

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT 

FOSS 

STOLTZ 

KANENWISHER

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

Date.....September 15, 2011

► Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for the approval of a grant offer for the Ravalli County Airport in the amount of \$40,000 to be utilized to update the environmental assessment study phase 3at 8:30 a.m. Present were County Attorney Bill Fulbright, Airport Manager Page Gough, David Hedditch, Tex Irwin, Bill Stewart, Judy Stewart, Dave Beckett, Lee Tickell, Phyllis Bookbinder, Dennis Moore, Doug McLaren, Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell and Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

Commissioner Iman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Stoltz gave a brief review of the grant application and the award.

Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to approve the grant agreement with the FAA to be executed with chair signature. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: Phyllis Bookbinder asked what the date of the offer is. Commissioner Iman replied September 12, 2011. Commissioner Chilcott asked what match from the County is required. Commissioner Stoltz replied it is the difference between the \$40,000 and the cost of the work from the engineers and the final cost has not been derived yet. Commissioner Stoltz stated there was a request made for citizen donations for the match. Doug McLaren, President of the Aviation Safety Foundation, supports the Commissioners and the Board of Directors met and approved a donation not to exceed \$35,000 because they feel this is in the best interest of safety. A letter from the Aviation Safety Foundation for this financial support was provided to the county.

Commissioner Iman opened public comment.

Dennis Moore questioned the donation of \$35,000 from the Aviation Safety Foundation and asked who will pay for the legal costs. He claimed that Commissioner Foss refused to meet with ICAARE representatives. With a 5,200 foot runway, you have to go to an EIS. The public safety issues were addressed with Alternative 2A so he questioned if this is being done in the best interest of safety. Who will foot the bill for the increased expenses?

Commissioner Iman closed public comment.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated ICARE's comments are well documented and are noted for record.

All voted "aye": (5-0)

► Commissioner Iman confirmed the Airport Manager Page Gough contacted all Ravalli County Fire Districts and no other districts are interested. Commissioner Foss made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2722 to donate a fire truck to West Fork Fire District. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)

► The Board met for an update from the Incident Management Team regarding the 41 Complex Fire at 8:55 a.m. Present were David Daniels, Fire Chief Brad Mohr, Dixie Dees, Julie King, Greg Poncin, Dan Ritter, OEM Ron Nicholas, Lee Tickell, Maggie Wright, William Menager, Marie Christopher, Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell and Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

Greg Poncin gave an update of the 41 Complex Fire to the Board. (See Attached)

► The Board met to sign the Board of Investment loan for the Event Pavilion Center at 9:15 a.m. Present were CFO Klaryse Murphy, Marie Christopher, Deb Rogala, Lee Tickell, Maggie Wright, William Menager, Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell and Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

CFO Klaryse Murphy gave a brief review of the previous meeting and stated this loan will result in a savings of \$28,000 for FY 2012. The documents have been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to execute the Board of Investment loan for the Event Pavilion Center with chair signature. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)

► The Board met for a public hearing to adopt the Permissive Medical Levy for Health Care Premiums by Resolution at 9:30 a.m. CFO Klaryse Murphy, Marie Christopher, Deb Rogala, Lee Tickell, Maggie Wright, William Menager, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bernes, Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell and Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles.

Commissioner Iman opened the public hearing and read the publication of legal notice in the paper of record. CFO Klaryse Murphy stated with the 1999 legislative session and health premiums skyrocketing, they allowed counties to levy for premiums. Currently the County is paying \$606 per FTE for premiums. The levy is the maximum allowed by law and in two years due to levy recalculation, the levy could be reduced by \$120,000. She requested 12.824 mills this year. The Health Levy is outside the aggregate cap.

Commissioner Iman read Resolution No. 2723 for coverage for Healthcare Premiums. He then opened public comment. Hearing none, closed public comment and opened board deliberation.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to adopt Resolution No.2723 for the permissive medical levy as presented. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0)

► Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles presented the Board with a few administrative items: CTA Architects sent a letter regarding the paint for the Intoxilizer Room requesting the four colors selected be reduced to 2 colors. The Board concurred. Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion the concrete be permanently sealed contingent upon no cost. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0)

► There is a request from the Fair Manager Deb Rogala for a credit card. The Board concurred to allow a credit card for the Fair Manager will a limit of \$2,000.

► Discovery Channel would like to film in the Courthouse for the Anne Marie Stout trial during the first week of October. Due to another trial, they would like to come in October 4, 5, or 6 and they would be willing to pay staff. The Board concurred as long as it is not during business hours and if Maintenance agrees to supervise.

► Glenda received an email from Michael Howell and requested if it will be responded to. Commissioner Iman stated the email was turned over to the County Attorney’s Office for response.

► Glenda presented the Board with a fee increase for OEM previously approved for signature.

► The Board concurred to have Commissioner Kanenwisher be the representative for the Crisis Stabilization Working Group.

► The Board met for a public hearing to adopt the FY 2012 Budget/tax levies by Resolution at 10:05 a.m. Present were CFO Klarryse Murphy, Marie Christopher, William Menager, Lee Tickell, Maggie Wright, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell, and several citizens.

Commissioner Iman opened the public hearing to adopt Resolution No. 2724 for FY 2012 budget and read the publication of legal notice in the paper of record.

CFO Klarryse Murphy discussed the total tax mills levied. It takes about two years for new properties to get onto the tax rolls. This year new growth has gone down and the aggregate levy increase for this year was .0072%. Stevensville now has a TIFD which freezes the taxes at a certain point of the year and those taxes collected after the freeze goes into the Tax Increment Fund District. She continued to give history regarding the levies and how the State has given the counties discretion of which items to place the funds. For example if \$6 million dollars is

collected, the option is putting \$1 million dollars into each fund or the whole amount into one fund. She explained the general fund and what resources are available. The current level of reserves is at 7.75% and they should be at 15% minimum. She discussed the current PILT funding will be 100% for FY 2013 but after that she doesn't know. It could be 67% as in the past or much less which is why it is important to build up the reserves especially with a decrease in revenue. The total budget is \$31.4 million dollars of which \$14.5 million dollars is operational funding.

Commissioner Kanenwisher asked if the accounting procedures and budget process were different from previous years. CFO Klarryse Murphy replied no. Commissioner Kanenwisher addressed an accusation of \$1.7 million dollars missing from the preliminary budget. CFO Klarryse Murphy replied it is PILT funding on a line item. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked if there were any federally funded line items that will be decreased. Klarryse replied yes, she felt the Secure Rural Schools will be decreased. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked about 71 funds not disclosed in the preliminary budget document. CFO Klarryse Murphy replied they are grant funds and there wasn't enough time to include the grant funds in the documents and it was noted on the front cover of the document. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked Klarryse to explain the budget process. Klarryse explained the budget process to the Board and audience. When the tax bills go out only 100 mills are Ravalli County. Those additional levies are school levies, water district levies and any other levies assessed within their district. The local option tax is a true indication of the current financial situation of the County.

Peg Platt, President of the Animal Protection and Control Board, gave a presentation to plea to retain the position of the Animal Control Officer (ACO). (See Attached) Commissioner Foss asked if this was discussed with the Sheriff's Office (S.O.). Peg replied it was discussed by the ACO with Sheriff Hoffman. Although the position is under the S.O. it is not funded by them. Commissioner Foss recommended speaking with the S.O. to see if it is feasible.

Commissioner Iman opened public comment.

Linda Turner asked how many Commissioners own dogs that have not licensed them. What is going to happen with the \$27,000 that had been collected from dog licenses to support the ACO position?

Nancy Ballance has tried to understand the budget and had a two day public training with the CFO. It is clear that tough choices had to be made. She is in support of this Commission and acknowledges the hard work done.

Terry Phillips stated the hardest thing to do is to cut jobs. Last November, the voters sent a message that we are fiscally out of control. Three new commissioners were elected to set it straight.

Gene Williams is in support of the Board. He is not amused with the accusations that have been made. He thanked the Board for their hard work.

Charles Wissenbach discussed the Juvenile Detention facility being closed. It is costly but there are some innovative options that should be discussed.

Wendy Fonds made a plea for the jobs that will be lost in Juvenile Detention. Change is needed but so are the services that are provided. In the past two years, there has been tremendous success with GED being obtained. She submitted alternatives to be reviewed.

Randy Turner stated his heart breaks with the troubled youth of the County however this was a difficult decision and supports the Board.

Jan Wisniewski stated this Board has the responsibility of 40,000 people of this County. The Commissioners were voted in for fiscal responsibility and he appreciates the hard work done.

Maggie Wright claimed she was referred to as opposition to the Board. All that she has asked for has been information. No accusations were made for the disappearance of funds but a question for where it went. None of her requests have been made. The public review process has been compromised. A paper copy of the preliminary budget was not available. She requested the questions of the public be answered prior to the adoption on the budget including the reductions in the work force and the closed of the Juvenile Detention facility. The challenge is to be transparent.

Keith Kubista disagreed with the previous speaker and believes this Board has been very transparent. The federal government is in crisis with a 20 member panel in the Senate committee to investigate how to reduce spending. He encouraged the Board to continue their effort.

Lee Tickell attended a hearing yesterday regarding ordinances with only two minutes for comment. It is insulting to limit public comment. He asked where is the fiscally responsibility to settle a \$180,000 lawsuit without any public. He resents when a commissioner misrepresents mileage claims for personal meetings. He requested the Board to not claim mileage for coming to work. He has the most respect for CFO Klarryse Murphy and her integrity. He asked why the meetings can't be recorded. The excuse of not being able to create a policy is inexcusable.

Pam Erickson understands with budgeting there are tough decisions that have to be made. She begged the Board to not spend any more money for the American Stewards that will create lawsuits. Do not spend any more money on lawsuits.

Amy Sage resents the comment made by Commissioner Foss that there are the same faces in the crowd. She asked the Board to consider cutting their own pay and hours to save some jobs. These services will be cut to the taxpayers that fund them. She asked the Board to consider cutting their own salaries and mileage.

Commissioner Iman closed public comment and opened board deliberation.

Commissioner Iman read proposed Resolution No. 2724. Commissioner Chilcott asked about the paper copy of the budget being available on the counter. CFO Klarryse Murphy posted the budget online and did not distribute paper copies. Commissioner Chilcott confirmed with Staff that copies were available if asked for. He stated there are some savings that was not anticipated and made a request to keep a position that was a 1.00 FTE to a .75 FTE for the Weed Department. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to reinstate the Weed Education Coordinator position to a .75 FTE and amend the budget to accommodate. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion.** Discussion: Commissioner Kanenwisher opposed the motion and does not believe that having a few extra dollars justifies the need to spend it. Commissioner Stoltz also disagrees with the motion due to other pleas made by departments and selecting one over another is not fair. Commissioner Iman agreed with the two statements made but there is a return in this investment. This position has a necessity and an income source allocate towards that position. **Commissioner Chilcott and Commissioner Iman voted “aye”. Commissioner Foss, Commissioner Stoltz and Commissioner Kanenwisher voted “nay”. (2-3) Motion failed.**

Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2724 for FY 12 budget. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Chilcott pointed out this body has been very cautious about closing Juvenile Detention. The Board did decide to “mothball” the facility and not deem it as a permanent closure. Commissioner Kanenwisher addressed the issue of lack of transparency and it is not credible. There were several questions. There was a two day publically scheduled class regarding the budget process and many opportunities for the public to both participate and attend. The bottom line is there isn't any funding. The biggest county expense is operations and there was no other choice but to reduce workforce. The Board has committed to develop a process for have a budget document that will be more user-friendly and still comply with State mandate. Commissioner Stoltz stated when the budget started, serious decisions had to be made. Planning ahead needs to be done and he does not want to go through this again next year. Commissioner Iman stated the County did allow within the budget \$20,000 for the care and custody for animals. The budget reduction for the suspension of the Juvenile Detention has been postponed until November. This is a financial situation that is very difficult. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the date has not been postponed but extended due to it being a transition of an entire department. Commissioner Chilcott stated the County is losing a number of very valuable and hardworking employees who have shown dedication to the County and citizens. It is a tough day for the employees and this Board. These people who will no longer be working for the County will be missed. That decision was not taken lightly, it was agonizing. **All voted “aye” (5-0)**

Commissioner Iman requested any public comment not otherwise on the agenda.

Larry Campbell asked if litigation costs come out of the budget or by insurance. Commissioner Kanenwisher replied it depends on the lawsuit. Larry Campbell asked if the litigation line reflects anticipated suits. Commissioner Kanenwisher replied it reflects lawsuits from three years ago that are still active. Larry asked if the insurance cost will rise with the number of lawsuits.

Michael Howell requested consideration in the future to have a public meeting to allow adequate public comment.

► The Board met to open bids for the West Fork guardrail replacement at 11:30 a.m. Present was Road 7 Bridge Supervisor David Ohnstad

Commissioner Iman opened the meeting and read the publication of legal notice for bid in the paper of record. One bid was received as follows:

Mountain West Holding Company with a 10% bid bond for a total of \$38,600.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to submit the bid to Road & Bridge Supervisor to review and bring a recommendation back on September 21st. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0)

► The Board met to approve the countywide retirement and transportation levies at 11:30 a.m. Present were Superintendent of Schools Mike Williams, CFO Klarryse Murphy, Clerk & Recorder Regina Plettenberg and Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell.

Mike Williams stated there is a countywide retirement and transportation levy and the Commissioners have to approve these levies. The levies are less than last year which was 89.2 mills and this year is 87.67 mills.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to execute with chair signature approval of the countywide retirement and transportation levies as presented. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0)

► Commissioner Stoltz attended the School Transportation meeting at 1:00 p.m.