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**CORTEZ CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION/SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024  
7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- A. 7:00 p.m., Update on Prescribed Fire Plans from Nick Mustoe, District Ranger for the Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest
- B. 7:15 p.m., Council General Discussion
- C. For Your Information
  - a. Letter from the Bridge Emergency Shelter.
  - b. Minutes for the Board of Commissioners, Montezuma County, Colorado for March 12, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT of Work Session.**



CITY OF CORTEZ  
123 ROGER SMITH AVENUE  
CORTEZ, CO 81321

03/26/2024

Agenda Item: 1. C. a.

MEMO TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: LINDA SMITH, CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: Letter from the Bridge Emergency Shelter.

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**Attachments**

Letter from the Bridge Emergency Shelter



The Bridge Emergency Shelter  
735 North Park St.  
Cortez, CO 81321  
(970)565-9808

March 11, 2024

Dear Drew and the City of Cortez Council:

On behalf of the Bridge Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Day Labor, we want to express our sincere gratitude for the continued support of \$12,000 annually. These funds will be used to support our summer shower and laundry program from mid-April to mid-October and operations for the next shelter season.

While we acknowledge the many challenges that face our country and the world, we can take time to celebrate some of the things that are right.

During the last shelter season, the Bridge served 221 unique individuals in our community struggling with many different types of emergency situations. Data shows we provided 3,555 bed nights. Out of those bed nights 2,906 were in sober rooms and 1,023 bed nights were in the intoxicated rooms. 7,110 well-balanced, homemade meals were served. Along with a bed, a meal and a safe place to sleep, the Bridge provided hygiene supplies, first aid supplies, laundry soap, and clothing to our guests. All 221 individuals were entered into the Built for Zero By Name List even if they were not planning on making Montezuma County their permanent residence. Even short-term emergency stays were included in the Montezuma County Homeless conversations to provide assistance to aide them in being successful in their endeavors.

The Summer Maintenance Pilot Program served 16 participants who were working on specific goals to improve their situations. They stayed 24/7 and were responsible for purchasing and preparing their own meals. They were also responsible for their actions and was trusted to continue to work on their specific goals without extensive supervision. 11 participants met their goals and secured full time employment, secured housing, completed their probation or parole expectations, and/or improved their family relationships and were able to return home. The overnight emergency program served seven individuals who were referred by the hospital, Axis or law enforcement. The overnight service during the warm months was not utilized as much as staff anticipated. The Summer Program also provided showers and laundry to the homeless population two days per week and seen 17 regular faces each week.

The Bridg Day Labor connected over 100 individuals to short term labor opportunities last year along with assisting people to get the CDL's and CNA licenses. Nancy Johnson, the Day Labor Coordinator assisted one gentleman to enroll in welding school and two women to enroll in nursing school. She reported 20% of her caseload were actively unhoused and 80% were trying desperately to avoid becoming unhoused.

Transitional Housing on the second floor housed 22 tenants through the year. 90% of the tenants moved into transitional housing from the emergency shelter and 10% moved into transitional housing from the Department of Corrections or by referral from AXIS, the hospital or Pinon Project.

Many volunteers helped with yard maintenance, serving dinner, baking desserts, helped with data entry, and provided lunch for guests on shower and laundry days. Donations from the community and faith-based organizations helped supply toilet paper, cleaning supplies, over-the-counter medications, and clothing. The hospital pays for milk, eggs and butter through the shelter season.

The Bridge strives to develop and/or maintain self-sufficiency. We pride ourselves in developing and encouraging tenant/guest involvement in shelter and housing policy and procedures, daily functions, and to take part in their shelter and community. We believe if you “give a man a fish you feed them for a day. If you teach a man to fish you feed them for a lifetime.” When staff are not in the building, the tenants give out food and clothing if someone comes to the door and will call emergency services if someone needs them. They have weekly meals together to discuss how things are going and the Tenant Leader is responsible for monitoring, reporting and speaking for tenants if he sees any issues. The shelter has a resident leader, who is a former shelter/intoxicated guest that answers the door, answers the phone, cleans/sanitizes, monitors the building when staff are not available, and has input in the policies and procedures. He has been sober for a year and is currently working to get SSI. Four paid staff are former shelter/intoxicated guests who are sober and doing their best to give back to the community and their peers.

The Bridge serves as an open door for anyone who comes to the community and in need of a warm, safe place to sleep. Through informal case management they are given the opportunity to be connected to resources that are available to them. The goal set for shelters is to be rare, brief, and one time in the State of Colorado. Shelters are designated to connect people to services that will lead to permanent housing. We are aware that, although housing is the ultimate goal, there are people who are not ready, willing, or able to maintain housing without wrap-around services. There are also services shelters are not able to provide. We collect data that may be useful in determining the needs of the community and gaps in services. We have watched many people improve their life, health, and circumstances. We have learned things don’t happen instantly. Changes take time, patience, and the willingness of the person to work towards their individual goals.

The Bridge is committed to offering everyone the same opportunities and continue offering opportunities as many times as it takes. Through policies and procedures, we want to continue to be, as we were told during our annual Client Satisfaction Survey, “this is the cleanest shelter I have every stayed in and I can sleep with both eyes closed.” We are forever grateful for the support the community gives the Bridge.

Sincerely,

Theresa Wilson, Executive Director



CITY OF CORTEZ  
123 ROGER SMITH AVENUE  
CORTEZ, CO 81321

03/26/2024

Agenda Item: 1. C. b.

MEMO TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: DONNA MURPHY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: Minutes for the Board of Commissioners, Montezuma County, Colorado for March 12, 2024.

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**Attachments**

BOCC Minutes 03.12.2024



**DISCUSSION:** During the Monday Workshop, **Resource Director, James Dietrich** presented an update of the **OTAK** scope of work for the **Paths to Mesa Verde Project Phase 2**. (See attached)

**DISCUSSION:** During the Monday Workshop **Wanda Martin** from the Sheriff's Office and **Grant Coordinator, Robert Dobry** presented for approval the **Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant**. Commissioner Koppenhafer moved to approve the Montezuma County grant application submission form, for the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office, Bulletproof Vest grant, in the amount of \$11,850.00. Second by Commissioner Lindsay and carried. (See attached)

**DISCUSSION:** The Colorado Bureau of Investigation **Persons Who Wander Program Grant** the **Eyes in the Sky** project was presented for approval. Commissioner Lindsay moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Persons Who Wander Grant, for the program of Eyes in the Sky, in the amount of \$2,635.00. Second by Commissioner Koppenhafer and carried. (See attached)

**DISCUSSION:** The Montezuma County Sheriff's Office, **POST Rural and Small Agency Academy Grant** discussion was postponed to a future date. (See attached)

**DISCUSSION:** During the Monday Workshop, Montezuma County Public Transportation (MoCo) **Director, Jennifer Morris** along with **Grant Coordinator, Robert Dobry** presented the **MoCo Senior Services (AAA) Area Agency on Aging, Grant Application/Reimbursement**. Commissioner Koppenhafer moved to approve the grant application submission form for the MoCo Transportation and Senior Services through AAA. Second by Commissioner Lindsay and carried. (See attached)

**LETTER OF SUPPORT:** A letter of support addressed to the Department of Local Affairs, Regional Manager **Patrick Rondinelli**, related to the **Mancos (REDI) Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant** application was presented for approval. Commissioner Koppenhafer moved to sign the letter of support for Mancos, to the Department of Local Affairs, to help municipalities within the county to plan and complete projects that will diversify their local economy. Second by Commissioner Lindsay and carried. (See attached)

**DISCUSSION:** a discussion related to the current exemption list for the **Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal (PSST)** was held. Discussion will continue at the April 2, 2024 meeting. (See attached)

#### **PUBLIC LANDS:**

**Tres Rios Field Office Manager, Derek Padilla** from the **Bureau of Land Management**, met with the Commissioners for a monthly update. Topics discussed included: the posting of the supplementary rules and the Federal register for review, the comment periods for the Gunnison Sage Grouse and Big Game (EIS) Environmental Impact Statements, prescribed burns in the Yellow Jacket and Dolores Rim areas, the Public Lands Rule and summer season water levels.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:** County Attorney, Ian MacLaren gave updates on the Ironwood Case and the Fair Board complaint. Attorney, MacLaren along with Grant Coordinator, Robert Dobry presented for approval, the **Mesa Elementary Playground Improvement Expense Worksheet**. Commissioner Lindsay moved to sign the Mesa Elementary Improvement Actual Expense Worksheet and to authorize the Chairman to sign it. Second by Commissioner Koppenhafer and carried. (See attached)

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** County Administrator, Travis Anderson mentioned discussions held related to the 2024 budget, and the League of Women Voters event to discuss the Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal (PSST). Administrator Anderson expressed gratitude to **Dennis Bugg** for his partnership in the Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Topics within the Commissioners reports included: **Commissioner Koppenhafer** discussed the attended precinct Caucus meetings and the Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal meeting with the League of Women Voters.

**Commissioner Lindsay** discussed the attended Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal meeting with the League of Women Voters, a proposed local peak name designation and the scheduled Cortez City Council meeting.

**Commissioner Candelaria:** discussed the attended Public Safety Sales Tax Proposal meeting with the League of Women Voters, current snow depths in the high country, the attended Dolores Town Board meeting, a scheduled Dolores Town Board candidate forum, an auto incident to the new Dolores Town Hall building, the 12 Hours of Mesa Verde Event and the Monday Workshop.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Commissioner Lindsay moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Koppenhafer and carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The following correspondence was read and noted:

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:40 a.m.**

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Clerk

March 12, 2024

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Chairman