

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.....December 15, 2011

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 9:00 a.m. to interview William Menager for the Planning Board.

► The Board met at 9:30 a.m. for a public hearing for the purpose of taking action by Resolution on a petition to annex the following properties into Victor Fire District:

- Hackett, Benjamin, Molly & Scott & Bessler - Hackett, Diane
- Kushner, Jeffrey & Woodburn, Janet

Present at this public hearing was Ravalli Republic Whitney Bermes and Citizen William Menager.

Glenda noted the legal notice has been published in the paper of record, the petition was reviewed by the Clerk and Recorder and the Victor Rural Fire Department has approved this annexation. Commissioner Iman read the public hearing notice.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2792 which annexes the above named properties into the Victor Rural Fire District. Commissioner Stoltz seconded the motion and all voted "aye". (5-0)

The hearing was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

► The Board met with Hans McPherson at 10:00 a.m. to discuss his request for a speed study on Eastside Highway north of Birch Creek due to public safety issues. Present at this meeting was Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bermes and numerous citizens.

Hans McPherson expressed his concerns as follows: Amount of wildlife, congestion due to ingress and egress, lack of highway shoulders, edges of the asphalt are broken off and the white line is actually painted on dirt, dangers for farm equipment due to their width, and how that

equipment bounces due to the broken asphalt. He would like the speed limit lowered to 50 miles per hour north of Birch Creek as well as the need to have a double yellow line painted at the intersections and in front of businesses.

Lane Hutchison, Manager of the Double Fork Ranch addressed the fatal accident in front of his house as well as other accidents in the same area. He also drives farm equipment and stated there is nowhere to pull off of the road when traffic backs up.

Commissioner Iman spoke to the process of reducing the speed limit. **The Board concurred they will write a letter to Department of Transportation requesting a speed study and also address the double line issue and road way deterioration.**

► Hans McPherson also met with the Board at 10:25 a.m. to discuss his request to limit rifle hunting below the Big Ditch. Present at this meeting was Ravalli Republic Reporter Whitney Bernes and numerous citizens. Commissioner Kanenwisher was not present for this meeting due to another meeting he participated in.

Hans McPherson stated several years ago Fish Wildlife & Parks looked at closing rifle hunting between the Big Ditch and the Bitterroot River but it was never brought forth to fruition. He also addressed the amount of game present and the rifles that have a safety issue in the urban area due to livestock, houses and people.

William Menager spoke to the dangers of rifle hunting.

Ranch Owner Sharon Schrader of Pine Hollow stated the deer are a problem and the need to harvest the deer. Her ranch screens hunters allowed to hunt her property. Archery hunting will not suffice in deer management so rifle hunting needs to continue but it needs to be safe.

Jim Schrader spoke to the bullets that travel a long distance.

Kelly Day stated sometimes they have 200 head of elk on their ranch. She feels it is not hunting, just harvesting and she wants to continue rifle hunting.

Lynette Collar stated her ranch allows bow hunters. If eliminate rifle hunting was eliminated they could allow archery and black powder hunting. She too had concern for those who don't utilize safety.

Lane Hutchison spoke to controlling the number of deer and elk and the number of people who jump a fence without permission to shoot at game.

Tony Collar stated his muzzle loading permit allows him to hunt until the middle of January. His ranch allows hikers and he has fear that they might get shot by those rifle hunters who don't put safety first.

Cheryl Disney also lives along Pine Hollow Road. They monitor the hunters allowed on their property and she thinks this is a river bottom issue instead of up on the bench.

Jim Schrader stated it boils down to the safety issue and property rights.

Commissioner Iman noted he has taken three calls from citizens who felt people should manage their own property, and any limitation of rifle hunting warrants more discussion. Commissioner Chilcott spoke to the increase of whitetail deer and the pressure to bring the game down into the valley. He felt the best way to handle this is with the homeowners so county or state government does not regulate it. Commissioner Stoltz expressed his concern in regard to regulations or a blanket policy on private property.

The Board concurred that Fish Wildlife and Parks should be advised of this meeting; 'Ask First' should be part of educating the hunters, and respecting private property rights is an important part of education.