

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**

July 18, 2017

Present: Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Tom Harrington and Micky Zucker, JLDC; Lori Ladas and Kathy Marks, RMDC; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Paul Backlund, Drew Dawson, Kevin & Janice Campion

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the minutes of May 9. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the minutes of May 16. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve the minutes of May 30. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Mullen stated that Jack Mountain Estates plan to do a chip seal project this year, but they are \$2,000 to \$5,000 short on funds in their maintenance account. They are asking for a loan to carry them until taxes come in this fall.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 7/18 DUI Task Force meeting - 5:00
Fire Council - Whitehall - 6:30
- 7/19 Boulder Senior Citizens lunch and meeting - noon
JLDC meeting - Bordens - 1:30
- 7/20 Area IV Agency on Aging - Townsend - 10:00
Survey review committee - 1:30
- 7/24 meeting regarding alleyway in question - Whitehall

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Mullen reported that he has been working on budgets for the past week.

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Thursday he attended the north library board meeting. They are looking to fill a vacant position. Clancy's Day was felt to be a success, but they have some suggestions for next year.

Commissioner Wortman reported that last Tuesday, they discussed hiring a recreation liaison. He stated that Melissa Morris, GIS/Mapping Tech, LaDana Hintz, County Planner and Bruce Binkowski, County Events Coordinator, had discussed this amongst themselves about the possibility that they could handle most of the duties. One thought is if we hire someone new, it could be a planning tech that could help with some of the tasks in planning and rural addressing. This would free up Melissa and LaDana to be able to work more on recreation planning. This will need more discussion.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Friday he had a conference call with the engineers and Ted Dodge regarding some of the issues on the Jefferson Slough. The new channel was designed to hold 75 cfi, but when high water hit this year, it was only 64 cfi and still overflowed the banks at some places. They met with the landowners and came up with a solution that was compatible with everyone. Another item discussed was the chemical treatment that was done last year of the Eurasian millfoil. They thought it was successful, but found this year that they didn't kill the roots. It was experimental to do the application in moving water. The only option may be the rebuilding of the stream.

Commissioner Wortman reported that yesterday they did a final walk through of the Sugar Beet Row project. They have hit one snag; there are two places that we need to replace pipe because of sagging. One section has been taken care of, the other is meeting some resistance because the homeowner doesn't want his yard dug up.

Commissioner Kirsch reported on the Boulder Chamber meeting. They are gearing up for the car show on fair weekend, and the music and art festival in September.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Thursday he attended the LEPC meeting in Whitehall. There was good attendance. He learned that Eagle Ambulance is constructing a new building in Montana City.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

LORI LADAS - RMDC - FY 18 BUDGET REQUEST

Lori Ladas, Executive Director of RMDC, came to ask the Commissioners for their blessing on Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) work plan that is to be submitted to the state. She reviewed the various programs covered in the CSBG work plan and the numbers of residents served in Jefferson County.

Lori then presented their budget request. She offered three scenarios; a 0, 1.5% and 3% increase.

Commissioner Mullen stated that even with the small increases, they are projecting a deficit by 2020; he asked if they will be looking for another increase in the future. Lori stated that they will obviously have to find some money somewhere.

Commissioner Mullen asked what the other counties committed to. Lori stated that they got an increase of 1.3% from Lewis & Clark County and 3% from Broadwater County.

Commissioner Wortman asked if they have plans for dealing with the projected shortfall in 2020. Lori stated that what they typically do is to take advantage of vacancy savings; cutting services is something that could be done, but they would rather not do.

Commissioner Mullen stated that they are working on the budget right now, so they should have an answer shortly.

JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Tom Harrington, JLDC, came to give the Commissioners and update on the tax increment finance districts within the county. The north TIFID has a cash balance of \$12,748, and their metal mines loan balance is \$421,000. The south TIFID has a cash balance of \$895,440 and no loans at this time. He stated that the board recently went through the annual budget process and presented their proposal to the Commission last week.

Tom stated that in the north TIFID, a lot of construction has been completed, as well as a couple buildings in process and a couple foundations. This growth will be good for the tax increment. There is a lot of interest from businesses looking to locate in the park, and they are discussing infrastructure for a new potential tenant.

Tom noted that the south TIFID encompasses the Golden Sunlight Mine. Currently, there are 44

Barrick employees and 91 contract workers. They have gone to a quarterly batch site milling operation. Applications are in to DEQ and BLM for expansion permits. They are still discussing the concentrator and water treatment, with the potential to share water with Whitehall.

Tom said that there is some developing good news regarding the wind developer from the UK; they have decided to sell their facility in Lolo and move the entire operation to Whitehall. They need a building that is at least 4,000 sq/ft so that they relocated the Lolo operation here. They are looking at the numbers to determine if we would construct the building and they lease it from us, or they build it.

METAL MINES INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN REQUEST FOR SOUTH TIFID

Tom gave the Commissioners a request from the Tax Increment Board, as well as a request from Golden Sunlight Mine for infrastructure. This would be to sustain operations as well as facilitate a proposed expansion. The project has been broken into two phases. Phase 1 would require \$812,000. The committee feels that they can take care of \$500,000, and they are requesting a loan for the rest. Phase 2 is for the main water line that goes to the mine at a cost of \$2,500,000. This would require bonding to cover.

This will be on the next agenda for a decision.

METAL MINES INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN REQUEST FOR NORTH TIFID

Tom Harrington, JLDC, presented the Commission with a budget request from the Tax Increment Board. He stated that the TIFID is asking for an \$80,000 metal mine loan to add to the current loan. This would be to cover upgrades in infrastructure

This will be on the next agenda for a decision.

DISCUSS REST AREA FUNDING

Commissioner Wortman stated that Tom Harrington has been working with Bill Lloyd and Craig Erickson at Great West, looking at various options that might be available. He talked with someone from Rural Development yesterday, and there is the possibility that they could do the bonding for the project.

Commissioner Wortman stated that he sent a letter off to Wade Salyards at the State of Montana to ask what the County needs to do to have them move forward with this; he hasn't heard back yet. He thinks that Bonding would be available if we put together the TEDD. He thinks that there is money out there; we need to put together a package of grants, loans and bonding.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PIPESTONE/JEFFERSON SLOUGH PROJECT ISSUES

Commissioner Wortman reported that a tour of the Pipestone/Slough project has been scheduled for September 5.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Commissioner Kirsch stated that we have the permit in hand to dig the replacement water line for the Clerk and Recorder building. We are waiting for ThinkONE to get their dirt guy here.

Commissioner Mullen noted that we haven't finished the canopy at the fairgrounds, and the fair is a month away. Commissioner Wortman stated that they (?) did a proposal of about \$12,000 to stabilize the bleachers, and that is the last that he has heard. He told them to go ahead with that. The architect sent a note to the contractor, but he hasn't heard any updates.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

**BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER**

CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER

BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER