

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
November 14, 2017**

Present: Commissioners Kirsch, Wortman and Mullen; Bonnie Ramey, Clark and Recorder; Megan Bullock, County Sanitarian; Doug Dodge, DES Coordinator; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Wortman read a letter from MDT regarding the proposed Boulder rest area, and their reasoning on why they have decided to scrap the project. Commissioner Wortman stated that he will write a letter of reply to Jeff Ebert.

Commissioner Kirsch noted the receipt of a letter from the Montana Historical Society regarding sale of property within Jefferson County.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 11/14 Health Board meeting - 6:30
Fair Board meeting - 7:00
- 11/15 Canvas of election - 9:00
Boulder Senior Center lunch and meeting - noon
JLDC - Boulder - 1:30
Whitehall Transportation Committee meeting - 2:00
- 11/16 Survey review - 1:30
LEPC meeting - Montana City - 6:00
- 11/20 Boulder Town Council - 6:30

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Mullen reported that he attended the North library meeting. They discussed winter maintenance and the need for carpet in foyer (\$2,400). The carpet is also a safety issue, and there are other maintenance issues that need to be addressed as well.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on the 2nd he attended the Jefferson River Watershed meeting in Whitehall.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Friday he had a meeting with Ted Dodge and Mike Sanctuary to discuss the Pipestone project and the topsoil and sand that could come from that. There is interest in Butte in the topsoil.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Monday and Tuesday he was in Missoula for the Montana Forest Collaboration Network meeting. There were probably 100 people at the workshop, all members of different collaborative groups from around the state. Probably 60% of the attendees were from environmental groups, that are also part of collaboratives. Everyone agreed that there needs to be more management on the forest and that logging is needed. They also agreed that serial litigants are difficult to deal with and give them a bad name.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Thursday he attended the STI and CTAC meetings. Golden Sunlight Mine is doing fairly well and pretty much on target in their underground operation. After CTAC, he had a meeting with Dave Shutz, who is now a member of highway commission. They discussed the Boulder rest area; Dave is not sure if the highway commission can do anything about the rest area, but he will look into it.

Commissioner Wortman reported that he attended the weed board meeting Thursday evening. Bill Gillespie had attended a national weed conference, and came back with lots of good information. The new board member seems to be very knowledgeable.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Monday he was in Whitehall in the morning and he attended the town council meeting that night. They are dealing with lots of issues.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended the solid waste safety meeting. The burn pile in Whitehall is about the size of a football field, and they are hoping to burn soon. A patron fell into the dumpster in Boulder, but suffered no injury.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended the Tri-Co Fire Working Group meeting on Thursday. He stated that NRCS has 57 active mitigation projects in three counties. Paul Spangler retiring at the end of the year. Lewis and Clark County is working on a Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire grant.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

RESOLUTION 40-2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Bonnie Ramey, Clerk and Recorder, stated that the resolution can't be acted on at this time; the Commissioners need to schedule and hold a budget hearing to amend her budget. She wants to purchase a new vote counting machine. The current machine only counts flat ballots, and the large envelopes needed to mail them are getting hard to find and are expensive to mail. The machine she would like to purchase has recently been certified in the state. She has the money needed in her records retention budget, and would like to move it into her capital outlay. She noted that she will not need new machine until the 2018 election; she will use the current machine for the June election.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PARTNERING WITH BROADWATER COUNTY IN THE FILING OF AN AMICUS BRIEF TO SUPPORT THE JOHNNY CROW WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Commissioner Kirsch stated that the restoration project that the Forest Service planned was litigated immediately. The project is to deal with conifer encroachment to improve wildlife habitat. Broadwater County has joined the Forest Service to fight the litigation, and has invited Jefferson County to sign on to the amicus brief. Jefferson /County would be sharing costs with Broadwater County in the amount of \$1,500 cash match and some soft match.

Commissioner Wortman moved to join Broadwater County. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

APPOINT LEPC CHAIR

Doug Dodge, DES Coordinator, stated that the Commission recently adopted by-laws for the LEPC, and now they need to appoint the LEPC chair.

Commissioner Wortman moved to appoint Doug as LEPC chair. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

DISCUSS 401A RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION

Commissioner Mullen stated that the county is not currently contributing to a retirement fund on his behalf; elected officials are exempt from the requirement to pay into PERS. As he was formerly retired and drawing PERS, he elected not to pay into PERS when he was elected. He heard of the 401A account option from other commissioners in similar circumstances. The fund would most likely go through Nationwide. He will do some more research, discuss this with Bonnie, and come back with more information.

SIGN JUNK VEHICLE CONTRACTS

Megan Bullock, County Sanitarian, stated that nothing has changed with the contracts, this is a simple renewal of contracts with current providers.

The Commissioners and Megan discussed the option to go out for bids or re-negotiating contracts. Megan said that these contracts run through June, and she will talk to contractors before that time.

Commissioner Wortman moved to sign the contracts. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR BRIDGE IN WHITEHALL

Commissioner Wortman stated that the 1st Street bridge in Whitehall collapsed at one end. Three bids were received and reviewed by Great West Engineering. The bids were as follows:

Bullock Construction Services, Inc.	\$45,000.00
Tamietti Construction Co. Inc.	\$64,000.00
Battle Ridge Builders	\$90,200.00

Commissioner Wortman moved to award the bid to Bullock Contracting. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON FACILITY CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Commissioner Wortman asked if we have heard anything about the water and sewer issues in the Clerk and Recorder building. Commissioner Kirsch stated that we haven't; he talks to Rusty the contractor every week, and keeps getting bounced over to Capp Paving, who is supposed to do the patching of the road past the building. The batch plant that makes the asphalt broke down, so they have been trying to catch up with those jobs. It is getting so late in the year, that it is probably not a good idea to dig up the water line.

Commissioner Wortman stated that we should direct the County Attorney to contact ThinkONE with a final date of completion, or penalties will be assessed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

CORY KIRSCH, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER

BOB MULLEN, COMMISSIONER