



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

2715 SKYWAY DRIVE, SUITE A, HELENA, MT 59602
(406) 449-4360 Fax (406) 442-5238
www.mtcounties.org

MEETING MINUTES

MACo TAX, FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

MACo Office, Building 1 Conference Room: June 9, 2020

Members

Mike McGinley, Chair, Beaverhead
 Bob Mullen, Jefferson
 Bill Barron, Lake
 Ruth Baue, Treasure
 Joe Briggs, Cascade
 Carol Brooker, Sanders
 Ross Butcher, Fergus

Greg Chilcott, Ravalli
 Gale Decker, Lake
 Todd Devlin, Prairie
 Shane Gorder, Richland
 Jim Hart, Madison
 Mary Ann Harwood, Toole
 Chris Hoffman, Ravalli

Don Jones, Yellowstone
 Bob Lee, Rosebud
 Doug Martens, Rosebud
 John Ostlund, Yellowstone
 Denis Pitman, Yellowstone
 Carl Seilstad, Fergus
 Jason Strouf, Custer

1. Roll Call & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair McGinley, and roll call was conducted (see above).

Others Present: Eric Bryson, MACo Executive Director; Kathy Johnson, MACo Finance Director; Sara McGowan, MACo Accounting Tech II; Shantil Siaperas, MACo Communications Director

2. Review & Approval of Minutes: May 29, 2019

Commissioner Chilcott moved, and Commissioner Devlin seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2021 Preliminary Budget

Director Bryson explained that due to the structural change in the WCT subsequent MACo reorganization, COLA was not built into the budget; and the staff salary survey has been postponed. Director Bryson further explained that the Field Services Representative Contract with Harold Blattie was not included, and Mr. Blattie has been noticed. Regarding the Event Planner position, Director Bryson spoke about changing it to ¾-time and has begun discussions with MACo's current Planner—the FTE is still at 1 in the budget. The committee agreed that this was under management's purview.

Director Johnson reviewed MACo's revenues: The print directory is being replaced with an app that will be free to the members resulting in zero revenue; there is an increase of \$125,000 for a cybersecurity grant that MACo has applied for to develop and provide cybersecurity training to counties; the Pooled Investment Fee income is the same as in the past, at 0.15% of the December 31 cash and investment balances; and lastly, with the reorganization, MACo moved people around into different offices, so rent income has been eliminated.

Director Johnson then gave an overview of MACo's cost centers and reductions made: the largest decrease was approximately \$800,000 resulting from the reduction in force of 6 FTEs. This included salary, fringe benefits, and travel. Other reductions included the Field Services Rep contract, which was \$76,000 (MACo paid 40% and each Trust contributed 20%). The only cost center that increased is 200 MACo Leg, as it is a legislative year. The Committee asked about NACo travel budget, to which Director Bryson announced that it had been halved.

Director Johnson lastly reported on the Board designated Net Position, and requested the committee recommend how much of a net position to designate to each position. Recommendations included removing autos, technology/server replacement, and succession planning, and keeping the buildings and WIR.

- Motion regarding staff COLA: Commissioner Harwood moved and Commissioner Chilcott seconded, to add the COLA increase to the budget for staff salaries. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion regarding Field Services Representative Contract: Commissioner Briggs moved and Commissioner Chilcott seconded, to terminate the contract. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion regarding Pooled Investment Fee: Commissioner Strouf moved and Commissioner Briggs seconded, to keep the Pooled Investment Fee at 0.15%. Motion passed unanimously.

4. FY 2021 Membership Dues Recommendation to Board of Directors

Director Bryson explained to the committee that the dues schedule would include CPI to aid with the reorganization. The CPI increase of 1.8% would provide MACo with an additional \$6,000. The committee believes that incremental increases are better than one-time larger increases.

- Motion regarding Membership Dues: Commissioner Chilcott moved, and Commissioner Harwood seconded, to recommend to the MACo Board of Directors that the FY 2021 Membership dues include a CPI increase of no more than 1.8%. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.