

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  
May 2, 2017**

**Present:** Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Bruce Binkowski, County Event Planner; Craig Doolittle, County Sheriff; Paul Backlund, Lee Comito

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Mullen stated that he received a letter from the residents of Martinez Gulch, requesting expenditure and revenue reports back to the formation of the RMD. He is in the process of compiling these reports.

Commissioner Wortman stated that one of our solid waste employees passed away last weekend. He would like to do a proclamation to lower the flag Wednesday through Friday night.

Commissioner Wortman moved to do a proclamation. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Wortman stated that he received a notice of a draft lawsuit for the Town of Whitehall vs Jefferson County and State of Montana regarding Whitehall ambulance service for loss of revenue.

**CALENDAR REVIEW**

- 5/02 Headstart meeting - Whitehall - 6:00  
GPS training - Free Enterprise Mine - 7:00
- 5/03 MHLAC - Clerk & Recorder building - 2:00
- 5/04 BTAC - City of Boulder - 8:00  
Jefferson River Watershed Council meeting and tour of recent projects - 2:00

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Monday he attended the Center for Mental Health governing board meeting in Great Falls. They continue to do well financially.

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Tuesday night he attended the Clancy water and sewer board meeting. They discussed the project to monitor wells, flow direction, nitrates, and decided to move forward with the PER. Commissioner Kirsch noted that the board decided to apply for a planning grant for the PER.

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Thursday he attended the RMDC board meeting. They are doing well and have almost \$700,000 in bank. They reviewed the retirement fund, approved entering into a buy-sell so that they can build another apartment building in Helena, discussed the Head Start program meeting in Whitehall, the Rocky Mountain daycare, and reviewed appraisals for the executive director.

Commissioner Wortman reported that the Commission had a joint meeting with the Madison County Commissioners in Whitehall on Wednesday. They met the new regional extension director and had a discussion of the ag agent position. They also discussed the Cardwell dump site. Madison County has a couple dumpsters across the river at Cardwell and apparently some Jefferson County residents are using the dumpsters. They discussed several options - give Cardwell residents a permit and pay Madison County or we put in a dumpster and haul off as needed.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Wednesday afternoon they attended a TIFID training facilitated by Janet Cornish. He believes that Golden Sunlight Mine is working on an infrastructure needs study.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lee Comito stated that he lives in Comet. He was here a couple weeks ago and requested that private property and dog ordinance signs be placed; he is just checking on the progress of that. Commissioner Mullen stated that they spoke with the Road Supervisor about this, and he assumes that he is working to get the signs. Lee stated that he had incidents this weekend with dogs coming into his yard after his dogs, and people were up in the middle of the night yesterday spotlighting. He is in the process of fencing his property to fence out cattle. He stated that there is a section of roadway up there that is sandwiched between his property. He applied for abandonment, and was told that he needs a signature from Rusty Giulio, who won't sign. The abandonment doesn't affect Rusty, so he is not sure why his signature would be required. He stated that Rusty has put in a road where there isn't supposed to be a road, removing all of the topsoil in the process. He hasn't replaced the topsoil or replanted, so now it is full of weeds. Lee

stated that he can't get an appointment with County Attorney to discuss this. He would like the Commissioners to come up and look at what has been done.

### **ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW**

#### **DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR MONTANA TECH WATER STUDY IN CLANCY**

Megan Bullock, County Sanitarian, stated that Todd Kuxhaus from Great West Engineering has offered to develop the application for a planning grant at no charge. Since the district has been formed, we will be able to submit the application as the district rather than the county. The money that she is requesting at this time is for a groundwater study, which will help obtain the grant funding later on, as we have done the research.

Commissioner Mullen moved to approve \$8,882 for Montana Tech study of the groundwater in Clancy. Commissioner Wortman seconded. The motion carried.

#### **DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON APPROVAL OF HEADWATERS COUNTRY JAM LARGE GROUP FUNCTION PERMIT**

Craig Doolittle, County Sheriff, stated that he has the permit and has reviewed it; the only thing missing is the Sanitarian's signature. He noted that he used to sign off on the permit as the special events coordinator, but he suggests that this should be passed to Bruce Binkowski, County Event Coordinator, to review and approve.

Megan stated that she looked at the application last week and noted that they need to have more porta-potties, garbage cans and a certified water provider; these have been resolved. She still needs to hear from all the food vendors, and they need to be approved by her office no later than one week before the event.

Commissioner Wortman moved to grant conditional approval of the large group function permit, contingent on the food vendors getting approval no later than one week prior from the Sanitarian. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

#### **DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PIPESTONE/JEFFERSON SLOUGH PROJECT ISSUES**

Commissioner Wortman stated that they are still working on the Jefferson Slough bypass modification. They are doing a good job. The bad news is that we had \$96,000 in the infrastructure bill for the Slaughterhouse Slough diversion, which is a key part in making sure there is proper flow to keep the silt flushed through the system, and the bill didn't pass.

The Kountz Road Bridge is open, but still needs to be paved.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Commissioner Kirsch asked about the fairgrounds project. Commissioner Wortman stated that he doesn't think the bleacher cover was designed properly, because there was no plan to anchor the bleachers. The contractor has one bid to repair the bleacher supports that was quite a lot higher than their original estimate, and the architect wants to get another opinion. He noted that we did get approved for an additional loan on our intercap loan.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**ATTEST:**

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**BONNIE RAMEY  
CLERK AND RECORDER**

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**CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR**

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**LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER**

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**BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER**