

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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ROBERT MULLEN, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN

CORY KIRSCH

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA  
December 13, 2016**

**Present:** Commissioners Mullen and Kirsch; Kellie Doherty, Personnel Officer; Bonnie Ramey, clerk and Recorder; Paul Backlund, Dave Kirsch

**Absent:** Commissioner Wortman

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

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Kirsch moved to approve the minutes of November 1. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Kirsch moved to approve the minutes of November 15. Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Mullen noted the receipt of a letter from Museum Board notifying changes in the board officers. The letter also noted that they plan to review their bylaws. Members are appointed for a three year term.

**CALENDAR REVIEW**

- 12/13 Boulder Master Plan meeting - 7:30
- 12/14 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting - Whitehall - 2:00
- Boulder Area Chamber of Commerce meeting - 5:00
- Health Board meeting - 6:30
- Planning Board meeting - 7:00
- 12/15 MDC Legislative meeting - Helena - 10:00
- Event Coordinator interviews - 1:00
- RMDC board meeting - Helena - 3:00
- 12/19 Center for Mental Health Governing Board meeting - Great Falls - 10:00

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Thursday he attended the Tri-Co Fire meeting. Lewis and Clark Commissioner Mike Murray is retiring, and there will be a retirement party on December 29<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that the weed board is working on their game plan for Aspen Valley, where the knapweed is getting out of control. They will be sending out letters letting people know that they need to take care of their weeds, or the County will do it and bill them.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that the survey review committee went to a survey conference in Helena on Friday. It was very interesting and they got a lot of good information. They are going to try to get some of the presenters to come to Jefferson County.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that they had the final public pre-disaster mitigation meeting on Monday. The comment period is now open and they are looking to adopt the final plan in July.

Commissioner Mullen reported that last Wednesday he attended the local mental health advisory committee in Whitehall. They used Madison County's bylaws to do our own

Commissioner Mullen stated that Representative Wagner, the county lobbyist, most of the elected officials, Drew Dawson and the newspaper met before the County Christmas lunch to discuss the upcoming legislature. The Governor has a bill to extend the closure of MDC for two years. We want to submit our own bill for an extension, to include allowing the review and oversight of former residents that have been placed in residential programs. We would also like something modeled on the hard rock mine impact, for when facilities close. They discussed TSEP funding; 27 projects were put forth but the Governor only plans to approve 5 projects. They discussed the \$500,000 that is to be earmarked to Boulder. Bonnie has requested a bill through MACo regarding TIF districts. Commissioner Kirsch stated that Representative Wagner said he was going to put forward a bill that would allow Jefferson County and the Town of Boulder to manage the MDC properties, which would bypass deed restrictions and having to go before the land board.

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

### **DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PER DIEM RATES**

Kellie Doherty, Personnel Officer, stated that there are two ways to set meal per diem - the rate set by statute (\$23/day) or reimburse costs with receipts. She noted that getting receipts could be a head ache. She talked to some other counties. Park County tried receipts for a year and said that it was a disaster. Flathead and Yellowstone set their own rates. Her suggestion is to raise the rate; she feels that the current rate is too low.

Commissioner Kirsch stated that he thinks that they are too low.

Kellie stated that she has had some employees say that they can't go take advantage of a training, because they can't afford to go. Bonnie noted that some people also need the money up front.

Commissioner Kirsch asked how the legislature makes the determination to make a change; if they look at the rate periodically. Kellie stated that the per diem rates haven't changed in the 21 years that she has been with the County. Commissioner Kirsch stated that he would feel more comfortable if Commissioner Wortman were a part of the discussion.

Commissioner Mullen feels that it should be higher, but maybe not to the extent that Flathead and Yellowstone Counties have raised it.

Commissioner Kirsch moved to table Commissioner Mullen seconded. The motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**ATTEST:**

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**BONNIE RAMEY**  
**CLERK AND RECORDER**

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**BOB MULLEN, CHAIR**

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**LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER**

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**CORY KIRSCH, COMMISSIONER**