

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.....August 30, 2011

► Minutes: Beth Perkins

► Commissioner Foss attended an update for the Saddle Hill Fire at the Forest Supervisor's Office at 9:00 a.m.

► The Board met for the following administrative matters at 9:00 a.m.: Present were County Attorney Bill Fulbright, HR Director Robert Jenni, Lee Tickell, Maggie Wright, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, and Bitterroot Star Reporter Michael Howell.

- **Discussion of reduction in workforce with Justice Court #1 & Justice Court #2:**
Present were Judge Bailey, Judge Clute, Charlene Murray and Jennifer Ray. Judge Clute expressed her concern with two positions being cut from each court. If one third of her staff is cut, it will impact the courts significantly. In order for the courts to run efficiently, the correct amount of staff is needed. This cut will directly affect the efficiency. She explained the need for timeliness for filing cases in order to be complaint with the law and in order to generate revenue. Judge Bailey agreed with Judge Clute. This is a lose-lose situation. He will file a lawsuit against the County. Commissioner Chilcott asked County Attorney Bill Fulbright to define a necessary expense. Bill Fulbright explained the procedure of certification to the Board. Judge Bailey replied according to case law, all cases are on the side of Justice Court. The County Commissioners cannot control the judicial branch. Commissioner Kanenwisher stated each court has three staff members. He discussed work flow and job descriptions for those staff members. Judge Bailey reiterated the Commissioner cannot cross the line into the judicial branch. He then left the meeting. Judge Clute explained the existing heavy workload for staff and with the reduction of a member it would be the responsibility of the other staff members to pick up the slack which will result in burnout. With burnout, mistakes can be made. Cases have to be done in a certain amount of time, they have to be monitored and tracked.

Commissioner Stoltz asked where are the funds for those positions to come from. Judge Clute stated it is the job of the Commission to find those funds not hers. Discussion followed regarding workload, staff and responsibilities. Commissioner Chilcott discussed the difficult position of the County with lower revenues, mandates and no funding. Staff cuts were inevitable in order to make ends meet. Commissioner Kanenwisher was not in favor of returning those positions without combining the departments because there are efficiencies that can be found. Commissioner Iman opened public comment.

- Maggie Wright asked what is the percentage of the jobs being cut per department compared to the percentage of the entire budget? Commissioner Kanenwisher replied the question seems to be if the cuts can be more equitable. Operationally, an 11% cut was made per department a couple of years ago. What is left to cut is labor. Maggie Wright suggested that each department have the opportunity to cut a certain percentage rather than staff. Commissioner Chilcott stated it is a matter of necessity. The question that remains is what expenses are necessary to operate a court. Michael Howell stated it appears the Board is looking at ways to make departments more cost effective. The County is experiencing the drop in economy that everyone is experiencing. As the economy drops, there is a proven increase in the demand of the court systems and law enforcement. Cutting staff in the departments that will have the increases in workload doesn't make sense. He would like to know what the facts are from the Commissioners.
- Regina Plettenberg stated she could have the same argument due to a cut in her own department. Her revenue is down but she also has elections which is not a revenue producing item. Her staff is not union or judicial. We are all scared of the results of these cuts. Deb Harmon expressed her concern with caseloads as well with her cuts to her department. Maggie Wright asked what would be the cost to the County if the Justice Courts take this to Court? Commissioner Iman closed public comment and request any public comment on items not otherwise on the agenda. Michael Howell asked when a copy of the budget will be available. Commissioner Kanenwisher replied Thursday. Commissioner Iman closed public comment on items not otherwise on the agenda. Commissioner Stoltz left the meeting at this time.
- **Final Draw Emergent CDBG Funds:** Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the final draw for the Emergent Institute CDBG funds with Chair signature. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)
- **Safety Committee update:** Glenda stated the Attorneys are not leaving the building during the fire drills and going back in prior to the "ok" to go back into the building. Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the issuance of a letter to the Attorneys that they must comply with the same safety rules as everyone else. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)
- **Approval of Minutes August 5-12 & July 11, 21 & 26:** Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the minutes of August 5-12 and July 11, 21, 26 & 29. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)
- **Extension request for Sunnyside Orchards #3, Blk 9, Lot 12-A AP Minor Subdivision:** Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the extension request

for a period of one year for Sunnyside Orchards #3 Block 9, Lot 12A-AP Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)

- **Approval of LiDAR Contract:** Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the LiDAR Contract as presented and recommended by the Planning Administrator. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)

▶ The Board met for an update with Human Resource Director Robert Jenni at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to execute the contract with Jeff Minckler. Commissioner Kanenwisher seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (3-0)

▶ The Board met with Ken Miller for a Cadastral project update at 11:00 a.m.

▶ The Board met with Craig Jourdonnais, Liz Bradley and Mike Thompson from Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding the Predator Study at 1:30 p.m.

SIGN IN SHEET – COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

****PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME LEGIBLY****

THANK YOU!

DATE: 8/30/11

MEETING: Predator Study - Craig Jourdainis

Marc Cooke Nat Wolfenbarger Col.

Loanne Cale

Glenn Kimball

Toby BRIDGES

LeRoy Barry

Connie Barry

Julie Fillingham

JACK PEAY

Scott Boulanger

Tom MILLER
