



**Missoula City/County Elected Officials Policy Meeting
Planning and Grant Services Interlocal Agreement
March 21, 2012
10:05 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
City Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street**

Present: Mike Barton, Bruce Bender, Dale Bickell, Dennis Bragg, Bill Carey, Ed Childers, Caitlin Copple, Jean Curtiss, Lori Davidson, Bobbi Day, John Engen, Amy Fisher, Shantelle Gaynor, Dick Haines, Adam Hertz, Karen Hughes, Bob Jaffe, Steve Johnson, Dan Jordan, Pat Keiley, Michele Landquist, Marilyn Marler, Steve Mauer, Dale McCormick, James McCubbin, Jessica Miller, Pat O'Herren, Jason Rice, Alex Taft, Jason Wiener, Jon Wilkins, Cindy Wulfekuhle, Tom Zavitz, Deni Forestek

Alderwoman Marilyn Marler and Commissioner Bill Carey called the Missoula City/County Elected Officials Policy Meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of [February 12, 2012](#) minutes – approved as presented

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Regular Agenda

A. Continued Discussion on amending the Interlocal Agreement

Consideration of amending the Office of Planning and Grants Agreement.

([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Bruce Bender) [Proposed Organization Chart](#)

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

MOTION: The Committee of the Whole recommends that City Council adopt the [Resolution as amended](#) to consider amending the 2005 Interlocal Agreement establishing the provision of planning services and grants administration under the Office of Planning and Grants.

MOTION: The Missoula County Commissioners move to adopt the [Resolution as amended](#) to consider amending the 2005 Interlocal Agreement establishing the provision of planning services and grants administration under the Office of Planning and Grants.

Alderwoman Marler explained that this was a special meeting to discuss the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Bickell distributed copies of the [Missoula County Specific Goals and Administrative Objectives for a City-proposed New Interlocal Agreement](#). Mr. Bender distributed the amended [Resolution](#).

Mayor Engen explained the progress of the Development Services Working Group meetings over the last few weeks. At the first meeting, they established whether the working group wished to continue to proceed; the second meeting discussed a proposed structure of the Development Services Department; and the third meeting discussed the cost of the proposed change. During the course of these meetings, Mayor Engen felt that these meetings had been helpful; however, there are still details to work out. He felt there was a majority of support to move forward and hoped the meeting would result in a decision.

Questions and comments from the Committee:

- There was concern about the cost of the proposed department. Mayor Engen felt that there would be a one-time cost to the City to remodel and for equipment; however, the proposed on-going expenses for department overhead would be about the same as the City pays now.
- The grammar in the proposed Resolution was awkward. Mr. Bender explained that this was to appease the City and County Attorneys, who wanted to make sure that the Interlocal Agreement continued in effect while a new one is being written.
- There was additional concern regarding the cost, especially to the County. Mr. Bickell felt that the costs to the County would be for additional supervisory FTEs, and one-time relocation of files, remodeling, space, and payouts of sick and vacation accumulations to County staff moving to the City.
- There was interest in seeing how the new Development Services Department will look and hope that input from staff will be solicited in determining the final product.
- Committee members hoped that the relationship between the City and County will continue.

Mayor Engen stated that if the governing bodies were interested in pursuing this Resolution, work will begin with the City Council and the County Commissioners to develop the organization and a program to go forward. He could foresee a working group to oversee the creation of a new Interlocal Agreement as well as an organization and process working group.

Mr. Wilkins solicited comment from each Commissioner regarding their feelings about the change:

- Jean Curtiss stated that the County was committed to serving the public in the best way possible, the same as the City, and that the County won't be obstructing the City's path. She referred to the memo created by Missoula County regarding issues the County wanted to bring attention to up front. She did see some one-time costs to the County in this
- Michele Landquist felt that part of continuing a good working relationship was abiding by the Interlocal Agreement, which allows for either side to make a change. She felt that it was important for the City and County to live within its means, especially during these hard financial times, and felt that this might provide that opportunity. She hoped that in the end it will result in better customer service and systems. Her only concern was that the County will lose some of its talented staff.
- Bill Carey agreed with the other Commissioners. He was sure that the City and County will continue to have the working relationship they enjoy now.

Jason Wiener asked that the wording of the proposed Resolution be clarified. County Attorney James McCubbin made some changes to the wording of the Resolution. Mr. Wiener **moved** to adopt the [Resolution as amended](#).

Discussion on the motion:

- Mr. Wiener felt fortunate to participate in the working group meetings. He felt that the best possibility existed to achieve excellence in customer service to the community. He felt there were still tasks ahead of them to improve and would like to bring the City Council in as a collaborative party for development in the Urban Growth Area.
- Mr. Haines felt the bottom line still needs to be that the County should not be imposed extra costs while the City achieves this, as this is a cost that is also passed on to City residents.
- Ms. Copple felt that any concerns she had were addressed through the working group meetings and that this Development Services Department was crucial for economic development.
- Mr. Taft was impressed with the transparency of the procedure and appreciates the County's input.
- Mr. Childers felt that the problems had been endemic for a long time and that while this restructuring will be an improvement, it will not solve every problem because the Health Department is not included.
- Jean Curtiss said she and the Mayor are both on the new Missoula Economic Partnership (MEP) Board and that currently Big Sky Trust Fund grants go through both the City and the County and they are working to have all of the BSTF grants go through BREDD (BitterRoot Economic Development District), as OPG staff does not have staff with economic development expertise. Mr. Wilkins remarked that the City and County will need to roll up their sleeves and do some planning.
- Ms. Marler agreed with Mr. Wilkins that there was a lot of work for them to do. She hoped that staff will continue to provide input to the working groups.

Jean Curtiss **moved** that the County adopt the Resolution of Intent as amended. Michele Landquist **seconded** the motion.

Public Comment:

- Cindy Wulfekuhle asked for clarification of how the payouts would work for County employees who were hired by the City. Steve Johnson, County Operations Officer, explained that at the present time, the assumption is that County employees who are hired by the City will have their sick time paid out at 25% and vacation time paid at time of termination. By their calculations, it appeared that this would be a one-time cost to the County of approximately \$45,000. They will do further research in the hope that they might be able to contract with the City to arrange a transfer of balances. Ms. Wulfekuhle stated that there had been concern expressed at the last working group meeting that other alternatives had not been considered and she hoped that other options would be considered as part of the on-going process.

The Committee of the Whole passed the Resolution with Dick Haines voting Nay. Mr. Wilkins requested that the Resolution be placed under Committee Reports in order to give the public a chance to express any concerns.

The County Commissioners passed the Resolution unanimously.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deni Foretek

Recording Secretary
Office of Planning and Grants

(These minutes have been summarized. To listen to the meeting in its entirety, [click this link.](#))