

**BEAR RIVER ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2015 - 12 Noon
Health Department/Mental Health Building
440 West 600 North in Tremonton**

**MINUTES
(Approved - March 23, 2016)**

PRESENT

Commissioner Bill Cox
Mayor Roger Fridal
Commissioner Jeff Hadfield
Commissioner Jeff Scott

Council Member Val Potter
Commissioner Stan Summers
Mayor Tyler Vincent

EXCUSED

County Executive Craig Buttars
Mayor Craig Petersen
Mayor John Spuhler
Mayor Sim Weston

Commissioner Tom Weston
Commissioner Norm Weston
Council Member Cory Yeates

BRAG STAFF PRESENT

Roger Jones
Kent Watson

Debbie Lee
Dolores Berkley

OTHERS PRESENT

Congressman Rob Bishop
Reed Ernstrom
JaNea Lund
John Newhall
Scott Sandall
Ryan Wilcox
Fred Burr

Utah's First Congressional District
Bear River Mental Health
Department of Workforce Services
Congressman Rob Bishop's Office
Utah House of Representatives
Senator Mike Lee's Office
Wiggins & Company

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MINUTES

Council Member Val Potter, Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed all to the BRAG Governing Board Meeting in Tremonton City. Introductions were made. Potter asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of September 30, 2015. The minutes were approved unanimously with a **MOTION** by Commissioner Bill Cox and **SECOND** by Commissioner Jeff Scott.

The chairman noted that a quorum was not present and that we would proceed with the action items as necessary unless someone had an objection. All present were in agreement; another member or members of the Board would be contacted to receive their approval of each item.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Rob Bishop addressed members of the Board and others present. He reported on the frustrations that continue to plague Washington. He said that the new speaker, Paul Ryan, is more articulate and funnier than the former speaker, but feels the substance and policy will continue to be about the same. Bishop commented that Mr. Ryan will be more cautious regarding spending since he has been Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Items reported:

- Sage Grouse issue is done and we lost
- Will continue to work with his committee on the PILT funding
- Water conservation plans continue to be considered
- Funding for education to train petroleum industry workers

Questions included:

- Viewpoint on the Syrian Refugees
- Homeland Security threat concerns
- Gun Control
- Administering federal programs and the continuation of sequestration

Congressman Bishop thanked the group for the invitation and said that he always enjoys coming to the November BRAG meeting. Potter also thanked Bishop for being receptive to the needs in the Bear River Region.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Fred Burr, Wiggins & Company, presented the results of the required External Audit Report for the Bear River Association of Governments for the year ending June 30, 2015. The audit is conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. **Refer to all reports for details of audit.**

Highlights of the Financial, Single Audit, and Management Reports were provided. Burr said that BRAG is small for a government entity and that BRAG continues to do very well with the available funding and expends them when received. We continue to receive glowing reviews from federal and state entities.

Burr reported there were no findings, only miniscule items that have already been discussed with the staff. He said the BRAG audit is the only one he has done this year with a report of “no findings.”

In closing, Burr asked that we contact him or Debbie Lee if there are any questions concerning the audit and complimented the BRAG staff for continuing to do a great job with the many and varied funding sources.

Potter asked for a motion to accept the Bear River Association of Governments External Audit Report by Wiggins and Company for Fiscal Year 2015—year ending June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Bill Cox **MOVED** to **ACCEPT**; Commissioner Jeff Scott **SECONDED**. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Roger Jones expressed his appreciation to Debbie Lee for her excellent work.

Annual approval of the following check signers was requested by Roger Jones: Dolores Berkley, Deborah Crowther, Jeffrey Kearn, Kent Watson, and Roger Jones. These persons are authorized to sign checks for the Bear River Association of Governments, Bear River Community Services Foundation, Bear River CROWN and CROWN at Tremonton Village. Two signatures are required on each check. Mayor Roger Fridal **MOVED** to approve; Commissioner Stan Summers **SECONDED** and **APPROVAL** was unanimous.

BEAR RIVER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Reed Ernstrom, Executive Director for Bear River Mental Health Services, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the group. He talked about the services in Box Elder County and those located in this building in Tremonton which include: public health, mental health, and substance abuse. Shared costs for this building are paid with 2/3 health funding and 1/3 mental health funding.

Discussion/Requests by Ernstrom:

- Continue to work together with the Health Department in this area.
- Trying to integrate the physical with mental health issues.
- Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC) helps uninsured and underinsured.
- Mental Health offices are in Logan, Brigham City, Tremonton, and Garden City.
- Housing available for mental health clients in Brigham City: 1) Snow Park Village and 2) Box Elder Commons apartments with 13 and 14 units respectively. Ernstrom is proposing giving the Box Elder Commons Complex to Neighborhood Non-profit Housing Corporation (NNHC). Bear River Mental Health has had difficulty renting these and would like to use BRAG Housing Authority vouchers to the extent possible.
- He asked about project-based vouchers for Box Elder Commons and expressed concern about the current waiting list. He also suggested less stringent background checks for those with mental health issues. A continued lack of housing for the mentally ill is problematic for the community.
- Kent Watson, Housing and Human Services, said he would need to take the issue to the Bear River Regional Housing Authority Board in order to relax the qualifications for eligibility.
- Ernstrom said if we can partner, then other entities can focus on what they do best. NNHC could own and manage the apartments and mental health services could be provided for the population in need.

Roger Jones suggested reviewing the selection criteria and working with Reed Ernstrom on the proposal. The Housing Authority Board will be asked to review proposed changes.

CHANGES TO BRAG HOUSING AUTHORITY PAYMENT STANDARDS

Kent Watson, BRAG Housing & Human Services Director, reported on the following:

- 566 Total Vouchers—this year the Housing Authority is 14 unit-months short of being fully rented, which is an outstanding achievement. They get as close to 100% as possible each year.

- Bear River Regional and Logan City Housing Authorities administered by BRAG continue to receive the “high performer” status designated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Annual budget of \$2.7 Million
- Annual subsidy is less than \$350 per individual
- Short waiting list—can be as low as six months
- 20% turnover yearly
- 225 housing vouchers are to non-elderly disabled adults; 12% elderly

Watson asked for approval of the Proposed Payment Standards effective January 1, 2016. (**See the standards distributed for review.**) Mayor Roger Fridal made the **MOTION** to approve; Mayor Tyler Vincent **SECONDED** and the standards were **APPROVED** unanimously for Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties as presented. Of those present, Mayors Fridal and Vincent, and Council Member Potter are members of the five-member Bear River Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

PROGRESS ON TREMONTON CITY DEVELOPMENTS

Val Potter thanked Mayor Roger Fridal for hosting today’s meeting. Fridal reported on the following:

- Box Elder County continues to work with Brigham City and Tremonton City on various projects.
- The new Shopko in Tremonton is a welcome addition.
- Expressed appreciation to BRAG staff for assisting with several projects in Tremonton. The Tremonton Industrial Park project has great potential for a new distribution center; 300 jobs plus 100 seasonal could come to the community.
- New Council Member Lyle Hamp is pro-business.
- Fridal said that working together for the common good can accomplish many things and expressed his appreciation to the Box Elder County Commission and the Brigham City Mayor and Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roger Jones reminded everyone of the BRAG Christmas Social to be held on Thursday, December 3rd. The historic Bluebird Restaurant in downtown Logan will host the buffet between 6 and 7:15 p.m., and then followed by Christmas at the Ellen Eccles Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Robert Grow of Envision Utah would like to come to a Governing Board meeting to discuss growth issues in Utah and the recently completed survey with more than 50,000 responses. The group agreed he should be invited to the next Governing Board meeting in January.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP NOTE: As directed by the Chair, Council Member Potter, Mayor Darrell Simmons and Council Member Cory Yeates were contacted by telephone and did vote to approve all four action items in the meeting.