

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN

CHILCOTT

FOSS

KANENWISHER

STOLTZ

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

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

Date.....July 25, 2011

▶ Minutes: Beth Perkins

▶ The Board met for the following administrative matter at 8:30 a.m.:

- Approval of Dooley, CPA agreement for STIFD: Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the agreement with Dooly CPA for the Stevensville Tax Increment Finance District. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0) The Board noted a preference if there has to be travel that we travel to her and not have her travel here due to the rates.

▶ The Board met for a Personnel Matter - closed door was invoked under Montana Statute 2-3-302 at 9:08 a.m.

▶ The Board met for discussion and decision on I.T. policy for Video and Audio Recording of BCC Meetings at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to continue this meeting until Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. (5-0)

▶ The Board met to interview Florence Water and Sewer District applicant Pat Coombs at 11:30 a.m.

▶ Commissioner Chilcott traveled to Missoula for a 2:00 p.m. MR. TMA meeting.

▶ The Board met with Board Members of the Bitterroot Humane Association (BRHA) at 1:30 p.m. It was noted there was a quorum of the Humane Society present. Commissioner Iman noted the Commissioners sent a letter to the Humane Society requesting an audit. The results of that audit will bear on how the Commissioners deal with the Humane Society in the future.

Kathy Good, President of the Humane Association introduced other Board Members: Susan Behrman, Diane Meyer, Sue McCormick, Jenny Laing and Wendy Trelut. Kathy stated they understand the request for audit prior to any funding coming to their association. They have received three quotes from CPA's qualified to do a non-profit audit. (Galusha Higgins & Galusha, Thompkins and Peters and Attorney Jennifer Lint's CPA) They have decided to accept Galusha's proposal at \$8,000.00 with a start date of September. Kathy asked if their budget allotment is contingent upon the finished audit or in process. Also if a formal audit is required each year. Commissioner Kanenwisher did not feel an audit to this extent is not necessary every year, but an audit is important for budgeted monies. Commissioner Foss stated the Commission started asking for this audit well over 3 months ago, and we were very clear of our requests. Since 1987, not one audit has been received and our county is in tight economic times. If the audit is not done in time for our budget process that is not our problem.

Sue McCormick stated the agreement from 1984 was amended. Commissioner Foss stated the issue of audit was discussed with the Board Members, but still after a couple of meetings with the Association, intelligent Association Members act confused.

Kathy stated they were never objecting to an audit or misunderstood your requests, but we were looking at which document from the 1980's was valid. The question was what kind of an audit was necessary. The Association was not trying to hide anything; we were simply concerned with the costs, because we too are under tough economic times.

Commissioner Stoltz stated without an audit he will not release any funds and the audit results determine the amount of funds released. Commissioner Iman stated the audit of any non-profit agency needs to be appropriate and he felt once every 5-7 years for a full audit could be considered. He felt the results of the audit do matter as do the number of animals they handle in regard to receiving any county funds.

Kathy stated she has every confidence that the funds are handled properly.

Commissioner Foss stated one of her conversations with the Association was quite shocking and thus she asked questions about their membership. Kathy responded they have monthly meetings with a quorum; the meetings are open to the public with an announcement in the newspaper, annual with association members. MCA requires we provide information to any member at any time. In order to be a member you ask to become a member with a payment, and show interest and support to the organization.

Commissioner Kanenwisher addressed the monies given to the Association are public monies, thus you should not have to be a 'member' of this Association in order to obtain records. He stated the Association should 'trip over themselves to become transparent'. Kathy stated they want to be transparent but MCA has some stipulations on how information is used, i.e., use the information in good faith.

Commissioner Foss reiterated how shocked she was in one of her conversations, Kathy wanted to have a closed door meeting with their attorney and only two Commissioners because it allowed other people to show up at the meeting and complain.

Kathy stated she did not remember that verbiage used with Commissioner Foss. The two questions they addressed today did not need any public input.

Commissioner Kanenwisher asked about the information being used in good faith, and do not want public comment. Kathy stated it could be personal agenda and MCA does not allow that.

Commissioner Foss stated the Commissioners made it very clear what the Commissioners wanted, i.e., a full audit. You chose not to listen to what we wanted, this was disingenuous.

Jeannie McKinney, citizen stated she is now dismembered from BRHA and cannot obtain any information about the meetings.

Kathy chose not to answer to Jeannie's comment. She stated she understands information requested is a public record, and if there are comments, I would like to have them. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated Kathy can submit that request in writing, and anything in writing can be given to her.

Wendy, Treasurer of BRHA stated Jeannie did ask for financial information and she received that information.

Commissioner Iman addressed the standards of practice and policy, and would they not be in the audit as disclosure? He asked the Board what kind of decision will be made today. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated they can decide today if the audit completion will be required for the Commissioners budget process, and if the audit results bring a result on the budgeted monies.

Commissioner Iman asked the Board if an engagement letter with the CPA would satisfy the Commissioners for their request for audit. He felt it did, but with a condition of will those findings be considered for funding. There may be some problems that need to be repaired when we read the audit, and we may be finished with the budget process prior to the completion of the audit.

Commissioner Stoltz stated if the audit comes back and it is not what we like; we are not going to release the money. Commissioner Kanenwisher asked what fund we hold any earmarked money for the Association in. Commissioner Iman stated the money can be set aside with stipulations. If not spent the money goes back into the general fund.

Commissioner Foss stated she is comfortable with the Association moving forward with an engagement letter, but until the audit has been reviewed by the Chief Financial Officer, any money we decide to set aside can be released at the right time. Also, an audit may only need to be done every 7 years.

Susan Behrman is Secretary, we agree on most of the conversation here today. We agree on the audit, but we thought a year ago a \$5,000 audit would be feasible until we heard you might want an audit. We postponed the smaller audit because we run in the red. We have not ignored Commissioner Foss, and in May Commissioner Foss stated the county has no money and an audit might be a moot point. So they were not holding back. Commissioner Foss stated it is important for them to follow their open meetings. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated he is hearing undertones that they will do the audit if they can get some money, so don't do the audit if you think you won't get any money.

The consensus by the Board is that an engagement letter with Galusha Higgins & Galusha does meet the Commissioners requirement for an audit request. The consensus by the Board is that the BRHA still has a part in the Commissioners budget process.