

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

IMAN 

CHILCOTT 

FOSS 

STOLTZ 

KANENWISHER 

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

Date.....November 16, 2011

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 9:35 a.m. to review possible changes in the Planning Board for reorganization and by-laws. Present at this meeting was Planning Administrator Terry Nelson, Bitterroot Star Publisher Michael Howell, Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes, RC Watchdog Maggie Wright and numerous citizens.

Commissioner Stoltz stated this draft is his proposal and the biggest change is within the membership going from twelve to seven. There are several terms opening at the end of the year so this is a good time to make these changes.

- Changes are as follows: "Membership. The Planning Board shall consist of 7 members: one citizen member residing in each of the three Ravalli County Planning Board Districts: one representative from the Bitterroot Conservation District; one representative from the farm and ranch community; one representative from the building or real estate community and one member from the licensed professional community (example: engineer, surveyor, planner). The representative for the farm and ranch community, building or real estate community, and licensed professional community must derive at least 75% of their gross annual income from those professions. All members shall be voting members."

Discussion included the annual income being a percentage not an actual income amount. Commissioner Chilcott asked Commissioner Stoltz if he believes the Planning Board does not work and if that is why he is requesting the changes. Commissioner Stoltz stated he believes these changes will make a more efficient Planning Board, with better decisions. Commissioner Stoltz also felt members should reapply if their term is expiring.

Terry Nelson stated he has no input on these changes. Currently the Planning Board meets statutorily but there have not been any subdivisions for the past several months.

Public Comment was called for:

Skip Kowalski of Stevensville has been Vice President and is now President of the Planning Board. He felt this board works very well and the diversity reveals good points of view. This board and its diversity is an asset to the community and county. Planning Board meetings allow the public's first comment. He suggested keeping the Planning Board in tack also noting this particular proposal reduces members that might represent issues of the six criteria such as wildlife, water etc. The proposed membership makes it more advantageous to the applicant side (the surveyor and engineer).

Jan Wisniewski stated he has been a Planning Board member for four years. He believes he has seen some good and bad on this board and some board members don't know what they are doing. While they might have an opinion and the vote, they sometimes don't know what they are voting on. In regard to issues of litigation, one board member wrote a minority report and it went on to be a majority report stating things like giving part of your property away and building underground. He suggested the membership of this board be for those who make a living building etc. Jan felt the members should not receive mileage because these are volunteer positions.

Kelsey Milner of the Bitterrooters for Planning felt it was important to keep it the way it is because it allows good diversity and good public comment.

Ren Cleveland felt the membership should stay as it is. His problem with the proposal is that the people who vote on these (subdivisions) are people who benefit, i.e., builders, realtors and engineers.

Maggie Wright asked why the Park Board representative should be removed.

Katrina Mendrey echoed the concerns for wild land and water issues being represented on this board. She feels the board should stay the same and less representation does not create less efficiency.

Michael Howell believes in the subdivision review process and the criteria. The criteria are the public values and it makes sense to have a healthy representation from many aspects of the public rather than stacking the board with special interests.

Public comment was then closed.

It was noted this will be placed back on the agenda on November 22 at 9:00 for possible decision.

Commissioner Kanenwisher does not mind representation of special business interest as people have to make a living and that is valid. He wants people on the board who understand that ramification and many people are interested in the economy. While he does not want the board stacked, he would take into account an applicant's ability and business ability.

Commissioner Foss agrees with Commissioner Kanenwisher as this is one area that impacts the community. She wants to see what they will be gaining versus what they will be losing by changing this membership.

► The Board met at 10:08 a.m. to review the Montana Aeronautic Grant/Loan application for the Airport Environmental Assessment. Present at this meeting was Bitterroot Star Publisher Michael Howell, RC Watchdog Maggie Wright, Airport Board Members, ICAARE Representatives Phyllis Bookbinder and Dennis Moore as well as numerous citizens. Commissioner Iman reviewed the grant application and the project cost estimates information. These grant dollars would cover the balance of the costs not covered under the FAA costs. **Commissioner Kanenwisher made a motion to submit this grant application with the Chairman's signature in the amount of \$34,320. Commissioner Foss seconded the motion.**

Public comment:

Maggie Wright asked about the breakdown of cost estimate as well as the donation of Safety Foundation monies. There will be no county budgeted money used. While normally the FAA pays 95%, in this case the anticipated costs of this Environmental Assessment will be \$74,320.00 and the FAA is paying up to \$40,000 with the balance at \$34,320 (this amount is the grant application).

**All voted "aye".**

► Commissioner Chilcott attended a RCEDA meeting during the afternoon hours in Hamilton.