

**MACo DISTRICT 4 & 5 MEETING
MAY 6, 2008
STAGESTOP INN – CHOTEAU, MONTANA**

PRESENT: Arnold Gettel-Teton County Commissioner, Harvey Worrall-Chouteau County Commissioner, Harold Blattie-MACo, Vern Peterson-JPT, Sheryl Wood-MACo, Kimberly Burdick-Chouteau County Dispatcher, R. F. Sam Carlson-Teton County Commissioner, Paula Jaconetty-Teton County Clerk & Recorder, Joe Dellwo-Teton County Commissioner, Larry Hendrickson-Liberty County Commissioner, Russ Tempel-Liberty County Commissioner, Mike McGinley-Beaverhead County Commissioner-MACo 1st VP, Allan Underdal-Toole County Commissioner-MACo Fiscal Officer, Dave Miller-Toole County Commissioner, Ben Ober-Toole County Commissioner, Doug Kaercher-State Tax Appeal Board, Joe Biggs-Cascade County Commissioner, Lance Olson-Cascade County Commissioner, Vic Miller-Blaine County Commissioner, Mike Anderson-Hill County Commissioner, Michael Wendland-Hill County Commissioner, Don Wenson-Blaine County Commissioner, Kathy Bessette-Hill County Commissioner, Senator Jerry Black-District #14, Sandy Broesder-Pondera County Commissioner, Cynthia Johnson-Pondera County Commissioner, Peggy Beltrone-Cascade County Commissioner

Commissioner Gettel called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

MINUTES: Cyndy Johnson moved to approve the June 5, 2007 minutes, Mike Anderson seconded; motion carried.

DISPATCHERS' PENSION PROPOSAL-KIMBERLY BURDICK

Commissioner Worrall introduced Kimberly Burdick, head dispatcher and 911 communications supervisor for Chouteau County. Kimberly presented a survey in regard to a 20 year public safety dispatcher retirement proposal. Kimberly explained how the 20 year retirement for public safety dispatchers came about with PERS being presented this proposal and why the dispatchers should be in the 20 year retirement system. PERS had no opposition to the proposal. This would allow the public safety dispatchers to merge into the Sheriff's Retirement System. Kathy McGowan has been retained as lobbyist for the public safety dispatchers. A legislative bill will be prepared for the 2009 legislature. Mike Anderson asked if the dispatchers were currently in PERS? Kimberly stated, yes, currently all dispatchers are enrolled in PERS. Cyndy Johnson inquired if the rate would be increased to the same as the Sheriff's Retirement? Kimberly stated yes, it would raise to the sheriff's rate. Harold Blattie explained the counties are split in support, so MACo does not have an opinion at this time. Kimberly stated this is needed for retention of current dispatchers and as an incentive for new hires.

FY 2008-09 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Harold Blattie presented the 2009 projected budget report. Harold stated the 2008 budget will finish the year under budget and the anticipated revenues are up approximately \$50,000. Harold stated they are trying to keep 25% for cash reserve or unrestricted cash. Several items the Board of Directors have yet to decide on are not on the proposed budget. These will be decided one at a time. Allan Underdal commented on one of the steps the fiscal committee looks at in determining the 25% cash reserves and MACo is at about 29%. Allan stated a suggestion was made to the Board of Directors to include a 2.8% COLA for dues but this would only bump up the revenues about \$8,000 and Harold's salary has not been negotiated for the 2008-09 year.

Joe Briggs stated the dues schedule for Lewis and Clark County should be 17 not 16.

Sheryl Wood stated her concerns on the technology of MACo, including HIPPA rules and the licensing of the current software. Sheryl has been working on an IT plan over the past two years. Sheryl met with a consultant on a system that runs side by side so if one server goes down the other will run the system. This will be a shared cost by employees per division with MACo's portion at this point will be about \$5,500. Sheryl also suggested to put in a video conference system at MACo with a price of about \$24,000. There are security issues and at this point it is not a good use of dollars. Another suggestion is for hiring a legislative intern. The intern would assist in the research of bills and updating members. Sheryl gave options for obtaining legislative interns. Joe Briggs stated his concern on the training of the interns and what they know. Sheryl stated they would not be talking to anyone, just research. Mike Anderson asked who was doing the IT work? Sheryl and Harold are the network administrator and would be overseeing the IT process. Harold stated a data imaging program is being researched. Sandy Broesder commented on a FTE for IT being hired by MACo and maybe he/she could be shared with the counties for a support help desk.

Allan Underdal stated the committee has made the recommendation of \$577,983 for 2008-09 to the Board of Directors.

MACo RESOLUTIONS

Kathy Bessette presented an amendment to Resolution 2007-03 to add a buffer zone to add "and elk". Vic Miller moved to accept the two word addition of "and elk" to Resolution 2007-03, Russ Temple seconded; motion carried.

Harold brought the group up to speed on the resolutions in the works and if any commissioner has an idea for a resolution to bring it to MACo as soon as possible so they have time to research, assist, and prepare the resolution by the fall meeting.

Joe Briggs presented a resolution for "clarification of a governing body's appointment rights to an Airport Authority". Joe explained the reasoning behind the resolution and all the legal issues. After two years, nothing has been resolved. Cyndi asked if this would positively effect other boards. Joe stated yes, but this resolution is strictly referring to Airport Authority. Joe Briggs made a motion to advance this resolution to prepare, Ben Ober seconded; motion carried.

Lance Olson commented on the counties involvement of the GIS. Harold gave an overview of how the GIS funding came about.

Allan Underdal commented on an election bill that was passed in the 2007 legislature that makes it mandatory for the initiatives to be printed in full language, not an abbreviated form. This is an astronomical increase of the expense to print the ballots. Paula Jaconetty commented that this law needs to be revised.

STAFF REPORT

Harold Blattie commented on the workers' comp rates going down about 5%. The notices should be sent out by the week of May 12th.

A Federal Home Loan letter has been received on pending legislation on opening another avenue of funding for medical facilities. They are requesting a letter of support to be sent to the congressmen.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Harold Blattie gave an overview of passport fees. Roosevelt County will present a request of the fees be put into the general funds of the counties and not into the Clerk of Court's own pocket.

Harold reviewed the proposed ballot issues to be included on the November General Election ballot. Harold went over the pros and cons of CI-99 and I-156. Sheryl suggested to look at I-155 and if it will have any impact on self insured counties. Harold commented on the problems with gravel pit permits and DEQ. Harold gave an overview of the DEQ and its' problem with understaffing and that is what is making it backed up with requests.

Cyndi Johnson gave an overview of the MACo Board of Directors. The northwestern states have resumed meeting again. They discussed legislative issues. Cyndi commented on her trip to Florida and her trip to China. Cyndi went to the state meeting of The League of Cities and Towns.

Arnie Gettel moved to break for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reopened the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Harold Blattie gave an overview of the proposed bill for S.I.D.S. and the committee will decide whether or not to go ahead with the bill. The wild fire suppression interim committee has been meeting and Harold encourages anyone, that has a chance, to attend a meeting. Water policy interim committee is taking a hard look at exempt wells and what regulations must be followed.

Sheryl commented that the bed tax should be repealed for county nursing homes and hospitals.

The election interim committee has looked at a pilot for total mail ballot elections to be conducted in 17 counties.

EMS is being studied and a question was asked if the counties would donate some entitlement share. The involuntary commitment survey is completed but no outcome has been presented. A peer review committee is going to be put together to perform inspections on jails. Sheryl gave an overview of the transporting and handling of the mentally challenged individuals and the problems that are arising.

MDT-WAYNE NOEM

Mr. Noem was not in attendance.

Mike McKinley gave brief support of the legislature intern. He is trying to attend each district commissioners' meetings and meet with the commissioners with any concerns they may have.

MONTANA STATE TAX APPEAL BOARD-REAPPRAISAL UPDATE

Doug Kaercher reported the DOR has acquired two people to perform a study on the housing market and the trends. Doug is asking the commissioners to place an ad in the local papers to prepare the ranchers and farmers on what process the DOR will be doing for the reappraisal Vic Miller made a motion to endorse the Department of Revenue, Peggy Beltrone seconded; motion carried.

NOMINATIONS FOR MACo 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Bessette nominated John Ostlund-Yellowstone County for the 2nd Vice President, Cyndi Johnson seconded; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Senator Jerry Black thanked Harold, Sheryl and the staff at MACo on the excellent work they do for the counties. Senator Black also thanked the commissioners on the contact they made with him during the 2007 legislative session. Senator Black gave an overview of the irrigation development in Montana with Senator Black asking for support on the development of irrigation for Montana.

Sheryl gave a report of the meeting with the Montana Newspaper Association and their request for the rates to increase for legal advertising. The current folio is \$9 for the first publication and \$7 for the second publication. The increase is for \$11 for the first folio and \$9 for each additional publication. Sheryl is asking for more commissioners to complete the survey she had sent out last week. She asks these to be completed by Thursday.

Joe Briggs stated that if the statute of issuing permits for raffles does not go away it should leave the permit process for the County Commissioners and not the Department of Justice.

Harold commented on the 25 county commissioners that are not running for re-election and thanked those in attendance of their dedication to their counties.

The next meeting will be in District 4. Harvey Worall will work on setting up the meeting for the 2nd week of August.

Commissioner Gettel adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ss/Paula J. Jaconetty

Paula J. Jaconetty

Teton County Clerk & Recorder