

Mayor Kerby called the special council meeting of January 30, 2007 to order at 6:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Kerby, Council Members John Langs and Dave Gray, City Administrator Stephen Boorman, Clerk Kris Larson, and Police Chief Dave Kramer. Also present for the meeting were Boundary County Commissioners Dan Dinning, Walt Kirby, and Ron Smith, Boundary County Clerk Glenda Poston, Commissioner Secretary Michelle Rohrwasser, Mike Weland, Moyie Springs Mayor Joe Mesenbrink, Moyie Council Members Doug Evans, Ila Eberly, Chad Farrens, and William Byars, Clerk Sandy Tompkins, Moyie Maintenance Person John Nelson, and Moyie Fire Chief Ken English, Kootenai Tribal Chair Jennifer Porter, School District Superintendent Don Bartling, School District Clerk Diane Cartwright, School Board Chairperson Melanie Staples, School Board Members Craig Wheatley, Gil Hagen, Maria LaBarbera, and Tim Bertling, Boundary Community Hospital Administrator Craig Johnson, Hospital Board Members Dean Miller and Eldon Koon. Others present were Dennis Taylor, Dean and Norma Prentice, Robert C. DelGrosso, Mike Mazon, Ingrid Pavia, Tom and Toni Holligsworth, Chris and Matt Petefish, John Erickson, Bill Tompkins, Carrick Remaley, Allen Riffel, Mark Compton, Walter Burrow, Donald Dodd, Jean Burrow, Teresa Stephens, Wayne Wilkerson, Denise and Larry Davis, Curt Randall Bayer, Chuck Quillin, Richard and Emily Fairfield, Jim Nash, Cyndy Boorman, Karen Erickson, Dena Riffel, Alan Stephens, John Sater, Gary Buehler, Weezil and Karen Sampter, and Steve Tanner.

The purpose of the special meeting was to meet with the governmental units in Boundary County to discuss their needs, upcoming projects, and budgets.

Craig Johnson from Boundary Community Hospital spoke to the group regarding the improvements that have been made at the hospital in the past year as well as awards received by the Hospital. Cancer care and dialysis are scheduled to come to Bonners Ferry. He said the Hospital will be going to the vote of the people again for a hospital district. Craig said there is a shortage of healthcare workers as well as quite a few unpaid hospital bills. Mayor Kerby inquired if our hospital will return to delivering babies. Craig said lack of volume for births is the main reason OB is not offered at our hospital. Mayor Kerby also inquired if North Idaho College is a resource for training employees for hospital work. Craig said NIC is a resource. Mayor Mesenbrink inquired about wage rates and Craig responded that market adjustments were made to get wages in line.

Boundary County Commissioner Chairman Ron Smith spoke. He said this is the final year for funding under the Craig Wyden bill and it amounts to about \$882,000. He said Title III money was about \$33,000 and Title II money from the Forest Service is \$189,000. Ron said all this funding will go away. The schools received over \$700,000 from the Craig Wyden bill. Road and Bridge does not currently have a levy because of these forest funds but without them a levy is anticipated. Ron said he is a Gem Plan Board Member and 20 counties belong. He spoke of the new county ordinance pertaining to vicious dogs; the newly revised county personnel policy; the new administrator at the Restorium and capacity at the Restorium; surplus property procedures; the comp plan; and stated that the road standards policy would be finalized in a few weeks.

Glenda Poston, Boundary County Clerk/Auditor/Recorder highlighted the County budget. She said there are \$3.2 million tax dollars out of a nearly \$11 million budget. The net market value of the county is \$728 million. Glenda pointed out that 40 percent of the tax revenue goes to the Justice Fund, 5 percent to District Court, 20 percent to Current Expense, and 16 percent to the Indigent Fund and Hospital. Boundary County has 104 employees and 90 percent of them are fulltime.

Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning spoke about the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative. He said it is a joint venture between the City of Bonners Ferry, Boundary County, and the Kootenai Tribe. Issues being addressed by the KVRI include the burbot recovery strategy rather than listing the fish as an endangered species; TMDL or water quality of each stream; grizzly bear issues and trying to get them off the endangered species list; high river flows and farmers problems caused by the high river flows. He said the collaboration has increased communication and has helped solve many problems. Dan said funding has prevented the McArthur project but it was drawn up by a group effort.

Melanie Staples inquired about the Restorium being closed. Ron Smith said it will not close.

Steve Tanner inquired why pressure could not be applied to get logging back in our community so we would receive the needed Forest Funds for the county and schools. Dan Dinning replied that regulations have been put on the timber industry from high levels of government. He also added that individuals or groups file lawsuits to stop the timber sales but we are hopeful that if we can delist endangered species it may help. Dan said the Healthy Forest Restoration Act was looked at for the Myrtle Creek Watershed.

Bob DelGrosso said there is a 14 percent poverty rate in the county and a 20 percent poverty rate in the city. Mayor Kerby said this meeting is not a public forum and asked that questions be asked and addressed by an individual. Bob's question concerned economic development. Mayor Kerby replied that the City of Bonners Ferry, City of Moyie Springs, Boundary County and the Kootenai Tribe work together in a collaborative effort for economic development through a program with Idaho Department of Commerce. Mayor Kerby said Mike Sloan is the Economic Development Coordinator and works fulltime on economic development helping existing businesses as well as new businesses coming into the area.

Mayor Kerby introduced Mark Compton from the Governor's Office.

Melanie Staples, Boundary County School District Chairman, said the job of the School Board is to keep good schools. Melanie introduced School Superintendent Don Bartling. Mr. Bartling said he escorted Governor Otter's wife to the area elementary schools and she was quite impressed with our schools.

Don Bartling said maintenance and operation (M&O) levies are required due to operational needs of the schools. He said a levy would be put forth sometime this spring.

There are 16 out of the 19 northern school districts that run supplemental M&Os. Don said the amount of the supplemental levy is not yet known. There are unfunded mandates and gave the example of the gifted program as well as special ed programs. He said C-Teams have been eliminated and reinstatement is being looked at as well as a fulltime social studies teacher and a half time PE teacher and half time janitor. Don said the Middle School needs a fulltime librarian, a home economics teacher, industrial tech/woodworking shop teacher, foreign language teacher, half time custodian, half time secretary, and replacement of cafeteria tables. He said Valley View needs a fifth grade teacher, and they are considering full day kindergarten which would require a half time teacher, tables, chairs, books, and supplies. Other needs of the school district are a substitute bus driver and assistant maintenance person (this could be one position), establish a technology depreciation fund for replacement of computer equipment, and security systems for the elementary schools.

Mayor Kerby introduced Craig Wheatley of the Boundary County School Board and said that he is a new business to our community. Quality of education and level of medical care are needs requested by new businesses.

Mayor Kerby introduced Councilman Dave Gray and asked that he speak regarding the Horizon Program. Dave said the Horizon Program is run through the Boundary County Extension Office and it mentors youth in developing leadership and economic development. He advised the group to speak to Sara Howe at the Extension Office if they have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Mayor Kerby spoke about the City of Bonners Ferry. He said most of the projects completed or being worked on by the City have been funded by grants. The downtown revitalization project was partially funded by a grant, a local improvement district of the downtown property owners, and city funding. The city match for most of the projects was provided by logging receipts received from the city's tree farm harvest. Mayor Kerby said some of the challenges of government include getting the forest back for logging to keep them healthy. He said the community needs diversification of industry to keep the economy going. The Mayor spoke about the city limit boundaries and about wholesale water and the consolidation of the North Water and Sewer District and the South Hill Water and Sewer District. He spoke about treatment quality and filtering systems and how the new storage facility and metering will accommodate the water system for some time. He briefly touched on the backwash system for the city and said EPA will not allow this any longer so the city is engineering a new backwash system. The sewer lagoon facility and algae growth was spoken about. Algae is a particulate and particulates violate the law so this project is also being worked on. Mayor Kerby offered the resources of the City of Bonners Ferry to the other entities.

Moyie Springs Mayor Joe Mesenbrink spoke. He said the more he learns the more he is concerned. He introduced his staff to the group. Mayor Mesenbrink said the City of Moyie is concerned about resources and the aging community. Moyie supports economic development and said that recently the City of Moyie helped Riley Creek Mill install a water system for fire prevention. He said Riley Creek pays a lot for the water system. A

new city hall was recently built. Moyie supports tourism. Mayor Mesenbrink explained that the City of Moyie is divided by a railroad track and if an accident were to occur then the people on the east side of the tracks could be isolated. He said the fire station is also on that side of the tracks. Joe said water and sewer expansions are needed. He said the road through Moyie is an alternate emergency route and the road needs work but costs are increasing. Joe thanked the City of Bonners Ferry for the meeting tonight and said he is hopeful that it becomes an annual event.

Jennifer Porter, Kootenai Tribal Chair, said she looks forward to a better relationship with the School District and said that Gary Aitken works with the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative.

Ron Smith told the group there were comment sheets from Idaho Department of Transportation for widening the highway between Garwood and Sagle available if anyone wished to comment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Darrell Kerby, Mayor

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Kris Larson, City Clerk