

Budget Update

May 11, 2021

3:35 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Taylor Albright, Steve Wohld, Lara McRea, Meja Handlen, Wes Rethwill

Guest: Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Becky Butler said the county has a \$200,000 contract with the Lewis County Seniors to provide meal services through June 30. She said the project has not yet been approved by FEMA. She suggested reaching out to the Lewis County Seniors about a possible return to pre-COVID meal service. Becky noted that the county's COVID-19 MOU with the Lewis County Seniors will expire in June and that FEMA requires a ton of complicated paperwork for funding.

Becky said Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) has asked that the contract be moved out from under PHSS. Meja Handlen said PHSS would like the contract moved as soon as possible due to staff and time constraints.

Becky suggested that the Lewis County Seniors have an audit completed despite falling under the \$750,000 threshold. She said that would set the group up to apply for additional grant funding. Becky noted that the LC Seniors group cannot manage the contracts because it cannot apply directly for federal funding.

Frank Corbin said he understands the Lewis County Seniors group hopes to reopen as safely and as soon as possible.

Commissioner Swope said he would reach out to LMTAAA about possibly managing the process.

Frank said the Seniors have considered securing an audit but that the costs are estimated at \$20,000.

Becky said the federal government has opened its American Rescue Plan Act funding portal. Among funding highlights:

- Can be used for compliance and audit costs
- Can be used toward qualifying employees' retirement
- Retroactive to March 3, 2021
- Cities will receive their funds upfront, not as reimbursements
- Lewis County will receive \$15.67 million

Becky said she'd like the board to identify infrastructure projects by June.

The commissioners directed staff to move forward with studies regarding housing and water-sewer infrastructure.

Erik Martin discussed outreach efforts regarding the Strategic Plan.

The group discussed the pros and cons regarding having the commissioners decide funding and using committees to suggest fund allocations.

Becky said the American Rescue Plan funds can be used to cover lost revenue but that it's unclear what specifically will be available. Becky said the General Fund did not have lost revenue but that the Fair, Jail and Roads all had lost revenue.

Erik said the Public Information Specialist position appears to be eligible for ARP funding.

Commissioner Pollock said she continues to reach out to subject matter experts regarding water banks.

Becky said OpenGov planning continues to move forward. She said IT has done a great job laying the groundwork for the implementation.

Becky said she will begin recruiting individuals to serve on the Citizens Budget Committee in June. She suggested streamlining the upcoming all-day budget meetings to include only the offices and departments requesting additional funding.

Becky said she is working to help Chris Panush set his Risk rates for 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.