



For Immediate

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City Commission approves \$60,000 in STAR Fund Grants

The Williston City Commission has approved up to \$60,000 from the Williston STAR Fund for three projects. The commission allocated up to \$10,000 to the Williston Volunteer Fire Department, up to \$20,000 for exterior improvements at a business in Downtown Williston and up to \$30,000 to help build an assisted living facility at Mountrail Bethel Home (MBH).

The commission approved the allocations at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

The Williston Volunteer Fire Department will utilize its Community Build Grant to purchase furnishings and equipment for a new training room while Williston entrepreneur Jerry Wong will use the C4 Façade Grant to improve the exterior of his business at 21 Main Street.

The Mountrail County Health Foundation (MCHF) will utilize its \$30,000 Community Build Grant for constructing an assisted living addition to Mountrail Bethel Home. The project is the third and final phase of a three-phased capital campaign spearheaded by MCHF five years ago.

Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko said the STAR Fund Advisory Board supported Stanley's housing project due to Williston's leadership role in western North Dakota.

"The board supports Williston's efforts to be good stewards to our surrounding communities whose residents visit and do business in Williston. If these smaller towns continue to thrive, we all benefit," said Wenko.

Promoters of Rosen Place on 8th said the project will fill a void in Stanley.

"The Assisted Living Facility will allow residents of Stanley and Mountrail County to stay within their local community as they age, and not be forced to move to the

large cities that have the care they now need," said Heath Hetzel, Mountrail Bethel Home Board Chair.

Rosen Place on 8th will offer nine one-bedroom and five two-bedroom apartments for seniors who want to maintain their residence and independence in Stanley. The 14-unit facility will be managed and staffed by MBH employees.

"This (facility) will keep them using our local stores, attending their local churches and giving back to the community they helped shape when they were younger," said Hetzel.

In all, MCHF has raised more than \$6 million for its "Partnering for the Future" Capital Campaign. Stephanie Everett, Foundation Director of MCHF said they have received both public and private funds for the expansive project which also included an expansion at the Emergency Department and construction of the T.H. Reierson Rural Health Clinic.

Everett said the STAR Fund grant will provide key funding for the final phase of the campaign.

"Currently, the building funds have a little over \$3.6 million in them from donors and a low interest loan for Phase Three, the Assisted Living and the Chapel. Future funding options for the remainder of the project will come from further private donors, the local EDC's, grants and low interest loans," Everett said.

The Williston STAR Fund is administered by a seven-member board. The advisory board's recommendations are submitted to the Williston City Commission for final approval. For more information please contact brendasc@ci.williston.nd.us.