

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**MISSOULA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 199 WEST PINE STREET, ADMIN ROOM 206
February 18, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Staff present: Commissioner Strohmaier, Commissioner Slotnick, Commissioner Vero, Brian West, Kyla Lehnerz, Violet Plummer, Chris Lounsbury, David Wall, Flanna Ewinger, Jenny Daniel, Casey Gannon, Travis Ross, Sarah Bell, Jason Emery, Jamar Galbreath, Adriane Beck, Anne Hughes, Andrew Czorny, Allison Franz, Shane Stack, Emmie Bristow

Other attendees: Martin Kidston - Missoula Current

I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

II. ACTION ITEMS

1. Request board approve contract with International Association of Chiefs of Police for the Vicarious Trauma Response Initiative Technical Assistance grant for the amount of \$49,920 to increase resilience amongst Just Response member organizations through training and technical support. Project lasts 10/1/2020-6/30/2022.

Presenter:

Jenny Daniel

Moved:

Juanita Vero

Second:

Josh Slotnick

Motion:

Motion passed as written

Vote:

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

10/1/2020

Contract/Project End Date:

6/30/2022

Contract filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1049 Page 1337. Electronically sent to Jenny Daniel, Community and Planning Services.

2. Request board approve and sign an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation to construct a shared use path on Mullan Road between Deschamps Lane and Pulp Mill Road

Presenter:

Shane Stack

Moved:

Josh Slotnick

Second:

Juanita Vero

Motion:

Motion passed as written

Vote:

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

Contract/Project End Date:

Agreement filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1069 Page 1245. Electronically sent to Shane Stack, Public Works.

3. Request board approval and chair signature of lease agreement with financial impact of \$1008.51 for 48 months to RE Investment Company LLC (Bobcat of Missoula) for the purpose of a Toolcat to be operated at the fairgrounds.

Presenter:

Flanna Ewinger
Chris Lounsbury

Moved:

Juanita Vero

Second:

Josh Slotnick

Motion:

Motion passed as written

Vote:

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Additional Info:

Contract/Project Begin Date:

3/1/2021

Contract/Project End Date:

2/29/2024

Electronically sent to Flanna Ewinger, Farigrounds Management.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Smurfit-Stone BERA and HHRA Letter

Letter 2021-046 BCC signed.

Travis Ross, Health Department, described that there are a Human Health Assessment (HHA) and Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) currently out for operable units two and three of the Smurfit-Stone Site. This is the second iteration of the risk assessment documents. These assessments have to be completed before the remedial investigation is finalized, and after that they can move onto discussing feasibility studies. Travis explained that these risk assessments will define the actual risk on the ground to ecological receptors and to humans. There are some overarching problems with the site which are identified in the letter. These include the risk of channel movement (the Clark Fork reoccupying the site), grid-based sampling design, the dumps not having been thoroughly investigated, the need for a conceptual site model (which documents how contamination moves through a system), and the need for fish sampling to be included in the risk assessment. Travis stated that those are the four overarching comments that are included in the letter, and that the comments are due tomorrow by 5 p.m.

Commissioner Slotnick expressed appreciation for Travis and staff that we can send this letter and expressed concern that we are taking our very best efforts and screaming our comments into a void. He asked that, if the comments aren't heard, whether there are other options aside from letter-writing and commentary.

Commissioner Strohmaier stated that, in the past, bringing issues up the ranks of the EPA was effective, and asked whether the change in administration could allow that to be an option. Travis answered that he didn't know of other tools at this point, and that the risk assessments have to be completed to get to the remedial investigation. The EPA does respond to comments, so when we receive our answer, if we aren't happy, we can talk about other options.

The letter will be copied to our congressional delegation, the governor, and the EPA Region 8 Deputy Administrator. The commissioners and Travis agreed that it's worth it to take the extra time at this stage to get everything right with the risk assessments so that the cleanup is complete and lasting.

2. Sign the attached letter supporting the development of impact fees for the Sx̣tpqyen area.

Letter 2021-048 BCC signed.

Shane Stack, Public Works, explained that Jeremy Keane at the city gave a presentation on the proposed impact fees that the city has, and that this is a letter of support for those impact fees at the Sx̣tpqyen area. Commissioner Slotnick stated that there is criticism of impact fees ("this is going to drive costs of housing up"). He explained that were it not for that \$13 million of public money, the development at the Sx̣tpqyen area would also cover the costs of the entirety of the infrastructure, which would make the cost of housing

much higher. He clarified that we are still money ahead in terms of affordable housing because of the BUILD grant, and that these impact fees help lessen the property tax burden on all of us. Commissioner Slotnick stated that he is strongly in support.

3. Letter to Rep. Rosendale urging support for direct federal aid to counties

Letter 2021-047 BCC signed.

A letter to Rep. Rosendale encouraging him to support legislation related to direct federal aid. This would be passed through from the state to counties based on population. This letter is encouraging him to support this legislation when it comes through the House.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. City Affordable Housing Trust

Question brought up of which commissioner would like to sit on the interview committee for the Affordable Housing Trust with the City Council. It was decided that Josh will serve on the committee.

2. Legislative Session

Chris Lounsbury reviewed several bills currently in the legislature.

HB 419 - Legislative delegation recommended that the commissioners support this bill. It comes out of Libby, and it would allow the creation of a local government superfund oversight committee. This would allow local governments to create a superfund oversight committee that would work in conjunction with the state on superfund sites. Chris recommended that the county support this given that it adds that ability for local control over and direct input into the superfund site process that doesn't currently exist in state law.

HB 464 - Repeal local option gas taxes. Only one community has enacted a local option fuel excise tax (Missoula). Chris recommended opposing this bill. Commissioner Strohmaier asked who is sponsoring the bill, and Chris answered Representative Matt Regier.

Chris pointed out that this bill generates more dollars than the state's BaRSAA taxes.

Commissioner Strohmaier stated that the hypocrisy in the legislature has been breathtaking.

Commissioner Slotnick pointed out that the state asked local governments to implement taxes of this sort, and expressed frustration at this being the second bill in the legislature in twenty-four hours that is a Missoula-specific potential state law.

Commissioner Strohmaier asked who is pushing back against this. Chris answered that he didn't know when the bill will be heard, and that we should have both a commissioner and partners in the business community who were supportive of this tax speak in opposition to the bill.

Commissioner Strohmaier explained that the gas tax was also supposed to provide the local match for federal land access program grant funding. Commissioner Slotnick was selected as the commissioner to speak in opposition to this bill.

Commissioner Slotnick brought up that the local option gas tax is also important because it has a property tax-relief element. Commissioner Strohmaier also explained that since the voters approved the gas tax, there hasn't been loss of business to Missoula County convenience stores.

The commissioners decided that one of them will testify against the bill, one will speak to Gallatin commissioners regarding the gas tax, and the other will speak to MACo. Chris isn't sure yet what MACo's position will be on the bill. Chris stated that a letter will be crafted for the committee opposing the bill.

3. Review of board meetings and upcoming meetings

None

4. COVID-19

Adriane Beck, Office of Emergency Management, provided an update on the non-congregate shelter activities as well as vaccine coordination efforts to date. 230 unique individuals have been served at the non-congregate shelter since March, four people have transitioned into permanent housing. Adriane

acknowledged that Alice Healy, Health Department, has played a big roll in this as a social worker brought on with grant funding.

Adriane stated that vaccination coordination continues to go well. There are weekly provider meetings where providers can talk about their plans and capacity. DPHHS has changed their process and now go through a single contact locally rather than going to each provider. Adriane spoke on the logistical trouble with administering second doses and the yo yo effect that occurs.

Commissioner Strohmaier asked whether some of the doses that come in are being skimmed off for second doses later. Adriane clarified that if 1,500 doses come in, that is followed by 1,500 second doses at a later date.

There are 27 registered providers, which is a lot of capacity. Adriane stated that there are now advertisements that are going out to get information to the hard-to-reach populations. She explained the two methods of vaccine availability: focused (through healthcare providers that have electronic healthcare records and can identify their patients by age, high-risk conditions) and open (through health department and university that operate the call center, clinics). The goal is to have both of those options open. The supply is not meeting the demand currently for vaccines, and there is hope for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Commissioner Slotnick thanked Adriane for doing coordination and taking a leadership role in what would otherwise be a decentralized effort county-wide.

Adriane clarified that Johnson and Johnson is a single-shot vaccine which would get rid of the yo-yo effect.

Martin Kidston, Missoula Current, asked whether patients know which vaccine they are getting when they receive it. Adriane answered that yes, they do.

There will be an upcoming deep-dive into the mechanics of what the vaccine team is doing. Allison Franz, Communications, asked when that deep-dive will happen, and Adriane said that they will plan for next Thursday's Administrative Meeting.

V. UPCOMING EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

None

VI. SIGNING OF ITEMS APPROVED AT PUBLIC MEETING

None

VII. OTHER COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS

None