

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN

BOB MULLEN

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
August 29, 2017**

Present: Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Bonnie Ramey, Clerk and Recorder; Jodi Smiley, Boulder Librarian; Carly Delsign, Clancy Librarian; Karen Wandell, County Health Nurse; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Paul Backlund

The meeting was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Commissioner Wortman moved to accept the minutes of August 15. Commissioner Kirsch seconded. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Commissioner Kirsch noted the receipt of the July cash report from the Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Kirsch noted that the Commission has received three copier bids for replacement of the Commission Office copier. Scott Mercer has reviewed the claims and gave his recommendation for the bid award.

Commissioner Mullen moved to go with Scott's recommendation and award the bid to Office 360. Commissioner Kirsch seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Mullen noted the receipt of an e-mail from Kodi Swanson of the Central Insurance Agency regarding Cataract Fire, and if it was still active. The Commissioners will ask the County Attorney to reply to the e-mail.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 8/30 Boulder Development Fund meeting - 2:00
 JLDC annual dinner - Whitehall - 6:00
8/31 Survey Review Committee - 1:30
9/04 Holiday - County Offices closed

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Thursday he and LaDana met with Bud Siderits and the new homeowner's association vice president. They had questions about a RID/RMD for the subdivision.

Commissioner Mullen reported that later that afternoon, he met with Willis Whetstein. The postmaster is complaining about the mailboxes at Gruber Estates. He feels that it needs better drainage.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Thursday he met with a landowner between Whitehall and Cardwell who has concerns with property loss. They estimate that they have lost 10 to 12 acres over the past few years from erosion from the river. They discussed options with the conservation district.

Commissioner Wortman stated that on Friday he attended a public meeting in Whitehall regarding the Conrow Fire. He has been attending those meetings on a daily basis.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Monday he met with the people considering a dog food factory in Jefferson County. They plan to use Montana products whenever possible, and also with no grains. They look to start with 20 employees and would need 100 acres.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Tuesday he attended the DUI Task Force meeting. They are still having trouble finding junior members.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended the Clancy water and sewer meeting Tuesday night. There was only one board member there, but they were able to do some planning for a community meeting in September.

Commissioner Kirsch reported on the senior citizens meeting on Monday. They are trying to work through the problems between the seniors and RMDC.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARING - USE OF TITLE III FUNDS

Commissioner Kirsch called the public hearing to order and called for comments.

Commissioner Mullen stated that we have been carrying this forward for a number of years. Because of the restrictions on the use of Title III funds, we wanted to change from Title III to Title II funds, which could be used in the forest. We were finally told that we couldn't do it, since the SRS program will be going away. We have about \$135,000 that we have to obligate by September 30 and spend in the following year. One item that we have been considering is an air burner for wood waste for the north end of the county. People have been doing fire mitigation as a result of the efforts of the Montana City fire department, which has created a lot of wood waste. This would cost \$75,000. Another option would be a sign machine that could be used for designating roads and trails. The rest of the funds could go to support the fire wise program.

Hearing no further comment, Commissioner Kirsch closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING - PERMISSIVE LEVY FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Commissioner Kirsch called the public hearing to order and called for comment.

Bonnie Ramey, County Clerk and Recorder, stated that Jefferson County has a permissive levy determination that is a formula that is put together by MACo and the Department of Revenue. We have a base rate that was established in FY2000 that included 69 employees that we budgeted health insurance for. At this point in time, we have gone up to 81 employees that we are budgeting insurance for. The difference is what we can levy for. The base rate for insurance in 2000 was \$220.87/month/employee; it is now \$937.61/month/employee.

Commissioner Mullen asked if this wasn't a separate levy, we would have to eat it out of the general fund. Bonnie stated that this is correct.

Hearing no further comment, Commissioner Kirsch closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING - PERMISSIVE LEVY FOR SHERIFF'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Commissioner Kirsch called the public hearing to order and called for comments.

Bonnie Ramey, Clerk and Recorder, stated that under HB383 which was passed this year, provides a way to fund the 3% increase in the employer contribution for the Sheriff's Retirement Fund. She explained how she determined the amount to levy. She has established a separate fund for this account.

Hearing no further comment, Commissioner Kirsch closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING - PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Commissioner Kirsch called the public hearing to order and read the budget message (on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office).

Bonnie Ramey presented the Commissioners with the amendment to the District Court budget, to cover training payroll and benefits for temporary help. The amendment totals \$11,617.

Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*, asked if there is money in the budget for the purchase of the building on main street. It was noted that no money is to change hands for the building, but we may need to do some repairs and upgrades.

Hearing on further comments, Commissioner Kirsch closed the public hearing.

MEETING RECESSED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER

BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER