

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  
March 15, 2016**

**Present:** Commissioners Mullen, Wortman and Kirsch; Steve Haddon, County Attorney; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor*; Paul Backlund

**REPORTS**

Commissioner Mullen noted the receipt of the February expense and revenue reports from the Clerk and Recorder.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Mullen noted the receipt of an application to serve on the Fair Board. This item will be placed on the next open agenda.

Commissioner Mullen noted the receipt of an e-mail from Bob Sims regarding the ambulance issue in Whitehall. He is requesting that the County get involved. He noted that the Town of Whitehall owns four new ambulances and lots of equipment, but doesn't have anyone to staff them. They are also paying \$2,000/month for the building that they sit it. The Jefferson Valley Ambulance service group has lots of staff, but only one old ambulance. He is suggesting that the County lease the ambulances, building and equipment from the Town of Whitehall, then turn around and sub-lease the same to the Jefferson Valley Ambulance Service. Commissioner Wortman stated that Bob also spoke to him and he, in turn, talked to the County Attorney. Steve stated that given the regulatory structure for emergency services providers, he doesn't see why we can't get involved, but he would like to do more research. He isn't sure that the Town of Whitehall would be amenable to the proposal. Commissioner Wortman stated that he attended the town council last night, but he didn't get an opportunity to speak to this issue. He was able to talk to some of the former ambulance crew, and they would be open to this. He isn't sure that they Town would agree. They had the first reading of an emergency resolution at the meeting the previous night, to re-create the ambulance service that they have in town. Commissioner Mullen stated that they are already going in a different direction than what Mr. Sims is suggesting; they don't want to find any way of compromising and working with the Valley group. Commissioner

Kirsch stated that they will be hard pressed to find people to man the ambulance. Commissioner Mullen stated that someone has to listen to reason; there is potential of someone like Mr. Sims being hurt and not getting an ambulance in time.

Steve stated that there is the question if the County could be held liable if something went wrong. Commissioner Mullen asked if the County has any responsibility to make sure that there is coverage. Commissioner Wortman stated that this is a question that he has gotten; it is up to the Commission to ensure the health, safety and welfare if the citizens. Commissioner Mullen stated that it seems that all Mr. Sims is asking is that the County act as an intermediary.

Commissioner Wortman stated that he will approach the mayor of Whitehall.

### **CALENDAR REVIEW**

3/16 Business Roundtable lunch - Legal Tender - 11:45  
Boulder Senior Citizens lunch - noon  
JLDC meeting - Clancy - 1:30  
Whitehall Transportation committee - 2:00  
Highway 69 project meeting - 6:00  
DUI Task Force - 6:00

### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Kirsch reported that on Wednesday he attended the Ten Mile Collaborative meeting. They are still reviewing the draft EIS. There are currently 55 comments from the group to the Forest Service. They have one more meeting before they have to turn in their comments.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that he attended the Tri-Co fire meeting in Helena on Thursday. There is a fire preparedness workshop coming up, and these are traditionally well attended. The Forest Service is doing some controlled burns and have been doing a good job keeping the public aware.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that the Weed Board is opening herbicide bids and contract spray bids for roadside treatment. They are also looking at the purchase of a new truck.

Commissioner Kirsch reported that earlier in the day the Commissioners met with the DES Coordinator in the EOC. They discussed the roles of elected officials in emergency/disaster situations.

Commissioner Wortman reported on the Fair Board meeting. They are looking at entertainment for fair. Someone donated a small railroad with track and small train and he suggested that they

approach the contractor doing the Highway 69 project to see if he would donate some paving for the track.

Commissioner Wortman reported that at the Boyd Andrew board meeting they decided to scrap the in-patient plan for Boulder due to insurance/payment.

Commissioner Wortman reported on the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday. They spent quite a bit of time discussing the growth policy. Jerry is in the process of reviewing and editing the policy.

Commissioner Wortman reported that on Thursday he attended the STI and CTAC meetings in Whitehall. He stated that things are going well with Sunlight, although they are still a bit under their projections.

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Tuesday evening he attended the Health Board meeting. He stated that nothing new is happening there; they are still looking for a Health Director.

Commissioner Mullen reported that on Wednesday he and Gary Spaeth went to Bozeman to meet with the attorney retained by some parents of MDC residents who are considering pursuing a lawsuit. Although the attorney is not ready to file at this time, he is optimistic that they parents have a case.

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

#### **RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM ELECTION ADMINISTRATION DECLARING THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HOLD A NON-PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION**

Commissioner Mullen noted that the Commission has received a letter from the Election Administrator declaring that a non-partisan primary election is not required. The Commission may decide and declare by resolution that a non-partisan election should be held.

#### **DECIDE ON INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WHITEHALL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Commissioner Mullen stated that Whitehall Transportation was at the previous meeting to request additional funding from the County.

Commissioner Wortman moved to approve an additional \$5,000.00, to come from PILT, to the Whitehall Public Transportation for this fiscal year. Commissioner Kirsch seconded. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 05-2016 RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CREATE THE BIG SKY ACRES  
RSID

Commissioner Mullen stated that this has been tabled until more research can be done. Steve Haddon, County Attorney, stated that he has had an opportunity to research some case law. The homeowners association wants to pull in the Montana City school district, which, by statute, is a tax exempt entity. He needs to determine if this is a tax versus an assessment.

Commissioner Wortman asked if the RSID would benefit the school district. Steve stated that he doesn't believe that it would be in proportion with the benefit other properties would receive. He is going to err on the side of caution and probably recommend that the school district be left out of the RSID.

**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**