

City Council Work Session  
w/Rosebud County Commissioners  
October 9, 2018

Present: Mayor John Williams and Councilpersons Jolene Verlanic, Greg Koczur, Mike Esser and Lori Shaw and Rosebud County Commissioners Ed Joiner, Doug Martens and Bob Lee

Also Present: Senator Duane Ankney, Jim Atchison, Jody Williams, Liz Ching, Treina Warfield, Joe Novasio, Lloyd Gange and City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Senator Ankney explained the CCIAG's recommendation regarding the \$10 PSE Settlement Funds. The final plan adopted by the CCIAG will have to be approved by both the Colstrip City Council and Rosebud County Commissioners.

The committee's draft plan does not award the funds but sets up a plan. The plan is to establish a \$7.5 million short-term account and put \$2.5 million in a long-term account using the interest off the account. The account would be a community foundation called 'Colstrip Impacts Foundation' and part of the Montana Community Foundation program. The MCF will not dictate how the money will be used. The foundation board would be comprised of a City Council representative, County Commissioners representative, one representative from economic development, one local work force from #1638, one local work force worker from #400, and two citizen representatives chosen by the other board members.

Doug Martens has an issue with CCIAG's recommendation. He was just informed today that there is another way of setting up a community foundation other than through the Montana Community Foundation (MCF). He would like to revisit the recommendation of utilizing the MCF as there may be some better options.

Jim Atchison explained there are other types of foundations and he would like to revisit this portion of the recommendation also.

John Williams commented administrative rules of procedure would need to be developed on who would be eligible for the funds and for what purpose.

There was discussion on whether the CCIAG should develop the guidelines or the foundation board. Lori Shaw stated it makes sense to her that the people on the foundation board would have the community's best interests in mind since they are local people.

Greg Koczur would like all residents of Colstrip notified of the opportunity to be on the board and not hand-picked. He also suggested a map be developed indicating the recipients of the funds must live within the geographic area on the map. Jolene Verlanic isn't sure that would be realistic due to

impacted workers living in Billings, Forsyth, Ashland, etc. Senator Ankney suggested wording the plan that impacted workers are eligible regardless of where they live.

There was also discussion on when the money should be distributed. Senator Ankney feels the money shouldn't be spent until the impact is experienced which would be when units 1 and 2 shut down but there could be some exceptions.

Lori Shaw asked if overhaul workers would be included. The feeling is that they would not be included.

Doug Martens would like this to be community driven and not have government interference.

Greg Koczur would like the \$2.5 million permanent fund to stay in Colstrip.

There was discussion that if the money is put with the Montana Community Foundation, the \$2.5 million would stay with them forever. Only the interest off this money can be distributed and spent.

Jolene Verlanic suggested the 'Montana Community Foundation' verbiage be removed and let the foundation board members determine what other foundation to partner with until they can operate independently.

Senator Ankney suggested if the Colstrip City Council and/or Rosebud County Commissioners want some changes made to CCIAG's recommendation that they get together soon and submit a proposal to CCIAG. Doug Martens stated the commissioners will look into other community foundations.

Jim Atchison commented need to get this right the first time as there may be opportunity to receive funds from the other power plant owners.

Senator Ankney thanked everyone for attending and participating in the process.

**Public Participation:**

Joe Novasio feels there should be someone on the board that is retired. Doug Martens commented that the CCIAG sub-committee did discuss that one of the two community members must be a senior citizen.

Jody Williams asked if someone from the Montana legislative staff could help write the administrative rules so that they are done correctly and legally and to prevent loopholes.

Lloyd Gange feels all the money should stay in Colstrip and not for someone to leave and work somewhere else.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer