

Town of West Yellowstone

Town Council Work Session

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

West Yellowstone Town Hall, 440 Yellowstone Avenue

West Yellowstone, Montana

5:00 PM

Agenda

Public Comment Period/Council Comments

FY 2017 Budget, Special Funding Requests

- Community Health Partners (CHP)
- Yellowstone Historic Center (YHC)
- WY Chamber of Commerce
- WY Foundation
- Other Funding Requests

Discussion ∞





July 7, 2016

West Yellowstone Town Council
PO Box 1570
West Yellowstone, MT 59758-1570

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of Lander Cooney and all of our West Yellowstone staff, thank you for your recent vote to continue support of Community Health Partners (CHP) to provide the Town's healthcare services. As you are aware, CHP has been providing care in West Yellowstone for more than five years and we look forward to continuing this relationship for many years to come.

May this letter also serve to respectfully request the \$100,000 in risk-share agreement funding for the 2016 calendar year of operations. This support continues to allow us to provide high-quality care to everyone in the region regardless of their ability to pay and keep staff and services available even during low demand seasonality.

During this past year CHP has been working on a number of fronts to secure additional services and to respond to requests from the Town. Examples of this have included expanding the summer season from Memorial Day through mid-October and adding an additional later evening for increased patient access. We also have changed our summer scheduling template to allow for walk-in urgent care access for the majority of each day, based on Town requests. Perhaps the most exciting development this past year has been the weekly addition of the Big Sky Medical Center physicians every Tuesday. In addition to our family nurse practitioner, Erin Bevan, we had very positive feedback with our provider staff and we also have been fortunate to have such an excellent support staff as well.

We currently are working with Community West Outreach to help support a domestic violence support group in addition to research how to bring a mental health therapist to Town one more day per week. Several of the Big Sky physicians are trained to provide prenatal care which expands options for pregnant women in the community as well. CHP also has partnered with the Montana Healthcare Foundation to train local Latina women to become health promoters or "promotoras" within their community. This will help to reach this somewhat hidden population to ensure that their health status improves and their needs are being met.

Again, thank you for the Council's support of CHP. We continue to enjoy our relationship with the Council and Town staff and will keep working diligently to respond to the healthcare needs as we are able.

Sincerely,

Buck Taylor, MPH
Director of Community Development and Operations

CHP-Livingston • 406-222-1111 126 South Main, Livingston, MT 59047	CHP-Bozeman • 406-585-1360 214 East Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715	CHP-Belgrade • 406-922-0820 19 East Main, Belgrade, MT 59714	CHP-West Yellowstone • 406-M6-9441 P.O. Box 1101 • West Yellowstone, MT 59758
CHP Livingston Dental Practice • 406-922-0881 112 West Lewis, Livingston, MT 59047	CHP Bozeman Dental Practice • 406-585-8701 120 North 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718	Learning Partners • 406-823-6356 112 West Lewis, Livingston, MT 59047	



Repair Needs for Oregon Short Line Historic District (2016-2017)

Building	Project	Priority	Cost Estimate
Depot	Install asphalt between the porch and police department parking lot	medium	\$7,000
	Grading around foundation of Depot	high	\$3,000
	Concrete repairs on North Porch	high	\$5,000
Generator Building	Repair log overlay	medium	\$2,000
Oil Building	Replace roof – metal shingles?	low	\$35,000
Dining Lodge	Replace floor covering in hallways	high	\$10,000
	Restore old Social Security office	low	\$10,000- 20,000
	Replace flooring in women's bathroom	high	\$3,500
	Address roof leak between Mammoth Room and North wing of Dining Lodge	high	\$5,000
	Address roof leak in mezzanine	high	\$3,000
	Refinish floors in Firehole room and Mezzanine	low	\$12,000
	Restore windows in kitchen	low	\$62,640
	Restore windows in Firehole and clerestory	medium	\$90,000
	Install ADA access ramp to Firehole entry doors	low	\$20,000
	Restore bar in Firehole Room	low	\$10,000
	Remodel bathrooms in Firehole Room	medium	\$1,000
	Repair grade on west side ADA ramp/handrailing	high	\$3,000



PO Box 458, West Yellowstone, Montana 59758 406.646.7701
destinationyellowstone.com

July 6, 2016

Town Council
Town of West Yellowstone
PO Box 1570
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Dear Council Members,

The West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce in its role as an advocate and promoter of business in our community has, for more than thirty years, accepted the responsibility of assuring a vibrant Visitors Information Center in West Yellowstone. Visitors are the life-blood of our community and their care and satisfaction are of prime importance.

You all know that slightly more than a year ago, the funding picture for the Center was dramatically altered with the discontinuation of \$40,000 a year in support through the Montana Office of Tourism (MTOT). That funding is not likely to return in the foreseeable future. At that time we began discussing both short and long-term solutions to keep the Visitors Center viable.

For a number of reasons, our appeal last year could be small and you committed the \$5,380 requested for equipment and wi-fi service. We also explained that we would be returning for this and future years for a significantly greater sum. And, here we are.

Today we are asking for \$20,458 to cover staffing, equipment and wi-fi service through June 30, 2017. The attached budget sheets give further information.

The Visitors Center is good for West Yellowstone business! Over 45% of surveyed West Yellowstone visitors say that once they arrive, the visitor center is the most highly used method for getting information and making plans. We believe that singularly the Center is our community's greatest year-around marketing tool.

In addition to the drop-in visitors, in any given year the Center also respond to thousands of phone inquiries answering questions, selling West Yellowstone and providing information on our businesses as these future, potential guests plan and refine their travel plans. In June of this year alone nearly 31,000 visitors stopped in...close to a 7% increase over the previous June.

We remain ready to answer questions that you may have as you deliberate your decision. We sincerely hope that you, too, see the value of the continued operations of the VIC and will respond with the commitment we are requesting. As always, we cordially invite you to stop by at any time to see the Center in operation.

Regards,

Marysue Costello, Executive Director
West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

Katrina Wiese, Manager
West Yellowstone
Visitors Information Center

**West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
Budget Information**

		FY 2016	FY 2017	Estimate FY 2018
INCOME SOURCES				
	West Yellowstone TBID	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
*	Yellowstone Country (must be expended Memorial Day thru September 30 so splits two Fiscal Years)	\$ 30,573	\$ 22,000	\$ 8,000
	MAP Fund	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	WY Lodging Facilities Use Tax	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
	Town of West Yellowstone	\$ 3,574	\$ 20,458	\$ 36,294
			\$ -	
	Total Income	\$ 71,147	\$ 81,458	\$ 83,294
EXPENSE ITEMS				
	Staff Payroll	\$ 61,161	\$ 66,544	\$ 68,000
	Payroll Taxes and Workers' Compensation	\$ 6,405	\$ 7,320	\$ 7,700
	Equipment Expense (Ave/year)	\$ 2,537	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	WiFi Service	\$ 1,044	\$ 1,044	\$ 1,044
	Brochure Storage	CofC	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
	Building Maintenance including to pool for major upkeep	CofC	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	Total Expenses	\$ 71,147	\$ 81,458	\$ 83,294

*Yellowstone Country's Board determines, on an annual basis, the budget amount they will committ to Visitors Centers in the region. At this time they offer grants up to \$8,000 to each with applications due in February; however, recognizing the situation West Yellowstone faces AND the volume of visitation, they have helped us out with additional funding in the past two years. There are no guarantees the grants will continue (especially now that the State no longer funds Visitor Center) nor the amount of any grants.



PO Box 458
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758
destinationyellowstone.com

July 7, 2016

Town Council
Town of West Yellowstone
PO Box 1570
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Dear Council,

Reliance on one another is the DNA of small communities. They have a way of spotlighting interdependency and synergy through teamwork. I believe this relationship exists between the Chamber and the Town.

Through events such as the Fall Cycle Tour, Yellowstone Ski Festival, Christmas Stroll, the World Snowmobile EXPO or the Fourth of July, and the operation of the Visitors Information Center, our combined efforts bring about positive, memorable experiences for our guests and our citizens alike.

Taking care of and entertaining our visitors is an investment that keeps paying dividends to our community. We thank you for all ways you contribute to meeting and exceeding our visitors' expectations.

In addition to the request for funding for the Community's Visitor Information Center and as you work through the Town's FY 17 budget, we ask that you continue to provide the following assistance:

- Facility and grounds care for the Visitor Information Center.
- Support the Fourth of July festivities, as you have in the past, with a cash contribution of \$4,000 to help assure another superior fireworks display.
- Contribute to the success of activities and events through the cooperation and assistance of all the emergency and public services staff.

West Yellowstone's economy is tourism. We sit in the admirable position of having many of the attributes current travelers seek. Every visitor has a direct impact on our community's well being at many levels. As a team, there is no limit to the positive experiences we can bring to our visitors and, through that, the benefits we can bring to our citizens.

Thank you for your past support. I look forward to our continued strong relationship.

Sincerely,

Jan Stoddard, President



West Yellowstone Foundation

Serving the Community of West Yellowstone and Hebgen Lake Basin, Montana

P. O. Box 255

420 Yellowstone Avenue

West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

(406) 646-1152

wyfoundation@gmail.com westyellowstonefoundation.org

July 7, 2016

Town of West Yellowstone
P.O. Box 1750
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Dear Town Council,

We would like to request your continued support of the West Yellowstone Foundation bus program. We greatly appreciate your past support and are once again requesting \$15,000 to help fund this service for our local community riders. As you already know, the service was started to provide safe and affordable transportation for our seniors to have a way to get to Bozeman for medical appointments. Over time the service has grown to provide affordable transportation to many of our lower income residents, as well as our summer workers and visitors.

Please let us know if you need further information from us.
Thank you for your consideration.

Carrie Pope
Executive Director