

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE, BOX H
BOULDER, MT 59632
PHONE 406-225-4025
FAX 406-225-4148

ROBERT MULLEN, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN

CORY KIRSCH

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
January 19, 2016**

Present: Commissioners Mullen and Kirsch; Steve Haddon, County Attorney; Tom Harrington and Micky Zurcker, JLDC; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Drew Dawson

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 1/19 Fire Council - Boulder fairgrounds - 6:30
DUI Task Force - 6:30
- 1/20 JLDC - Whitehall - 11:50
Boulder Senior Citizens lunch and meeting - noon
- 1/21 Meeting with Bill Lloyd to discuss contract
Beaverhead-Deer Lodge working group meeting - 1:00

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Wednesday he attended the State Weed Conference in Great Falls and attended seven workshops. He stated that it was very interesting.

Commissioner Wortman reported that he attended the Boyd Andrew Board of Directors meeting in Helena on Wednesday. They are still unsure what kind of funding they are going to have from Medicaid; they are supposed to know by the end of the month. Also the state has approved the Helena Indian Alliance to do the ACT program, so that has cut their ACT income by about half. The state didn't go through proper procedures, they just did it.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Thursday he attended the STI meeting in Whitehall. Lee Good talked about the high speed internet and fiber projects that he is working on. At the CTAC meeting which followed, the mine reported that their underground operation is going well, but they are under target for ounces produced. Commissioner Mullen asked if there any progress on the windmill project. Commissioner Wortman stated that they have had issues with Visas and getting parts in from England, but they are moving forward.

Commissioner Mullen reported that he attended a Transportation Advisory Council meeting in Whitehall and talked about money and what they can use in terms of funding. They also discussed a county-wide transportation district. Madison County has a district and provides \$7500 for each of the three buses that run there.

Commissioner Mullen stated that on Thursday he attended the Area IV Agency on Aging meeting in Helena. Their lobbyist was there and they are starting to think about the next session. On Thursday afternoon, they held the first Mental Health Advisory Council meeting. Sydney Blair, CEO Center for Mental Health, and Kenny Bell were in attendance. They are going to reach out to the schools and try to get more people involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Micky Zurcker stated that she started with Extension on Friday, replacing Tara Mastel.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS' ACTION OR REVIEW

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON JAIL EXPANSION

Commissioner Wortman stated that he really doesn't think that we should decide anything today; this is a lot bigger deal than a regular construction project. Expanding the jail facility needs a lot of public input and we need to gather more information and involve the public.

Commissioner Kirsch stated that agrees; we need to have the public involved, but he also feels that we need to have an estimate of costs before we can go to the public. Has heard from a few people that aren't comfortable with the idea of a jail expansion, but that could change with more information.

Commissioner Mullen stated that he also agrees; we need public involvement before we get too involved. Also, he is not sure that just holding public meetings is going to be enough; a committee might be the right way to go.

Commissioner Wortman suggested that we start with Great West and see if they can provide an estimate, if not we could check with SMK. If this is to be done with taxpayer dollars, it is probably not going to work, but if can pay for it through Department of Corrections prisoners, that would be another matter.

Steve Haddon, County Attorney, seems to remember in talking to Bill Lloyd that this may need a more specialized firm to draw up plans and for the construction.

Commissioner Mullen stated that he can talk to Bill on Thursday when he is here; we need to continue to do what we can to gather financial information.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON BOULDER TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSFORMATION STUDY CIRCLE FUNDING

Tom Harrington, JLDC, walked the Commission through the proposal. The 2015 legislature directed that MDC be closed by July 2017. This will cause a lot of impact to Boulder - not just employment loss, but contract employees, visitors to Boulder, reduction in school funding due to loss of students, funding for new sewer treatment fund, real estate and use of facilities. A committee was appointed by the legislature, but no Boulder residents are a part of that committee. Because of this the Boulder Transition Advisory Committee was created because we need community involvement in the discussions to come up with a vision of what people want the community to look like.

Tom stated that the Local Government Center has come up with a Horizons-like program. They will start with a community spotlight session, which will be an evening session, to find interested people to form a steering committee. They will then have study circles for discussion of goals to find the most popular ideas. They are requesting \$10,000 from Commission to support this project, which will include meals and child care, to make it as easy as possible for people to attend.

Commissioner Wortman asked if anyone has talked to the City of Boulder about participating financially. Tom stated that they haven't. Commissioner Wortman stated he doesn't have a problem with supporting this, but he would like to see Boulder get involved as well.

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve up to \$10,000 from metal mines funds to move forward with this project. Commissioner Kirsch seconded. The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

BOB MULLEN, CHAIR

LEONARD WORTMAN, COMMISSIONER

CORY KIRSCH, COMMISSIONER