

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT

FOSS 

STOLTZ 

KANENWISHER 

MEMBERS PRESENT.....Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher

Date.....October 11, 2011

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

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 9:06 a.m. with Clerk and Recorder Regina Plettenberg and I.T. Director Joe Frohlich to discuss and make a decision on the fees associated for document indexing (on line services) for the Bitterroot Board of Realtors. Also present was Maggie Wright from Ravalli County Watchdog.

Joe noted there are other users for this service such as water rights researchers and title companies. While the amount of realtors has gone down due to the recent downturn in the economy and thus the number of uses has gone down, he wants to keep the fees the same or make it an actual user fee rather than a 'bulk rate'. If they don't use they don't pay.

Regina stated the fee for the Bitterroot Board of Realtors is \$1,200 per year. The membership is down by 50% and she would like to reduce their yearly fee to \$600.00. She believes this reduction will continue to pay for the number of uses.

Discussion included total users and actual use as well as the ability to have the users stay at their offices and not come to the county building in order to use the services. Regina stated for her office, this creates efficiency as it keeps the foot traffic down allowing her staff to do other work.

It was noted the yearly fee has been paid through June, 2012, and since this is a change in fees, it was agreed a public hearing will be necessary for any fee changes.

► The Board met for various administrative matters at 9:25 a.m. Present were Citizen William Menager, and Maggie Wright.

- **Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19th through September 30th as corrected. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (4-0)**
- Indigent Burial Request from Whitesett Funeral Home for Derald Wright: It was noted Mr. Wright was 87 years old. His wife is living in a nursing home in Missoula with no ability to pay for this cremation service. It was noted the County has an agreement with the funeral homes in the valley with an amount of \$1,200 per burial assistance. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to approve of this burial request for Derald Wright in accordance with the contract. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (4-0)**
- Paula Wood, Coordinator of Tobacco Free asked the Board to approve a \$925.00 mini grant application for a Tobacco Free Yearly Teen Dance to First Interstate Bank. Paula noted this event fits into her Tobacco Free Program. If approved these monies will pay for Live Bands, Food and prizes for the teens. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to sponsor the grant application to First Interstate Bank. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: County commitment is zero dollars and this allows Paula to stay within the scope of her grant program. All voted “aye”. (4-0)**
- MOU with Montana Wool Growers Predator Fund with USDA – This is a yearly fee of \$195.00 which is utilized for the protection of sheep from destructive animals. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to approve this MOU. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted “aye” (4-0).**
- Now present was CFO Klarryse Murphy and staff members from Westhouse Crisis Stabilization to discuss the HVAC maintenance issues which was determined to be under the Commissioners purview.
- Commissioner Staff update:
Discussion of calendar and work items that result from Commission meetings – It was agreed to try and keep the meetings on track, keep the meetings in blocks of time in order for Glenda to be able to free herself so she can do the work that is created by these meetings and to handle other office matters;

Policy of closing the door to Glenda’s Office – It was agreed that Glenda should start closing the door so the traffic is kept at the counter;

Minutes of Commission meetings and work being done other than what is on the agenda for accurate minutes – the question is if the Commissioners want their daily activities noted in the minutes. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated the minutes are only to record public meetings and if the Commissioner is not present at that meeting, the minutes could, but doesn’t have to reflect where that Commissioner is. However, if no meetings

are occurring, the minutes do not need to reflect where the Commissioners were and what they are doing. The Board concurred.

- ▶ Human Resource Director Robert Jenni met with the Board at 10:06 a.m. for an update.
- ▶ Commissioner Iman attended a meeting at the road shop at 10:30 a.m. with four contractors for a pre-construction walk through on the upcoming road rehabilitation due to the January fire.
- ▶ Chief Financial Officer Klarryse Murphy met with the Board at 10:30 a.m. for an update.
- ▶ The Board met at 11:05 a.m. with Flood Plain Administrator Eric Anderson and Planning Administrator Terry Nelson in regard to the discussion and decision on the LIDAR Consultant for a contract for services. A review panel including Eric, Terry, Commissioner Kanenwisher and Planner Tristan Riddell reviewed the Request for Proposals received, then narrowed the proposals down to their selection of 'Watershed Sciences'.

Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to accept the Watershed Sciences proposal. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Kanenwisher noted the Sandborn Vendor proposed a lower estimate than the other proposals, but the question raised was whether the vendor was able to complete the work properly. Commissioners Foss and Stoltz concurred. Eric noted the grant requires high accuracy for the mapping which ultimately goes to FEMA. This particular scope of work will also be used in-house for flood plain mapping determinations which the public will have the ability to use. (Commissioner Iman was now present). All voted "aye" (4-0)

- ▶ The Board met at 1:33 p.m. to discuss and make a decision on moving forward with the Recycling Grant with Ravalli County Recycling and DEQ. Commissioner Iman was not present for this meeting. Present at this meeting was Robert Scott who is spearheading this recycling grant, RC& D Staff Becki Kuntz, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, Ravalli County Watchdog Maggie Wright, and numerous citizens.

Robert stated DEQ has approved the application and the Business Plan was submitted to the Commissioners one week ago. The Business Plan also needs to be reviewed and approved by DEQ also.

Commissioner Kanenwisher addressed the Commission being a sponsoring agent for this grant. Robert stated he spoke to DEQ this morning and it is standard practice for the local government to be a pass through agency. The next step would be to have a contract between DEQ and the County, which would make the Hub & Spoke Entity the recipient. Hub & Spoke can also act as the fiscal agent if the county desires. Robert noted the original source of funds is federal stimulus money, given to the State of Montana DEQ for distribution. The Federal Government requires a local government to be the contracting agency. Robert noted the original application was for \$100,000. This business plan and approval from DEQ has been scaled down to \$60,000. The location for this is 131 Old Corvallis Road (Habitat for Humanity location). **Commissioner Foss stated she would like a copy of the agreement with DEQ because certain issues have been presented one way, yet the facts bear out something different.** Robert stated he can

present a lease agreement (location) which is month to month at a cost of \$150.00 per month. Robert stated the sustainability is not a term of receipting of the funds from DEQ.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated he would like the email from DEQ which addresses this sustainability. Specifically, the grant application required them to be in the black by the year three.

Doug Soren stated the new business plan shows they are self-sustaining, but it is not a requirement of the grant funds. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked if they expect to continue seeking grant funds if they plan to be self-sustaining. Robert stated their hope is not to seek another round of grants as they have been working for the past year with volunteers.

Commissioner Foss asked if the Hub & Spoke people have visited with Mr. Nickerson who has a private recycling business. Robert stated they have not spoken to him of late but have no issues talking to him for the cause of recycling in the county. Robert also noted they hope to have the bailer machine at the lease site. They are still looking for a larger and permanent site for this endeavor. A larger bailer would be needed for the permanent site.

Commissioner Stoltz asked about their fund raising efforts. Robert Scott stated they have pledges of about \$200,000 which can be collected when the proper and larger site is found. They hope to raise \$400,000.

Commissioner Kanenwisher indicated his concern is the sustainability issue and questioned if the month to month lease allows them to get started. Robert stated that site allows them to walk before they run and they are currently there working a smaller bailer.

Larry Campbell asked if any tax payer funds are being used for this. He also asked if there was any benefit to the county. Robert Scott stated the answer is no to the tax payer funds, and yes, it is a benefit to the citizens.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated he does have more questions and the Commissioner that placed this on the agenda is not present today. Commissioner Foss stated she would like to wait for Commissioner Iman as he visited with DEQ this morning and might have more information. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked how the new application is a different application and grant application than the past.

Joe Austeele stated they adjusted what they could spend and have been sustainable for a year. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated now they have rent. Joe indicated that is \$150.00 per month which is no problem to pay.

Pam Erickson stated the citizens need a place to recycle; recycling helps the citizens so pollution does not occur. She feels this is a necessity. She noted this group has been approved for a \$60,000 grant and that is not easy to obtain. What this group has going now is organized and it works.

Doug Soren stated they don't need a letter, as the Commissioners already passed a resolution to be the pass through agency. They only need the Commissioners to sign the DEQ contract when

it comes through. Commissioner Stoltz stated they voted no. Robert stated that no vote was for the location at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated they might not need to have another meeting, rather just to obtain a few more answers to their questions.

Robert stated the weather is closing in on them and they would like to obtain the vehicles.

Less Rutledge stated he reviewed the overall plans for this recycling. He was impressed with the plans and business model. The recycling effort simply asks to obtain this \$60,000 to keep this recycling effort going.

Commissioner Kanenwisher stated philosophically he has some issues (that were brought up in the past), but the Commissioners did vote to move forward on this, so they just need to have some answers to questions the board has.

Two public comments were received by email which Glenda read aloud: Tom Kresan stated he supports the recycling site here and to accept the DEQ grant for recycling. Mark Van Loon stated it is important to accept the grant money to further the efforts of the many county residents who want a recycling program here.

Robert stated prior to obtaining the contract the Commissioners need to approve of the Scope of Work Plan and act as the pass through agent for the funds.

The meeting was adjourned.

► The Board met at 2:10 p.m. to discuss the question on what role licenses play now that the Animal Control Officer is gone. Present were Treasurer Marie Keeton, Deputy Treasurer JoAnne Johnson, Past Animal Protection and Control Board Members Peg Plat and Barbara Ormiston, Animal Shelter Staff Theresa Loya and Vicki Dawson, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, Ravalli County Watch Dog Maggie Wright, Citizens William Menager and Ren Cleveland. Commissioner Iman was not present for this meeting.

Glenda stated Lt. Steve Holton brought the dog licensing records to the Commissioner's Office stating the Treasure no longer wants to house these records; therefore it is important to address the location and continued sales of the licensing.

Marie stated their office sells the occasional dog license to a citizen. Originally the records were housed in her office, but when the Animal Control Board was established they took the records. Now that the Animal Control Board has disbanded they have given her the records back and she does not want to house them at her office. Housing the records creates phone calls, i.e., people looking for lost dogs, owners names etc.

Past President of the Animal Control Board, Peg Plat stated the data from the sales of the licenses are put into a program which helps locate owners, addresses etc., for citizens, law enforcement and veterinarians.

Theresa stated if the Animal Shelter housed the records, they can help those citizens, law enforcement and veterinarians when they are reporting and looking for dogs. If they were to house the records the Animal Shelter would like to keep any collected license fees from that point forward (not what has been collected thus far).

Commissioner Stoltz questioned the fact that since the licensing and fees was approved by a County Ordinance, how they could allow a private business to take the funds from the licensing. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated they could contract that job out. He also noted the Animal Control Board no longer exists, nor does the Animal Control Officer. In his opinion, the way to solve this is to get rid of the dog licensing program altogether.

Peg stated there might be a public outcry on dissolving the requirement for licensing because many citizens see this as a benefit. The Right to Ranch and Farm Board was very much in favor of this due to harassment of live stock. Peg also noted the existing Ordinance allows for a future Animal Control Officer, but many people will probably not purchase a license now that the county has gotten rid of the position. She stated their past board has no problem with the new licensing monies going to the Animal Shelter for their work, but the Animal Shelter will not be responsible for the control and protection of the dogs that the Ordinance provides for.

Vicki stated the Animal Shelter does all the administration for the City of Hamilton, which includes dealing with stray dogs. That benefits not only the City, but owners of the dogs and the Shelter. The positive part of dog licensing is that it creates less confusion and anger when dogs are lost/found and housed at the shelter. Dog licensing creates responsibility for the citizens, and she would hate to lose this program. She hopes they have an Animal Control Officer again someday.

Peg stated some veterinarians express concern as to why they should even continue selling the licenses since there is no Animal Control Officer any more. She suggested the Commissioners thank them for their work and ask that they continue.

Ren Cleveland stated he has been a rancher for 73 years and many times he wished there was a dog licensing policy. He had to shoot some dogs when they chased his stock, and he would have liked to be able to identify the dogs that came onto his property. He thinks dog licensing is good and it helps the rabies issue because now there are raccoons that are carriers of rabies. He felt - people should take control of their dogs.

Vicki stated there is no state law requiring rabies vaccination. That requirement is left up to the counties. And that requirement is addressed in the Ordinance. Theresa stated in six months they held 33 dogs for quarantine.

It was agreed the Commissioners will do some more research on this issue prior to making any decisions.

Peg stated the Animal Control Board still exists; the Board Members are now simply citizens working with the Animal Shelter on many pet issues.

▶ On matters not otherwise on the agenda, Whitney Bermes qualified what the Commissioners were looking for from the DEQ in regard to the recycling grant.

▶ Commissioner Stoltz attended a Fair Commission meeting at the Fairgrounds at 3:00 p.m.