

Notice: These minutes are paraphrased and reflect the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners. MCA 7-4-2611(2) (b).

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

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

1:00 p.m. Commissioner Holmquist: Flathead River Flood Level Working Group meeting @ OES

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on April 14, 2015.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

Audiofile

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

Chairperson Holmquist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE: REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY/ COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE AND WEED & PARKS DEPARTMENT

9:30:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Clerk Kile

Chairperson Holmquist read into the record the surplus item from the Commissioners' Office is a Buick to be transferred to FECC.

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to approve the document for signature. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Holmquist read into the record the surplus items from Weed & Parks are obsolete items and a vehicle to go to auction.

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to approve the document for signature. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF DMV REFUND: BEV KERZMAN

9:32:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Clerk Kile

Chairperson Holmquist stated for the record the applicant only uses the motorcycle on private property, therefore it does not need to be registered. Kerzman is requesting a refund of \$66.25.

Commissioner Mitchell made a **motion** to approve a refund of \$66.25. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion.

Chairperson Holmquist noted for the record she would abstain from voting as the applicant is a relative.

Motion carried by quorum.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION: LIFT LOAD LIMITS ON SELECT ROADS

9:35:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Clerk Kile

Prunty reported the Road Department has been watching the roads carefully, and at this point in time the request is to pull off roads in Lakeside, Somers, Bigfork, the Lower Valley area and the east side of the valley towards the canyon; certain roads in those areas may have been left on due to what they have observed. The areas where the load limits will stay on are in the Columbia Falls and Whitefish vicinity where a significant amount of water is still being seen. This list is more selective than we have ever been since my career in lifting limits.

Commissioner Mitchell made a **motion** to approve Resolution 2399A. Chairperson Holmquist **seconded** the motion.

Commissioner Krueger expressed his concern with sections of roads having limits on them and others with limits off in the valley floor; that is going to create confusion, and I think they should be all left on for another week or later when the majority of the valley floor can come off.

Prunty said if the commission chooses to go down that path they certainly may, yet the Road Department is receiving a lot of phone calls from citizens who want the load limits off the roads.

Chairperson Holmquist said I think this is our normal procedure to take a few roads off at a time.

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Prunty said typically they have been able to come in and lift load limits on the vast majority of the valley floor, but this year my guess is I think we are seeing multiple years of above normal precipitation and that might be adding to our issues this year of why some roads look worse than other.

Commissioner Krueger said this will cause confusion as you will come up to a road where a sign will be taken off. Then they will get to a road with no place to go but onto a road that still has load limits on it, and there is no place to turn around at the end of the road to avoid a violation; this is going to make violators out of people that would not normally be violators.

Prunty stated it would be the haulers responsibility to know where he is headed. I understand it would be easier if the limits were on all roads. The way the roads were chosen is by roads within the area that they felt were ready to go.

Commissioner Krueger explained if you go up Stillwater Road that has a 350 lb. weight limit on it and you hit Church Drive there is no place to go that doesn't become a violation.

Prunty said it is the haulers responsibility to know their hauling route.

Commissioner Krueger said it is somewhat our responsibility to recognize those things, and Stillwater Road should not have the load limits taken off. Some that use the road may be out of town folks hauling freight for farms and ranches in that area.

Commissioner Mitchell asked Prunty what his wish would be.

Prunty said this year is different as typically they come in and remove limits off the valley floor. He explained Commissioner Krueger is right in that a hauler could run into a road that has a limit on it. They are attempting to open up what they can as some trucks could haul with what is proposed. People understand yet they want the limits pulled off when they can be pulled off.

Commissioner Mitchell said his concern is if we don't approve this today and wait two more weeks that they would be out almost three weeks for the haulers.

Commissioner Krueger said what I see in looking at the roads if we don't pull them off all the valley floor roads or a section of the valley floor uniformly then we really haven't pulled them off period. I don't know how you would get to some of these roads, as we have roads in between roads where there is a load limit and it is going to cause confusion for enforcement.

Chairperson Holmquist said there may be some areas affected and there may be many that are not affected in that way where they can do some hauling.

Commissioner Krueger said his personal opinion right now in looking at some of the roads in his area is that basically no hauling will happen in the area because it doesn't allow any hauling out of any gravel pits in his area; there is no place they can go because every road that they would use has got a load limit still. He further explained a scenario whereby lifting limits in that area would not be helpful.

Prunty noted Schellinger Construction last week paid multiple \$500 fees to move their crusher in order to get it to a job. They were told if they waited until next week they wouldn't have to pay the fees, yet they couldn't wait.

Commissioner Krueger said if we are going to go to this type of method we need to go to maybe four quadrants of the valley and say this area is open, except for one or two roads, and this area whether it be the whole West Valley, etc. that could be something that would work better.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if something could be brought before them next week with quadrants on it.

Prunty said it would take a while to put it together and all the while they have citizens wanting to go back to work. Next week I hope to remove them from the entire valley floor.

Aye – Holmquist and Mitchell. **Opposed** – Krueger. Motion carried by quorum.

This document (Resolution 2399A) can be seen in its entirety in the Clerk & Records' Office.

CONSIDERATION OF H.R. TRANSMITTAL: FTE CHANGE – LIBRARY ADVISOR

9:51:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Library Director Kim Crowley, Clerk Kile

Crowley summarized the FTE change to split two positions, which will be a budget savings for the Library.

Commissioner Mitchell made a **motion** to approve the H.R. Transmittal to change the FTE for Library Advisors. Commissioner Krueger **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BI-MONTHLY MEETING W/ KIM CROWLEY, LIBRARY

9:51:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Library Director Kim Crowley, Clerk Kile

Crowley summarized the following letter pertaining to Imagine IF Library receiving the Montana Library Association's Library of the Year award.

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(Continued)



PO Box 201800 1515 East 6th Avenue Helena, MT 59620 (406) 444-3115

April 10, 2015

It is an honor to introduce the 2015 Montana Library Association's Library of the Year. As you know, Kim, this library holds a special place for me, especially because of a little, old family cabin on Flathead Lake, not too many miles from the library that is a very special place for me and my family.

ImagineIF Libraries offers a prime example of outstanding library development among libraries statewide. The consistent, unwavering focus of this library system's programs and outreach is the benefit to the end user. That focus, evident in ImagineIF's wide variety of services and programs, has resulted in vibrant partnerships between the ImagineIF libraries and their local communities, meeting the needs of local citizens.

Dillon Tabish, Flathead Beacon reporter, says this of ImagineIF Libraries: "Planted in the heart of Kalispell, the library and its staff have found a way to thrive with modern innovation in a 95-year-old building. Despite working under limited budgets and ballooning visitation, our local library has adapted to the modern world, offering a new generation of tech-savvy consumers the opportunity to explore and discover new ideas without losing any of the classic elements that lie at the heart of any good public library."

From Susie Burch, Executive Director, Economic Development and Continuing Education at the Flathead Valley Community College: "ImagineIF customers, staff and board members are excited about the exploration, connections and creation happening in our libraries. ImagineIF Libraries' Strategic Framework articulates a dynamic vision of exploration, connection and creation for the community. By word and deed they are delivering on this vision..."

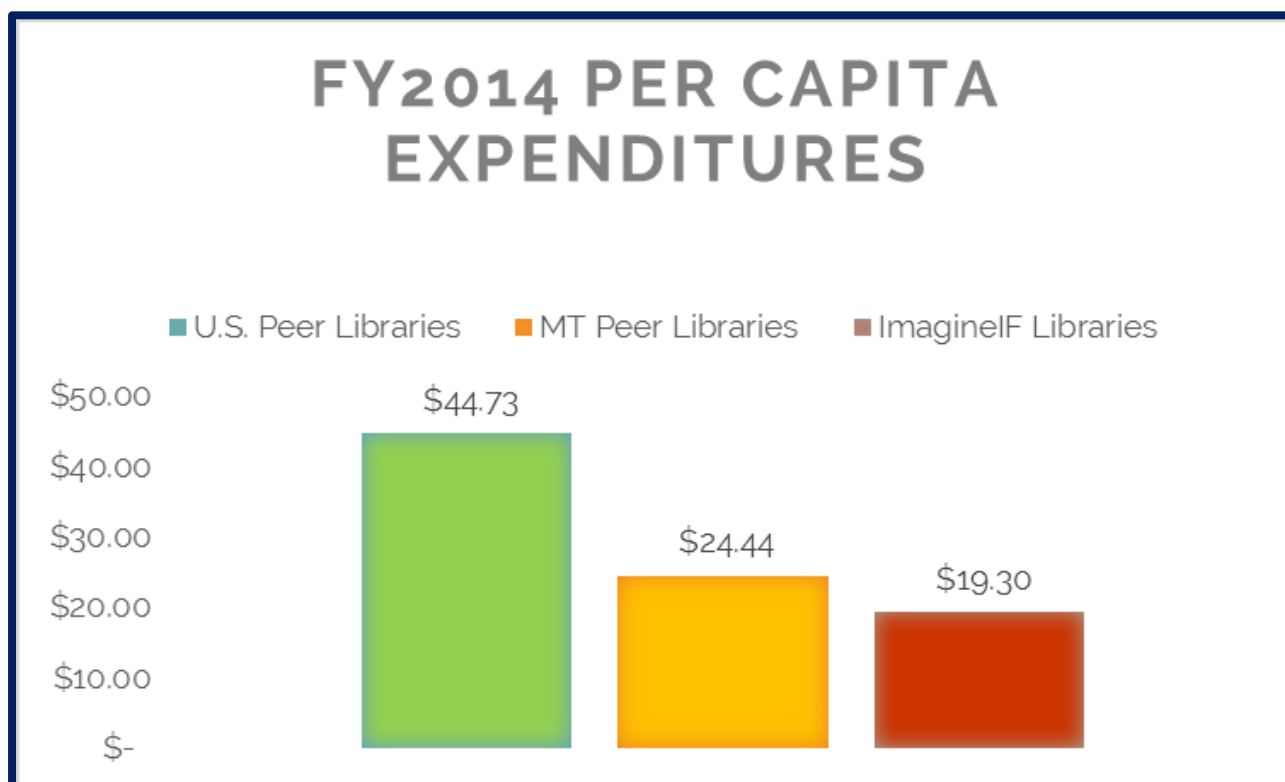
Resource sharing, use of emerging technologies and library development are at the center of the Montana State Library's Statewide Library Resources Division. The libraries in the ImagineIF system embrace these efforts. Director Kim Crowley and her staff have literally been in "on the ground floor" of several major MSL flagship projects, sharing their time and talent during the initial implementation stages and continuing to provide guidance as these projects grow and evolve.

ImagineIF Kalispell and branches are all founding members of the Montana Shared Catalog, MontanaLibrary2Go, and the continuing statewide courier effort. Kim, the ImagineIF staff and the board understand the enormous benefits to Montana library users of direct access to shared collections and shared user privileges. ImagineIF helped to create the MSC Partner user sharing group, which established standardized circulation policies that ensure a consistent end user experience at all MSC Partner participating libraries. The quality of the MontanaLibrary2Go collection, the evolving reach of the Montana Courier Alliance and the growing depth and scope of the Montana Memory Project are also positively impacted by ImagineIF's involvement, bringing benefit to all libraries participating in these ongoing projects. In addition, ImagineIF is a leader in the emerging Maker Space culture.

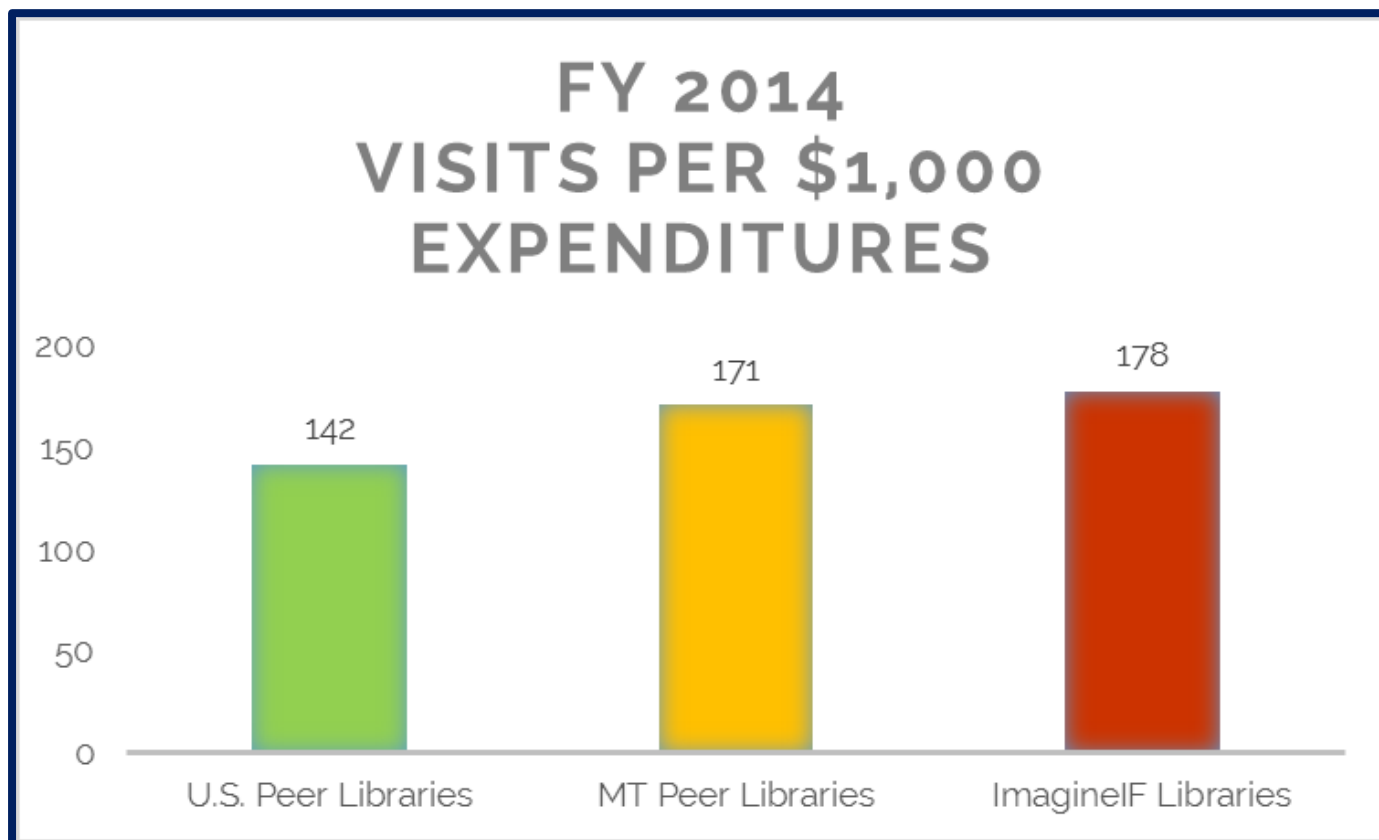
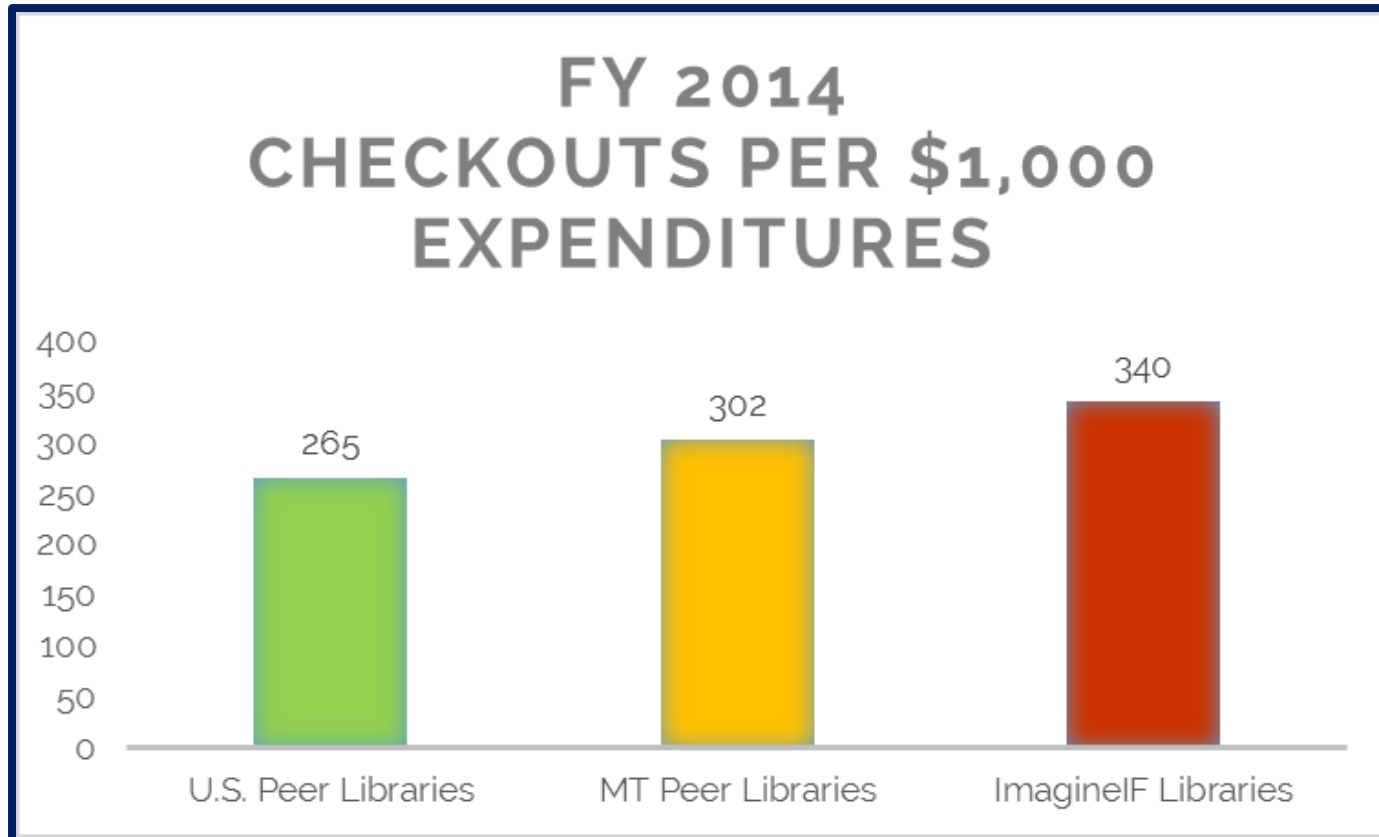
ImagineIF Libraries shine as they continually strive to better serve their local communities, their region and their state. We are so fortunate to have this innovative library in our midst. Congratulations to everyone who is part of this library: Kim, the library staff, the board, and this library's users, as you receive the 2015 MLA Library of the Year award.

Presented by:
Sarah McHugh
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library

Crowley further summarized the following workload indicator statistics report and spoke about the remodel project for the Columbia Falls Library.



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(Continued)



QUARTERLY MEETING W/ JACK EGGENSPERGER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

10:05:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools Jack Eggensperger, Clerk Kile

Eggensperger summarized the following quarterly report with the commission.

FLATHEAD COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- Brought school district administrators together for the school year 2015-16 calendar-planning meeting--the goal is for all school districts to align vacations as closely as possible, most importantly, spring break
- Coordinated the school closures due to weather that occurred January 5-6 and answered numerous questions from districts regarding rescheduling of cancelled days
- Worked with law enforcement in notifying school districts regarding the school threat that occurred on February 16. Also worked with sheriff's department on updating contact information for the outlying districts
- Worked closely with one of the districts regarding a septic issue, personnel issues, and various financial issues, attending Board meetings and meeting numerous times in my office with trustees
- Performed 2nd semester teacher observation and evaluation at Pleasant Valley Elementary
- Conducted the annual county-wide spelling bee at Glacier High School for 5-8th graders (26 schools participated)
- Researched several inquiries regarding property location for tax purposes
- Sent updated list of home school students (351 home schools/641 students) to resident district schools
- Sent paper order forms to rural schools, cooperatives, private schools, county offices, city offices (December); put order out to bid (February); awarded bids in March; partially filled some orders; majority of delivery due later in April
- Sent forms out to all schools for third enrollment count required by state in February for budgeting process—figuring the ANB—forms returned and entered in Office of Public Instruction data base (Maefairs)---reconciled with a second, teacher-entered, state data base (AIM)

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- Tracked bus inspections for 2nd semester and entered on OPI site
- Collected, submitted electronically, and filed bus driver certificates-ongoing
- Approved first semester transportation payments for busing districts—county pays half; state pays half (Schools' claims for transportation funds must reconcile with the routes they had approved by the County Transportation Committee in July and with forms submitted to the state.) Caught and corrected mistakes on claims for four districts that had not taken into account the school closure dates
- Reconciled first semester individual transportation contracts with state report (county pays half; state half)
- Continued accounting services for five rural schools and two cooperatives on Black Mountain school accounting software
- Processed and distributed approximately 250 employee W-2's for rural schools and cooperatives as part of accounting services
- Conducted background checks for schools—paperwork and fingerprinting; sent print cards and paperwork to DOJ; notified applicants of results, disseminated results to school districts and updated substitute list
- Recorded findings from schools' audit reports that are submitted to the County Superintendent for FY ending June 30, 2014; assisted districts with resolution of issues
- Registered teacher and administrator certificates--ongoing
- Completed E-Grant work for Pleasant Valley School District
- Began process of Hawkins Trust Fund scholarship applications; sent letters, criteria, applications to high school counselors; scholarship applications due in the office April 20; meeting scheduled for April 30
- Hosted monthly finance meetings for two cooperatives for which the office serves as fiscal host--the Northwest Montana Educational Service Agency and the Flathead Special Education Cooperative)
- Attended monthly meetings of Northwest Montana Association of School Superintendents, Flathead County Special Education Cooperative, Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative, Flathead Crossroads Program (elem. ED youngsters), Flathead Better Beginnings Consortium
- Attended State Association of County Superintendents spring conference in Helena
- Participated in seven county training seminars plus two others
- Made 24 school visitations to 13 different schools, including 15 school board meetings
- Worked closely with County Health Department on dissemination of information to school districts regarding potential disease outbreaks
- Working with West Glacier Trustees and staff on planning a Building Reserve Levy to address deferred maintenance issues and hiring new teaching staff
- Took over coordination of the Gold Star Teacher award program with area superintendents and KCFW television
- Updated performance measures and workload indicators; formulated FY 2016 budget
- Gathered necessary information and conducted CTC votes on two bus route changes (Kalispell, Bigfork)

COS REVIEW: STIMPSON

10:15:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Planner Rachel Ezell, Ardis Larsen, Clerk Kile

Ezell reported Larsen Engineering submitted a letter of appeal on behalf of the property owner, Kim and Kelly Stimpson for a family transfer request at 44 Blaine Lakeshore Drive on the east side of Lake Blaine on 5.8 acres. Four parcels, three exempt and one remainder have been created by family transfers to date. The proposal is to create four additional lots for the Stimpson family daughters.

Commissioner Mitchell made a **motion** to approve the COS review for the Stimpson family transfer. Commissioner Krueger **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MONTHLY MEETING W/ ELIZABETH BROOKS, FECC DIRECTOR; NIKKI STEPHAN, OES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNER; LINCOLN CHUTE, FIRE SERVICES AREA MANAGER

10:31:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Assistant Mike Pence, Sheriff Chuck Curry, FECC Director Elizabeth Brooks, OES Emergency Management Planner Nikki Stephan, Fire Services Area Manager Lincoln Chute, Clerk Kile

Brooks reviewed the following statistics and activities at Flathead 911 Emergency Communications Center.

DISPATCH

- All lines March 2015 – 9,429
- All lines March 2014 – 8,992
- Increase all lines – 437

- 911 only calls March 2015 – 2,473
- 911 only calls March 2014 – 2,184

- Trainees have completed EMD
- Continuing education training for Dispatchers
- National Dispatch Appreciation week April 12-18

IT/GIS

- New World Hardware/ Server Refresh (CIP project)
- Exposing Jamin, Wireless Technician to more of the IT Technology with training
- Increasing the level of documentation of the network and procedures

COMMUNICATIONS

- Columbia Falls microwave is up and working well
- Working on area FCC licenses
- Updating programming
- Working on wrapping up BIDP grant

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Stephans reviewed activities at the Office of Emergency Services that included the following meeting and exercises attended.

OES

- Exercise Update
- Disaster Emergency Service (DES) Coordinators Workshop and Meeting
- Grant Workshop
- Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC)
- Northwest Montana Type III Incident Management Team (NWMIMT)
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Budget Administration Reviews
- Montana District 1 Meeting
- Flathead River Flood Level Working Group
- Northwest Montana Fair
- Whitefish Stage Mitigation Project

Chute spoke about snowpack in the mountains and summarized the wildland prediction outlook for this summer; spoke about fire training classes for fire districts; reported work is continuing with the Clerk and Records' Office pertaining to procedures to follow if a fire event occurred at the Records Preservation building; spoke about consulting work with the Sheriff's Office pertaining to chemical use.

OPEN BIDS: SWAN RIVER ROAD PATH

11:00:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Assistant Mike Pence, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, Planner Rachel Ezell, Ryan Mitchell, Toni Chaffin, John Cernick, Mitchell Hill, Clerk Kile

Bids were received with bid bonds enclosed from.

	<u>BASE BID</u>	<u>ALT BID</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Watson Excavating, Inc.	\$212,160.00	\$112,350.00	\$324,510.00
Downing Construction, Inc.	\$221,967.00	\$119,980.00	\$341,980.00
AGC, Inc.	\$234,124.00	\$124,810.00	\$356,934.00
Knife River	\$275,705.00	\$126,360.00	\$402,065.00
Sandry Construction, Inc.	\$201,031.00	\$ 97,003.00	\$298,034.00
LHC, Inc.	\$238,323.40	\$119,052.61	\$357,376.01

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to take the bids under advisement. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENT: COMPENSATION BOARD

11:08:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Assistant Mike Pence, Clerk Kile

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to appoint Thomas Kurdy to the Compensation Board. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH CALL FOR BIDS: 2015 DUST COST SHARE PROGRAM

11:09:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Assistant Mike Pence, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Clerk Kile

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to authorize publication for the 2015 Dust Cost Share Program. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Flathead County, Montana, will receive sealed bids for construction of:

2015 Dust Cost Share Program

All sealed bids, plainly marked "SEALED BID – 2015 Dust Cost Share Program" must be in the hands of the County Clerk and Recorder, 800 South Main, Room 302, Kalispell, MT, 59901, on or before 4:00 p.m., local time, May 1, 2015. Bids will be opened and read on May 4, 2015 at 11 a.m., in the Commissioner's Office at the County Courthouse.

The project consists of placing dust suppressant throughout the Flathead County Roadway System.

The Bid will consist of placing approximately 242,750 linear feet of magnesium chloride and watering (as required) to existing roadways, assumed at 24 feet wide. An additional 132,928 lineal feet may be added if the Secure Rural Schools funding is authorized.

Various roadways will be receiving dust control improvements in Flathead County, and the Contractor should be prepared to mobilize equipment on a daily basis.

All Bids must be in accordance with the Contract Documents on file with the Flathead County Road & Bridge Department, 1249 Willow Glen Drive, Kalispell, Montana, (406) 758-5790

Copies of the Contract Documents for use in preparing Bids may be obtained from Flathead County Road Department at the address stipulated above upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 for each set of documents including drawings.

A prebid conference will be held at the office of Flathead County Road Department, commencing at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Those interested in bidding the project are encouraged to attend this meeting.

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Bids will be received on a price basis as described in the Contract Documents. Bid security in the amount of 10 percent of the total Bid must accompany each Bid.

Within 10 calendar days after the Notice of Award, the successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond guaranteeing faithful performance and the payment of all bills and obligations arising from the performance of the contract. The bonds will each be equal to 100 percent of the contract amount.

Work at the site is to commence within 10 calendar days after the written Notice to Proceed is issued. Completion of the work is required within Twenty One (21) consecutive calendar days following commencement of work. The project includes liquidated damages that will be assessed as set forth in the Special Provisions per calendar day if the work is not complete within the allotted contract time.

Each bidder will be required to be registered with the State of Montana, Department of Labor and Industry prior to bidding this project. Forms for registration are available from the Department of Labor and Industry, P.O. Box 8011, 1805 Prospect, Helena, Montana 59604-8011. Information on registration can be obtained by calling (406) 444-7734. All laborers and mechanics employed by Contractor or subcontractor in performance of the construction work shall be paid prevailing wages at rates as may be required by the laws of Flathead (County) and the state of Montana.

Flathead County will withhold a 1% gross receipts tax to be forwarded to the State of Montana.

No Bid may be withdrawn within a period of 60 days after the date for opening bids.

Flathead County reserves the right to reject all Bids, to waive informalities, and to reject nonconforming, irregular, non-responsive or conditional Bids.

Flathead County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DATED this 13th day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Flathead County, Montana

ATTEST:
Debbie Pierson, Clerk

By/s/Pamela J. Holmquist
Pamela J. Holmquist, Chairman

By/s/Diana Kile
Diana Kile, Deputy

Publish on April 18 and April 25, 2015.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATIONAL FUNDING: FAIRGROUNDS

11:10:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner Gary Krueger, Commissioner Philip Mitchell, Assistant Mike Pence, Fairground Operations Manager Mark Campbell, Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina, Finance Director Sandy Carlson, Butch Woolard, Clerk Kile

Campbell reported the Fair Board approved a motion to request consideration from the commission for supplemental operating funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the FY-2016 budget process for the purpose of allowing free admission to all guests and participants during the 2015 N.W. Montana Fair as a celebration of 100 years of Flathead County operating the fair event. The Fair Board feels this recognition will re-engage the Flathead Valley with the annual N.W. Montana Fair & Rodeo while generating increased revenue in food/beverage sales, parking receipts, grandstand events and carnival participation. Campbell pointed out in review of recent fairs that the last time the gate fee was changed was in 2009 with a decrease for seniors and children.

Chairperson Holmquist said I agree the fair is a very important part of our community that I support whole heartedly; yet on the other hand we also have financial assistance going to the fairgrounds to tighten up how money is handled at the fair with the Finance Departments assistance. I would be a little bit reluctant to change anything until we have a year's perspective from the Finance Department as to how exactly things are working. I know we are projecting a \$92,000 shortfall – I think; this year if I have my figures right. As you look at the numbers in FY-14 the gate revenue was \$120,825; FY-15 budgeted was \$145,000, and now I guess we are projecting \$87,000 which is the figure I have. Actually gate costs for FY-14 were \$25,247 so if you take the gate revenue and gate cost for FY-14 which is a done year with actual numbers you actually have the gate making money. I am hesitant to take that away when that is one area where we are actually making a pretty good amount – around \$95,000 once we pay the cost of running the gate. Then we start comparing other fairs that we received information on, and as I was looking at that it seems we are trying to compare apples to oranges, because every fair is a whole lot different. Not only how they do their fair, but the operations and what they have for additional income; some fairs don't have supplemental income. I think we are trying to compare something that we can't compare; we need to concentrate more on what is happening here and to know what is happening we need more information from the Finance Department as we go through another fair cycle. As far as a free gate, I don't think I can support that; unless somebody says something here today that I can change my mind. I understand it is our 100th year and it would be nice to have some sort of promotion.

Commissioner Krueger said first of all I think every member of the Fair Board really appreciates the information being brought before them through the partnership they have with the Finance Department. If they would have known before they could have had the assistance they would have been asking. The information Finance Director Sandy Carlson has brought forward is very important and is very telling of our fair compared to other fairs. Across the state about 2.16 mills is what is used to fund other fairs on average; Flathead County is at 1.7 mills of which they have tried to earmark for infrastructure and CIP programs. The last two years they have been running short of that to about \$55,000 to \$72,000 I believe you said, and we are projected to be short this year. If we use the current gate fees for next year in our budgeting we will be short again. You do the same thing two years in a row we are going to end up with the very same outcome. Next year we will be projecting \$75,000 in shortfall. Doing the budgeting that Flathead County has asked us to do at the fair where we are asked to have a balanced budget, and to do that we have had to use numbers that have increased those gate fees and have done away with a number of the free gate fees to classes. Next year the budget is projected and the gate fees will be changed to \$7 and \$4 and that will be what is used to budget this year. There are other increases throughout the whole programs to make our revenues budget neutral. In that if we were to keep our gate fees the same we would have a \$72,000 to \$75,000 shortfall, which gave us a unique opportunity this year to look at if we kept them the same or if we just offered free gate fees plus all of the recouped dollars that we expend towards collecting fees we could offer a free gate on a one time deal.

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(Continued)

That would meet our budgeting goals that we are trying to meet with that \$75,000. That would give us the opportunity to see just how many people will come to a fair without uninhibited costs. After visiting with Mark Blasdel, he believes that there are a number of people that will come to a fair just to eat, but are deterred because of the gate fee. He believes there would be increases in food vendors, the carnival and other categories to make their budget be what they would like it to be. The Fair Board is somewhat split on this and is ready to go either way. Another thing that enters into this is reorganization. We are going to be having new staff starting in the near future and not having the gate fee would also allow us to have some time to bring that in and not have to do quite as much work this year on managing gate fees and stuff like that. Right now we use a temporary employment agency and when we hire through those services we pay 1 ½ times what we are paying that employee; there could be a savings that would be brought about by managing those employees in-house. I believe we are starting to do that. The Election Department employees (election judges) are all managed in-house; that could be an additional savings to the fair. However, I don't know that we want to take on all the additional work with new staff coming on board. This would allow us the opportunity to see how many people would come to the fair, so maybe a year from now we would not have to go to \$7 and \$4 a head, because we see through promotion of our fair that we can start projecting a few of those will come back and that will allow us to keep lower gate fees. That is why I support this; however, I will support whatever the decision is on this.

Commissioner Mitchell said this is a hard one and there are some things I can't talk about because of budget issues we are dealing with. Up until a couple months ago, I don't think we have had real numbers to deal with. We are moving along and trying to figure out what our costs are. I have come up with besides the \$280,000 or \$282,000 additional costs beyond that that the county is putting in of around \$156,000 this year. Parts of that are benefits and part of that is going to be Finance Directors Sandy's time and some personnel issues. I do want you to know that we are spending more than \$282,000 for capital and they can use it anyway they want. As I looked through this with Sandy two huge things came out of this for me as I read through this. They are having Finance Department employees doing the banking and they are having the runners have temporary gate agencies for workers instead of hiring people. I think it is important that no paid personnel will be running gates; back country horseman run the gates and boy scouts run parking. I think that is something you can look into. In Ravalli County they tried to get a special levy passed to get a no gate fee and that failed fairly substantially. As we give more money to the fairgrounds it is tax money and it is my responsibility to try to use the taxpayer's money as reasonable as possible. I think there are a couple things going on here. We do have money to cover our expenses right now with the mills we give to the fair; it just means they will have less to go into their CIP. That doesn't bother me too much. Just coming onto the board this year it seems like I have heard a lot about the fair for a long time how things are not going real well, and I think we are trying to fix a lot of things in one year. I came up with a possible different solution for this. That you do increase gate fees to \$7 and \$4 and then possibly do a free one day at the fair; that would be a compromise. In essence it is not free to run the fair every day, there is a cost involved. I have no problem with the CIP if some of it goes toward operating expenses and the CIP is extended out further. My understanding is we are already doing quite a bit with fixing water and sewer lines and the roof. It isn't like we are not doing anything to the fairgrounds. There are a number of people in the county that don't care about the fairgrounds at all and we have to respect those people too. I do care about the fairgrounds. Right now I am not in favor of giving money to the fairgrounds and would like to continue to look at operations this next year and see where we are at. We do have a lot of capital improvements going in this year that are being worked on right now. Part of the frustration of the Fair Board might be that we are not progressing fast enough and to progress faster takes tax money. I am struggling with that right now.

Commissioner Krueger said first of all there was a comparison made to Ravalli County Fair and the CIP. Ravalli County has a loan for \$650,000 and a levy for \$1.6 million for their infrastructure; Lewis and Clark has a levy that pays for their infrastructure needs; Gallatin has used CTEP to build some trails and their needs will be bonded. I believe Missoula is doing some bonding consideration. Right now we are putting \$289,000 towards our CIP. In addition to those ones I mentioned Gallatin County funds their fair \$400,000 and that is in addition to part of insurance needs, etc. Yellowstone is metro so I hate to use that one; yet it is \$2.6 million that they fund from taxpayers. Lewis and Clark County is \$400,000, Missoula County is \$300,000 and Ravalli County with a fair that is about 25,000 to 30,000 attendees is \$138,000 plus those loans that I mentioned. We are \$289,000 in CIP and \$90,000 it looks like in our general. If you take those numbers and take the \$90,000 and look at the return compared to Gallatin; the return for the \$400,000 that Gallatin puts forth is \$1.75. If you look at Yellowstone their \$2.6 million returns them about 73 ¢. Lewis and Clark puts in \$400,000 of taxpayers' dollars and the return is \$500,000 for a return of \$1.25 on their investment. Flathead County for its \$90,000 that we put towards operations gets \$8.12. If you add in our dollars for our CIP we are \$1.92 and are still the highest. So you see our fair is well run and our board has been doing a good job in running it. We return a lot of dollars to that. These numbers that we are using don't include also the numbers that we have generated for rental of our facilities. When you look at our return on our investment that we put into the fair we are in fact a great deal. When my numbers come to about \$3.00 for every dollar we put in of taxpayer dollars. When you can return that much through revenues that come to us, plus the revenue brought to businesses of Flathead County because we offer a great boat show or a great fair. There are dollars that come over here for our rodeo that could be going to Gallatin or other counties. If we can advertise the gate fee across the mountains into the country that loves to come to our rodeos we can increase the number of people that come here and eat our food. These aren't citizens of Flathead County; these are outside taxpayers that would come here and spend and actually return dollars to our tax base. That is why I have the passion I have for this fair and where it can go. I will support either way whether we want to increase the gate fees or go this other route; however, I do believe the promotion of Flathead County and its fair is the better mode for a one year deal. Let's see what we can get here and that will give us a block of numbers that we will never see any other way.

Chairperson Holmquist said we have had some really good discussion and you can take that back to the board and if any of them would like to meet with us individually I think that would be a good idea. Maybe discuss more in-depth with each commissioner if they want to.

Commissioner Krueger said we have to have a consideration, because if we decide to not do the \$75,000 influx the Fair Board has to be advertising.

Chairperson Holmquist said we don't make the decision on the budget until we have everyone come before us.

Commissioner Krueger said I understand that and that is why this was brought forward. We have to have a decision so we can advertise if we are going to go to an increased gate fee. Our book has got to be published.

Chairperson Holmquist said I think that decision is up to the Fair Board at this point. I don't know that it is up to us. We have control over the \$75,000 that you want and are proposing for them to supplement. I think you have gotten actually almost three different answers to that.

Campbell stated that he has.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015
(Continued)

Commissioner Mitchell said I think you should increase the gate fee to \$7.00 and should have one day free for the 100th year and should do half price of \$4.00 that Commissioner Krueger was talking about. We need to work with Finance Director Sandy Carlson through the fair and budgets. We are struggling with the fair and how it is run, and I think we have found a way to move along and I am very proud of that. We are trying to do that; it is costing us money to get there and we are spending it in our general fund in a number of ways. You do have support, and I think if CIP drags out further I don't really care. The other thing I brought up was that I read through this and there are volunteer groups that might want to help at the fairgrounds to run the gates that will give you more revenue from not hiring temporary help. I spoke to Sandy this morning and she told me our county was one of the few that had so much temporary help during the fair. I support the fair 100 percent and want it left the way it is, and I want it to improve each year with capital stuff. We need to fix our operations a little bit and we seem to be moving there. There is some pains with it that I think are going to be there and I hope we have a much better picture next year.

Commissioner Krueger made a **motion** to commit \$75,000 to cover any shortfall that might be needed for offering a free gate. Commissioner Mitchell **seconded** the motion to discussion.

Commissioner Mitchell said Gary we talked about this at our retreat where we were not going to give any more money to the fair. We talked about it for over an hour and now we are bringing it up again. I think it is hard on the board to have this discussion when we have already had it.

Commissioner Krueger said there was discussion at the retreat, and first of all I don't know that I am very fond of talking about discussion that may have happened at a workshop; however, I also recall discussion about – if we are going to talk about discussion about getting information back from Sandy and if the board would take that information and use it. I think the board has followed through and is using that information. We recognize that we need to have real good numbers at our fair so that we can run a fair that is as close to neutral as we can get it. I don't think anywhere in past commission history has it ever been said that the fair is an enterprise fund and needs to run operationally neutral. Sandy has given us some very good numbers and I think if we glean through those numbers not only today, but in the last meeting when we saw that fairs across the state are receiving 2.16 mils; Flathead County commits 1.7 mils. We have seen the information she has gotten from the list of fairs that show virtually every fair on the list is probably contributing more dollars per captia or attendee than Flathead County is committing. If we are going to truly recognize numbers then I think we should recognize those numbers and maybe we should call upon ourselves to look at Sandy's numbers she has given us to this point, and say it looks like we were underfunding and under committing this fair possibly to the CIP program in the past. While we may have been underfunding it in the past we have a very good fairgrounds, and have been managing it and it is still returning a great amount of dollars; we are at 1.7 mils and the average is 2.16 mils. That must tell us something and if it doesn't we are ignoring it. Gallatin County \$400,000 committed to their tax revenues; Lewis & Clark County \$400,000; Missoula County \$300,000; Ravalli County \$138,000 plus levies and bonds. Those other counties are committing more dollars to their fair than we are. We are running a good show.

Chairperson Holmquist said for the record between the tax contribution and the CIP we are actually committing closers to almost the \$400,000 figure you talked about; its \$379,000.

Commissioner Krueger said that is right except Lewis and Clark has a levy besides there's and so does Gallatin with their CIP and Ravalli also does.

Chairperson Holmquist said as we start to compare these things like I was saying earlier no fair is the same. It's like trying to compare apples to oranges because they are run differently and have different avenues of revenue and different staff for whatever reason.

Aye - Krueger. Opposed – Holmquist and Mitchell. Motion denied.

Campbell said you have taken this process and it has helped all the dynamics and variables to be multiplied by. You have given us the clarity we needed to move forward in preparing and planning for this year's fair, which I sincerely appreciate. I do echo Commissioner Krueger's comments that they do in so many ways have a lot of attributes going for them. We will continue to progress to improve on each and every one of those areas that need attention to make us a better entity for the county.

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on April 15, 2015.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

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

9:15 a.m. RSVP Board meeting @ Heritage Place
11:00 a.m. County Attorney meeting @ Co. Atty's Office
12:00 p.m. Commissioner Mitchell: Safe Kids-Safe Community meeting @ Health Department

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on April 16, 2015.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

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

1:00 p.m. Commissioner Holmquist, Krueger & Mitchell: Health Board meeting @ EBB

At 5:00 o'clock P.M., the Board continued the session until 8:00 o'clock A.M. on April 17, 2015.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

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

10:00 a.m. Commissioner Mitchell: 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 April 20, 2015.
