
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners met in continued session at 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chairman Lauman, Commissioner Scott and Holmquist, and Clerk Robinson were present.

COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED – VETERANS DAY

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on November 13, 2012.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners met in continued session at 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chairman Lauman, Commissioner Scott and Holmquist, and Clerk Robinson were present.

Chairman Lauman opened public comment on matters within the Commissions' Jurisdiction, no one present to speak, Chairman Lauman closed the public comment period.

MEETING W/ VICKI SAXBY RE: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY'S SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY

10:15:06 AM

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, I.T. Director Vicki Saxby, Weed/Parks & Maintenance Director Jed Fisher, Library Director Kim Crowley, Clerk Kile

Saxby met with the commission and reviewed the need for a social media use policy for Flathead County.

- To establish a registry of social media use by County departments and representatives; Commissioners need to know who is representing County views to the public, and what views are being promoted on behalf of the County.
- To ensure that representatives are made aware of the public records laws as they pertain to social media and the need for them to take appropriate steps to comply with these laws.

She explained she prepared a draft policy that allows for public comment and another that does not allow for public comment; or the commission can allow each department to set their own policy or take the recommendations under advisement for consideration at a later date.

Crowley reviewed the following letter with the commission regarding a social media policy.

First of all I think it is critical that we allow public comment on our Social Media sites. Social networks, blogs, wikis and other open, social spaces are becoming more and more important as a means of collaboration within communities. Social Media support interactive dialogue between communities, organizations, and individuals. If we don't allow comment, it takes the "social" out of "social media" and turns it into something static like a webpage. And we already have webpages. Social Media

The library has had an interactive Facebook page for two years and a MySpace page and blog for two years previous to that. The Library probably uses social media very differently than the planning department might use it or the health department might use it. My hope is that we can have an intelligent cross-departmental committee that could address the huge issues of social media for the County and present the Commissioners with a well-researched, well-discussed plan and policy for using social media that would include a presentation on why we use social media in the various departments in Flathead County and how it benefits our constituents and our departments.

Questions to be addressed would include: Who is actually using Social Media in the County right now and in what forms? Why are departments using Social Media? Should a department representative have social media training before using it? Should we have guidelines for best practices in using social media? How do we best conform to retention schedules—should we be looking at something like ArchiveSocial to deal with that? <http://archivesocial.com>

Please don't think I am criticizing Vicki; she's done a great job at drafting the policy she was tasked with by looking at other government's policies and getting some email comments from Flathead County departments. But the IT department doesn't use social media at this time and a more functional policy would evolve if we had other departments involved in its creation. What I'm suggesting is that a cross-departmental committee work together and create something a little more comprehensive and that includes best practices. And we can have a tight timeline on this so that we can have it back to the commissioners within 4-6 weeks.

The Library happens to use Social Media as a fiscally responsible way to market to a large group of people. We use it as another means (besides phone and email) for library users to ask questions and receive answers about our services. Our staff has extensive recurrent training in the use of social media and we have great examples of other libraries that use social media to best advantage whom we can look to for guidance. Atlantic Magazine did an article titled: "*What Big Media Can Learn from New York Public Library.*" *At a time when traditional news organizations are struggling to reinvent themselves in a new world, the century-old library is emerging as a digital leader.*

Fisher stated the Weed/Parks & Maintenance Department sees their webpage as a money savings avenue for them. He reviewed examples of how the department uses their webpage. He also referred to instances where they are allowed to receive feedback from citizens.

Fugina explained concerns regarding use of social media and the lack of control over it. She noted there are other avenues for public comment or feedback that are more appropriate and allow more ease of retention.

Following discussion the commission unanimously agreed to put the item back on the agenda next Monday in order to have time to review the policy further.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012
(Continued)**

MONTHLY MEETING W/ ROGER LAFERRIERE, OES & LINCOLN CHUTE, FIRE SERVICES AREA MANAGER

[10:35:18 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, OES Director Roger Laferriere, Deputy OES Director Cindy Mullaney, Fire Services Area Manager Lincoln Chute, Clerk Kile

LaFerriere met with the commission and summarized work done over the past month. He reported he has spent time meeting with staff, meet with local fire departments, fire chiefs associations and city managers. He stated the information he received will help in designing a strategic plan for the future. In other business, he spoke about progress with Mt. Aeneas and publication of a code of conduct at the 911 Center.

Mullaney reported an award agreement regarding funding from EMPG was received and will be coming before them for signature. Other items mentioned pertained to an exercise to be held in Whitefish, the Bigfork Emergency Response Team and their update of the 911 webpage.

Chute spoke about preparing mountain sites for winter and installation of new repeaters on every mountain site. He noted the Ashley Lake Fire Hall is still slowly moving forward.

DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE: COUNTY BIKE PATH SNOWPLOW SERVICE CONTRACTS/ HOME TECH HOME PRO & GRADE 8

[11:00:19 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Shop Foreman Corey Pilsch, Clerk Kile

Pilsch reported the contractors will be paid \$125.00 per mile which is a slight increase from last year.

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to approve the snow plowing service contracts. Commissioner Holmquist **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: ROAD ABANDONMENT #487 (PORTION OF LAKESIDE BLVD.)

[11:04:00 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Clerk Kile

Commissioner Holmquist made a **motion** to authorize publication of the Notice of Public Hearing for Road Abandonment #487. Commissioner Scott **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE OF DISCONTINUANCE OF PUBLIC ROADWAY NO. 487

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Viewers have reported to the Board of Flathead County Commissioners on the discontinuance of that certain public roadway in Flathead County, Montana, described as follows:

A TRACT OF LAND, SITUATED, LYING AND BEING IN GOVERNMENT LOT 3 OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 20 WEST, P.M.M., FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:

The easterly sixty (65) feet of Lakeside Boulevard, formerly known as Lake Avenue as shown on the plat of Montana Chautauqua, a platted subdivision records of Flathead County, Montana, from the easterly extension of the northerly boundary of Lot 2, Block 9 of said Montana Chautauqua, to the easterly extension of the southerly boundary of Lot 4, Block 9 of said Montana Chautauqua, approximately 65 feet by 187.5 feet in size.

Notice is hereby given to the petitioners or landowners as disclosed by the last assessment roll of Flathead County, owning land abutting the roadway described above and being considered for abandonment.

The hearing on this petition for abandonment is set for **December 3, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.** in the County Courthouse, Commissioners' Chambers, 800 South Main, Kalispell, Montana. For further information call (406) 758-5537.

DATED this 13th day of November, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Flathead County, Montana

PAULA ROBINSON,
CLERK AND RECORDER

By/s/Dale W. Lauman
Dale W. Lauman, Chairman

By/s/Diana Kile
Diana Kile, Deputy

Publish on November 18 and November 25, 2012.

DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE: DPHHS CONTRACT AMENDMENT #13-145-0600/ EAGLE TRANSIT

[11:04:17 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Clerk Kile

Chairman Lauman reviewed the changes to automobile insurance coverage.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012
(Continued)**

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to approve DPHHS Contract Amendment #13-145-0600. Commissioner Holmquist **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE: MDOT SECTION 5309 CONTRACT #106799/ EAGLE TRANSIT

[11:05:26 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Clerk Kile

Chairman Lauman noted the contract pertains to updating communications equipment at a price of \$92,611.00, which is federally funded at 80 percent.

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to approve the contract. Commissioner Holmquist **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on November 14, 2012.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners met in continued session at 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chairman Lauman, Commissioner Scott and Holmquist, and Clerk Robinson were present.

10:00 a.m.	Commissioner Lauman: Flathead Basin Commission meeting @ DNRC Office
11:00 a.m.	County Attorney meeting @ Co. Atty's Office
1:15 p.m.	911 Board meeting @ FECC
7:00 p.m.	Commissioner Scott: Whitefish Community Wastewater Committee meeting @ Whitefish City Council Chambers

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on November 15, 2012

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners met in continued session at 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chairman Lauman, Commissioner Scott and Holmquist, and Clerk Robinson were present.

Chairman Lauman opened public comment on matters within the Commissions' Jurisdiction, no one present to speak, Chairman Lauman closed the public comment period.

TAX REFUND: N.W. MONTANA HUMAN RESOURCES

[10:00:39 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Tom Tornow, Doug Rauthe, Marney McCleary, Clerk Kile

Doug Rauthe, Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana explained Courtyard Apartments were built as a joint enterprise between CAPNM and the City of Kalispell to provide housing to low income citizens of Flathead County. The city developed 16 units and Northwest Montana Human Resources developed 16 units as well. In the last few years, the project has experienced significant operational deficits and the City of Kalispell asked CAPNM to take over the cities half of the project, which was done. He explained there were many complications that kept them from keeping the property tax exemption in place.

Tom Tornow, Real Estate Attorney for NW Montana Human Resources, Inc., which does business as Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana (CAPNM) explained the title company's error. He said due to the error a situation was created where property taxes were paid on property that should have been exempt.

Chairman Lauman noted for the record the property taxes were paid and not paid under protest.

Steele said the county can under law make a refund at their discretion under MCA 15-6-603 that allows refunds of property taxes.

Commissioner Holmquist said she has concerns with the precedence this will set. She stated they have encountered tough decisions on these before that have not been easy. Holmquist said as much as she believes in low-income housing that she is not in favor of approving the refund at this time. She explained that unless she could do additional research she is not comfortable with it.

Commission Scott said with regard to this matter there are mitigating circumstances that go beyond the previous matter brought before them, which had to do with timely handling of an application that was not adhered to. He stated in this particular case I do not believe there was any choice in the matter. CAP was liable for the taxes and appropriately and lawfully paid them; had they not had the issue with the title then it would not have occurred. He stated the mitigating circumstances are an exemption to previous discussions on this matter in another case.

Chairman Lauman stated he agreed in that this could be awarded on that basis, because the other one had to do with a timely situation.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012
(Continued)

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to approve the tax refund for N.W. Montana Human Resources. Commissioner Holmquist **seconded** the motion. **Aye** – Lauman and Scott. **Opposed** - Holmquist. Motion carried by quorum.

DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE: CDBG CONTRACT/ INTERMOUNTAIN PROVIDENCE HOME

[10:15:00 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Deputy County Attorney Peter Steele, Grant Writer Debbie Pierson, Dave Creamers, Clerk Kile

Pierson stated the county was successful with the CDBG application submitted in conjunction with Intermountain Providence Home for \$450,000. She explained the county would work collaboratively with Intermountain on the administration of the contract.

Commissioner Holmquist made a **motion** to approve the document for signature for Intermountain Providence Home. Commissioner Scott **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF LAKESHORE PERMIT EXTENSION: FLUID

[10:18:00 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Planner Eric Mack, Clerk Kile

Mack reviewed the request for an additional extension for Lakeshore Permit FLP10-72; an application submitted by Flathead Electric to replace an existing underground cable on Flathead Lake. The permit was valid for one year and was set to expire on December 22, 2011. The commission on May 16, 2011, granted a one-year extension extending the permit until December 22, 2012.

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to approve the extension request to December 22, 2013. Commissioner Holmquist **seconded** the motion. **Aye** - Lauman, Scott and Holmquist. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING W/ TERRI BACKS RE: CONFEDERATED SALISH KOOTENAI TRIBES WATER RIGHTS PROPOSAL TO STATE LEGISLATURE

[10:30:00 AM](#)

Present: Chairman Dale W. Lauman, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Pamela J. Holmquist, Gary Krueger, Terri Backs, Clarice Ryan, Rita C. Hall, Julia Fehrs, Clerk Kile

Terri Backs met with the commission and reviewed concerns regarding negotiations between the federal government, the State of Montana and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes for water rights that will affect most of western Montana. She explained significant changes will be made in how water rights are administered on the Flathead Indian Reservation and citizens have no idea of the magnitude or scope of this agreement. Backs stated what they would like to see is a re-set of the compact commission and re-set of the documents.

- 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Scott: Health Dept. Environmental Impact Committee work session @ EBB**
- 1:00 p.m. Health Board meeting @ Earl Bennett Bldg.**
- 1:00 p.m. Fair Board meeting @ Fair Office**

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on November 16, 2012.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners met in continued session at 8:00 o'clock A.M. Chairman Lauman, Commissioner Scott and Holmquist, and Clerk Robinson were present.

- 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Lauman: Mental Health Council & CDC meetings in Missoula**

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on November 19, 2012.
