

Park County Commission Meeting Minutes  
Week of November 29 – December 3, 2010  
Park County, Montana

November 29, 2010

Daily Correspondence/Agenda and Briefing on Current County Projects

@8:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Raea Morris, executive assistant; Philip Fletcher, community development; Ed Hillman, road; and Lani Hartung, finance. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to review the daily agenda and correspondence.

Correspondence included:

- Citizen memo re. Main Boulder Road snow plowing request
- Memo from community development re. CIP grant and Fleshman Creek contract
- Citizen memo re. Mission Creek wind project

Road Supervisor Ed Hillman said he told PCRFD#1 Chief Dann Babcox invoices for anyone who plowed snow had to be given to him. Commissioner Malone directed Hillman to retrieve the Oshkosh plow machine from the airport.

Community Development Director Philip Fletcher briefed the Commission on the status of ongoing Fleshman Creek, 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and capital improvements programs.

@9:05 a.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 29, 2010

Appointing of Deputy DES Director

@10:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Belinda Van Nurden, DES; and Greg Coleman, county fire; and Ed Hillman, road. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to appoint a deputy Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) director.

Commissioner Malone said he discussed the issue of having a backup DES Director so a live body is always present at the courthouse in the event of emergency. Malone said the

problem with the heavy snow event over the weekend was there was no incident command present with access to the radio, and as a result many different entities were hiring private contractors to plow snow. DES Director Belinda Van Nurden said an assistant DES position does not receive pay, and she recommends Greg Coleman and Commissioner Executive Assistant Raea Morris serve in that capacity.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to appoint Greg Coleman deputy DES coordinator effective today. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@10:47 a.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 29, 2010

Consider Decision on Eli Lilly Grant for Critical Incident Stress Management

@1:00 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Scott Hamilton, undersheriff; Colleen Singer, PCSO; John Beck, Julie Eaton and Linda Reinhart, Mental Health Center; and Sandy Williams, Livingston Healthcare. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider a decision on an Eli Lilly grant for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

Julie Eaton said the Mental Health Center needs a two-year commitment of funds for the grant at this time and not actual funds. John Beck said the Center is requesting \$15,000 from the county over two years. Beck said he envisions providing critical incident training for the entire Sheriff's Office staff with the funds.

Undersheriff Scott Hamilton said the training is a tool for Sheriff's Office personnel to help people and understand any crisis an individual may be in to avoid hurting the individual or officer. Clerk Colleen Singer said the grant will provide dollar for dollar match for officer training. Commissioner Taylor said he is in favor of the grant and thinks the county can come ahead if it pays for officer overtime.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion the Commission commit \$7,500 per year for two years to the Eli Lilly Grant for the Critical Incident Stress Management. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion, amending it to state the county's cost per year will be reduced by any amount the City of Livingston contributes to the grant. Motion passed.

@1:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

November 29, 2010

Review of Budget to Actual and Treasurer's Cash Reports

@2:00 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Lani Hartung, finance; and Martha Miller, auditor. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to review budget to actual and Treasurer's Cash reports as of October 31, 2010.

Finance Director Lani Hartung provided the Commission with department reports for review.

@2:35 p.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 29, 2010

Review RFQ for Update of Zia Report

@3:00 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Shannan Piccolo, civil deputy county attorney; Philip Fletcher, community development; Courtney Lawellin, attorney; Citizens Bill Moser, Jim Hunt, Jim Taylor and Gary Cotant.

The meeting was scheduled to review a Request for Qualifications for an update of a Zia solid waste management report.

Civil Deputy County Attorney Shannan Piccolo said the county received comments from the City of Livingston and individuals since the last meeting on the issue.

Community Development Director Philip Fletcher said wording within the report title can possibly make it eligible for funding the county capital improvement plan.

Citizen Bill Moser said none of the comments stated at the November Solid Waste Board meeting were entered into the RFQ rewrite. Moser said the report needs to look at morbidity before the county spends any money on a new incinerator. He said the county needs to consider an incinerator at Cooke City because refuse collection there costs the county five times what it does in other areas of the county. He said the county needs to either fix the landfill it has or open another landfill. Moser said the contract to hire the entity to conduct the RFQ needs to include a siding payment scale based on what the morbidity and other studies show and associated work required.

Citizen Jim Hunt said it is important the contract state an element of the overall project is to assess the feasibility of incineration in Park County, as many felt the Zia Report reported on that issue after the fact. Commissioner Durgan said he expects any firm hired

to conduct the update will have to hire subcontractors to address areas where the firm has no expertise.

The Commission said Piccolo will serve as the county point of contact for the RFQ and associated inquiries.

@4:08 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

November 30, 2010

Daily Correspondence/Agenda and Briefing on Current County Projects

@8:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Raea Morris, executive assistant; and Brett Linneweber, county attorney. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to review the daily agenda and correspondence.

Correspondence included:

- Memo re. Willow Creek Restoration grant application
- Memo re. Beartooth Alliance Duffy's Meadow restoration
- Citizen memo re. Main Boulder Road snow plowing
- Memo from community development director re. working from home
- Memo from MACo re. Idaho grizzly bears in Yellowstone Ecosystem
- Memo re. December 2 Fire Council meeting
- Memo re. earmark grant for GPS alcohol monitoring – To Commissioner Durgan for review
- Memo from Rick's Refrigeration re. building HVAC system work invoice
- Citizen memo re. Five Acre Tracts road snow plowing commendation
- Memo from clerk and recorder re. petition for election recount
- Citizen memo re. \$2,720 invoice for snow plowing
- Memo re. MT DEQ groundwater monitoring report
- Citizen memo re. Eagle's Bluff Subdivision
- Memo re. notice of award for TCA Inc.

County Attorney Brett Linneweber said a big case he is working on has been extended until March. Linneweber said his office sponsored a training for \$3,000, but he may recoup half of that amount. He said he contacted individuals for comment about the Emigrant Incorporation Census and will have something to the Commission by the end of the week.

@8:52:45 a.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 30, 2010  
County Road Updates

@9:00 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Ed Hillman, road; Shannan Piccolo, civil deputy county attorney; Denise Nelson, clerk and recorder; Scott Hamilton and Tom Totland, PCSO; Dann Babcox, PCRFD#1; Chuck Donovan, citizen. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss county road issues.

Road Supervisor Ed Hillman said the county road crew is plowing snow today and county roads are in driving condition. He said crewmen are scheduled to plow Bruffy Lane, West Boulder Road, Elbow Creek Road, Fridley Creek Road, Freilich Lane, Brackett Creek, Shields Valley roads, Indian Hills, Cinnabar Creek and Deep Creek.

PCRFD#1 Chief Dann Babcox said word he received was the road department refused to plow roads and he is present to find out what went on in what seemed to be a big breakdown in communication. Hillman said the crew decided not to plow roads on Thanksgiving Day because it was futile as roads blew back in as fast as they opened. Babcox said he did not receive an announcement all county roads were closed on November 25. He said emergency services need to access roads on which people were stranded, and people did not have a clue the county roads were closed. Babcox said his volunteers are out there helping people and risking their lives for free, and the artery roads in the county cannot be shut down, because emergency services cannot tell someone they will not respond to them.

Hillman said he notified Dispatch 911 the road crew was available for any emergency situations. He said he does not have enough equipment to keep roads open when it was blowing like it was on November 24 and it does no good to plow a road when in ten minutes it blows back in. Babcox said the answer is not to do anything and Hillman left emergency services hanging with his decision. He said emergency services called Hillman a dozen times with no response. Undersheriff Scott Hamilton said Sheriff Office personnel were out on snowmobiles attempting to reach stranded motorists right outside and south of town and could not get a plow out to plow. Hamilton said he telephoned the Commission to get a plow out to plow roads and it did not happen.

Commissioner Malone said the county has nine plows and nine crewmen, and it needs to have 24 available in a snow emergency. He said he agrees the main arterial roads need to remain open. Malone said Hamilton telephoned him, but it is the road boss's call about whether crewmen should stay out. Hamilton said emergency services need to be told who will work and who will not when emergency services need them. He said the Sheriff's Office has crewmen working 24/7, and it comes down to scheduling with the road department and keeping main thoroughfares open. Babcox said a decision needs to be made as to the definition of an "emergency."

Malone said the county should have opened the Emergency Operations Center. Babcox said major population areas within close proximity to town need to be addressed in major snow events, possibly with agreements with the City of Livingston.

Lieutenant Tom Totland asked Hillman if he has an operation plan set up for high snowfall events. Hillman said he has no plan of operations except for himself coming each morning deciding what roads to address. Hillman said he thinks there needs to be a coordinated plan between emergency services and the road department. He said he telephoned dispatch to notify roads were closed.

Malone asked Assistant DES Coordinator Greg Coleman if he can work with the Sheriff's Office and Hillman to devise an emergency plan. Commissioner Taylor said he would like to see an arterial road priority list, and Hillman should have a list of available on-call employees.

@9:33:30 a.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 30, 2010  
Human Resources Updates

@9:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Jill Ouellette, HR and Lani Hartung, finance. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss activities in the Human Resources Department.

Human Resources Analyst Jill Ouellette provided the Commission with change of status forms for Sheriff's Office deputy longevity increases. Ouellette said the county attorney will not have a cell phone use policy reviewed before an external auditor visit. Ouellette said she continues to work on a sheriff's deputy longevity pay issue, and a vehicle accident claim was filed by a county employee whose car was damaged in the parking lot by a deputy cruiser.

Commissioner Malone said he asked Finance Director Lani Hartung to do an analysis of the road department and Sheriff's Office in 2001 and 2010. Malone said the road department budget in 2001 was 9.4 percent of the county budget and the sheriff's office was 20 percent, and in 2010 the Sheriff is 33.5 percent and the road department is 14.1 percent of the budget.

@9:43:15 a.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 30, 2010

Opening of Museum Engineering and Architectural Services Bid

@10:00 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Paul Shea, interim museum director; and Shannan Piccolo, civil deputy county attorney. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to open Yellowstone Gateway Museum engineering and architectural services bids.

Commissioner Malone opened sealed bids from CTA Engineering and KMA Inc. Civil Deputy County Attorney Shannan Piccolo said KMA failed to meet the bid deadline, but the Commission has the right to waive the bid deadline requirement.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to remove the requirements for KMA and accept its bid as responsive. Commissioner Durgan seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Piccolo and Interim Museum Director Paul Shea said they will review the bids to ensure they are complete and a public meeting will be held at a later date to award a winning bidder.

@10:04 a.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

November 30, 2010

Consider Decision on City/County Complex Janitorial Bids Contract

@11:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Shannan Piccolo, civil deputy county attorney; and Lani Hartung, finance. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider a decision on a City/County Complex janitorial bids contract.

Commissioner Malone said the civil deputy county attorney reviewed three bids and deemed each responsive. Bids were from Steve Condrillo for \$750 per week; Dust Bunnies Inc. for \$2,950 per month with daily necessary materials supplied, carpet cleaning at \$0.25 per foot, hard surface flooring cleaning twice annually at \$0.30 per foot and an emergency call out cost of \$26 per hour; and Montana Clean for \$3,320 per month, floor care for entire building and office carpet cleaning twice a year.

The Commission said it will have its maintenance man measure courthouse rooms square footage in order to select the lowest bidder. The Commission said it will recess a decision on the meeting until December 1 at 2:30 p.m.

@11:46 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Daily Correspondence/Agenda and Briefing on Current County Projects

@8:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present was Raea Morris, executive assistant. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to review the daily agenda and correspondence.

Correspondence included:

- Memo re. \$510 invoice from Kelly Anderson for snow removal on Cokedale Road
- Memo re. janitor bids calculations of 42,000+ square feet
- Memo re. emergency funding resolution
- Memo re. JSEC education grants – To Commissioner Malone for review
- Memo re. county auditor quarterly examination of books

@8:53 a.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Consider Recommendation and Appoint Angel Line Board Applicants

@10:30 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present was Raea Morris, executive assistant. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider a recommendation to appoint Angel Line Board applicants.

Commissioner Malone said applications for two open board seats were submitted by Deanna Egeland and Ronny C. Green, and Board Chairman Lee Parriott recommended appointing both applicants to the board.

Commissioner Durgan made a motion to accept the two applications and appoint the two as board members. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@10:31:55 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Appointing of DSA Injunction Committee/Decision to Support DSA Injunction

@1:00 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present were Tracy Mosley, Extension; Wes Venteicher, Livingston Enterprise; and Jay Bailey, citizen.

The meeting was scheduled to support a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) injunction and committee.

The Commission said Citizens Roger Nelson, Jay Bailey, Allen Redfield and Druska Kinkie have an interest in the livestock industry in Park County and serving on a DSA injunction taskforce.

Commissioner Durgan made a motion to accept the four individuals nominated and make them a DSA injunction committee. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Addressing support of the DSA injunction, Commissioner Malone said Beaverhead County would like to do a signatory or intervener status. Malone said he has yet to hear back from Gallatin County.

Commissioner Durgan made a motion the Park County Commission follow the lead of the other two counties and at least be supportive of intervener status with the option of additional support if necessary at a later time. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@1:15 p.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Signing of Resolution to Declare an Emergency and Appropriate Two Mills to Emergency and Disaster Fund

@1:30 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present were Martha Miller, auditor; Belinda Van Nurden, DES; and Wes Venteicher, Livingston Enterprise. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to sign a resolution to declare an emergency and appropriate two mills to the emergency and disaster fund.

DES Coordinator Belinda Van Nurden said the county must spend its two emergency mills in order to receive emergency reimbursement funds from the state, however the state does not have to reimburse funds.

The Commission said it will postpone a decision on the matter until it determines the dollar amount of an emergency mill and the civil deputy county attorney can rewrite the resolution.

@1:41:30 p.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Decision to Award Cooke City Snow Bids Contract

@2:00 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present were Martha Miller, auditor; and Belinda Van Nurden, DES. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to award a contract for Cooke City snow removal services.

Commissioner Malone said the civil deputy county attorney said both applications did not follow all bidding requirements, but because both failed to follow the same requirement the Commission can waive the discrepancy.

Commissioner Durgan made a motion to waive the bid errors. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Malone said Bob Smith bid \$78 per hour and \$30 per hour for hand shoveling, and Matt Asplund bid \$68 per hour and \$28 per hour hand clearing of snow with a \$10 dollar per hour additional charge during 12 inches or greater snowfall.

Durgan said Mr. Smith has conducted snow removal in Cooke City for some years and understands the Commission's expectation and how to get it done in the most efficient manner. Durgan said he submits the \$2 per hour difference on the hand shoveling bid is not significant. Malone said he does not think the Commission can ignore Asplund's lower bid.

Commissioner Durgan made a motion to accept Mr. Asplund's bid based on the bidding procedure. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@2:11:45 p.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 1, 2010

Consider Decision on City/County Complex Janitorial Bids

@2:30 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan and Malone were present. Also present were Diane Gracey and Leanne Sudbeck, Montana Clean. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider a decision on a City/County Complex janitorial bids contract.

Commissioner Malone said Dust Bunnies Cleaning Service submitted a separate line item for carpet cleaning and waxing, and Montana Clean included all such work in its bid.

Diane Gracey and LEEANNE Sudbeck of Montana Clean said they estimated upstairs hallway carpet cleaning at \$1,600 per year. Malone said it appears using conservative figures Montana Clean is the low bidder by only \$12, so the Commission needs to determine via calculations what the exact difference is and make a decision at a later date.

@2:42 p.m., Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 2, 2010

Daily Correspondence/Agenda and Briefing on Current County Projects

@8:31:55 a.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Raea Morris, executive assistant; Martha Miller, auditor; and Julianne Brown RMRC&D. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to review the daily agenda and correspondence.

Correspondence included:

- Memo from DES re. courthouse snow removal
- Memo re. postage meter log
- Memo re. maintenance work request for storage room door
- Memo to Community Development re. landowner easements on Fleshman Creek
- Memo re. City of Livingston 2006 Zia Report RFQ

Commissioner Taylor reported on a December 1 mental health meeting.

Auditor Martha Miller provided the Commission with an update of Park County Senior Center grants that funded the center rehabilitation project. Miller said external auditors Olness and Associates questioned why the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant handled the draws the way they did. Miller said she and Rocky Mountain RC&D Representative Julianne Brown spent two weeks trying to redo the draws to satisfy Olness, but that is not possible. Miller said the county will not accept a finding if Olness has a problem with the way draws were done and submits a finding, as the finding should go to HOME and CDBG and not Park County.

Brown said the state HOME director is willing to meet with the auditors to discuss how the process was done. Brown said Spring Corporation signed off on all punch list items, all contract work was completed and paid, and all contract amount and change orders

were paid but are awaiting retainage. She said there are a couple of maintenance issues yet to be rectified, such as operation manuals and lien releases and summary of costs to complete second floor radiator work, but she is trying to close out the project by the end of 2010. Brown said the final project will come in just under \$1.3 million with \$80,600+ in change orders from a \$1.7 million original project estimate.

@9:58:51 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

December 2, 2010

Consider Signing Resolution to Amend Capitalization Policy

@1:49:04 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Lani Hartung, finance; and Allen Lutes, sheriff. No public comment made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider signing a resolution to amend the county's capitalization policy.

Finance Director Lani Hartung said she is asking for an amendment to the capitalization policy at the request of the auditors to include three levels of capital assets of machinery and equipment at \$5,000; bills and improvement at \$10,000 and infrastructure at \$25,000 retroactive to July 1, 2009. Hartung said County Attorney Brett Linneweber approved the resolution.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to accept and make Resolution #1089 to amend the capitalization policy. Commissioner Malone seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@1:50:26 p.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Malone seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 2, 2010

Review of Emergency Snow Operations

@2:01:34 p.m., Chairman Malone called a meeting to order in the Commissioners Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor were present. Also present were Martha Miller auditor; Allen Lutes, Scott Hamilton and Tom Totland, PCSO; Belinda Van Nurden and Greg Coleman, DES; Denise Nelson, clerk and recorder; Wendy Wood, SAR; Drew Beattie, Dispatch 911; Dann Babcox, PCRFD#1; Citizens Joe Croston, Jim Taylor, Dan Karell, Courtney Lawellin, Stacy LaCombe, June Kinnick, Bob Fry, Craig Ames, Karen Ames, Mary Rahn, Charles Donovan and Clyde Bainter.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss and review county emergency snow operations.

Commissioner Malone said some emergency responders expressed concerns on Monday about county emergency operations during a heavy snowfall event over the Thanksgiving Holiday so the meeting was scheduled to allow the public to provide input. Malone

opened the floor to public comment. A county snow removal policy was distributed to meeting attendees.

Citizen Courtney Lawellin asked how long the county's snow removal policy has been in place. Road Supervisor Ed Hillman said the policy has existed in the five years he has been with the county. DES Coordinator Belinda Van Nurden said she was not involved in creating the policy so she assumes it was in place prior to her employment. Lawellin asked the differences between Park County's and Gallatin County's emergency snow removal policy.

Citizen Stacy LaCombe of 355 Cokedale Road said she used to have her road plowed at least every other day. LaCombe said she has been living in Park County for 50+ years and the road was plowed at least on the third day of a major snow event, but this year it was eight days before she saw a plow. Van Nurden said the conditions were more severe than seen in a long time, and roads were blowing in as fast as they were plowed. She said she does not know the answer but wants to find out how to do things better next time. She said the roads have never been closed continually for a solid week in the time she has been DES Coordinator.

Hillman said no road crewmen were sent home from work on Tuesday (November 23) because they were plowing snow to get school kids home, and crewmen were out working on Wednesday. Hillman said the road crew could not keep open the number of roads in the county, and years ago the department had 14 operators compared to 10 now and not enough equipment. He said it was useless for the crew to plow roads on Thursday because roads blew back in as fast as they were plowed open. He said Gallatin County provided two plows, Montana Department of Transportation provided plowing help and as much plowing help as possible was sought.

Citizen Joe Croston asked the county's snow removal policy and whether private citizens can help out with snow plowing the county road access to Highway 89. Hillman said if a citizen needs to plow his road out to get out, then do so. Malone said DES is generating a list of individuals who can assist with snow removal.

Citizen Jim Taylor said yesterday morning the county maintainer sanded four corners then in the afternoon he graded the sand off the road. He said it made no sense to sand it then turn around and blade it. Hillman said it was not the same individual as different people were doing different work during the emergency.

Citizen Dan Karell said he has lived on Swingley Road since he was 12 years old and he knows for a fact it is an effort in futility when plowing snow in 40-60-miles per hour winds and snow berms become immovable. He said the county can better use its resources to wait until a storm is nearly over and then do the job. He said many people in the county now feel they need to go into town each day, which was not the case in the past.

Citizen Martha Miller said she thinks there could possibly have been more public information disseminated urging people to stay home. She said perhaps signs on roads that are blocked may help in warning people against getting stuck.

Lawellin said she finds a significant logical fault provided by DES under the current policy, as there was no school on Wednesday. She said travelers were coming from other places for the holiday. She said the timing of what got done when was faulty, as the Five Acre Tracts should have been plowed out by the time an ambulance became stuck there if crewmen start plowing snow at 4:00 a.m. She said the county must not have enough people or equipment and she does not know who should lobby for that, and the Commission needs to find Hillman the resources he needs. Lawellin said the county cannot get emergency services in and out of areas and the fire chief cannot provide services he is to be doing for the citizenry if he has to bulldoze snow.

LaCombe said she owns a business 3.5 miles up Cokedale Road. She said citizens there are considering a class action lawsuit against the county because the county is not keeping Cokedale Road clear. She said there are several people who said they would be interested in signing such a lawsuit.

Citizen June Kinnick said her complaint is operators leave snow on the wrong side of the road and the wind blows it back over the road.

Citizen Bob Fry said management and coordination was the issue and the county must be prepared as soon as the blizzard quits, as it cannot do anything when it is in full force. He said the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) could have been activated to disseminate information with possibly a canned message. Fry said he recommends more thought process into the operational side of the issue to approach it from a priority basis.

Citizen Craig Ames of Cokedale Road asked how the county determines its priority roads to plow. Hillman said the county has roads classified as to frequency of maintenance.

Emergency 911 Dispatcher Drew Beattie said the public information end of the situation was quite frankly atrocious. Beattie said Dispatch received hundreds of calls well before an emergency was declared, and Dispatch did not have an approved message or contact telephone number it could give people. He said if the roads were closed, then it would have been good to get that out via the Reverse 911 System. He said all the roads were closed, but citizens did not know they were closed. Beattie said the county has the technology and systems to get such information out to the public, but it needs the managers to provide Dispatch 911 the information and the route it wants the information delivered. Hillman said he telephoned Dispatch. Beattie said unless someone in emergency services tells Dispatch 911 who will pay for the Reverse 911 message, it cannot use the system. Fry said such is why opening the EOC is important to coordinate with all services.

PCRFD#1 Fire Chief Dann Babcox said it was his understanding the roads were closed except for emergency travel. He said PCRFD#1 and the Sheriff's Office called Hillman

several times Wednesday evening and Thursday, and his crew failed to show with 10 people stranded on Old Clyde Park Road. Babcox said a false sense of security occurs if emergency services cannot get through roads, even if well publicized. Babcox said the wind was blowing equally as bad on Friday, so the more populated areas like the Five Acre Tracts and Green Acres has to have an artery open, as shutting down and not doing anything is not a solution. Babcox said it is an emergency whenever emergency services get a call.

Wendy Wood, Search and Rescue, said communication was her big concern. She said road crewmen stopped working at 9:00 p.m., so an individual was in her care for five hours before SAR reached her on snow mobiles, and that situation cannot happen again. Wood said SAR needs to be advised by Hillman right away if he knows the road crew cannot keep a road open and SAR needs to use its snowmobiles.

Citizen Mary Rahn of Swingley Road said her concern is people who call 911 with emergencies that aren't emergencies and a lot of money is spent to get them out when it may not be an emergency. Rahn said she does not think county residents should pay for such instances, and non-emergencies use up services for actual emergencies.

Citizen Chuck Donovan said his issue was communications with calls being dumped straight to Hillman's phone from the Commission Office, so Hillman shut his phone off. Donovan said possibly signs could be posted at the ends of town to inform folks county roads are closed.

Citizen Clyde Bainter said there are a lot of contractors in the area and it wouldn't hurt to give a contractor a route to maintain if the road crew cannot maintain it in an emergency.

Sheriff Allen Lutes said his concern is emergency services, as he understands emergency services need a road plowed out if they call requesting a road plowed. He said he does not care if employee hours are exhausted or men are tired, the job must get done. Lutes said the road crew is an emergency service in times of emergencies, and he expects the road department to work in emergency conditions if emergency services telephone.

Malone said preplanning is required to contract with contractors in emergency situations. He said the county needs to look at the weather report better, and the Commission appointed Greg Coleman as Assistant DES Director so someone is always present. Malone said the county can do better with preplanning, the EOC and involving the GIS Department. He said roads such as Old Clyde Park Road were not signed properly, but the county got more snow than it has had in some time.

Jim Taylor asked if the county will back off the liability issue for private contractors to plow county roads, and he thinks the Commission needs to verify its policy on that issue.

Karell said the county needs to put together an emergency program policy and a training policy for citizens who may clear snow. He said the county needs to be sure all available equipment is activated for snow emergencies.

Malone said the I -105 budget and state statute keeps county road budgets stagnant.

Commissioner Taylor said improving communications would be a good place for the county to start. Malone said he can assure the people the county is working on it. He said Van Nurden and Coleman will work on an emergency plan, and the EOC option will be looked at. Coleman said a meeting with emergency services showed once a countywide call was put out on the scanner, calls to dispatch were cut in half. He said such is sort of a free announcement. Beattie said thousands of people listen to scanners in Livingston.

Undersheriff Scott Hamilton said the 2004 Park County Emergency Operations Plan states law enforcement is in charge of emergency operations, but there were certain parts of the plan that fell apart. Hamilton said emergency services need a snowplow when they request one. Malone said the Commission will straighten that out. Hillman said he has never seen the county's EOP.

Malone said the Commission will have another meeting in December to come up with a new plan. Van Nurden said a Bozeman firm is working on revision of the EOP and the next Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will review the emergency annex.

@3:03:43 p.m., Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned.

December 3, 2010

No meetings scheduled

Marty Malone  
Chairman, Park County Commission  
Park County, Montana

Denise Nelson  
Clerk & Recorder  
Park County, Montana