

PUBLIC MEETING – September 7, 2005

The Public Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Acting Chair Bill Carey. Also present were Commissioner Barbara Evans, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney Mike Sehestedt and County Public Works Director Greg Robertson. Commission Chair Jean Curtiss was attending Leadership Montana in Big Sky.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

None

Routine Administrative Actions

Commissioner Evans moved that the Board of County Commissioners approve the routine administrative items adopted the past week and approve the weekly claims list in the amount of \$703,321.97. Acting Chair Carey seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 2-0.

Hearing: Intent to Create RSID 8488 (Paving of Whippoorwill Drive)

Greg Robertson: Yes, good afternoon, Commissioners. For the record, Greg Robertson, Director of Public Works. Before you is a request to create Missoula County Rural Special Improvement District 8488, which is the paving of Whippoorwill Drive in the vicinity of the airport, on the eastern boundary. A petition was received with 67% approval, which is consistent with adopted Missoula County policy, for paving of Whippoorwill Drive. On August 2, a Resolution of Intent to Create the District was adopted by the Board and Notice of Hearing in conformance with State statute was mailed to each freeholder within the district, and there are six. As of today, no protest were received. Based on that, State law gives you the authority to create the district in the amount of \$249,000, with equal assessments for a period of 15 years. It is our recommendation that you create the district as petitioned.

Acting Chair Carey: Thank you Greg. I'll open the hearing. Is there anybody here that wishes to comment on this matter.

Mike Sehestedt: I'd add by way of background, Whippoorwill is essentially a commercial/industrial drive.

Greg Robertson: Yeah, it serves the feed store and also the metal fabrication, B.J. Metal Works.

Mike Sehestedt: The only reason I raise that is, well, under any circumstances, \$41,500 is nothing to be sneezed at. We're not doing it to anybody's family home.

Commissioner Evans: And I appreciate your pointing that out, because I was going to ask if all 6 of those people wanted this.

Greg Robertson: It's a significant amount. The calls that I have received during this protest period was 'can we get it done this winter, before the snow flies?'

Acting Chair Carey: Okay, I've opened the hearing. Is there anybody who wishes to comment on this?

Ron Ewart: Hi, I'm Ron Ewart with Eli & Associates. Barb Diggs is here also, her and her husband own a business on Whippoorwill Drive. We've been working on this for quite some time and the big issue about trying to get the work done this fall is because there's some washboards and there's a dip right at the end of the pavement and a question that's been raised is, first of all, can it be done this year and if not, is there any way that, if the County takes over now, if they could just smooth out the road a little bit, maybe spruce it up just a little.

Greg Robertson: As far as we're concerned, we may not get – by the time we get the thing bid and a contractor on board, after bonding and insurance and a contract signed, we're going to be running out of summertime. There is a potential, if we get good weather and we keep our temperatures, that we can get it done, but the likelihood is, is we could get the earth work done, which is pretty minimal, with paving to do in the spring. We would be happy, since – if the district is created, and move forward to do winter maintenance and slick it up, snow removal during the period of time, if there is any lag and we can't get done this summer. We did that with Springhill Road too.

Mike Sehestedt: Basically, we'd be looking, probably, at getting to cushion course, or base course.

Greg Robertson: Yep. There's a minimal amount of work that needs to be done, some drainage work and just paving, you know, you've got to have certain minimum temperatures and I think by the time we're all said and done, we're going to be out of time.

Mike Sehestedt: Most likely it would be like base – do the dirt work, get the base course down and then, come summer, smooth it out and put the cushion course and pave it.

Greg Robertson: Yep. Spruce it up and rock it and pave it.

Acting Chair Carey: Any other comments or questions? Anybody else? Seeing none, I'll close the hearing. Commissioner Evans, do you have any questions.

Commissioner Evans moved that the Board of County Commissioners create RSID 8488 for the paving of Whippoorwill Drive, as there have been no protests and based on the advice of the County Public Works Department. Acting Chair Carey seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 2-0.

Mike Sehestedt: Now that it's created, who's the engineer on the project.

Greg Robertson: It's the bearded guy right behind you, Jeff Pearson.

Mike Sehestedt: When will we be ready to advertise for bids?

Jeff Pearson: I'm Jeff Pearson from Eli and Associates. It depends on weather. I honestly haven't been through the RSID process here in Missoula County, so I don't know what kind of paper work and timeline we've got just to get to the bid process. 30 days of advertising and opening bids and then you got a contract signed and we've got to get to that point. I think you're going to run out of summertime before it gets done this year.

Mike Sehestedt: I'm suspicious of that too, because probably, if you drop the plans off with Jesse tomorrow, we'll be mid October before we open bids, just given the requirement.

Greg Robertson: And that's getting really to be marginal. I think in response – what we can do is go and slick up the road, run a blade out there this next week and tie line it so at least they've got a smooth surface to run on.

Mike Sehestedt: And I apologize to you, ma'am, but it's probably the best we can do, given the climate.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Commissioners were in recess at 1:40 p.m.