PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013 – 1:30 P.M.
ROOM B14 – ADMIN BUILDING
MINUTES

If anyone attending the Public Meetings needs special assistance, please provide advance notice by calling 258-4877. Missoula County will provide auxiliary aids and services.

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

Staff Present: Greg Robertson, Director Public Works, Dale Bickell, Chief Administrative Officer

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
Historic Fort Missoula Old Wild West Fest, August 3rd-4th ~ family friendly event.
Missoula Aging Services, volunteers are always needed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

5. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS
Bi-Weekly Claims List ($4,314,321.89)

Executive Session
Commissioner Carey made motion that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Bi-Weekly Claims List in the amount of $4,314,321.89. Commissioner Curtiss second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

6. HEARINGS
   a. Seeley Lake Refuse District Budget & Annual Assessment
Greg Robertson gave report. The purpose of the hearing is to consider adopting an assessment for the district wide assessment per parcel of $150.00 annually. This has
not changed in a few years. In looking over the budget with some changes that we made in the previous year, this is more than adequate for the coming fiscal year. No increase in assessments is anticipated or proposed. The purpose of the hearing again is to take any sort of public testimony, which we will incorporate into Request for Commission Action (RCA), along with the Resolution that we have to forward to the State.

Chair Landquist: How much is that a year?

Greg Robertson: $150.00 per parcel annually.

Commissioner Curtiss: For parcels that have dwellings on them. If you have bare property you don't have to pay it.

Greg Robertson: Correct. The way the district has been structured, it is equivalent of 10 cubic yards of waste that can be hauled, per individual before additional costs and for most families that's more than adequate.

Commissioner Curtiss: The one difference though is they have to get it to the refuse district themselves, there's not a truck that's picking it up.

Greg Robertson: That's correct. We provide the transfer site and recycling facilities on site.

Chair Landquist: That's still quite a bargain because there was quite a few years that we hauled our own garbage to the dump site and it's still not cheap. And the refuse district really does a little bit more than that too as far as recycling and stuff.

Greg Robertson: We now have a full recycling program through Pacific Recycling with a contract for them, which is due and will be forwarded to you shortly, but it's paying for itself.

Chair Landquist: Do they do appliances there too that have Freon in them?

Greg Robertson: Yes. The operators at the transfer site are all certified to remove the Freon and dispose of equipment properly.

Chair Landquist: At no additional fee?

Greg Robertson: Right.

Public Comment
None

Greg Robertson: We will bring you the final Resolution early next week for your consideration.
b. Missoula County FY 2014 Preliminary Budget Hearing
Dale Bickell gave report. It appears Missoula County is finally immersing from the recession. The recession did hit Missoula County harder than most counties in the State; we were in there longer and deeper than most other counties. But the Bureau of Business and Economic research at the University is now reporting that they had an actually growth rate in non------ earnings in 2012 of 2% and they’re projecting 2.4 annual growth rates for 2013 through 2016. So we’ll not rapid growth by any stretch, it’s a welcome relief to the recession that we recently had. Additionally Missoula County is starting to do a lot better in employment; we’ve recently passed the head of the statewide average. The Department of Labor is now reporting Missoula County at a 5.2% unemployment rate versus 5.5% state wide and 7.6% nationally. The final results of the preliminary budget will change based on the actual certified property values and as we get more information in the hearing. This presentation is available.

Public Comment

Terry Jensen, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate): Thank you all for our proposed funding, if they stay that way it will go a long way towards helping us reduce our waiting lists for CASAs. A little bit goes a long way in our tiny little organization, so I really appreciate everything you guys do for us.

Chair Landquist: Could you tell everybody what CASA is?

Terry Jensen: CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. We recruit, train, supervisor and support community volunteers who work on behalf of abused and neglected kids in the court system. So we train them and they get to work with the kids and parents and Child and Family Services and attorneys and all sorts of people to make sure that kids best interests are represented when they’ve been removed from the homes.

Dedent Rector, Big Brother/Big Sisters: Thank you for supporting all the youth programs in our community and especially for supporting Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We’re very thankful that you support our organization and that you believe in our mission and the work that we do here in Missoula. I also wanted to let you know that today we have 52 children on our waiting list and unfortunately probably 48 of them are little brothers. So this funding, that we will receive, will be used to find more big brother and big sister volunteers to match with those children. It will be wonderful because many of these children have waited a long for their big brother, their big sister and this will be such a nice event in their life and it does make a difference. Earlier today before I came here I was at a luncheon with two individuals that had been part of our program; one is a current big brother who has been matched for three years, he’s a young professional from our community. He is married but at the time he became a big brother he was just this big brother and his wife and they now have a two year child. When he was matched with his little brother, who was 8 at the time, the little brother was referred to the program because he was getting into trouble and he was failing in school. Now this little boy is 11 years old and he’s turned into a very nice adolescent. On his last report card that just came out, his grades were A’s and B’s and probably the most important thing is that this big brother has given him the encouragement over
these last three years. He’s accepted him for the individual that he is and during that time he’s helped build that young child into this - what we will think will be a very nice young man in the future. The other individual is a professional from our community also, he’s a very young gentleman in his mid-50’s that’s raised his own children and he was a big brother for 10 years. The match continued until his little brother graduated from High School and went away to school in Spokane. His little brother today is 28 years old, married, has a child of his own and he’s a cardiac tech at a hospital in Portland. They talk to each other every week, this is one of those relationships like we’ll find in our program, and we have many more that continue these relationships long after they leave Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This gentleman said to me this afternoon that probably the most wonderful thing of course that has happened in his little brothers life but the fact that every time they talk at the very end of the conversation that little brother, who is now a young 28 year old, father himself will thank him for being part of his life. There isn’t a week that goes by that I don’t run into somebody in this community that’s been involved in our program; either a parent that’s had a child, somebody that’s been a former little, a former big or has served on the board of directors. I just want to say that we’re very fortunate in this community that we have such wonderful, wonderful people that give so much to the children and the elderly in our community. We should be very proud of Missoula and again I thank you for all of your support.

Heidi Wallace, Director of NCBI in Missoula: I am here as well to thank you for your incredible support of our youth through our respect clubs, after school program. This year we’re at Lolo Elementary, it’s our 2nd year doing the club at elementary school and it’s just been incredible. It’s our highest enrollment at Lolo and their leadership and confidence has really just skyrocketed and that is largely due to the fact that our middle school respect club students have been facilitating that elementary club. So they are getting those peer connections, peer mentors and we definitely know that’s going to help their transition into middle school, as well knowing they already have a really supported space at the middle school. One exciting thing that happened this year is we expanded our in school program where we trained every 5th grader in Missoula County Public Schools. We were at nine schools training 500 fifth graders and that was really successful. We used our middle school respect club students to co-facilitate those trainings; it was focused on leadership and all-life skills but also transition to middle school. We had our awesome middle schooler’s be on the panel for all the 5th graders and the students could ask anything they ever wanted to ask about middle school. All the comments from the 5th graders were how thankful they were that students from the school came and told them what it was like and the questions they asked were some you would assume would be questions and some were really hilarious so that was a really good experience. It’s just awesome to provide those leadership opportunities for the middle school respect club students, they’re getting that peer mentoring from high school students and so it’s really creating a pipe-line of leadership but also strengthening those connections. We just want to thank you and any time you want to come to respect club, you’re more than welcome to check it out.

Dana King-Fisher, Missoula Indian Center: I’m the alcohol substance abuse program and tobacco use prevention program coordinator. So I just wanted to talk really about the tobacco use prevention program, it’s a state funded contract that we get from MTOP. Tomorrow we’re having our coalition meeting from 12:00-1:00 at the Missoula Indian Center and also we’re having our fifth annual ‘come celebrate our
culture’ at Caras Park on September 26th so I want to invite everybody there. We recently hired a new Executive Director, Leann B. Johnson. I’m really happy to be here, my first time. Thank you.

**Skip Rosenthal, Western Montana Addition Services:** Thank you for the continuing support to the prevention levy fund to keep project success alive in the schools. We’re still active in five High Schools; Willard, Big Sky, Sentinel, Hellgate and Frenchtown, we’re active in those schools. At the end of the year I met with administrators from each of those schools just to say; okay you know we’re in there, are you sure we’re there? You know us, do you like us? And to the person, they all knew a lot about the program, they integrated it in the school, they loved having a substance abuse counselor in the school to make referrals to, I think it’s making an impact. The only short fall they can say is we wish we had more of them. Regardless of that I really appreciate you guys – $140,000 this year and for 10 months next year we’ll have those programs available in those schools. Thank you.

**Kathy Wheat, Office Manager of Watsons Children Shelter:** Our Development Coordinator is on vacation so I’m here. I’m here to thank you for the grant that you’ve given us this year with a little bit of an increase from last year, which we really appreciate. We have been serving record numbers of children, many toddlers the last two years. We had over 130 children in 2013 and we expect this trend to continue. So your grant is supporting our food budget. Thank you.

**Vicki Dundas, Health Department:** I’m transitioning over to supervision of the foster child health program. I just want to say thank you as well for helping us with the foster child home grant. We’re currently seeing 56 kids in foster care right now and this grant will help us sustain that and possibly increase those numbers. Unfortunately there is a need to increase those numbers. The programs have been very successful, Department of Family Services and CVS really appreciates our help and the nurse coordinating the health care for these foster kids as they go from foster home to foster home helping the foster parents understand their health care needs and making sure all the medical records are where they’re supposed to be. It’s been very helpful to the kiddos, thank you.

**Cindy, YWCA:** We have two grants included in this budget; one is for emergency housing program and it’s funding the only staff coalition in that program by emergency housing through motel rooms that we lease and through vouchers that we give out in emergency situations for homeless families in Missoula. We literally couldn’t operate that program without this grant so thank you very much. Then our second grant is for our pathways domestic violence shelter again it’s funding a staffing position and what that allows us to do is we use volunteers at the shelters as well. We have 40 volunteers but we need paid staff and we leverage those paid staff by having them help supervisor some of those volunteers, recruit them and train them. Then obviously our paid staff can still provide 24/7 services. You have been funding us for a long time and we really appreciate it and depend on it, even though we have certainly reached out to other funding resources, it’s a crucial piece of our budget. Thank you.

**Michael Tree, Mountain Line:** We have the $20,000 grant that historically has been in your budget and is currently in your budget moving forward in this budget cycle. I just
want to thank you for that contribution; it goes to specialized senior disabled transportation, which is your curb to curb service. So far this calendar year, just the first six months we’re up 18% on that ridership, so it’s growing…the need and the folks are truly appreciative of that specialized service, without it they have great difficulty getting around. So thank you for having that in your budget.

**Teresa, Director of the Parenting Place:** Child abuse prevention organization that you’ve supported for many, many years with our parent education piece and the children’s programs that accompany that. And that’s what we have on the table this year as well. One of the things that I think in the past years I’ve mentioned and I think that it’s worth mentioning again, is that when we talk about prevention, the very primary prevention where we’re actually working with families before issues arise that call for a need for intervention of some sort with the Department of Family Service or the Department of Corrections or any of those systems that are going to end up costing us more money in the long run. I just want to reiterate that for every dollar that we decrease prevention we are going to pay for that ten-fold on the other end. So I just wanted to mention that again. The other thing that I think has come up several times that over the course of my work in this organization, duplication of services has come up time and time again and I think that it may be time for a community conversation about that. I think we all talk about it but I think there are things behind the scenes that people don’t understand about duplication of service and what that means and how that might actually look. There might be an assumption that there’s duplication of services within our community when maybe with the right explanation and with the proper perception of what’s being provided for families we can really look at that in terms of – it’s not really duplication of services, it’s a safety net type of coverage for families. So I’m wondering if the County Commissioners might consider having a community conversation with a larger group of programs that are offering similar services with the Commissioners, yourselves and if any other folks that might be stack holders in this. So I’m just gonna put that out there. But again, every year I have to say thank you because without the funding that we get from you we would not be able to do the work that we’re currently doing and it’s so so critical to our community. Thank you.

**Shari Strachan, Executive Director of Mountain Home Montana:** I want to thank you annually for your support over the years. I’m so pleased to be able to be here today to represent Mountain Home and to express our gratitude for your support in the past and for your consideration again during this budget review. The work that we do over at Mountain Home is really reaching the most vulnerable of all the homeless families that we’re seeing in Missoula and that is simply really because they are the youngest. So I want to thank you for supporting the young mothers and babies. This grant goes to case management for these young woman, we provide a customized plan for them to achieve independent living. Our staff over at Mountain Home are really their parents, they are trained professionals and their not only able to provide that professional level of coverage with the clients but also to show by example how to be a good parent, so we’re able to monitor. We’re small but a mighty operation and we appreciate your support. I would also like to give a nod to the grants and community programs, the contract with United Way Outreaching Program. I express my support for that as well. I used to work over at United Way, I was the Director of Operations for 10 years and I know that along with the United Way and the other homeless provides that this reaching home plan, there’s a lot of hope placed in the future of our community based on the values that are expressed in our plan. Thank you.
Chair Landquist: Thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to come here and share with us how the money is spent and what it means to your organization. As we said early to some of the others that were here, thank you very much for the work that you do to make Missoula a better place to live and for filling those voids in corners that we can’t do ourselves, you provide valuable service. We’re glad that we can help in some way to make it happen.

Commissioner Curtiss: We’re fortunate to have such quality organizations here that care about the people and that’s why we choose to not recreate anything but rather use the existing organizations.

Chair Landquist: We keep winning that one of the best places to raise children award as a result of all the different organizations that come together to help make Missoula a better place to live. We do care about our young people realizing that they’re going to us in the future…and we need us.

7. OTHER BUSINESS
   None

8. RECESS
   No further business to come before the Board the Commissioners are in recess at 2:03.