

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT 

FOSS 

KANENWISHER 

STOLTZ 

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher and Commissioner Ron Stoltz

Date.....March 14, 2011

► Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for approval of the DEQ water supply contract at 8:30 a.m. Present was Environmental Health Director Lea Guthrie.

Lea gave a brief update of the contract and stated this is for an increase and an extension. **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve the DEQ water supply contract as presented. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”.**
(5-0)

► The Board met for an update with discussion and decision on the petition for the Tourism Business District at 9:00 a.m. Present were Clerk & Recorder Regina Plettenberg, Rick O’Brien, Marie Christopher, Brett Adolphson, Inga Peterson, Adel Dickens, William Menager and Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

Brett Adolphson gave an update of their executive summary for TBID (Tourism Business Industry District). Commissioner Kanenwisher asked how the funds are collected and spent. Brett replied a board will be established by the County Commissioners comprised of lodging owners to oversee collection and expenditures. Commissioner Stoltz asked if this is in addition of the bed tax. Brett replied yes, it is additional. He is comfortable working within the statute for a district. Commissioner Foss stated this is across the board for equality and equitable for oversight of the funds. Commissioner Stoltz clarified that if it is established all lodging owners are in it whether they want to or not. Regina stated after the signatures are verified, there is a protest period. Brett stated this is a fee that is easy to collect and distribute intended to drive additional business.

Commissioner Stoltz stated he has been approached by other lodging owners that were upset that funds were going out but they were not seeing much coming back. Adel stated that was for the bed tax. With this tax, owners will see \$3 for every \$1 spent in order to create more business. Commissioner Foss stated this is promoting Bitterroot Valley as a vacation area. It is an opportunity for small seasonal businesses to have advertising year around. Commissioner Chilcott expressed his concern with changing laws that may dissolve this TBID. Adel stated the only legislation right now is there are some people petitioning to change the \$1 fee to a percentage fee. It is not favored to pass. Commissioner Iman stated these people are choosing to tax themselves and are keeping the funds here. This situation is similar to zoning with different ownerships. There needs to be an oversight group for all owners to agree and received the funds. These are the people who would have control of the funds. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated with using the analogy of zoning, it is used to get the one person who doesn't comply to comply. There are 31 owners who don't want this and this would force them to comply. He objects to forcing them into something they don't want. Brett stated you could use elections as an analogy with the primary first in support for the state as a whole and then when general election comes, it is different. Whether the difference is due to disinterest, uneducated, etc., it varies. Inga stated there are a number of out-of state owners that they could not get signatures and also do not want to get involved. Rick stated the Chamber of Commerce represents over 500 businesses. There is a committee of 20 business owners who are in charge of marketing and publications for advertising for the valley.

Regina stated the DOR has not distributed the listing of lodging owners collecting the bed tax. There are also campgrounds paying the bed tax will not be part of the TBID. These are needed in order to send notice of the TBID being created. Brett discussed private versus jurisdiction association with the Board.

Marie stated the group has discussed the small amount of funds that will be collected and what to do with them for advertising and promoting. Glenda Wiles gave the background of the resolution of intent with a protest period once the last piece is received. She requested assistance from the County Attorney's Office for the legal aspects.

Brett stated the signatures have been in the County Attorney's Office since November 19th for verification and if anyone can be found to be added to the notification list. It is frustrating to walk out of this meeting without knowing if the list is complete. Commissioner Kanenwisher understands the frustration.. Brett replied that is not what they want to do. Regina stated the next step is for the County Attorney's Office to get a letter from the Attorney General to have the DOR release the lodging listing for notification. Discussion followed regarding TBID and a deadline for the petition. It was the Board's consensus to allow a two week period for verification and a resolution of intent with the date of November 19th for the petition.

► The Board met with the Planning Department for an update regarding the FEMA Community Assistance visit at 10:15 a.m. Present were Planning Director Tristan Riddell, Floodplain Administrator Eric Anderson and William Menager.

Eric Anderson requested a line item for consultants for the LiDAR project (\$8,000) be transferred into floodplain for notification mailings estimating at \$700-\$800.

Commissioner Foss expressed her concern with advertising in the papers versus notification mailings. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated his preference for a mailing since some people will not see the advertisement. Eric stated other notifications will be needed for when the new preliminary LiDAR maps are out. Commissioner Iman asked when the mailings are to go out. Tristan replied at least two mailings this fiscal year.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve a budget line item transfer from line item #354 \$3,000 to a floodplain outreach program. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)

Eric then gave an update of the FEMA Community Assistance Visit.

► Commissioner Chilcott participated in a MACo Legislative conference call at 12:00 p.m.

► Commissioner Iman visited the Road Shop regarding the Project Manager for construction at 12:00 p.m.

► The Board met for approval of Public Health for Medicare at 1:30 p.m. Present were Public Health Nurse Judy Griffin and Donna Parmenter.

Donna Parmenter gave some background of being removed from Medicare enrollment since it was over a year since a claim was submitted. The only billing done to Medicare from Public Health is for flu shots. Medicare requested all paperwork be re-submitted in order to get enrolled again. Donna sent the paperwork in numerous times with multiple rejections and therefore contacted another County to see what needed to be done in order to get back on the rolls. She was told if she obtained Commissioners' signatures it would suffice for responsibility. Medicare wants to take all possible avenues in order to avoid fraudulent claims however when Donna asked what she could do to prevent removal in the future, she was told to submit a fake claim. It doesn't make sense and she wants to do the submittals legally and clean. Judy Griffin stated Donna has jumped through very hoop Medicare has presented. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve with signatures the Medicare contract for Public Health. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**

► The Board met for discussion and decision on the Weed District and Highway 93 Amenities with budget at 2:30 p.m. Present was Weed District Manager Kelliann Morris.

Commissioner Kanenwisher gave a review of the previous Park Board motion to revoke the responsibility of the Highway Amenities and refunding the earmarked \$18,000 for snowplowing. Commissioner Chilcott gave additional background of when the amenities came into effect and the discussion of where the equipment was going to be housed and an employee to do the work.

Kellieann stated she offered services when the Park Board first accepted the responsibilities of the amenities. Having one person to do the work from Hamilton to Florence is not realistic but it is a start and it will take daily maintenance. Discussion followed regarding the landscaping within the medians. Commissioner Iman suggested contacting MDOT for equipment and maintenance.

Commissioner Kanenwisher suggested having the Road Department be responsible for the snowplowing of the bike paths and the Weed District be responsible for the weeds. Kellieann discussed the well and pump at the Stevensville Wye and that it is not working.

Commissioner Iman requested a sterilization program from the Weed District. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated further discussion will be needed for additional items. **It is Board's consensus to not hire an employee for the medians and bike path, to apply sterilization material available and to devise a sterilization program and propose the remainder to the Board for funding.**

Commissioner Iman discussed weeds and irrigation. He suggested cutting back on the water to keep the grass down. Kellieann asked where the Commission stands when people come in and complain of browning and weeds with reduction of water usage. Commissioner Iman stated the people can address it with the Board since it is a matter of funding and future availability of funding.