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1. CALL TO ORDER
Commissioners Present: Commissioner (Chair) Michele Landquist, Commissioner Jean Curtiss, Commissioner Bill Carey

Staff Present: Andrew Czorny, Chief Financial Officer, Marnie McClain, County Attorney, Dale Bickell, Chief Administrative Officer

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

5. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS
Weekly Claims List ($614,064.19)

Executive Session
Commissioner Curtiss made motion that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Weekly Claims List in the amount of $614,064.19. Commissioner Carey second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

6. HEARING
Final Budget Review (Fiscal Year 2014)
Andrew Czorny gave update. In summary; for the first time since the recession we show growth in almost every county in the state. Starting the FY 14 budget process Commissioners set new phase budget perimeters. Commissioners approved a 2.5 %
annual merit increase. Based operations were held at prior year’s ongoing operations budget level. A 1% mill increase was approved for the continuation and implementation of county space needs plan, this is the third of 4 mils that was approved by the Commissioners for the renovation and the space needs of the county and the Courthouse Annex, secure storage warehouse, the records center and Admin (previously GLR) building.

**Commissioner Carey:** Andrew would you talk just a little bit more about the county’s paying for the cost of the primary elections? Do we have any latitude at all to draw a line saying we can’t spend more than this or…?

**Andrew Czorny:** I don’t believe so. I think we’re statutory required to go through 8 of those elections, we do get reimbursed from the schools and City.

**Commissioner Carey:** So that $261,000 does not include the reimbursement we’ll get?

**Andrew Czorny:** No, it does not. I think last year we spent $250,000 and received $95,000 back. And I think this year we’re actually required to do the maintenance on the election so that’s another $40,000.

**Chair Landquist:** Thank you Andrew. I do appreciate some of the explanations you gave regarding hiring some folks now before some retire because that institutional knowledge is going to be very difficult to live without. Normally we end up with some savings when people that have been with us quite a while and then we go through that hiring process but there are a couple instances here where these guys have been with us a good long while and there’s a lot to learn as far as where certain things are when it comes to the buildings that we maintain. So we have made some exceptions there this time around.

**Andrew Czorny:** Losing one employee with approximately 40+ years.

**Chair Landquist:** Things like that are important as well as, if projections don’t come into play that you’ve talked about and we have to make some adjustments next year, that starts meaning major cutbacks and we’ll have to look at cutbacks in services and wages and things like that. I’m not sure quite how that will play out with some of the union contracts we have, so far some of them negotiated two and three years at a time but we’re cautiously optimistic that the economy is going to rebound, it already has started, it’s just been slow in coming up. Could you shed just a tiny bit more light for the sake of the folks that are here and at home watching on MCAT regarding the question of asking the Commissioners to talk with the Department of Revenue regarding some numbers that don’t seem to be making sense?

**Andrew Czorny:** We’ve been looking at some numbers that essentially assessed properties which are the corporations with holdings throughout the State of Montana. We’ve noticed that their taxable values have increased significantly this past year and in prior years both on land and business taxes. I’ll be putting some numbers on paper showing long term what’s happen and presenting it to you so that you may talk to our new DOR to see what we can do about it. It’s very odd, we have no idea what’s going on right now.
Chair Landquist: I wonder if any of that had anything to do with what the legislature was looking at as far as business equipment taxes and stuff. Its different stuff, this is real property right?

Andrew Czorny: Yes.

Chair Landquist: We all appreciate the keen eye you have and the way you bring things into perspective and look at other counties and other trends and help us get our heads wrapped around that.

Andrew Czorny: We will have this on pie charts once again and on the website with the tax bills. You can look where your money is being spent on a dollar by dollar basis.

Commissioner Curtiss: To be clearer on that, when you go to the counties website to look at your tax bill, there’s a part on there where you can click on it and it will show the pie chart how your tax dollars get spent. It’s pretty interesting, it shows public safety, community organizations, that kind of thing.

Public Comment

Gypsy Ray: I’m standing here today in a new position, I’m still at Mountain Home as a part-time Clinical Director and you’ll meet our new Executive Director in a few minutes. I have been hired this week as the Frenchtown Community Coalition Coordinator so you’ll be seeing and hearing from me a lot more and I just want to thank you for the support for the Frenchtown Community. As you know, we have high needs and we have a whole community inside of the county with a K-12 school system so I’m really, really excited to live and work in the community and also maintain my position at Mountain Home. Thank you again so much for your support for this position.

Josh Jones: I represent the City Life Community Center. We do an after dark program there that is supported and funded by the prevention mill levy funds. Last year we had about 1500 kids, high school students and junior high kids involved in that program on Friday and Saturday nights. It’s over that the City Life Community Center and I just want to say thanks for support. I think it’s a great benefit to our community to provide places for kids to go without the influence of drugs and alcohol in their lives, so thank you.

Shari Strachan: Executive Director at Mountain Home, as Gypsy said. I’m really happy to be here again to offer our gratitude for your past support. What we do over at Mountain Home is provide housing and supported services to young mothers and their children. We really appreciate the support that we’ve received in the past and want to thank you for this opportunity to stand before you again at this final budget hearing.

Brandy Tiree: I work for the Missoula Forum for children and youth and I’m the Missoula underage substance abuse prevention coordinator. We receive funding through prevention mill levy and we’re just so grateful for that, I think we have an opportunity to really help link the community organizations that are trying to support our families and our youth. I brought for you a packet of different brochures and items that we’ve been able to work on at a community coalition format to provide for the public. One of them is our parent resource guide, which is over 24 local organizations contributed. One of the most
things that we’re proud about the parent resource guides is that it’s local, about our own
kids and data about our own families and the local contributors and there isn’t an ounce of
advertising. So when we go around and we’re able to distribute this free to families and
businesses, they always say; there’s no advertising? It’s just nice because you just get to
have it and we don’t want anything in return from you. I would also like to say a special
thanks to Commissioner Curtiss for giving this to the First Lady, I’m sure that went really
well. I’m very excited to think she might have looked at it. We thank you for your support
of the mill levy; it’s just amazing for our community. We’ve looked around and we don’t
know a lot of other communities that had mill levy’s to support prevention like that so we
just appreciate your support and thank you very much.

Commissioner Curtiss: Thank you to the voters for passing that mill levy.

Andrew Czorny: We’ll be formally adopting the budget next Wednesday at the
Commissioners Public Administrative Meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS
   None

8. RECESS
   Being no further business to come before the Board the Commissioner are in recess at
   2:04.