

Commission Meeting Minutes; Park County, Montana
Week of March 17 - 21, 2008

March 17, 2008

County Road Issues

@8:31:10 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Ed Hillman, road supervisor; Polly Miller, human resources; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss county road issues.

There was discussion about ordering detour signs for the Carbella Bridge closure. Lahren and Hillman both ordered signs. Lahren questioned Hillman as to why Lahren wasn't advised of the status of ordering signs when it was discussed at the first Dome Mountain meeting. There was discussion about the Carbella Bridge replacement project and the need to send congruent and not conflicting messages to the community about that project. There was discussion about early misinformation regarding the bridge damage and its ability to be repaired, and the need to improve communications between the Commission and the road supervisor regarding the bridge project.

Lahren advised Hillman that Lahren is in charge of and will make all decisions in regard to the Carbella Bridge and Old Yellowstone Trail project. Lahren will keep Hillman in the communication loop for the project.

There was discussion about how far up the Cinnabar Basin Road is a county road, and the level of maintenance citizens living on that road are requesting per their meeting with the Commission last week. Sanding is the biggest issue. Jerry Brekke and Tara DePuy will research the road's history to determine where it is a public road. They will also research Old Yellowstone Trail South through Yankee Jim canyon and the railroad bed right-of-way to determine what county easements exists there. There was discussion as to whether the county owns a right-of-way through Yellowstone National Park.

Lahren requested from Hillman all county road department contracts with federal and state agencies regarding road maintenance. The county road department has one road grading agreement with the Forest Service at Cooke City. The county maintains Big Creek, Suce Creek and Deep Creek. Hillman has a meeting scheduled with the Forest Service to discuss such contract agreements.

The Sacajewea Bridge will be finished as soon as the ground thaws. The boulders need to be lifted and sand placed.

There was discussion about a weekly road crew work plan. Hillman said he does not typically have one at this time of year. He knows after Monday morning what the crew will be doing for the week. Lahren pointed out the Commission received a weekly road crew work plan from Hillman at this time of year the last two years. Road work this week will include hauling gravel to Lower Cottonwood Road; maintaining the five acre tract roads and grading other county roads.

There was discussion about a mutiny problem within the county shop regarding access to county equipment for personal use and the prohibition of that due to liability issues. Greg Jackson of MACo will send an official memo from MACo outlining MACo's policy on disallowing personal use of county road shop equipment due to liability issues. He will also send a memo addressing MACo liability coverage for the county and county employees who conduct equipment maintenance, such as welding, within "other duties as assigned" work parameters. MACo prefers a sign hangs in county shops informing employees of shop restrictions for personal use.

There was discussion about a meeting between the road department and the commissioners last Friday. Hillman reported the meeting resolved nothing and was not handled in a diplomatic fashion with outbursts from employees.

Lahren requested a status report of low crew morale and personnel issues between Hillman and his crew and Miller.

There was discussion about Dave Amunrud and available money to hire him back March 22 until June 30, 2008, on a part time basis. Miller said she felt the meeting last Friday was eye-opening and not as negative as some projected and felt it was an overall productive meeting. The crew relayed to her that it needs help between May and October. There was discussion about full time workers and part time workers between May and October with benefits paid year-round. Hillman said he needs another man to run the water and dump truck in the summer and plow roads Amunrud plowed this past winter. The Commission instructed paperwork and preliminary logistics be completed by Polly Miller to enable Amunrud to start work on March 22. Hillman will provide a report of Amunrud's work detail.

There was discussion about money for special detour signs for the Carbella Bridge closure coming out of an emergency fund budget. Hillman will keep a Carbella Bridge emergency expense file. There was discussion about Old Yellowstone Trail South road work improvements at Point of Rocks. Lahren is coordinating with people and will keep George Hallett of Hallett Minerals in the loop.

There was discussion about Canyon View Drive. The county will continue to grade that road.

There was discussion about a DEQ complaint on Friday regarding oil in road sand in Gardiner. Hillman thinks it was a fuel tank leak from a private vehicle, not from a county

vehicle or in the county sand pile. Oil booms and diapers were used to take care of the issue, and Mr. Coleman of DEQ said the case was closed.

There was discussion about an encroachment to the county easement at Rocky Mountain Campground. The county will have the easement surveyed and flagged. The same work will be completed on the main Boulder Road to address an issue of boulders placed in a county right-of-way.

There will be a Bureau of Land Management public meeting on Thursday for a gravel pit outside of Livingston. Hillman will call BLM to get public comment from last public meeting on the issue. A riverside pit may serve as an alternate source of gravel.

@9:21:23 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 17, 2008

Review and Approve Minutes

@9:24:42 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to review and consider approving Commission meeting minutes for the Week of March 10, 2008.

On Page 6 of 17, fourth paragraph, Murphy noted the correct spelling of Ron "Archuleta." On Page 9 of 17; third paragraph, Murphy noted the correct spelling of "MolHeron."

On Page 11 of 17; last paragraph, Durgan noted the correct spelling of "Rod" Churchwell.

Durgan made a motion to approve with corrections noted the minutes of the week of March 10. Murphy seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@9:30:21 a.m. Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 17, 2008

Review Correspondence, Public Contacts and Determine Action Plan

@10:03:23 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Dann Babcox, Rural Fire #1; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to review correspondence, public contacts and determine action plans.

There was discussion about rescheduling of a meeting with Montana Department of Transportation re. highway closure jurisdiction. The Commission informed Babcox Rural Fire #1 needs to schedule that meeting. Babcox will submit a formal memo to the Commission inquiring about \$20,000 allotted for wildfire mitigation work around homes. Babcox said approximately 38 homeowners in Park County used those funds in the past to protect their home from wildfire.

There was discussion about a large amount of trash east of town below the landfill. Murphy spoke with the city judge who agreed to reestablish community service work crews. Murphy and Lois Hatfield will tour the littered grounds Tuesday morning to determine from where trash is originating. They will check the irrigation ditch per Durgan's request. Hatfield has employees who can assist with trash pickup if necessary. Hatfield said much of the trash is blowing from vehicles on their way to the landfill. Murphy provided Hatfield with the Gallatin County refuse committee minutes.

The commissioners went through their individual tasks lists. Murphy added landfill cleanup to his list. He will meet with Senator Tester on Thursday morning to discuss a Cooke City water issue, PILT SRS title monies; and RC&D funding.

Public comment was made by Rick Adams. Adams asked if the county will plow Canyon View to the east. The county will do that while it researches whether or not it's a county road.

There was discussion about winter conditions of and road maintenance requests by citizens on Cinnabar Basin Road.

Lahren is working with the Morrison-Maierle engineering firm and Jim Scoles to apply for TSEP funds. That application was submitted Friday. The engineer quoted physical damages to the bridge from the vehicle accident at \$40,000 to \$60,000. It is possible that the liability insurance of the driver who hit the bridge may cover that expense if an investigation reveals who crashed into the bridge.

Public comment was made by Jerry Brekke. Brekke said the main Boulder Road county right-of-way needs to be staked because of safety reasons when the Boulder Canyon burns and to eliminate the county from being dragged into neighbor disputes over alleged trespassing issues. Boulders in an apparent county right-of-way on the main Boulder Road will not be moved until the right-of-way is professionally surveyed and staked.

Brekke will research what sections of Cinnabar Basin Road and the mouth of Tom Miner Basin to the park is a county road and what is a Forest Service road.

Correspondence included:

- Memo from Park Rural Fire #1 re. Dann Babcox is the fire board's representative - To File
- Hillman road crew schedule – To road book
- Memo re. peer support for Mental Health – To Murphy for review
- March 20 meeting re. return inventory re. transportation committee - To Murphy for review
- Memo from Lisa Ballard re. transportation inventory
- List of warrants for witnesses and jurors month ending Feb. 29
- Bridger Engineer re. proposal for engineering services
- Memo re. state recreational trail grant writing workshops
- Memo from RC&D update re. property seminar March 21 - To Durgan for review
- Memo from Cooke City Chamber of Commerce re. resort tax monies to finance community center - To DePuy for review
- Memo from US Code online re. compensation for work injuries - re. Yellowstone National Park - To File
- Memo from DEQ re. 2007 annual invoice for Gardiner sewage treatment due April 14 - To Gardiner, Park County Water and Sewer District board for review and sewer district file
- Pamphlet from Cooke City-Coulter Pass Chamber of Commerce re. using resort tax monies to pay for Shoofly Center - To DePuy for review
- Weed Awareness Days March 25 6-8 p.m., at Emigrant and March 26 at Wilsall Fire Hall - To Durgan for review

There was discussion about a Yellowstone Gateway Museum bid let possibly not being done correctly per county independent contract insurance policy. The county is looking into the matter.

There was discussion about the county's solid waste contract with MRL.

@11:15:35 a.m. Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 17, 2008

Litigation Hearing – Concerned Citizens v. Park County - closed meeting

@1:43:03 p.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Susan Swimley, attorney; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. No members of the public were present, and no public comment was made.

Murphy made a motion to close the meeting to the public for litigation strategy. Durgan seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@2:17 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

March 17, 2008

3:00 P.M. – AngeLine – Murphy – West Room

March 18, 2008

7:30 A.M. – Job Service Employer’s Committee – Murphy – Job Service

1:00 P.M. – Senior Citizens Meeting – Murphy – Senior Center

March 18, 2008

Department Head Meeting

@1:30 p.m. Commissioner Lahren called a meeting to order in the Community Room. Commissioners Durgan and Lahren were present. Also present was Suzanne Brown, health department; Belinda Van Nurden, emergency services; Lois Hatfield, landfill; Linda Budeski, justice court; Dan Hackman, shop; Bruce Martin, maintenance; Philip Fletcher, planning; Randy Taylor, health department; Clay Williams, weed/junk vehicle; Ed Barich, county superintendent; Marc Richards, GIS/IT; Polly Miller, human resources; Brian Sparks, museum; Brett Linneweber; county attorney; Kevin Larkin, treasurer; Ed Hillman, road supervisor; and Kris Denton, Commission administrative assistant. No members of the public were present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled as a monthly department head meeting.

Addressing the first agenda item, employee of the month, Rhonda Winge of the Clerk and Recorder’s Office will be named employee of the month for April.

Addressing the second agenda item, review county website homepage for updates, department heads were advised to review their department webpage on the county website and report updates or changes to Marc Richards.

Addressing the third agenda item, memo requesting documentation of contracts, permits, licenses, grants and other documents be submitted to the Commission, Marilyn Hartley will assume management of documentation of such issues in attempt to keep all agreements up to date.

Addressing the fourth agenda item, department supervisor chain of command, the policy of bringing legal assistance requests to the Commission, which will then take the request to the appropriate legal counsel, was reiterated. Department heads are not to advise employees in other departments what to do. Department heads should speak to one another about employee directives as the proper chain of command.

Addressing the fifth agenda item, request for bids procedure, there was discussion about a memo dated 2/16/07 regarding consultants, contractors, and purchase orders. When hiring consultants it is important to make certain consultants have all necessary insurance, licensing and all required qualifications and documentation.

In Other Business, Marc Richards advised employees to direct IT questions to him between March 19 and 24. Richards reported the Computer/Public Information Advisory Committee has two remaining meetings. Department heads should attend if they have input.

There was no public comment.

@1:50 p.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 18, 2008

Mike Waite (Rehberg's Office) – County Issues and Updates

@2:37p.m. Vice-Chairman Durgan called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chamber. Commissioners Durgan and Murphy were present. Also present was Mike Waite, Representative Rehberg's office; Chuck Donovan, public citizen; and Commissioner Administrative Assistant Kris Denton.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss county issues and updates.

There was discussion about the Livingston Senior Center renovation project. A Community Block Grant HOME grant has been obtained. It appears the project will cost about \$1,000,000 and will include new sprinkling, electricity and plumbing systems.

There was discussion about a Cooke City water project. There is no solid estimate of a money shortfall, but it looks to be about a million dollars. The Park Service is still in negotiations with Cooke City about water rights. A new bid is due March 18, and Commissioner Murphy will be in Cooke City next week to learn of that bid amount.

A sewer committee was formed in Cooke City, which is looking into a two to three year study for installing centralized sewers. There is not much room for holding lagoons, but the county will look into trading land with the Forest service after the McLaren site is cleaned up.

There was discussion about a Yellowstone River Highway 89 bridge replacement project and the traffic use an already degraded Old Clyde Park Road will experience from diverted traffic. There are concerns the traffic will have to cross the railroad tracks. The Commission would like MDT to consider an underpass at Bennett Street crossing. Murphy mentioned a Commission letter not included in the MDT environmental assessment, and stated the county needs help with this issue. A second letter was submitted last week. The project is scheduled to start in 2011.

There was discussion about a Carbella Bridge repair project. The repair is projected to last 10 to 20 years and was chosen over a bridge replacement, which might take five years.

There was discussion about PILT and TITLE 3 monies. Waite heard that not one county would go unaffected by a reduction in PILT and TITLE 3 monies. Park County would lose about \$500,000 in funds. Murphy expressed concern about what the county will do if it loses those funds and asked how to generate support from eastern states on a measure to include those funds.

There was discussion about RC&D monies and the possibility of losing them next year. The commissioners expressed the county's need for the RC&D program, having worked with it on the Cooke City water project and resort tax issue, housing, small business, and other issues associated with economic development. A project in Wilsall is underway that needs financing. There is a lack of affordable housing problem in Park County with closures of trailer courts.

There was discussion about wind energy in Park County. Butte is moving forward on this issue. There are ongoing discussion of a propeller factory being located somewhere in Montana. There is need of a transmission line beyond Townsend to Ringling.

There was discussion about General Electric employing a significant number of people in Billings.

@3:25 Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 18, 2008

7:00 P.M. – Fair Board – Durgan – Fairgrounds

March 19, 2008

9:00 – 10:30 A.M. – Commission Murphy will be at the Wilsall Senior Center to hear area residents' concerns and share upcoming agendas

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. – Commission Murphy will be at the Clyde Park Town Hall to hear area residents' concerns and share upcoming agendas

March 19, 2008

Research Results of Deep Creek Bench County Roadway and Other Roads in that Area

@2:58:33 p.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Ed Hillman, road supervisor; Bill Hurley, operations; public citizens Andreas Luder, Ron Liljedahl, Carol Liljedahl, Bob Peterson, T.J. Laviolette, Paul Deyerle, Gary Fish, Marlee Arnold, Justin Arnold, and Marsha Kelleher.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss research results of Deep Creek Bench county roadway and other roads in that area.

Research results show the county owns and is responsible for maintaining one mile of Deep Creek Bench Road extending from the present East River Road due east along the ½ section line of Section 31, Township 3 South, Range 9 East and Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 10 East.

Public comment was made by Andreas Luder. Luder said no side roads off of Deep Creek Bench are truly plowed, and he's seen them under three feet of snow in less than an hour.

Public comment was made by Bob Peterson. Peterson said plat CS274 in the Clerk and Recorder's office will show exactly where the county road lies.

Public comment was made by Bob Peterson. Pete said he sees a few discrepancies in the research reports and his review of plat CS274. Pete said the road going to the ranger station is County Road #23, but he doesn't know how far up it goes.

Public comment was made by Carol Liljedahl. Liljedahl asked if individuals living up Deep Creek Bench Road will be informed of the research results.

Public comment was made by Gary Fish. Fish asked the process of extending the county portion of Deep Creek Bench Road to his residence.

Public comment was made by Ron Liljedahl. Liljedahl said the roads that branch off of Deep Creek Bench Road are private roads that have easements that go across private property.

Public comment was made by Andreas Luder. Luder asked if the Forest Service was responsible for the south fork road plowing.

@3:22:14 Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 20, 2008

Museum Board Update

@11:02:47 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Bob Jovik, YGM board; Rick VanAken, Friends of YGM; Susan Kraft, YGM board; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. No members of the public were present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to hear an update from the Yellowstone Gateway Museum board.

Museum Board Chairman Susan Kraft attempted to give a document to Commissioners Murphy and Lahren that was not related to any specific agenda item. The document was refused by Commissioners Lahren and Murphy, and Lahren advised Kraft that she needed to log the document in with the county and agenda that item for a meeting. She handed the document to John Mueller instead of logging it in.

The Commission received the part-time museum technician job description prior to the meeting.

Candidate interviews for the part-time position will be held March 26.

The museum board formed two new committees to address growing needs. Those committees are a billboard committee and a website committee. Board members of existing committees were reassigned.

The Commission reported the county is currently conducting an internal, countywide budget analysis and cannot address a request to restore \$6,000 to the museum budget at this time.

The board reported the Museums Association of Montana meeting was a big success. Over 100 individuals registered for the event and 12 individuals associated with the museum attended. The Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum and the local business community were a big part of the meeting success.

There was no public comment.

@11:10:58 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 20, 2008

1:00 P.M. – Personnel Issue – Commissioner’s Chambers – Canceled

3:00 P.M. – Fleshman Creek Request for Qualifications Review Committee Recommendations – Commissioner’s Chambers – Canceled

6:00 P.M. – Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting – Commissioner’s Chambers

March 21, 2008

Review Correspondence, Public Contacts and Determine Action Plan

@8:30:28 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner’s Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Kristen Wester, public citizen; Philip Fletcher, planning; Ed Hillman, roads; Ron Chapel, public citizen; Bill Hurley, operations; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller.

The meeting was scheduled to review correspondence, public contacts and determine action plans.

Public comment was made by Kristen Wester. Wester asked why meetings for a Fleshman Creek RFQ were canceled at the last minute. Those meetings were not properly posted in advance of the meeting and were rescheduled.

Philip Fletcher discussed his ideas of expanding the role of the planning department to include some elements of economic development. Fletcher feels that can be done with existing staff resources. Incorporating economic development into Park County government would give stability to efforts to support existing businesses and attract new economic endeavors, as RC&D funding is threatened for next year. Fletcher's proposal might enable the county planning department to get involved in proactive projects with a positive public image that help the county's economy. Some of those efforts have started with a water education effort. An economic development effort through the planning department would address recommendations within the suspended growth policy and the 1998 growth plan that haven't been addressed. Affordable housing options would be part of the efforts. Fletcher will submit to the Commission a written proposal a timeline.

Ed Hillman commented that Canyon View Road and Billman Lane from Miller Drive up are beyond repair. Hillman will contact Iron Wolf on cost and availability to have them turn the roads into gravel roads. Erecting Carbella Bridge signs along Highway 89 will be finished today.

Public comment was made by Ron Chapel. Chapel asked where he could legally erect a mailbox along View Vista Drive.

Correspondence included:

- Memo from Montana Clean re. working on floors over Easter weekend - To Bruce Martin for review
- Memo re. Fred Pryor seminars re. leadership skill to maximize performance
- Memo re. weed board to give cell phone to Marty Malone - To accounting for review
- Business afterhours invite
- Hupert, Swindlehurst and Woodruff re. garbage blown from landfill - To file. Hatfield will be working on clean-up this weekend
- Fire Suppression Systems bid for sprinkler system for two new rooms in city/county building
- Memo from MACo re. update on rural road safety program. There is \$15 million available - To Benner and Hillman for review
- Memo from MACo re. weed position open in Stillwater County
- Memo from VanJamison re. tribal energy program funding opportunities
- Memo from Susan Swimley re. question about ARM - To Hatfield for review
- Memo from MACo re. overtime calculations - To Miller for review

- Memo from MACo re. election judge payroll questions - To Nelson for review
- Memo from Erica Hoffman re. out of office schedule
- Memo from James Greene re. retaining rail passenger service along southern route
- Memo from Lisa Ballard re. transportation needs - To Murphy for review
- NACo News - To Durgan for review
- Memo re. Carbella Bridge - To Lahren for review
- Memo from Park County Rural #1 re. request Title 3 money funds reinstated to resume mitigation efforts with county - To DePuy for review
- Correspondence between Lahren and Scoles re. Carbella Bridge project
- Memo re. drop in center at local mental health center and meeting minutes - To Murphy
- Memo from Swimley to Karl Knutchel of Park County Concerned Citizens re. Citizens agreement injunction will remain in place - To file
- BLM quarterly newsletter
- Memo re. Gardiner Park County Water and Sewer District list of talking points for March 21 meeting with Commission - To Murphy for review
- Memo from Sue Higgins re. \$10K for special study on Bozeman area meeting March 24 at Bozeman Public Library. Higgins was not asking the Commission for money.
- Memo from landfill to Commission re. permission to extend leave into next month - To Miller for review
- Memo from Genevieve Albert re. MACRS free pre-conference seminar - To Hillman for review
- Memo re. April 10 presenting annual safety refresher at Rural Fire
- Memo from Bob Fry re. radios for road department - To Hillman for review
- Memo from Daniel Neddleton re. one-stop video conferencing for Job Service
- Memo from Eric Oberwitch re. Mark's Lumber introduction
- Memo from Marilyn Hartley re. travel request re. permission to attend conference in West Yellowstone. The Commission denied the request, a another employee is attending.
- Draft of county crime board grant re. funding for Yellowstone Boys and Girls Club - To file
- Memo from DES re. courthouse emergency procedures
- Public information request from Tim Watson re. copy of claims and warrants and meeting minutes - To DePuy for review
- MT Economy at a Glance - To Lahren for review
- Memo from DePuy re. 72-hour notice of public meetings - To Benner and Denton for review
- Memo from DePuy re. attorney general comment on public meetings - To Benner and Denton for review
- Memo from DePuy re. meeting notices re. public notice for public meetings - To Benner and Denton for review
- Request for information from Marty Malone re. monthly weight numbers for landfill - To legal counsel for review

- Memo from Park County Conservation District re. Kevin Larkin re. \$10K loan - To Durgan for review
- Memo from AIG - To file
- Memo from Ted Watson re. gravel pit proposed on BLM land re. oppose to additional traffic on Meyers Lane - To Hillman for review and file
- Memo from Patricia Grabow re. did not receive last month's Vision Livingston minutes
- Memo from Marilyn Hartley re. insurance meeting April 1 in West Room
- Memo from Benner re. Gardiner sidewalk RFQ meeting cancelation notice
- Memo from Corey Clausen re. Tom Miner Carbella Bridge re. their bridge work qualifications
- Memo from Brian Sparks re. museum monthly board meeting agenda
- Memo from DePuy re. Gardiner sidewalk selection committee - To file
- Memo from Susan Kraft re. letter to Commissioners re. Whithorn project question - To file
- Proposals from Agency on Aging - To Murphy for review
- Memo from DES re. courthouse emergency procedures for public in courthouse
- Memo from Denise Nelson re. 2008 federal election re. employees serving as precinct managers and get training with M100 machines
- Memo from US Bank re. MT Board of Investments INTERCAP program - To finance department for review
- Safety committee minutes - To Durgan for review
- Memo from Mark Chandler re. canine units at Malstrom AF Base - To DES for review
- Call numbers for Red Cross - To DES for review
- Vehicle warranty expiration notice - To Denton for review
- Director of museum weekly schedule - To Miller for review
- NACo News - To commissioners for review
- Memo from Office of Public Instruction. Murphy read memo into the record re. School health nurse DeAnn Durgan will attend an OPMI sponsored seminar "Keeping Kids and Schools Safe" in Bozeman on March 26 - To file.

There was discussion about a \$5,500 purchase order and invoice submitted by Search and Rescue after purchase. The Commission should have seen the purchase order before items were purchased. There was discussion about a utility bill including Gardiner Sewer expenses.

@9:57:53 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 21, 2008

Gardiner Sewer System Transfer Issues

@10:01:24 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was

Tara DePuy, civil attorney; Patrick Murtagh, Great West Engineering; Bill Hurley, operations; Ron Shorter, Gardiner Water District; public citizens Mike Cretella, Tom Stone, Nancy Kelliher, Chuck Ludwig, and Don Clark; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. Dan Semmens, attorney for Gardiner, Park County Water and Sewer District, participated in the meeting via conference call.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss Gardiner sewer system transfer issues.

There was a historic overview of research into Gardiner Sewer District's function as a county entity and talks about combining the sewer and water activities. On February 22, 2008, the Commission canvassed and finalized the citizen vote to create a combined water and sewer district in Gardiner.

There was discussion about whether the vote expanded the existing water district to include sewer services or created a new district. The vote was to expand the existing water district to include sewer services.

There was discussion about outstanding county RSID bonds 5 and 5A. The county is responsible for paying off those bonds.

There was discussion about transfer agreements. There was discussion about inventorying sewer district assets and segregating them into categories such as ownerships, leases, easements, and physical properties. Semmens requested a detailed list of assets per category. Warranty information and user manuals will be included in the list, as will billing software that coordinates billing of customers.

There was discussion about provisions allocating risk and liability. Semmens said the Gardiner, Park County Water and Sewer District cannot operate the sewer system until transfer of the discharge permit is completed. Until such time ownership and operation and all discharge permits and assets are transferred and final, the obligation to operate and maintain the system and assumption of risk of liability remains the county's responsibility.

There was discussion about the district securing insurance to operate the sewer plant once it's transferred. Ron Shorter has been in talks with MACo on the issue.

There was discussion about transferring any maintenance funds to the district. The county reported there are no maintenance funds. The sewer district has been in the red the last two years. Murtagh reported citizens within the district have been made aware of rate increases once the combined district is formed.

There was discussion about a renewable 10-year lease on county property and other issues the new district feels necessary for it to fulfill its obligations of sewer and water system operations. The current five year lease has three years remaining on it. The board would like to have a provision that the county convey a portion of property to the district so it can include operations of the arsenic system with the sewer system. Per state law,

the county must receive fair market value for county property. There was similar discussion regarding the Parrelli property.

There was discussion about operation of the sewer system after March 29, which is when the contract of the independent contractors currently operating the system is finished. DePuy will contact Evanoff with a proposal to continue operating the plant via contract with the county until all transfers are finalized. The discharge permit will automatically transfer 30 days after assets are transferred.

Semmens will draft a transfer agreement by next week and e-mail it to DePuy for review. Evanoff will be asked to complete asset inventory with Shorter as part of his proposed contract. That contract would be approximately 60 days.

The county would like to have interim procedures completed in two week's time. Semmens said that sounded doable. Having the transfer agreement drafted in that time would enable the combined water and sewer board to approve it at its next meeting.

There was discussion about how accounting activities will be transferred.

@11:38:10 a.m. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 21, 2008

4:00 P.M. – Site Visit Yellowstone Trail – Gardiner

March 21, 2008

6:00 P.M. – Carbella Bridge Engineer Informational Meeting @ Dome Mountain Ranch Lodge - 2017 US Hwy 89 South

@6:02:24 p.m. Commissioner Lahren called a meeting to order at the Dome Mountain Ranch lodge. Present was Mark Smith, Park County road crew; public citizens Lindsey Mueller, Susan Belanger, Bill Barnett, Scott Trancht, Lisa Drake, Chris Drake, Kevin Gallagher, and Clyde Bailey; Jim Scoles and Charlie Brisko; Morrison-Maierle, Inc.; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller.

The meeting was scheduled as a Carbella Bridge and Old Yellowstone Trail South informational meeting.

Jim Scoles provided a report of Morrison-Maierle's review of the Carbella Bridge condition and the process of repairing the bridge. Morrison-Maierle is looking for contractors at this time. A tentative bid opening date will be the first week of April with a pre-bid period before then. The Carbella Bridge deck has no significant structural damage issues per reviews by Morrison-Maierle and the state. Much of the cost to fix the bridge will be in new beams that have been hit by vehicles over the years. Replacing load-bearing members of the bridge will bring the bridge up to load capacity as if it were

a brand new bridge. The repaired bridge will have a headache bar at each end to prevent overweight vehicles from passing over the bridge. Road legal vehicles will be able to pass through. The estimated time to repair the bridge is three weeks give or take a week once a contractor begins work. July 1, 2008, is the target deadline for having the bridge completed. Meeting that date will depend largely on securing a contractor to do the work.

The estimated cost to repair the bridge is \$100,000. The existing wood deck will be used. The deck has at least a 10-year lifespan remaining. The repaired bridge will have guardrails to prevent future car collisions. The guardrails will extend well beyond the bridge ends as a safety measure. Repairing the bridge now will enable the county to budget for a major bridge replacement or repair in future years.

Public comment was made by Chris Drake. Drake asked if runners would be used in the repair. Drake asked whether expanded metal on top of the wood deck would be appropriate. Scoles will research the cost to do that.

Public comment was made by Bill Barnett. Barnett asked if the load limit on the bridge will be reduced. The limit will remain at 6 tons after repair. There will be a height limit. Barnett asked the predicted life of the bridge after the repair.

Scoles said 25 years is a conservative estimate at this point. There are a number of bent members in the bridge, some which were documented in 1950 and 1975 inspections. The bridge's structure and load capabilities were not compromised until the latest vehicle accident on the bridge.

Public comment was made by Kevin Gallagher. Gallagher asked whether Morrison-Maierle took its own measurements of the bridge or were relying on the state's numbers of capacity load. He said the planks on the bridge were the reason the vehicle hit the bridge edge.

Morrison-Maierle looked at past data and measurements and found no discrepancies between those and its own measurements. The cracked member on the bridge needs to be replaced. The bridge will then be back in the same structural condition as before the recent vehicle crash. Two other members in the bridge are 50% sheared and 25% sheared.

Public comment was made by Clyde Bailey. Bailey asked why the bridge is closed to pedestrians. Lahren said the closure protects the county from liability.

Scoles said retaining contractors will be the telltale issue of how soon the bridge repair work will be finished and the bridge reopened. Scoles offered to take citizen phone calls to respond to any rumors about the bridge repair project that may surface. His phone number will be posted on the county website.

Information about the statues of the bridge repair project will be available on the county website.

@6:30:08 p.m. Lahren adjourned the meeting.

Larry A. Lahren
Chairman, Park County Commission
Park County, Montana

Denise Nelson
Clerk & Recorder
Park County, Montana