



5/27/2020

Dear Chairman Macker, Mayor Muldoon, Commissioners and Town Council Members,

On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to suggest an immediate rejection of the recommendations to hire two out of state firms to manage close to \$20m of the Public SPET funds on the Teton County Rec Center SPET project. As a widely supported project that will have many long term benefits to our residents we strongly urge you to consider the negative consequences of awarding these contracts to out of state firms; specifically due to the devastating impacts COVID 19 has and will continue to have on this community.

The local business owners who made the top two finalists for each contract (landing in the #1 spot for CMAR and #2 for Owner's Rep) have written very detailed letters with concrete fiscal and experiential evidence as to why they are the better choice and could manage the projects, so I will keep this request at the most critical level for our community.

1. Since COVID, we have lost over 3000 jobs in Teton County.
2. Since COVID we are predicting 50% loss in Sales and Use Tax Collections
3. Since COVID our residents quality of life has been threatened causing extreme anxiety and fear

We strongly support you reconsider and award the Owners Rep and Construction Manager contracts to local companies, even if you need to reconvene a selection process requiring local companies to rebid which clearly states what the instate preference criteria will be and asks for assurance to utilize local workforce to fulfill their bids? We know these local companies have vast experience in similar complex projects, they have an inherent desire to keep budgets tight for the betterment of our community, neighbors and residents and they will hire locally for their own firms and sub-contractors, creating even more local jobs. People who already live here, need work and contribute to our community. Please let logic prevail at this time and award business using Public Funded SPET money to local firms who clearly can manage these projects.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Olson
President/CEO Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce