

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Study Commission Meeting & Public Hearing
6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 2015
Courthouse Courtroom**

Present: Heather Edwards, Terry Galle, Dan Tocher, Adam Vauthier, Milo Manning and Kevin Hart

Others Present: Julie Hoffman, Secretary

Members of the Public: Please see sign-in sheet.

I. Call to Order

Heather Edwards, Study Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Minutes from the Study Commission Meeting of September 20, 2015 and the Study Commission Special Meeting of September 17, 2015.

Heather Edwards informed the group the minutes from the September 10th meeting were not complete as there was an issue with the recording.

Milo Manning noted that RJ Tocher was in attendance at the September 17th Special Meeting.

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman questioned whether the Courthouse address should be listed in the minutes for the employees who spoke at the September 17th meeting. Commission Chair Hart stated the record should reflect what was said. Ms. Nyman then asked if the recordings of the meetings are available and Ms. Edwards informed her they are.

Terry Galle moved to approve the September 17, 2015 minutes with the changes noted above; seconded by Milo Manning.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

Heather Edwards reviewed the YTD financial report with the group. Expenses included printing costs for the Leader for the inserts explaining the Tentative Report.

VI. Public Hearing

Prior to the public hearing commencing, Heather Edwards, Study Commission Chair informed the public that the consensus of the Study Commission is contained within the Tentative Report. The information contained in the report is based on suggestions and input from the public. The job of the Study Commission is to verify if the public is interested in changing any of the findings in the Tentative Report.

If so, the Final Report will only contain information the public suggests changing and that language will be placed on the primary ballot in June 2016.

Study Commission Chair, Heather Edwards, opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Tim Jorgensen, 602 W. 3rd: Mr. Jorgensen agreed that Commissioners should be elected county-wide. However, he believes taxpayers have the right to vote for the CEO and Chief of Police.

Mike Grayson, 522 Hickory: Mr. Grayson agrees the Commissioners should be elected county-wide. However, he does not believe the CEO and Chief of Law Enforcement should be appointed and stated the practice has not worked well in the past. Mr. Grayson has not heard any complaints of unprofessionalism with regard to the CEO or Chief of Law Enforcement over the past 22 years. He suggested putting language in the Charter requiring a minimum level of training for the positions after they get elected. He cited examples of past appointed CEOs who were either terminated or resigned, and he does not believe that part-time Commissioners are equipped to hire, supervisor or fire an appointed CEO or Chief of Law Enforcement. Lastly, Mr. Grayson cautioned the Study Commission with regard to the timing of the Tentative Report. If the ballot language passes in the primary election in June 2016, it may have an effect on who decides to run for CEO and Chief of Law Enforcement. It may be a waste of that person's time and money only to possibly find out they cannot run for office.

Mark Phillip, 35 Phillip Road: Mr. Phillip thanked the Study Commission members for their time and public service. He informed the Study Commission he likes to stay knowledgeable about this process and acknowledged the Leader has been his main source of information. He stated he did not get a sense of why the Study Commission was recommending the changes to the Charter and asked if the Study Commission had another document available which discussed probable ramifications, advantages and disadvantages related to the changes. Heather Edwards informed Mr. Phillip that all of that information is available in the full Tentative Report and previous minutes which are available online at www.adlc.us, the Library, and the Courthouse.

Tim Jorgensen: Mr. Jorgensen asked Mr. Grayson to clarify his comments regarding elected versus appointed. Mr. Grayson stated he opposes changing the CEO and Chief of Law Enforcement from elected to appointed. Mr. Jorgensen stated he agreed with keeping the positions elected.

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman thanked Mr. Grayson for his accurate overview. As a longtime observer of government, Ms. Nyman stated she has always supported an appointed CEO and Chief of Law Enforcement. However, she has doubts at this point and noted that people on the street want to elect these positions. Ms. Nyman pointed out, however, that there were a percentage of people who responded to the survey who would like to see the CEO and Chief of Police appointed, and she does feel it should be on the ballot so their voices can be heard.

After three calls for additional public comment, Heather Edwards closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. Ms. Edwards thanked everyone for attending the hearing.

VII. Old Business

Terry Galle commented that he does not feel the Study Commission should "recommend" anything to the public. He believes the Study Commission was elected to put information out to folks. He feels the Leader has the Study Commission recommending things and it makes the Study Commission seem biased. He cited the September 17th Special Meeting as an example where two members voted against

something and the Leader did not explain why they did so. He believes the Study Commission is here to serve all of Anaconda's residents not just a certain few.

Kevin Hart does not believe it reflects bias. He believes the Study Commission has acquired information and put out the information to possibly be placed on the ballot. He noted that Mr. Grayson brought up a good point in that the information received by the Study Commission thus far is unscientific and in prior years the Study Commission obtained its information in a more organized and structured fashion. Mr. Hart noted that Anaconda's voting history shows that people prefer to have an elected CEO and Chief of Law Enforcement.

Heather Edwards clarified that the Tentative Report was compiled from suggestions to the Study Commission. The Study Commission did not come up with the information. The Study Commission has received the information over the past 8-9 months from the public. Further public comment and suggestions will be obtained over the next few months to determine if the Final Report should contain the same language as the Tentative Report.

VIII. New Business

No new business was discussed.

IX. Miscellaneous

Milo Manning suggested considering Mr. Grayson's comments regarding the timing of the Tentative Report and the Primary Election. Ms. Edwards will place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Heather Edwards suggested having additional meetings to get input on the report in the West Valley and Opportunity. The group was receptive to this idea. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

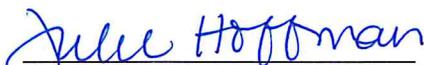
Dan Tocher thanked the public for coming to the meeting and reminded everyone that the Study Commission meets the second Thursday of every month.

X. Public Comment

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman asked if Milo Manning took the Oath of Office. Ms. Edwards informed her that he did.

XI. Adjournment

Adam Vauthier moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dan Tocher. The meeting adjourned at 7:43p.m.



Julie Hoffman
Secretary



Heather Edwards
Study Commission Chair