

MINUTES FOR CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2012
2012 BUDGET HEARING OPENING
8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to proper notice.

A budget adoption hearing of the Cascade County Commission was called to order by Madam Chair Weber at 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Annex, Commission Chambers, Room 111.

PRESENT: Madam Chair Jane Weber, Commissioner Bill Salina and Commissioner Joe Briggs.
Randy Hand, Bonnie Fogerty and Marie Sickels.

PLEDGE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Madam Chair Weber announced that this budget hearing is called to order and will reconvene on August 31, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. for final approval.

Randy Hand Finance Office presented the budget in the amount of \$59,947,216 and provided a Summary of the budget to the Commission. He also announced that a full version of the budget and or summary is available for preview in the Clerk & Records office, and Commission office.

Mr. Hand was thanked by the Commission for his long hours spent on this budget.

Madam Chair Weber opened the Budget Hearing for public comment in which there was none. She also announced that the Commission will be taking public comment on the Budget for 2013 until final action on August 31, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Madam Chair Weber also announced that within this budget there will be a public hearing held on August 31, 2012 on a possible solid waste increase.

This hearing was recessed at 8:43 a.m.

Attached (exhibit "A") is the public notice which was published on August 12th and 19th in the Great Falls Tribune.

**MINUTES FOR CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2012
PUBLIC HEARING- SOLID WASTE FEE INCREASE
2012 BUDGET HEARING CLOSING
8:30 A.M.**

PRESENT: Madam Chair Jane Weber, Commissioner Bill Salina and Commissioner Joe Briggs.
Randy Hand, Brian Hopkins, Brenda Ivers, Richard Ecke, Marlin Wilke, and Marie Sickels.

RECONVENE: Madam Chair Weber reconvened the Budget Hearing at 8:30 a.m.

Resolution 12-60 Solid Waste Fee Increase

OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING: Madam Chair Weber opened the Public Hearing at 8:35 a.m.

Randy Hand presented this possible solid waste fee increase of 33%, stating that the County has been using reserves to meet the expenses of the services. He described how the County reduced \$60,000 in costs last year by reducing the hours of operation, cutting shifts, and monitoring the use of punch cards. Mr. Hand explained that he continually examines ways to reduce costs, but short of reducing services even further, he believes a fee increase is necessary.

Commissioner Salina reiterated that there was a savings of \$60,000 through efficiency last year, Mr. Hand affirmed.

Commissioner Briggs stated that he was uncomfortable with the fee increase in light of the recent changes with the City's Convenience Center. He mentioned the large bill from the City for County residents' use of the Convenience Center. Now that the Center has closed he wonders what the future might hold.

There was further discussion on whether unused punch coupons booklets could be used to pay a portion of the fee assessed residents who chose to have curbside garbage pickup in Montana Waste Management. The Commissioners discussed the need for further analysis of this idea and concurrence by Montana Waste Management. The Commission expressed concern with continual reduction of the reserves to fund the solid waste program.

CALL FOR PROPONENTS: Madam Chair Weber called for proponents three times in which no one came forward.

CALL FOR OPPONENTS: Madam Chair Weber called for opponents in which Marlin Wilke approached the Commission. He questioned why the County is in the garbage business, and provided the Commission with a hand written letter sharing his concerns (see exhibit "B"). Mr. Wilke does not feel it is fair to have one fee when the haul distances vary and causes some sites to be more expensive than others.

There was further discussion on possible ideas for making this service more efficient. The Commissioners again discussed the need to re evaluate solid waste program for future fee changes, especially after determining the effects of the closure of the Convenience Center.

INFORMATIONAL WITNESSES: Madam Chair Weber called for informational witnesses three times in which no one came forward.

CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Madam Chair Weber closed the public hearing at 8:57 a.m.

Resolution 12-61 Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2012/2013

BUDGET HEARING: Madam Chair Weber asked if there had been any written testimony on the Budget submitted to the Commission. It was reported that no written testimony was received.

Randy Hand reported one change in the original budget to add a grant in the amount of \$7,250.00. This grant is for the Rural Fire Districts/ DES and reflects an in/out grant (equal revenue/expense).

CALL FOR PROPONENTS: Madam Chair Weber called for proponents three times in which no one came forward.

CALL FOR OPPONENTS: Madam Chair Weber called for opponents three times in which no one came forward.

INFORMATIONAL WITNESSES: Madam Chair Weber called for informational witnesses three times in which no one came forward.

COMMENTS: Richard Ecke Great Falls Tribune asked for the full amount of the budget that is being approved. Mr. Hand announced that the budget amount is \$59,954,466.

CLOSE OF THE BUDGET HEARING: Madam Chair Weber closed the Budget Hearing at 9:00 a.m.

OPENING OF THE COMMISSION MEETING: Madam Chair Weber opened the Commission Meeting at 9:03 a.m.

MOTION TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE RESOLUTION 12-60 SOLID WASTE FEE INCREASE EFFECTIVE FISCAL JULY 1, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Salina made a MOTION to approve the solid waste fee increase of 33% effective July 1, 2012. **Motion carries unanimously 3-0**

MOTION TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE RESOLUTION 12-61 IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013.

Randy Hand Finance Officer presented Resolution 12-61 stating it includes:

- 1) The adoption of a budget of Fiscal Year 2012/2013.
- 2) Final adoption of salary and wage for all non-union employees.

MOTION: Commissioner Briggs made a MOTION to approve Resolution 12-61 in the matter of adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Motion carries unanimously 3-0

Madam Chair Weber reinstated that they will plan to do an analysis on the changes that the closing of the Convenience Center makes and whether the punch cards can be redeemed for credit with Montana Waste Management.. She also thanked the public, Randy Hand and all the staff and stated it was great to not have to raise taxes and still provide adequate services to the citizens of Cascade County.

Commissioner Briggs thanked Randy Hand for his many hours of hard work in creating a great budget with the achievement of not raising taxes. He also thanked the Department Heads work in keeping the taxes the same by providing services in a cost effective manner.

Commissioner Salina echoed the other Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
THE GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE
205 RIVER DR S
GREAT FALLS, MT 59405
Phone: (406) 791-1444
Toll Free (800) 438-6600

Terri VanLieshout, being first duly sworn deposes and says that GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE COMPANY is a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, that the said GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE COMPANY is the printer and publisher of the GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE, a daily newspaper of general circulation of the County of Cascade, State of Montana, and that the deponent is the principal clerk of said GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE COMPANY, printer of the GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE, and that the advertisement hereto annexed...

NOTICE TO TAX PAYERS - PROPOSED BUDGET FINISHED

Has been correctly published TWO times in the regular and entire issue of said paper on the following dates:

AUGUST 12th, 19th 2012

Terri VanLieshout
STATE OF MONTANA
County of Cascade

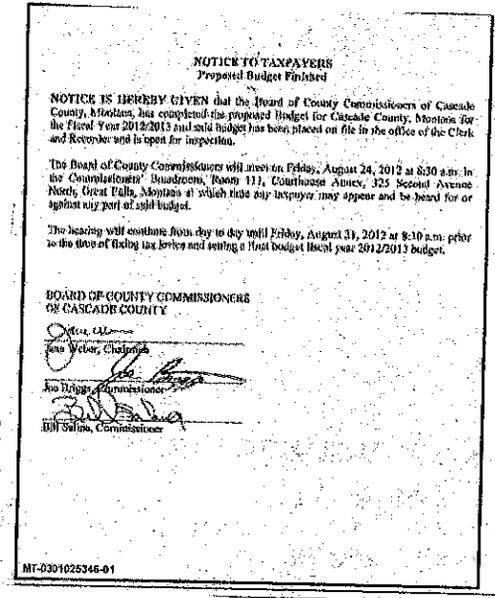
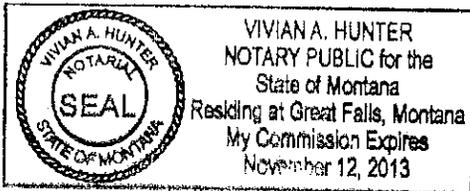
On this 20th day of AUGUST 2012, before me the undersigned, a Notary Public of the State of Montana, personally appeared Terri VanLieshout, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal the day and year first above written.

Vivian A Hunter
Print Name

Vivian A Hunter
Signature

NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana
Residing in Cascade County
My commission expires: 11/12/13



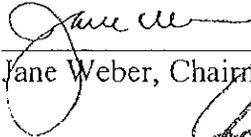
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
Proposed Budget Finished

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Cascade County, Montana, has completed the proposed Budget for Cascade County, Montana for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 and said budget has been placed on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder and is open for inspection.

The Board of County Commissioners will meet on Friday, August 24, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Room 111, Courthouse Annex, 325 Second Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana at which time any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against any part of said budget.

The hearing will continue from day to day until Friday, August 31, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. prior to the time of fixing tax levies and setting a final budget fiscal year 2012/2013 budget.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CASCADE COUNTY



Jane Weber, Chairman



Joe Briggs, Commissioner



Bill Salina, Commissioner

Publication Dates: Sunday, August 12, 2012
Sunday, August 19, 2012

Display Ad

Exhibit ("B")

8-28-2012

Cascade County Commission

I read the recent article in the St. Falls Tribune regarding an increase in garbage rates.

I believe it is time to change present system to a fair and equitable system.

At present those living close to landfill and those paying for curbside service subsidize those living farther away and not paying for curbside. I do not think state law requires county to be in garbage disposal business.

System needs to be changed to pay for what you dump - I.E. - Weigh in Weigh out - Same as you do at landfill.

There are portable scales that can be moved from site to site, failing this fair system, draw lines in a circle around landfill and increase rates as you go out.

Please consider what I have pointed out.

Thank You

MARLIN WILKE

121 34th St. NW

Great Falls MT 59404

406-454-3968