

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
June 6, 2017**

Present: Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Craig Doolittle, County Sheriff; Steve Haddon, County Attorney; Terri Kunz, County Treasurer; Tom Harrington, JLDC; Drew Dawson, BTAC; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Paul Backlund, Cathy Rux

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the minutes of April 25. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Commissioner Kirsch noted the receipt of the mail ballot written plan and time line for the Whitehall ambulance district vote and trustee election.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Kirsch noted the receipt of block grant application from the Department of Health for his signature.

CALENDAR REVIEW

6/07 Mental Health Local Advisory Committee - 2:00
Canvas of election - 3:00
6/08 STI - Whitehall - 7:00

- CTAC - 8:00
- Tri-Co Fire - Helena - 9:00
- Survey review - 1:30
- Salary Compensation Committee - 3:00
- DES RFP meeting - 4:00
- Weed Board - 6:00
- 6/09 Meeting with Dan Villa and Gary Spaeth - 1:00
- 6/13 National Association of Community Economic Development Professional conference - Big Sky

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Mullen reported on the Head Start meetings in Whitehall. They have an applicant for the teacher position. They are also pushing Whitehall towards the STAR program, a new preschool program from the Governor.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Wednesday night he attended the meeting with Friends of the Pipestone in Whitehall. He and Tom Harrington were elected to the board of directors.

Commissioner Kirsch reported on the BTAC meeting on Thursday. The Boulder Chamber has the city-wide garage sale on June 17th. The City is working on a Capital improvements plan, and MDC gave a good update on what is happening out there. There are 21 clients currently. Drew stated that the re-purposing committee may transition to an oversight committee, to monitor what is happening with clients and what is going on at the facility. Commissioner Mullen stated that he thinks that this is an excellent idea.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Thursday afternoon he attended the Elkhorn Working Group meeting. They have a field trip scheduled for

August 10, but he is not sure of the location at this time. They are still working through the forest plan revision.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Monday he attended the MACo District meeting in Philipsburg. They discussed air ambulance quite a bit; the legislature didn't come up with a clear solution. They also discussed the new gas tax match.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

CONFERENCE CALL - KEN BROWN - WESTERN COUNTIES ALLIANCE UPDATE

Ken Brown, Western Counties Alliance, joined the meeting via conference call.

Ken stated that PILT funds increased this year, and payments are expected in June. WCA members have been working to educate members of congress about the importance PILT to counties.

Regarding SRS, at the moment there is no re-authorization. There are two bills currently in congress: SB1027 by Senator Hatch has 17 co-sponsors. HR2340 is sponsored by congresswoman Rogers and has 19 co-sponsors. Only 41 of 50 states get SRS funds, so it is not as secure as PILT.

The sage grouse listing is in a holding pattern. There is a lawsuit questioning the habitat and numbers of birds out there. Also, there is a push to reduce the restrictive management.

Ken stated that regarding public land transfer, there are some in favor, and some are not. He stated that lands need to be in production, but currently are not. He has been researching 50/50 management between counties and the federal government. He noted that the lands are public, but lie within counties, therefore counties need to have more of a handle on the management style of the lands.

Montana has no problem with the wild horse/burro program, but there are excess numbers in Nevada and Wyoming and the land cannot support the numbers. There has been talk of transplanting some to Montana. Wyoming has had some success in adoption programs, but many people aren't aware of the cost of keeping a horse and are turning the horses back onto public lands.

APPOINT FIRE TRUSTEES

Commissioner Kirsch read the list of trustee to be appointed, as submitted by the Election

Administrator. Commissioner Wortman moved to appoint those listed. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried, with Commissioners Wortman and Mullen voting aye and Commissioner Kirsch abstaining, as he is Bull Mountain Fire Chief.

AWARD JAIL MEAL BID

Commissioner Kirsch stated that the Commission received and opened two bids at the last meeting: Farmer's Table for \$3.75/meal and Boulder River for \$5.08/meal. He asked Sheriff Doolittle if he had any comments. Craig stated that he talked to both of the bidders about a slight change to the contract that one of them missed, but they wanted to leave the bid the same. He made sure that they were aware that there are no days off.

Commissioner Mullen moved to award the bid to the Farmer's Table. Commissioner Kirsch seconded and called for discussion. Commissioner Wortman stated that he understands that this is a very great bid for the jail meals, but he doesn't think that Farmer's Table did sufficient research in coming up with their bid; they would also have to purchase several thousand dollars worth of equipment to be able to fulfill the bid specifications. He hates to put someone in a position to lose a lot of money. He can't support going with the low bid.

Steve Haddon, County Attorney, stated that he isn't going to weigh in on the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the price, but he does, however, believe that if the bid is to be accepted that it does need to be conditioned upon a change to the contract language. There needs to be specific language regarding the times that the meals are delivered to the jail, and what happens if they don't deliver a meal.

Commissioner Mullen stated that based on what Steve had to say, he would like to amend his motion to change the contract language to provide the caveat that the contract can be terminated if a meal is missed. Commissioner Kirsch seconded the amended motion.

Commissioner Wortman stated that he doesn't want to set them up to fail; they used old information to come up with the bid.

Cathy Rux stated that she used to have the contract; she thinks that this is about what she charged, 14 years ago.

The motion carried, with Commissioners Mullen and Kirsch voting aye and Commissioner Wortman voting nay.

AWARD BANKING SERVICES BID

Terri Kunz, County Treasurer, stated that she reviewed the bids received from First Boulder Valley Bank and Rocky Mountain Bank and drew up an outline of services.

Based on the fee schedules presented, it is her recommendation that the contract is awarded to

First Boulder Valley Bank.

Commissioner Mullen asked about the term of the contract. Terri stated that the contract is for three years, with the option to renew for two years.

Commissioner Mullen stated that he doesn't feel that the \$95 fee is excessive, and asked if there were any other issues. Terri stated that the main issue is cash, because getting cash down to Whitehall isn't easy. In her opinion, she would have to keep a cash account in Boulder and transfer it to Whitehall as needed. They did offer to drive up here and pull cash a couple times a week, but she isn't comfortable with that. She also isn't comfortable with keeping cash in the Treasurer's office overnight. She isn't opposed to fees, but they do have other products and services that could cost us more money.

Commissioner Mullen moved to award the banking bid to First Boulder Valley Bank. Commissioner Wortman seconded. Commissioner Mullen requested that the Treasurer send a nice letter of appreciation to Rocky Mountain Bank. All agreed that cash is the main issue. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 18-2017 JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE CITY OF BOULDER

Commissioner Kirsch stated that the resolution is not ready yet; we are still waiting on the city attorney to review and get it to our attorney.

Steve stated that the city attorney was in his office the previous day and he brought this up. Mr. Shapiro indicated that he had not looked at it yet. He stated that he would move it to the top of his agenda, but offered no time line.

Drew Dawson stated that sooner is better than later, noting that we will be meeting with the Department of Commerce soon.

Jan Anderson stated that this has been in the works for a long time, and will take some time after the resolution is done to get board members and get Commerce to agree with how things are set up.

Steve stated that he has reviewed the resolution and doesn't see any problems with it as it is.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PIPESTONE/JEFFERSON SLOUGH PROJECT ISSUES

Commissioner Wortman stated that there is an issue that may be coming before us in the near future regarding the bridge over Pipestone Creek on Kountz Road. When the contractor started work, they found the foundation from an older bridge which had to be removed to place the pilings. They did a change order and Tamieti removed the old fountain - for the cost of

\$25,000. Change orders are required to be submitted within 30 days, and the change order was received well past this time limit. Great West went through the documentation of the bill and rejected \$7,000 of standby time (as they were working on foundation removal instead of the bridge) and let Tamieti know. Tamieti is standing by their original invoice, so this will probably come before the Commission.

Commissioner Wortman stated that the Slough project is starting up again this month or early next month. The high water came in two days before they were finished with the project.

Commissioner Wortman stated that they are planning to do the lining in the pipes on the Sugar Beet Row project on Thursday.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

CORY KIRSCH,
CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

LEONARD WORTMAN,

BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER