

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 25, 2017**

Present: Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Tom Harrington and Micky Zurcher, JLDC; LaDana Hintz, County Planner; Bruce Binkowski, County Events Coordinator; Melissa Morris, GIS/Mapping Tech; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Connie Grenz, Cassie Parsons, Melody Grant, Marilyn McCauley, Kevin & Janice Campion, Les Vossler

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve the minutes of June 6. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the minutes of June 13. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve the minutes of June 27. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the minutes of July 11. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve the minutes of July 18. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Kirsch noted that we have received a complaint from DEQ regarding dust on Wickes Road. Rory Parsons, Road Supervisor, replied to DEQ.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 7/25 Health Board meeting - 6:30
Library Board meeting - 6:30
Clancy Water and Sewer District meeting - 6:30
- 7/26 Meeting with Gallatin and Broadwater Counties at Williams Bridge - 1:30
- 7/27 Survey Committee - 1:30
RMDC finance committee meeting - Helena - 3:00
RMDC board meeting - Helena - 3:30

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Wortman reported that he attended the JLDC meeting in Whitehall. The annual dinner has been scheduled for August 31st at the Community Center in Whitehall.

Commissioner Wortman reported that yesterday he was in Whitehall to meet with some people regarding issues with an alley that doesn't look like it was ever an alley.

Commissioner Kirsch reported on the DUI Task Force meeting he attended last Tuesday night. They are struggling to get junior members. They discussed plans for upcoming school year.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended the fire council meeting in Whitehall, where they discussed fire conditions, mapping issues, and addressing.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Wednesday he attended the Boulder Senior Center lunch and meeting. They are working with RMDC regarding the food program, and have hired a mediator to help issues with the cook.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended a meeting this morning regarding the Main Street Master Plan, which is a grant program with \$100,000 available. Boulder is going for a \$20,000, with a 1 to 5 match.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Grenz stated that she just wants to keep in everyone's mind, that they are recycling plastic at the farmer's market on Thursday. They are also working on starting a small glass recycling program, where brown glass will be taken to Missoula.

Kevin Campion stated that Boulder needs a planner. They should use some of the \$500,000 to hire someone; he feels that they have inadequate staff.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

APPOINT BOARD MEMBER

Commissioner Kirsch noted that we have received a board application from Ken Vivrette to serve on the Planning Board. LaDana stated that we have a vacancy on the Planning Board and she would like to see someone from the north end of the county.

Commissioner Mullen moved to appoint Ken Vivrette to the Planning Board. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried.

APPOINT BOULDER DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD MEMBER

Commissioner Kirsch stated that he placed this on the agenda so that the Commission can have a representative serve on the Boulder Development board.

Commissioner Wortman nominated Commissioner Kirsch to serve on the board. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

OPEN AND AWARD BID FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT VEHICLE

Three bids were received as follows:

Charles Larson	\$2,397.00
Ted Wolney	\$2,300.00
Connie Grenz	\$3,001.00

Commissioner Wortman moved to award the bid to Connie Grenz. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

RODEO ASSOCIATION - FAIRGROUNDS FEES

Cassie Parson stated that she is here with Melody Grant and Marilyn McCauley to discuss the letter the Rodeo Club received from Terry Minnow, Fair Board Chair, regarding the change to fairgrounds fees.

Melody Grant read the Rodeo Association's response to the Fair Board letter (on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office). Basically, because of all the work the Rodeo Club donates to the upkeep of the fairgrounds, they don't feel that they should be charged to use the facilities.

Cassie stated that the money saved by the Fair Board just by having the Rodeo Club construct the concession stand would equal about 166 loafing barn rentals.

Marilyn McCauley, who also serves on the fair board, stated that she has a recollection of this being discussed last year at both fair board and rodeo club meetings. She looked back through

the Rodeo Club minutes and found a discussion of continued use of electricity in the concession booth by the club, but she can't find the Fair Board minutes. The secretary has been out of state.

Marilyn stated that she has also been hearing from Bonnie with questions about who has to and doesn't have to pay to use the fairgrounds. A letter was supposed to be sent, but didn't happen. They have a Fair Board meeting scheduled next week, and this should be resolved then.

Commissioner Wortman stated that he agrees with the Rodeo Club; they do too much out there to have to pay to use the fairgrounds.

Cassie stated that the main focus of coming to the meeting was to get Commission support and to bring to light all that the Rodeo Club does at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Mullen said that he thinks that the fair board understands, but they are trying to be consistent.

The Commissioners agreed to see what the Fair Board decides before acting further.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON METAL MINES INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN REQUEST FOR SOUTH TIFID

Tom Harrington, TIFID board, stated that he has a request from Golden Sunlight Mine for two phases of funding, the first of which is a \$300,000 metal mines loan for infrastructure upgrades. The rest of the funding for the project would come out of TIFID funds.

Commissioner Wortman moved to grant the \$300,000 metal mines loan request. Commissioner Mullen seconded. Discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON METAL MINES INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN REQUEST FOR NORTH TIFID

Tom stated that in the north end, he has a request from the developer for \$80,000 for upgrades to roads and parking. This would be a metal mines loan of \$80,000, to be tacked onto the existing loan.

Commissioner Wortman moved to grant the \$80,000 loan request. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON REST AREA FUNDING

Tom stated that have a meeting with the Director of the Department of Commerce on Monday. The Department of Commerce has grant funding available for tourism projects; the program manager feels that the rest area would be a good fit. He also talked to MDT; there are some grants available that MDT aren't going for, because of the high match. He also talked with Bill

Lloyd regarding CDBG funding. He is trying to put together a package of funding to minimize the impact to the County.

Commissioner Wortman said that the state wants to move forward with the project if possible. One of the options would be for the County to have the funding in place and basically have the project started, or close to it, and the state would start their process of final design. The other option may be if the County could commit to the financing, the County could use metal mines funds as collateral. We will need something fairly soon if they are going to proceed with the project next spring.

Commissioner Mullen stated that he wishes that we were a little further along with the TEDD or Urban Renewal District project. He also wishes that Boulder was more involved in making this happen. He doesn't understand why they aren't involved at this point, as they will benefit far more than the County from the siting of the rest area in Boulder.

Tom stated that these are valid concerns and points, and noted that the City of Boulder would be doing the infrastructure for the water and sewer.

Kevin Campion asked how much money has been spent to date on the rest area proposal. Commissioner Mullen stated that we paid for an appraisal, as well as some engineering fees.

Commissioner Kirsch stated that we thought we had another year to work on this; however, at the last meeting the state said that they were ready to go.

Commissioner Mullen stated that he is not in any way interested in stopping the project; we are too far in for that, but he is concerned with protecting the metal mines trust fund.

Tom stated that Jeff Ebert, the lead on the project, has indicated that they are looking for a decision from the County mid August.

Commissioner Wortman moved that Jefferson County make a firm commitment to use metal mines money as collateral for the bonding for getting the utilities under the interstate. Commissioner Mullen seconded and stated that he would be much more comfortable if we could get a commitment from the City of Boulder. Commissioner Wortman suggested that we get on the next town council meeting. Connie suggested that a letter be sent in advance so that they are aware of the issue.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON RECREATION PLANNING

Melissa Morris, GIS/mapping tech stated that she and LaDana Hintz, the County Planner, had been asked for an outline of what a position description would look like. They worked on this and discovered that all of the duties fell under the duties that she and LaDana are already doing. They are also very interested in working on this. With the added duties, some of their work -

mostly hers, would need to be picked up by someone else. This would be on the website, and would be much cheaper to contract with someone to maintain and update the county and events websites than to hire someone.

LaDana stated that there needs to be a recreation board to develop the recreation plan, and this is part of the growth policy. We already have many user groups in the County, and the board would be responsive to their wants and needs. We also have many good volunteers.

Commissioner Wortman asked how the growth policy revision is going. LaDana stated that the planning board started working on it last month. She gave them three chapters to review, and they made it through most of that, with good comments that she has incorporated. They finally seem to be making progress.

Melissa stated that this moves GIS into a support position to the Planning Department; GIS is a very powerful tool for planning.

Commissioner Mullen stated that BTAC had envisioned someone that could help with grant writing, and asked if either have any experience. LaDana stated that she has a little experience; Melissa stated that she has talked with Tom about this. Pricky Pear Land Trust can help with grant writing, but it might be best to contract with someone to do grant writing; it would be their only focus, and would be much more cost effective.

Bruce Binkowski, County Events Coordinator, stated that he has a meeting in a couple weeks with the grant manager at Montana Tourism.

Melissa stated that we have been focused on trails, but Jefferson County has lots of other recreation opportunities, and she has been working with Bruce to promote these. Bruce said that they will also be promoting communities in the county.

Commissioner Wortman stated that a couple years ago we had two planners, now we have one; he asked LaDana if we are going to need to hire someone again. LaDana stated that it is a possibility. She would like to keep the option open to hire someone else, but between she and Melissa she feels that it would be doable. Melissa stated that GIS has been very under utilized by the Planning Department and the board. Commissioner Wortman asked if the board has been made aware of this possible change. LaDana stated that she hasn't mentioned to them yet.

Commissioner Wortman noted that they might want to do some on-the-ground work and asked if they will need 4-wheelers or an ATV. It was noted that Search & Rescue vehicles could be used. Melissa said that they have discussed training and utilizing volunteers. If the need presents itself, she would add this to next year's budget.

Commissioner Wortman moved to move forward with the proposal to have Melissa and LaDana move forward in working with Bruce to do the recreation planning. Commissioner Mullen seconded. Commissioner Wortman stated that he was a bit surprised when he heard of this idea,

but the more that he thinks about it, it makes sense. It is cost effective, makes sense and will give us the opportunity to move forward on something that we have been discussing for some time. Commissioner Kirsch stated that he appreciates what they are doing - taking on additional duties and presenting a cost savings to the county.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PIPESTONE/JEFFERSON SLOUGH PROJECT ISSUES

Commissioner Wortman stated that a Pipestone project tour is scheduled for September 5, and lunch will be provided. A bus will take people on a tour of the various projects.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

**BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER**

CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER

BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER