

Bear Lake County Commissioners' Special Meeting
February 21, 2023
Commissioners' Chambers – Paris, Idaho

The Board of Bear Lake County Commissioners met for a special meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2023, in the Commissioners' Chambers in Paris, Idaho. Video access to the meeting also was available via Zoom. Members present were Commission Chairman Bradley D. Jensen, Commissioner Rex L. Payne, Commissioner Wynn S. Olsen and Amy Bishop, Clerk of the Board. Also in attendance were Deputy Clerk Paul Christiansen and a few members of the public.

This special meeting was held in order to open a public hearing for public comment in favor of or against the application for a Community Development Block Grant made by the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center.

GENERAL BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING – BEAR LAKE SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION – ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to enter the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. Roll Call Vote. Commissioner Olsen, Aye. Commissioner Jensen, Aye. Commissioner Payne, Aye.

The public hearing was opened at 9:04 a.m.

Charity Staggs from the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments (SICOG) conferenced into the meeting via Zoom to present an overview of the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center's planned project for which any awarded funding from the Community Development Block Grant will be used. Staggs said SICOG will provide grant writing services to the Center, and the proposal will focus on improvement and repair services primarily in the building's kitchen area. Grant funding will provide for construction and replacement of cabinets, table and countertops, the replacement of an oven and stovetop unit, and the redesign of and associated construction costs for improvements to the dishwashing area.

These improvements will benefit Bear Lake County residents and Bear Lake Senior/Community Center workers, Staggs said. The updates to the kitchen area will make the facility more sanitary and easier to clean. Repairs will see areas of crooked flooring renovated, and alterations to the dishwashing area will provide more useable area.

Work on the project is scheduled to begin in January 2024 and be completed by October 2024, Staggs said. The Community Development Block Grant funding requested will be \$245,000, with a shared match of \$5,000 provided by the Center bringing the total to \$250,000.

Commissioner Olsen said in the short time he had served as the Board's liaison to the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center he had seen the need for some vast improvements to the building's kitchen.

He said the Idaho State Fire Marshal is getting strict on kitchen firefighting measures, and Olsen hoped that a new range hood and fire-suppression system could be added into this project in order to meet those needs. However, he said, that could add some cost to the project budget.

Commissioner Jensen said fire-suppression systems come with annual fees for testing. It would be beneficial to check into the cost of those tests and find out who is responsible for conducting them, he said.

Clerk Amy Bishop wondered if the county would be able to use administrative steps – such as the assessment of the property’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – that had been taken as part of a previous grant for the Center’s needs. Staggs said there will be some updates to the ADA assessment done on SICOG’s end, but the county won’t have to do anything with it.

Commissioner Payne said that there have been issues with handicap access to the front entryway, due to a steep angle at the entrance that requires a 90-degree turn to access a second doorway. This can be difficult for wheelchairs to navigate, he said. Commissioner Jensen echoed the concern, adding that ease of access should be a high priority for a senior center.

Staggs said an engineer had examined the entrance and was addressing part of the issue. By making the minor adjustment associated with expanding the lip of the sidewalk, accessibility would be increased.

Bear Lake County resident Mariah Lancaster, who researches grant opportunities for the Center, said she had been asked to find other grants to address the entryway issue. She said she is actively working on this effort. However, she said, the current entrance is in compliance with the ADA – but only just barely.

Lancaster reminded the commissioners that the Bear Lake Senior/Community Center Board had previously asked the county to sponsor it for this grant process on May 9, 2022 during the commissioners’ regular meeting. At that time, the Board passed a motion to become the facilitator for the Community Development Block Grant.

No other public comment was made.

The hearing closed at 9:20 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion to approve the Bear Lake County Senior/Community Center for its Community Development Block Grant application submission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Payne made a motion that Bear Lake County will serve as the facilitator for the Community Development Block Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olsen. The motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Bradley D. Jensen
BRADLEY D. JENSEN, Chairman

3-13-23
Date Approved

ATTEST: *Amy Bostig*

