

## **Summary of August 28, 2019 meeting of Measure B Committee**

**Treasurers report:** Lloyd Weer reported that a total of about \$9.4 million have been collected from the half-cent sales tax thus far.

**Suicide threat calls:** Report given by Ukiah Police Chief Wyatt regarding a national trend to avoid sending law enforcement as first responders to individuals contemplating suicide. The presence of an authority figure with uniform and gun sometimes exacerbates the problem, occasionally culminating in "suicide by cop," when the suffering individual suddenly brandishes a weapon. An organization that provides training in responding to suicide calls, employing mental health workers rather than law enforcement, will be engaged to provide local education.

**Project manager interviews:** Involved eight candidates. Offers were made to the first two, but unfortunately these were not accepted. The position is again posted for recruitment.

**Training Center:** escrow closed on September 3. Renovation and preparation of the building for training courses to follow, with expenses to be determined.

**Architect hiring:** Toward building of the proposed facilities, Crisis Residential, Crisis Stabilization, and PHF. Request for qualifications and proposals were made and four architects responded. Their written proposals were first reviewed on September 4. The top two candidates were chosen and interviewed on September 13. Results to come.

**Grant writer:** Mark Mertle, committee member from Fort Bragg, inquired about the possibility of hiring a fund raiser to work with the committee for the purpose of researching and applying for grants to further aid in obtaining the considerable funding that will be required to supplement existing mental health services. To be explored further.

**Hearing difficulties:** Members of the audience raised concerns that frequently committee deliberations were inaudible. A recommendation was made that an amplification system be obtained.