

The Terry Town Council held a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comment on the proposed application to the Montana Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for a Community Facilities Project for the construction of an addition to the facilities of the Prairie Community Hospital District. The following people were in attendance: Council Members Cindy Bond, Caryn Rein, and Brad Eaton as well as Clerk Lynn Schilling. Mayor Rolane Christofferson and Burt Keltner (Chief Administrative Officer, Prairie Community Hospital District) presided over the meeting. Members from the public present were Roxy Carlson, Larry Bond, and Prairie County Commissioner Dennis Teske.

Burt Keltner provided an overview of the purpose of the public hearing. No members of the public had comments at this time. Burt Keltner then discussed the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program and how the hospital had utilized that program through the County and Town in 2015 to complete upgrades necessary to keep the hospital open. Currently, they would like to again apply for CDBG program funding to support funding an expansion project that would add four (4) rooms, with three (3) more beds along with much needed space for a meeting room and storage. He displayed a design for the hospital that had been completed in 2012 as part of a strategic plan for the hospital district. The addition that they are proposing is part of the strategic plan. As they have seen a need for additional beds, and the additional beds would also increase the revenue the hospital receives, they have identified that as being the next step to take in upgrading the facility. With the additional beds, he estimated an increase in gross revenue of \$16,000 per month if the hospital were to maintain a minimum of 89% occupancy rate. Currently, the hospital maintains an average of a 97% occupancy rate. He briefly discussed the hospital's designation as a "critical access hospital." With that designation, the hospital can only have a capacity of 25 swing beds. However, they plan to have the other rooms plumbed so that they could easily transition to having additional beds should their designation allow. They also plan to address some other needs within the facility as well, such as expanding the dining room area and lobby and converting a records room back to an office. Council Member Cindy Bond asked for clarification on the location of the records room. Commissioner Dennis Teske inquired about the efficiency of the new boilers in the hospital. Burt Keltner explained that the boilers have been more efficient and further explained that the existing boilers have the capacity to heat the additional square footage the proposed addition would add. Council Member Brad Eaton inquired about staffing needs should the hospital expand. Burt Keltner explained that there would be a need for more staff and explained that they have been working to change the culture within the hospital to aid in recruiting and retaining employees. Larry Bond asked about the next steps in the process. Burt Keltner explained that he would be submitting the application the following week. If the applications are approved, construction would not begin until 2020.

Having no further comment, questions, or public comment the public hearing was closed at 5:35 p.m. Mayor Rolane Christofferson read Resolution # 2019-456 Authorizing the Submission of the CDBG Program application. The Town Council passed a motion to approve Resolution # 2019-456. (Bond/Rein) The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

ATTEST;

Lynn Schilling, Clerk

Rolane Christofferson, Mayor