

Proceedings of the Board of Mountrail County Commissioners

October 4, 2017

The Board met in special session at the Plaza Senior Citizens on Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. with Commissioners Trudy Ruland, Dan Uran, and Wayne Olson. Absent were Arlo Borud and Garry Jacobson. Also present was States Attorney Wade Enget, Treasurer Shena Wold, Joan Hollekim, Scott Ruland, Bette Wold, Leo Edwards, Darcy and Vivian Lynne, Curtis Edwards, Dustin Wold, Cindy Edwards, Joel Wold, Ronnie Lampert, Diana Robles, Cole Thunshelle, Anita Wold, Lindsay Lynne, and Tanner Lynne.

Vice-Chairman Ruland opened the hearing for comments on the Combination of Auditor and Treasurer's Offices Resolution.

Vice Chairman Ruland explained that the Board started looking into the consolidation of the Auditor and Treasurer's Offices because of budget concerns. Vice Chairman Ruland stated the Board does not want to raise taxes again and the formula for the Oil & Gas Production Tax keeps changing. Vice Chairman Ruland stated the combination of offices will enable cross training.

Anita Wold stated the Legacy Fund has lot of money. Vice Chairman Ruland suggested the public speak to the legislatures. States Attorney Enget stated a super majority would be needed to access the Legacy Fund.

Vivian Lynne asked how it was decided to combine the two offices. Vice Chairman Ruland stated the Auditor and Treasurer's offices were looked at because the offices currently share a deputy. Vice Chairman Ruland stated the importance of segregation of duties.

Treasurer Wold stated the Deputy position was added to the Treasurer's 2018 budget by request of the Board.

Joan Hollekim stated the County has been deficient in the Audit report for segregation of duties for the past 30 years. Vice Chairman Ruland stated the County is working on fixing the deficiencies.

Cindy Edwards stated the County wages went up during the oil boom. Vice Chairman responded by stating the wages were increased in order to get personnel and last year salaries were frozen and budgets were cut.

Vice Chairman stated nothing has been decided and the reason for the public meeting s was to get options.

Joan Hollekim stated there was a lack of communication and a lack of willingness to work together between the two offices.

Vice Chairman Ruland stated there needs to be a deputy in the Treasurer's office for more consistency and that person can step in if something happens.

States Attorney Enget stated the Commissioners have a choice to make and the offices could stay as is. The offices are fully funded in 2018 and if the offices combined it would not be until May 1, 2019.

Joan Hollekim stated the reason for being against the combination was the way it was done and hopes the Board will keep an open mind.

The Board adjourned at 7:52 P.M. to meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

Accepted and approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.

Attest:

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Trudy Ruland, Vice-Chairman  
Mountrail County Commissioners

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Stephanie A. Pappa  
Mountrail County Auditor