

**LOCAL OPTION TAX COMMISSION JANUARY 28, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AND LOT REPORT TO COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 5, 2014**

Commission Members Present: Eric Bender, Jim Bockelman, Mary Cerise, Lin Gray, Rob Jackson, Robin Watkins, Craig McCallum and Barbara Soper. Also present was Amy Fealko, City Finance Director. **Guests:** Cindy Phelps, Jo Schroeder and Tammy Stringham.

The new commission members were welcomed and LOT Policies and Procedure manuals were distributed to the new members.

The December financials were presented by Amy Fealko. December income was \$2679; \$80 more than December 2012 and \$703 more than December 2011. Current year total revenue is \$13233; \$1786 less than last fiscal year and \$173 more than the year before that. There were no expenditures in December with \$23100 total expenditures for the year so far. Cash carried forward from last fiscal year was \$32956; total funds available are \$23089.

There is an ongoing problem with one motel that is delinquent in paying their LOT September thru December taxes. Amy has sent letters with no response and most recently a letter has gone out from the Mayor.

Requests: There was one request presented. **The Lemhi Education Project** presented a request for advertising to promote the educational opportunities available in the Salmon area. The request is in the amount of \$2864 which is the total budget amount of the request. An example of the need to promote local education is the hospital's use of out of the area medical coders which are positions that individuals can prepare for thru a program offered by Idaho State University and available here in Salmon. Education is vital to economic growth and jobs to our locals is not only economic growth for the individual but for the Salmon area as well. The commission agrees that secondary education locally is a benefit to the community and recommends that the council approve the \$2864 for the budgeted advertising items in the request.

The Salmon Arts Council submitted a follow up request for the 2013 Blues, Brews and BBQ in the amount of \$1000. The Arts Council at the time of the request was granted funding, but not the full amount requested due to funds available at the time of the request. The commission instructed the Arts Council to reapply when more funds were available. In hind sight, the commission feels that this was not the best avenue to take. The request was not heard and will be discussed with the Arts Council.

Unfinished Business: The commission will meet at the Sacajawea Center in the future provided the center is available. Lin Gray will coordinate the meeting dates.

New Business: With the new commission members there was much discussion regarding the philosophy in how the LOT considers funding requests.

Round Table: The three funding guidelines of the LOT Ordinance was explained to the commission; Modernization, maintenance and improvements of the Salmon Valley Community Pool. City promotion and development, visitor information, special events, economic growth, marketing, advertising and recreational opportunities. Direct costs to collect and enforce the tax.

The next LOT meeting will be February 25, 5:30 at the Sacajawea Center.