PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 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: Dori Brownlow, County Attorney, Vickie Zeier, Treasurer, Steve Earle, Fairgrounds Director

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

5. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS
Weekly Claims List ($602,116.98)

Executive Session
Commissioner Carey made motion that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Weekly Claims List in the amount of $602,116.98. Commissioner Curtiss second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

6. HEARING
Setting Precinct Boundaries (Elections)
Vickie Zeier gave update. Every 10 years after the census the State of Montana has a district and in apportionment committee that looks at house district boundaries and redraws the house district boundary. This occurred during 2001 and 2012 and in 2013 during the legislative session the new boundaries are adopted. It is the responsibilities of
the Board of County Commissioners to set the precincts by the House District Boundaries. As you mentioned, we’ve been working on this, we have to pass this within 45 days of the date the plan is filed with the Secretary of State’s Office and the deadline is Friday, March 29th. When we previously met, one of my questions to you was; how many precincts do you want per house district? We tried to accommodate that request of four precincts per house district. The proposed plan is to have somewhere between three and four precincts per house district. The reason we need to have more than two precincts or at least two precincts per house district is for ballot rotation. So we chose to go with four precincts per house district. There are a couple areas where we did not accomplish that and that is Frenchtown. Frenchtown 14 is the new proposed precinct and it’s a rural area in the Frenchtown area that doesn’t have a lot of voters. We have a Frenchtown 14 North and a Frenchtown 14 South so that we have at least two ballot preparations, Nine Mile Road is dividing the two precincts.

Public Comment
None

Commissioner Curtiss read part of the resolution.

Chair Landquist: Will this be available on the web?

Vickie Zeier: Yes, we hope to have that up tomorrow.

Executive Session
Commissioner Carey made motion that the Board of County Commissioners approve to reset Precinct Boundaries to conform with new House District Boundaries. Commissioner Curtiss second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

7. CONSIDERATIONS
A) Treasurer Refund Policy
Vickie Zeier gave update. What’s before you today is a consideration to adopt a policy, really it’s guidance for us to use when we’re looking at refunding taxes, penalties and interest. Montana law requires that the Commissioners are in charge of doing any refunds, overpayment of taxes, taxes paid in error, taxes that were charged when there was a disaster, something like that. What we wanted to do is have something available, a policy that sets the guidance and that we could also hand out to the customers when they come in asking about refunds, so that there was something in writing so they would know whether they even had a chance of doing a refund or not. The policy in front of you really is mainly a statute. You have certain areas when you can refund and you have no legal authority in other areas. So what we tried to do with this policy is set up the procedures of how we will proceed with refunds and so forth.

Chair Landquist: Once again will this not only be available when people come in to pay their taxes of come in your office but will it be available as an informational piece on the website?

Vickie Zeier: It will be put both on the Treasure and the Motor Vehicle websites as soon as you’ve made the decision to adopt.
Chair Landquist: And this is only applicable to fees that are collected at the Treasurer’s Office, this wouldn’t be applicable to other refund policies, if we have any for like the Surveyors office or any planning department or anything like that, right?

Vickie Zeier: Correct.

Commissioner Curtiss: I think folks might not realize that we meet monthly with Vickie to talk about requests that have been brought forward. Sometimes people say; I didn’t realize my mother hadn’t paid her taxes, she’s aging, all of those things we always are sympathetic to but as Vickie said, the statue directs whether or not we can give a refund. The other one is that ~ I’ve sent it by mail but if it doesn’t have a post mark on it. If you go in after the post office is closed for the day and there’s no one putting a post mark on it, it won’t count and that’s all in the statue. I think it is good to have it in a policy that people can easily access.

Chair Landquist: Speaking of putting things in the mail, we have the drop box by our parking lot for dropping off ballots, can you also drop off tax payments or do you have to go inside to do that? Or do we have a drop off zone for stuff like that?

Vickie Zeier: We do have a drop box, both inside and outside, but as of 5:00 p.m. November 30th if you’re tax payment is not in that box, it will be considered late.

Chair Landquist: Because it is checked on a daily basis?

Vickie Zeier: It is and at 5:00 p.m. on the last day it is emptied and made sure that we have all the mail that’s been brought in. However, people are able to use the website until midnight.

Chair Landquist: But if they pay by web then they could use an electronic check and only be charge $1.00?

Vickie Zeier: That’s correct.

Chair Landquist: If they use credit or debit they get charged a percentage?

Vickie Zeier: They do. It’s 1.95%

Chair Landquist: And that’s basically our recapture cost because we are being charged that, right?

Vickie Zeier: That’s correct.

Public Comment
None
Executive Session
Commissioner Curtiss made motion that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Refund Policy as presented today. Commissioner Carey second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

B) Resolution to Create Central Park Partnership
Steve Earle gave update. I can’t take full credit for this, it goes back 15-16 years ago to Geoff Badenoch and Pete Lambros who did a lot of work on the conceptual idea of the 160 acre central park idea in that part of town. It resurfaced when Erik Gabster was the chair of the advisory committee and we got together and started meeting again and talking about some of the things that may not have been addressed in the extreme amount of detail that they needed to be in the planning process that went on. I think one of them was the item that is very popular in Missoula and this is joint partnerships with governing boards, political bodies and such. So we talked a little bit about the central park theme and the value of that piece of property to the citizens of Missoula, in terms of 160 acres of land that needs to be preserved as a public asset, as best we can. And then we talked about ways we could move forward to utilize our resources jointly and also involve each other in the planning process, as we move forward to do our own individual master plans, several of which have been un-gone in the last few years. We looked at the fences that separate us and said well, if you ever want to have a trail through here, those fences are going to be a problem so we’ve got to start somewhere in terms of taking them down and talking about joint use. You might of seen the article in the paper today that quotes me as saying it could be anything from sharing a riding lawnmower, to sharing a building, to sharing a parking lot, to doing whatever we can to illustrate to the public that we are making the best use of the resources we have, before we go out to the public and ask for them to invest more of their own income and resources back into this property. So we got together, we had several meetings. The advisory committee a little over a year ago endorsed this for the staff and these bodies to move forward and it’s taken a little bit of time but at this point all the bodies with the exception of the Board of County Commissioners has approved the resolution and either signed it or is ready to sign it today in conjunction with your approval. There’s a real long list of uses at this point and time for that 160 acres, I don’t know that a lot of the community understands all of the things that go on at the fairgrounds and at the YMCA and at Splash Montana in the course of 365 days and then you throw in the Missoula College and Sentinel High School, it’s a happening piece of property.

Hugh Jessie, Director of Facility Services of the University and partner for this coordination: The University concurs.

Jason Shearer, Associate Executive Director of YMCA: I think it represents forward thinking, what is 160 acres of space that’s as big as the University and the University district combined gonna look like in 100 years? This is our opportunity for continuity and how to better serve our separate communities and our shared community. I think it’s a great idea and a great opportunity for us just to take a step back and look at that property and very likely an opportunity to improve the esthetics, the value that we have in our individual agencies and our impact in the community.
Chair Landquist: I also thank everyone because working together like this insures that the future of this property, of this public land, that the best things possible will come of it…of this collaboration and the community and since we’re really just here for a very small period of time, we owe it to those that are going to be using it and caring for it in the future to make the best collective decisions here. 160 acres smack dab in the middle of Missoula is big these days, as grown-up as Missoula’s gotten. Thank you everyone past and current that’s worked on this.

Public Comment
None

Executive Session
Commissioner Curtiss made motion that the Board of County Commissioners sign the Resolution as presented and approve the 160 acre Central Park Partnership. Commissioner Carey second the motion. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

8. OTHER BUSINESS
Steve Earle: Transportation Workshop; I don’t have a lot of details at this point and time. I have a phone conference with the people that are putting it on on Monday. It will be April 29 & 30th, it’s about a day and a half long workshop. It’s not a heavily involved public process that we’ll go through, it’s actually kind of a snapshot view of available parking in the immediate vicinity of Southgate Mall, the Fairgrounds and the YMCA. I’m trying to create an inventory so that when there is a major event in the area we have an inventory to access and build a plan in terms of maximizing the benefit of that inventory in the future for parking. It will look very briefly at things like a parking commission in the area and land use. As much as I’d like to say I’m gonna get a $100,000 of work out of them, I think it’s going to be closer to $5,000, but I’ll try and do what I can.

9. RECESS
Being no further action to come before the Board the County Commissioners are in recess at 2:00.