

FILED

BOOK 146 PAGE 0344

JAN 31 1991

COUNTY CLERK
FOR LANE COUNTY OR
BY *Ann DuBois*

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER

91-1-30-1

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$30,000 FROM LANE COUNTY FUND 28 GENERAL EXPENSE OPERATING RESERVE TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 UNITS OF TRANSITIONAL SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO) HOUSING.

WHEREAS, Lane County recognizes the need to address the community housing issues;

WHEREAS, Lane County has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to participate in an effort with the City of Springfield, the City of Eugene, and the Lane County Housing Authority and Community Services Agency to coordinate local resources in addressing the housing needs of Lane County;

WHEREAS, the Housing Policy Board – the intergovernmental body for overseeing joint housing development initiatives between jurisdictions in Lane County – has unanimously recommended that Lane County contribute \$30,000 toward an intergovernmental effort to create an additional ten units of transitional housing;

WHEREAS, as pursuant to ORS 456.320 (2) counties may donate money to housing authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED, that it is authorized to transfer up to \$30,000 from the Lane County Fund 28 General Expense Operating Reserve to the Lane County Housing Authority and Community Services Agency to assist in the construction of 10 units of transitional single room occupancy housing.

DATED this 30th day of January, 1991

Jan Rusk

Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

1-22-91
Jesse White

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposal Outline

SPONSORS, INC

SPONSORS inc.

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR THE EX-PRISONER

October 18, 1990

To: Housing Policy Board

From: Ron Chase, Executive Director, Sponsors, Inc.

Re: Request for funding

On behalf of Sponsors, Inc. I am submitting a request for a grant or loan of \$57,595.00, which would leverage a loan from US Bank and enable us to construct a 2-story, 10 unit Single Room Occupancy (SRO) facility to house participants in our transition program.

The report presented by The Lane County Task Force on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (please refer to appendix #1) identified shelter for single, low or minimum wage earners as critically lacking, stating that "Approximately 30 units per year for five years should be adopted as a target goal for the development and new construction of SRO housing". It goes on to say, "public participation in financing may serve as a key element in initiating and promoting this alternative". Specifically recommended was the "establishment of a low or no-interest loan fund in the amount of \$100,000.00 to serve as an incentive for private sector participation in single room occupancy (SRO) construction". If assistance were provided in the form of a loan, Sponsors would be capable of repaying it at the point the construction loan was repaid (please refer to appendix #2, financial pro forma).

In addition to providing shelter to this underserved population, the cash flow generated by this housing would provide enhanced supervision, an added public safety benefit.

The City of Eugene has approved this project for construction within existing zoning codes. (please refer to appendix #3)

There are several compelling reasons why the Housing Policy Board should consider this proposal. As Ms. Decker mentioned in last month's meeting, we need to get the "most housing for the dollars available". This project will result in 10 units of permanent housing for \$57,000.00, just \$5,700.00 per unit. There will be no ongoing program or service costs to local government, nor will there be any future liability. We have attempted to find other funding sources, including Oregon State Corrections and the National Consumer Coop Bank, to no avail. The project will not happen without this funding.

In addition to resulting in additional housing at a low cost to the public, funding of this project would result in an increased amount of state corrections transition monies flowing into Lane County (please refer to appendix #4).

These ten new units of affordable housing will be an addition to the local housing stock. Nobody will be displaced, either temporarily or permanently, as a result of this project.

If, in the future, this facility is no longer needed as transitional housing, it will be available to single low and minimum wage earners as SRO housing.

In summation, this project is cost-effective for local government, fits within the needs identified by the Affordable Housing Task Force, has a verifiable financing mechanism in place, has no zoning or site control obstacles, and would be ready for occupancy within 8 months of funding approval by this board (please refer to appendix #5).

A more detailed project description follows. We appreciate the time taken by the Housing Policy Board and associated staff to listen to and consider this proposal.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Due to the well-documented lack of affordable housing locally, indigent offenders released to Lane County are presented with the choice of living on the streets, illegal in itself and an automatic parole violation in many cases, or using their subsidy in marginal apartment complexes or motels which, in the words of the Governor's Task Force on Corrections Planning, are "breeding grounds for crime". The potential for and success of finding employment or seeking treatment for substance abuse issues is greatly reduced when an ex-offender's basic needs are not being provided for, or when they are placed in an unsupervised environment with other unemployed or under employed ex-offenders.

In plain terms, it is not in the interest of public safety to release convicted felons, in many cases repeat offenders, to the streets under the conditions cited above.

Through the revenue stream developed by our proposed housing, we will be able to provide an enhanced level of supervision as well as integrate residents into our other employment and self-sufficiency programs.