies that serve patients with long-term chronic illness who are struggling to be successful.

Crisis Hotline

Crisis Hotline Executive Director Sher Foster.

FY2017 Budget Request: \$5,000.

The Crisis Hotline has provided continuous service for 28 years. The Hotline moved its office last spring, and hired a part-time office assistant. The hotline continues to see an increase in crisis calls, including:

- at least one suicide call a week, and an increase in suicide-related calls from seniors.
- a huge increase in teen calls, including calls relating to date abuse and gender issues.
- Parents are working too many hours, leading to domestic violence and kids are stressed at home.
- The Crisis Hotline is building its school information program in schools in neighboring counties as well as Blaine County; and presenting to parent-teacher conferences to keep parents informed on what their children are learning in school.

Blaine County Housing Authority (BCHA)

BCHA Executive Director David Patrie.

FY2017 Budget Request: \$70,000

The BCC noted that Sun Valley Economic Development is very aware of the shortage of housing in Blaine County, and the impact it has on economic development. BCHA Executive Director David Patrie said Region IV Development could possibly offer loan assistance if the housing was connected to and necessary for a new business. Specific FY2017 BCHA focus on programs and their community impact:

- Database management (136 individual households currently in the BCHA database) to be sure applicants are ready to move when a unit becomes available.
- The BCHA put 14 households in community housing last year.
- Update and revise the BCHA Strategic Plan adopted in 2011.
- Improve asset management of 99 units. Added one ownership and one rental unit in 2015. Added one new ownership unit to date in 2016 on county-donated land. Expect to have two new rentals in Bellevue in 2016 in partnership with ARCH, to be managed by BCHA.
- Building unit organizational and management capacity.
- Respond to increased rental demand. Expect to add seven rentals in 2017 in Hailey and elsewhere in the County.
- Conducted 59 housing counseling sessions and will do more in 2016. Most were pre- and post-purchase, but some are rental and some are foreclosure-intervention counseling.

Blaine County Community Drug Coalition

BCCDC Executive Director Amber Larna.

FY2017 Budget Request: \$5,100

The BCCDC promotes healthy lives by decreasing substance use through innovative programming, community education and positive policy change:

- Collaborate with local government, schools, law enforcement agencies and other organizations to address environmental policy strategies to reduce access of drugs and alcohol to youth.
- Supported a County social host ordinance and other regulations on substance abuse.
- Will reapply for Idaho Drug Free Youth (iDFY) community programs 5-year grant later this year.
- Promote B.R.A.V.E. (Balanced-Responsible-Active-Vital Enlightenment), an activity-based mindfulness education program for at-risk youth.
- Support Loving Solutions program for parents of 5-10 year old children, and Parent Project for parents of teens.
- Semi-annual assets survey will be distributed in the school in 2016.
- Supported enforcement of ban on sale of alcohol to minors.
- Raise awareness in the community on dangers of prescription drug abuse and promote “bring back” boxes for unused prescription drugs.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:18 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____

JoLynn Drage
County Clerk

Jacob Greenberg
Chairman