

COMMISSIONERS' JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014
(Continued)

General discussion was held relative to the Pleasant Valley School Boards decision to consider tuition.

Sheffels noted currently two students are registered to attend and live out of county and two are not registered yet, but if they are they will be in district students.

Commissioner Kruger pointed out they are not out of line in the mill charged to the community.

Commissioner Krueger made a motion to deny the application for isolation status. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH EA FINDINGS & CDBG RROF: INTERMOUNTAIN PROVIDENCE HOME

11:45:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela J. Holmquist, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Gary D. Krueger, Assistant Mike Pence, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, Deputy County Attorney David Randall, Grant Writer Debbie Pierson, Planning & Zoning Director B. J. Grieve, Debi Soukup, Adam Jespersen, David Creamer, Berni McDonald, K. Bailey, Ryan Nollan, Mary Patterson, Don Patterson, Jim Fitzgerald, Dee Incarnado, Pam Schapper, R. Miller, Wayne Miller MD, Tom Kennedy, Leah McCracken, Phyllis Anderson, Muffie Valley, Anne Miller, Kitty Curtis, Stewart Stadler, L. Woods, Patricia Molen, Gerald Molen, Kathryn Berg, Clerk Kile

Pierson noted the public notice to be published is related to the Environmental Assessment prepared for the Intermountain Providence Home project.

Pam Schapper read the following letter:

I am a Whitefish resident and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for Intermountain and have since 2008. On behalf of the Board and the staff at Intermountain, the hundreds of children and families that we serve each year in the Flathead Valley, and the many supporters and volunteers of the organization – many of whom have turned out here today, I would like to thank you for your partnership in securing funding for the building of Providence Home, a therapeutic youth group home for children suffering from complex and debilitating emotional and mental health issues.

Intermountain purchased the land for Providence Home nearly ten years ago, and our partnership with the county began with your sponsorship of a state CDBG grant application, for this project back in 2011. Although a number of years have passed since we first set out to make Providence Home a reality, sadly, the need for this facility has not changed.

Recently, we as the Board of Directors conducted focus group listening sessions here in Kalispell, with a broad coalition of teachers, principals, judges, law enforcement personnel, CASA workers, social workers, and others who interact with local children and youth on a regular basis. Our chief job as the governing board for Intermountain is to ensure that this organization is doing all it can to meet the needs of the community where we feel we can best serve. The information gleaned from these listening sessions was staggering. Teen homelessness, depression, suicide, substance abuse, mental health issues, trauma, abuse and neglect are issues affecting hundreds of children and youth right here in Flathead County. These are the issues that Intermountain, as well as a number of groups doing great work for children throughout the valley is attempting to combat.

Intermountain's mission statement is "Healing through Healthy Relationships" and our foundational belief is that raising up of healthy children and healthy families is the single most important factor in the establishment of a healthy community.

Providence Home is just one manifestation of that mission. Intermountain serves hundreds of children from the Flathead Valley every year through a host of services, and fortunately, these children are able to stay in their families and in their communities. However, when all these services have been exhausted and the child is no longer able to function in their home, their school, or in the community a place like Providence Home becomes one of the few remaining options.

Providence Home is designed as a group home, in a rural setting to provide children with a quiet refuge, hope and restoration. It will allow local children in need of residential therapeutic care to remain in their home community without having to find a solution in another part of the state or even outside Montana.

On behalf of Intermountain, please know that we are deeply grateful for the partnership and support shown by Flathead County for this project. It will meet a vital need for local children who have few good options. We look forward to having you by our side as we work to get over the finish line and make this needed facility a reality.

Now I would like to introduce Adam Jespersen, an Intermountain staff member who will provide you with some of the more technical details regarding the changes and revisions that have been made to the revised Environmental Assessment that you are reviewing today.

Adam Jespersen read the following letter:



As Pam said, my name is Adam Jespersen and among Intermountain staff, I have probably worked the closest with Flathead County staff in completing this Environmental Assessment. As you are most likely aware, Flathead County received multiple responses from the public during the initial public review period of the Environmental Assessment for Providence Home. Both Intermountain and Flathead County have carefully reviewed all the public remarks that were received and have had conversations with interested parties to ensure that we have an accurate understanding of their remarks.

In response to this public input, Intermountain and Flathead County have made a change to the project itself and have also made revisions to the Environmental Assessment that reflect additional analysis and research that was completed in response to public remarks.

I would like to provide you with a brief overview of the changes and revisions that have been made to the project and to the Environmental Assessment. It is our hope that this additional work provides a sufficient response to the remarks submitted by the public.

Project Changes:

The one change that Intermountain has made to the project itself has been to move the actual building envelope of Providence Home further north and east on our property to increase the home's setback from the neighboring Blasdel Wildfowl Production Area from approximately 150 feet to a minimum of 325 feet. The Blasdel WPA borders the bulk of Intermountain's south and west property lines. There was no statute requiring a certain setback from the WPA and in fact, multiple homes that also border the Blasdel WPA are sited significantly closer to the WPA than was the proposed Providence Home location. However, based on their "Recommendation for Subdivision Development," Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks recommended a minimum setback of 300' to mitigate any potential impacts of the home to recreationists using the WPA. Intermountain has heeded the recommendation of FWP and has re-sited the home's building footprint so that at its nearest point, the home will be 325' from the Blasdel WPA. The revised Environmental Assessment includes civil site drawings detailing the new location of Providence Home within our property.

FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

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EA Revisions:

Intermountain and Flathead County have also made some substantive changes to sections of the Environmental Assessment based on additional research and analysis that has been done in response to public remarks. These additions include:

- Further analysis of any possible impact to either groundwater or surface water,
- Detailed specifications of both the home's permitted septic system and water well,
- Further details outlining the home's storm water management plan and
- Further analysis of alternatives to the proposed project and their benefits and deficiencies.

Also, Intermountain and Flathead County have added a separate Cumulative Impact Analysis that encapsulates not only the environmental impact of this project, but also attempts to quantify the impacts of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in a one-mile radius of the project site and how this particular project adds to or mitigates those impacts.

As a nonprofit agency with a mission to address a critical community need, Intermountain is appreciative of the feedback provided by the public. By joining with Flathead County back in 2011 to accomplish this project, Intermountain not only partnered with county staff and with you the county commissioners, we also partnered with the people of Flathead County. It is our sincere hope that these revisions to the Environmental Assessment have addressed all of the points raised by the public during the initial comment period.

We are also eager to reiterate that Intermountain has no intention of developing its property to the point that it has a deleterious impact on either the physical environment or the rural, communal feel of the surrounding neighborhood. The footprint and impact of this home is essentially little more than that of a large single-family home, and the home itself has been designed to visually integrate within the rural surroundings of the neighborhood.

As Pam said, we thank you for your partnership with us in completing this vital community project and thank you for allowing us time this morning to bring you up to speed regarding the revised Environmental Assessment.

Grieve reported public comment was received from two non-profit agencies, one agency and one member of the public from the original Environmental Assessment. He explained the revised Environmental Assessment has a substantial amount of information in it, and noted there were revisions to the project itself as a result of John Vore's comment from Montana Fish Wildlife and Park regarding the additional setback. He stated other comments received regarding safety have all been addressed by beefing up the Environmental Assessment which Adam summarized. In addition, Grieve added revisions made to the EA were made to the project scope as addressed in the EA. Within the original EA there were some inconsistencies; when the project was first envisioned in 2011 and from the time the first EA was finalized the scope of the project was being narrowed and all the details pertaining to that have been refined out. There were also minor concerns raised regarding the distance between Kalispell and Somers that are addressed in Exhibit 2M as well as all the appendices. Grieve stated as the Environmental Certifying Officer for Flathead County he noted he did sign Exhibit 2M on May 2, 2014.

Pierson presented an overview of the timeline. She noted the updated EA was signed on May 2, 2014 and on May 12, 2014 it was posted on the county webpage in order to be accessible for public review; a hard copy is available in the Commissioners' Office as well as the Planning & Zoning Office. She stated the request today is for authorization to publish the FONSI/ NOI/ RROF that will be published in the Daily Inter Lake and Missoulian. It will also be mailed out to any interested party who has expressed an interest along the way along with required federal and state local agencies. She reviewed the following acronyms: FONSI (finding of no significant impact); NOI (notice of intent to request release); RROF (request for release of funds). There will be a public comment period again she stated, and following that public comment period will come the request for release of funds from CDBG; depending on what happens in the public comment period.

Commissioner Holmquist stated she visited the Intermountain site in Helena and reported it was an inspiration to see what is being done at these facilities; it's amazing, and I think this will be a great project for Flathead County and I fully support it.

Commissioner Scott said this is an exemplary example of community enterprise to serve a dire need in the Flathead Valley. He stated I commend all of you for your more than diligent and very hard work over a long period of time.

Commissioner Scott made a **motion** to authorize publication of the notice of EA Findings & CDBG RROF/ Intermountain Providence Home. Commissioner Krueger **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF CDBG FUNDS (FONSI/NOI/RROF)

Flathead County Commissioners Office
800 South Main Street, Room 302
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-5501

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or before June 16, 2014 the above-named County will request the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the following project: construction of Providence Home, a therapeutic youth group home, in connection with Intermountain Children's Home. The project site will be seven miles north of Somers, in Flathead County, MT.

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reason for the decision not to prepare such a Statement is as follows:

- After careful environmental review, it has been determined that the project will not have any significant impact on the environment.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by Flathead County. This Environmental Review can be viewed at: <https://flathead.mt.gov/commissioner/intermtnea.php> or is on file at the Flathead County Commissioners Office (above address) and is available for public examination between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. If a complete copy of the document is requested, it will be provided on disk to the requestee for a fee of \$1.00. per copy.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

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Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Flathead County Board of Commissioners, 800 South Main Street, Room 302, Kalispell, MT 59901 on or before June 9, 2014. All such comments so received will be considered and Flathead County will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to June 16, 2014.

Release of Funds

Flathead County will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by MDOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Flathead County is certifying to MDOC that BJ Grieve, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, Flathead County may use the CDBG funds and MDOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by MDOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by MDOC. No objection received after July 2, 2014 will be considered by MDOC.

By/s/BJ Grieve
BJ Grieve, Flathead County Planning Director & Environmental Certifying Officer

By/s/Pamela J. Holmquist
Pamela J. Holmquist, Chairman
Flathead County Board of Commissioners

Flathead County Commissioners Office
800 South Main St, Room 302
Kalispell, MT 59901

Publish on May 18, 2014 in the Daily Interlake and Missoulian.

5:30 p.m. Commissioner Holmquist: Swan Valley & Salish Mountain National Forest Plan Revision meeting @ Flathead National Forest Service Office

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on May 14, 2014.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014

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

- 10:30 a.m. Commissioners' Workshop for MACo Conference**
- 11:00 a.m. County Attorney meeting @ Co. Atty's Office**
- 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Holmquist & Commissioner Scott: Hungry Horse and North Fork National Forest Plan Revision meeting @ Flathead National Forest Service Office**

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on May 15, 2014.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014

Audiofile

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

COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET WORKSHOP

8:30:00 AM
Present: Chairperson Pamela J. Holmquist, Commissioner Calvin L. Scott, Commissioner Gary D. Krueger, Assistant Mike Pence, Finance Director Sandy Carlson, Finance Technician Amy Dexter, Finance Technician Tamara Helmstetler, Clerk Kile

Carlson presented a brief overview of the following preliminary tax levy requirement schedule with the commission.