

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Study Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 12, 2015
Courthouse Courtroom**

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

Excused: Heather Edwards

Others Present: Julie Hoffman, Secretary

Members of the Public: Rose Nyman, Jason Mavrinac, Gary Wenger, Adam Reese

I. Call to Order

Adam Vauthier, Study Commission Vice-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 10, 2015 and the Study Commission Meeting and Public Hearing of October 8, 2015.

Milo Manning moved to approve the minutes from the Study Commission Meeting of September 10, 2015 and the Study Commission Meeting and Public Hearing of October 8, 2015; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

Adam Vauthier reviewed the YTD financial report with the group. Dan Tocher asked if it costs anything to put items on the Primary ballot. Kevin Hart stated it does not.

V. Old Business

A. Update on Tentative Report Comments

Adam Vauthier informed the group that he was unsure of any new comments since the previous meeting as he was unable to speak with Heather Edwards prior to the meeting.

Adam Reese, 401 Cherry: Mr. Reese informed the group that he made a suggestion to Ms. Edwards to require the County Attorney to attend all County Commission meetings. He understands the current County Attorney does attend the meetings but prior ones have not. He would like to see it as part of the County Attorney's job to do so.

Rose Nyman – Ms. Nyman repeated she believes Commissioners need to get certified over a two-year period and stated MACO currently holds training every December. In addition, she reiterated Mike Grayson’s comments from the October 8, 2015 meeting in which he noted the Charter could contain language requiring training for an elected CEO.

B. Consideration of Timing with Primary Election

Study Commission members discussed concerns regarding the timing of its recommendations on the primary ballot versus the general election ballot and the impact it will have on individuals planning to run for office. However, of more concern was the transition period between an elected and appointed CEO *if* the CEO becomes an appointed position. Concerns ranged from the length of the transition period, the lengthy process of advertising and interviewing for a new CEO, and how long the current elected CEO stays on if the Commission has not appointed a new CEO.

Julie Hoffman asked for clarification from Adam Vauthier regarding the Final Report and whether the Study Commission makes the final determination to include the recommendation to appoint the CEO in the Final Report. Adam Vauthier informed her that the Study Commission can choose to leave that recommendation out of the Final Report and stated the language would not be on the ballot at all. Therefore, all of the scenarios discussed above would be unlikely.

Kathie Miller from the Anaconda Leader asked if the Transition Plan has to be voted on by the people. Kevin Hart informed her the Study Commission has final authority regarding the Transition Plan.

C. Special Meetings in West Valley and Opportunity

Milo Manning asked Gary Wenger if he felt there was enough interest in Opportunity to produce turn out for a meeting. Mr. Manning felt that if people have a true interest, they will attend the meetings at the courthouse and was not sure holding a meeting in Opportunity or West Valley would serve much purpose.

Terry Galle noted the Planning Board held a meeting in Lost Creek and it was packed. However, it was for a different issue.

Kevin Hart pointed out that the same people attend the Study Commission meetings each month.

Adam Vauthier felt there was no reason the Study Commission could not hold its regular meeting in a different place. Terry Galle agreed. By consensus, the group decided to hold its regular December meeting in Opportunity.

VI. New Business

With regard to setting qualifications on an elected CEO, Adam Vauthier reiterated that ADLC cannot supersede election law. The Study Commission can recommend training but cannot mandate it. Milo Manning suggested it could be part of the Administrative Code and not the Charter. Adam Vauthier stated he will follow up with Dan Clark.

VII. Miscellaneous

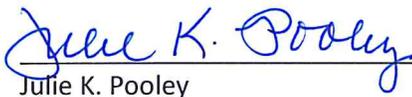
Dan Tocher questioned whether everyone can see comments that are submitted to the website, similar to that of a blog. Adam Vauthier informed the group that comments are submitted via a submission form which is emailed to Heather Edwards. All comments submitted are stored on the server. All comments concerning anything having to do with County business are submitted this way.

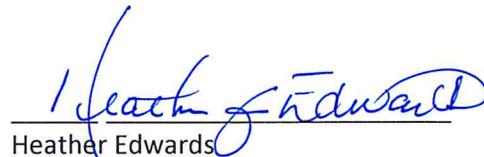
VIII. Public Comment

Rose Nyman – Ms. Nyman reminded everyone that the Administrative Code is an ordinance so it is a law. Therefore, if qualifications or requirements (educational or training) are put into the Administrative Code, it has to be done. She asked the Study Commission if they are going to consider qualifications that would have to be obtained once an individual is elected. Kevin Hart reiterated again that qualifications cannot be added to an elected position. Ms. Nyman asked the Study Commission to contact legal counsel from MACO to verify this as she has seen misinformation from Dan Clark in the past. In addition, Ms. Nyman expressed disappointment that the additional comments from the website and public were not available tonight and asked why they were not available. Ms. Hoffman explained that Ms. Edwards became very ill at the last minute. If additional comments were received via the website, phone, and mail or in person today, Ms. Edwards may not have been able to turn those over to Ms. Hoffman or another member of the Study Commission in time for tonight’s meeting due to her illness.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.


Julie K. Pooley
Secretary


Heather Edwards
Study Commission Chair