

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN JR
CHILCOTT
FOSS
STOLTZ
KANENWISHER MM

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

Date.....October 20, 2011

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met with I.T. Director Joe Frohlich at 10:10 a.m. to discuss the utilization of Capital Improvement Funds. Present was Citizen Bill Menager. Joe requested the ability to utilize approximately \$6,000 of the I.T. CIP monies for hard drives on one of the servers. He stated this is a good use of the monies, particularly right now because he is currently doing some maintenance on the servers. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to approve of this expenditure up to \$6,500.00. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)**

► The Board met at 10:33 a.m. with Planning Administrator Terry Nelson and Human Resource Director Robert Jenni. Also present were Environmental Health Director Lee Guthrie, Flood Plain Administrator Eric Anderson, Citizen Bill Menager, and Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes. The purpose of this meeting was to have a discussion on the goals of planning regarding staff replacement.

Terry noted the flood plain issues are covered through Eric Anderson. Terry will take on the subdivision reviews, exemptions and process. Currently there are only two subdivisions which Terry can do. Future issues to address are the subdivision regulations, airport influence area, updating the flood plain regulations, park plans, planning ordinances, and enforcement & violation issues. Eric will take the lead on the Lidar Phase 3 contract. Terry stated he will take the lead on the Open Lands Program.

Commissioner Chilcott and Foss noted planning can be broader than land use. Discussion included the planning budget in regard to salary, the necessity to fill the vacant position right away and the skill levels of the potential applicant pool. Robert stated the hiring process will be a minimum of 6-8 weeks. The Board concurred on the importance of hiring an applicant that has knowledge and experience in subdivision review and regulations. Commissioner Chilcott directed Robert to advise the employees that were part of the reduction of work force of this job

opening in case they have qualifications for the position. It was noted this position will be a full-time employee replacing the full time employee who has resigned.

Commissioner Iman suggested they review the recent obligation the county took on for the subdivision review of Legacy Ranch. Terry stated he feels confident the planning staff can meet those obligations. In regard to the subdivision regulations, the County Attorney's Office still has the last draft for review.

► The Board met at 3:10 p.m. to have discussion and make a decision on the development of policy regarding predator control issues in Ravalli County. Present were Citizens Dennis Palmer, Brian Davis and Keith Kabusta, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, KPAX TV Reporter Brianna Roy, and Maggie Wright of RC Watch Dogs. Commissioner Kanenwisher handed out information for review noting the Commissioners need to address the following: 1) does the BCC agree there is enough information that show there is economic impacts and 2) if it warrants further action, what process would that be (including timeline). He stated gathering information and making recommendations based on that information would occur throughout the timeline of this process.

Commissioner Foss felt this was well thought out and the timeline allows Fish, Wildlife and Parks to garner information during the upcoming hunting season.

Commissioner Chilcott thought this timeline is more realistic than the previous discussion. He addressed the 10(j) implementation that fits the geographic area of the West Fork. He suggested Ravalli County partner with other jurisdictions in order to define the characteristics/common concern within our geographic area as well as adjoining geographic areas. This should lead us to a policy and give us standing at the state level.

Commissioner Foss addressed the coordination and cooperation of policies at the local levels which is very important. Economic impacts are well within the environmental issues under NEPA. Commissioner Kanenwisher noted this issue is coordination with a state agency (FWP).

Commissioner Iman stated the ability to create a policy is tied to the economic impacts. He considers this important for Ravalli County. The Board concurred there is enough information to substantiate the economic impact within Ravalli County in order to justify a policy process.

Public Comment was called for:

Dennis Palmer has lived in this valley since 1972. He has seen a lot of changes affecting the county, including numerous federal policies such as the Endangered Species Act which has literally destroyed Ravalli County. Other people want to dictate what we can do and what we can't do because of their regulations.

Keith Kubista, President of Sportsmen of Montana encourages gathering more information. He noted that 87-1-217 MCA reads that the FWP (as the department) shall ensure that County Commissioners have the opportunity for consultation and coordination with state and federal

agencies prior to state and federal policy decision involving large predators and large game species.

Brian Davis has lived here since here since 1975. He appreciates the Commissioners willingness to look at this area and to give the citizens the ability to enter into this process. He is President of the National Wild Turkey Association and he hopes this process enters into other areas critical to the residents of this county.

Burt Johnson has lived here since 1998 and enjoys the outdoors and the woods. He stated one of the biggest negative effects on the cattle and elks are the bears. If the Commissioners really want to do something to help the elk they should level 30 subdivisions and give the elk something to eat.

Public comment was then closed.

Commissioner Stoltz made a motion to move ahead with gathering the information and to follow the suggested timeline in order to come up with a policy draft. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Chilcott stated he was hesitant to lock into those specific dates (December 5th, January 3rd and January 16th) in case they need some latitude. Commissioner Stoltz stated his motion is to accept the guidelines and dates in general, allowing some latitude on the dates. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion. All voted "aye" (5-0).