



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah

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MINUTES 30 August 2022

The Grand County Commission met in an emergency meeting on August 30th, 2022. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person was Commission Chair Jacques Hadler and Commissioners Trisha Hedin, Sarah Stock and Josie Kovash. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek, and Strategic Development Director Chris Baird. Commission Vice-Chair Mary McGann and Commissioner Kevin Walker were in attendance virtually.

4:02 p.m. Call to Order Emergency Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hadler offered a statement in support of the businesses and individuals affected by recent flood events, expressed gratitude towards staff in their efforts to develop this proposal on a short timeline, and addressed public concerns regarding the use of TRT promotion funds for flood relief assistance purposes.

Citizens to be Heard

Daniel Loveridge, General Manager of the Hoodoo Hotel and member of the Utah Tourism Industry Association, spoke in favor of the use of TRT funds for the proposed purposes, the UTIA stresses that this is a one-time use of these funds, and that the only reason that these funds are available for such purposes are due to Grand County not spending the funds in a timely manner. His opinion is that the economy is down because of a lack of promotion.

Laici Shumway, member of the Moab Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed gratitude for the efforts in offering these funds in the proposed manner, spoke to the challenges associated with operating a business in a relatively depressed economy, and expressed excitement for upcoming promotion efforts and a commitment to consistent promotion efforts by the County.

General Business – Action Items – Discussion and Consideration of Approval

- A. Authorizing the Emergency Expenditure of Transient Room Tax Funds for Flood Relief Assistance (Chris Baird, Strategic Development Director, August Granath and Ben Alter, Grand County Economic Development Department)**

Presentation

Staff offered overview of the program proposal document as shown in the meeting packet, including applicable uses, funding sources, application process, timeline, eligibility requirements, evaluation process, approval committee makeup, grant match requirement and grant disbursement. Commissioner Kovash

inquired about how the program would serve business owners who don't own the property that their business operates on. Commissioner Stock sought clarification on why there was no requirement for reporting operating losses. Director Baird clarified that a notarized affidavit attesting to the accuracy of self-reporting will likely be required in the application process and that businesses with greater amounts of damage and fewer resources will be prioritized. He also clarified that direct costs are more easily accounted for than direct operating losses.

Motion by Commissioner Kovash to approve the emergency allocation of \$250,000 from the Transient Room Tax fund balance for the purposes of local flood relief as per the attached Emergency Flood Relief Grant Program Proposal, appoint Commissioner Hedin to serve as the Grand County representative on the approval committee, with Commissioner McGann serving as alternate, and authorize the Chair to sign and finalize all grants as approved by the committee.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner Walker expressed general support for the program, and stated that decisions regarding the use of promotional funds will be an ongoing discussion and that exhaustion of those available funds is not imminent. Baird clarified that due to the relative economic downturn and bulging fund balance, a fall promotional campaign had been pursued prior to the flood, and that a contract and budget amendment will be considered at upcoming Commission meetings.

Motion passes 6-0, Clapper absent

Chair Hadler adjourned meeting at 4:40 p.m.

DRAFT

Jacques Hadler
Chair, Grand County Commission

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor