STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MONTANA COAL BOARD

TRANSCRIPT OF THE ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED
COAL BOARD MEETING

March 22, 2018

Held at Big Horn Resort
1801 Majestic Lane
Billings, Montana

TRANSCRIBED BY: CHERYL ROMSA
CHERYL ROMSA COURT REPORTING
1 NORTH LAST CHANCE GULCH, SUITE 1
P. O. BOX 1278
HELENA, MONTANA 59624
(406) 449-6380
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WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had:

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. As we, as we talk we need to press, everybody. And make sure everybody (inaudible) in, please. And there’s copies of the agenda on the back of the room, so I invite you to, to take a look at the processes that, that we have in place (inaudible).

I will call the meeting to order and ask for a roll call, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Here.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

Shawn, if you’re on the phone, you may have to hit the star button and then the 2 to unmute your phone.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Thanks, Anne. I’m here.

MS. PICHETTE: Thank you, Shawn.

Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Here.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

Marianne, if you’re on the phone, the same for you, star-2 will unmute your phone and we’ll be able to hear you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

I would like to welcome John Mueller, who is our administrative assistant, a new employee with the Department of Commerce, and also Amber Henning to my left. Amber is a new board member. She’s an attorney. And so we have a full slate of, of board members. And I’d like to welcome John and Amber.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Glad to be here.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Okay. On, on our agenda, we’re going to -- A little different process with the agenda. And it’s, it’s an opportunity to, to involve the public more into the process. And after every item that, that -- on the agenda, we’ll give the public an opportunity to comment on those particular items.

I will ask that as we, as we open this up for the opportunity for public comment, the first opportunity is for items that are not on the agenda. But I will give everybody an opportunity as we approach the agenda items for you to comment on. But the first public participation is for items that are not on the agenda. So I welcome all of your comments as we go through the process. It’s a very important process to be very -- very open with the discussions so that you hear the discussions that occur both on the Board and we also have the opportunity to hear the discussions and the comments from you, the public that we are serving. So thank you for being here this morning.

I would also ask all of the Board to please direct your comments through myself, and I will give every board member the opportunity to comment on issues that are before us.

So the first item that we have is an opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda. So I welcome the public to make comments to myself and the Board.

MR. ATCHISON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Coal Board. For the record, I’m Jim Atchison with Southeastern Montana Development. And Mr. Chairman, I have a couple things to share with the, the Coal Board today and then a couple handouts.

And first of all, I have the new 2018 Coal Council brochure, which is full of facts and figures on the coal industry in Montana, fairly up to date -- well, about two weeks old, so it’s right off the press. Like I said, lots of facts and figures, and I will hand that out later, if I could, Mr. Chairman.

And also, I wanted to also share with the Coal Board numerous meetings going on and, and workshops and conferences coming up in, in, a lot of them are in Billings. April 6th, the Wheeler Center is sponsoring the Future of Coal Forum right here in Billings. I don’t have the contact information, but you can find that.

April 18th and 19th is the Coal Reliant Communities Workshop, hosted by NATO and the federal EDA Administration right here in Billings. That’s April 18th and 19th. And some of you that are in the room that participated or attended the Denver conference last year, it was well worth the free admission; absolutely fantastic conference, especially those of us that are being impacted in these smaller rural communities by coal impact. I would highly encourage that one.

May 30th and 31st, Senator Daines’s Energy Summit will be here in Billings as well.

And later on in August, August 16th and 17th, we, our organization is hosting the 15th Annual Energy Open Conference and Golf Tournament. And of course, our slogan is Showcasing the Economic Benefits of Responsible Energy Development. And we’ve been hosting that for 15 years now. So if you can take that in, it would be well worth
Coal Board meetings for over 17 years now, along with the legislative testimony, and it's been kind of quite a ride to see the changes. And I do want to say that I probably have not been more disheartened than I am right now, but I want you to know, as Coal Board Members, how much we really appreciate the work that you're doing and the impact that you're having in our communities. Our rural communities that are impacted by coal have significant needs, and it's infrastructure needs, it's social services needs, it's educational needs, a huge litany of needs. And we really appreciate the resources that we get from the Coal Board. They are critical, and they are very important to us.

In the past, I've asked for the finances so that we could look and see what's happened over the years, and I did not find them online, but I do see there is one in the book in the back. And I would hope that maybe either we could upload that so that we could have copies of that or it could be emailed out to us that are interested especially in that aspect of it. I would greatly appreciate it. I couldn't see very well this morning with my little tiny print and my glasses. Yeah. And the other thing, I was wondering if I could ask if you would use our testimony as verbatim in the minutes rather than a synopsis of what we say. There have -- it

from the applicant, not just coming to the Coal Board for the majority of the grant. And I see a direction that is going through the Coal Board now, and I think it's the wrong direction. Our coal counties are mostly rural countries, and we have a lot of problems with public safety. And the public safety is things like our roads, road graders or gravel hauling trucks and things like that, fire trucks, police vehicles. And those particular items are usually not real large grant requests and we don't have a participation from the participant? We -- I feel that on these large grants come through, but where is the participation from the participant? We -- I feel that on these large grants, there should be more participation.
Discussion from the Board.

Our nurse’s station program, which was approved in June
of 2017, we are in the midst of construction as we speak,
with a completion date of April 19th. And that is on
schedule and progressing nicely. Our other project that
was approved in December of 2016 was an elevator
modernization to two elevators that we have at the
Heritage Acres property. We will be starting that project
August 1st, with a six-week completion deadline. And so
hopefully by your September meeting, we’ll have completion
reports for both of those projects.

Like your previous speakers, I again want to thank you
for the work that you guys do. We do appreciate it. And
with our projects, we do try to have a local
participation, either through our county or our hospital
association. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you. Thank you for the
update.

Other comments?

Okay. Thank you for those comments.

The next item on the agenda is the approval of the
minutes from the January the 18th, 2018, and February
the 9th, 2018 meetings. And this is also an opportunity
for any comments that the public may have on -- regarding
those minutes. And you heard Kathie Bailey’s comments on
that. I don’t know if we can do it verbatim, but we’ll
consider that. The staff can consider that, see what we
could do to further expand --

MS. OLSON: Mr. Chairman. Excuse me,
Mr. Chairman. We also have -- Because the last Coal Board
meeting we actually didn’t have John on board yet and Amy
had left, we do have a transcript available that we’re
happy to post online as well.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

Any comments?

A motion to approve the minutes from the Board?

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: So moved.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second?

A BOARD MEMBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It’s been moved and seconded.

Discussion from the Board.

Any other discussion?

Roll call vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn, you may have to unmute your
phone again. Star-2.
appropriation is broken up into two fiscal years:
Fiscal Year 2018, with the maximum appropriation available of $3,403,336; with federal -- or, excuse me, with Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation being $3,418,868. So the combination of those two fiscal years equals your total biennial appropriation of the $6.8 million.

The revenue that has been available to date is $1,970,962.22. I'm going to flip you back to the revenue history to explain where we're getting that number from.

So as you can see, this chart shows you revenue history that has been coming into the Coal Natural Resource Account as coal proceeds come into the state back all the way to 2007. And I will point you to the last barred chart at the very bottom of the page, because that's our current fiscal year, 2018, that we're in and also shows the current updated revenue amount.

So as you can see, since July of 2017 through February of 2018, the Board -- Coal Natural Resource Account that the Board has access to has received $1,970,962.22. So that's the revenue that we're talking about, not to be confused with the appropriation, which is the ceiling.

That's what's been appropriated to you.

And we've had some discussions -- Department of Revenue came last time and talked about why there is reversals of the accrual. But I'm happy to answer any questions about that.

So I want to point you to the handout that I just had, to go through a little bit more information. So as you can see, as you can see, what we're doing is trying to link those two together so that it helps provide a more clear picture to you of what that budget appropriation, revenue available, cash-on-hand available comes to. And if you go back to this Applications for Consideration, we have to consider that the Board has already made, for this fiscal year, project awards of $2,805,640. So when you take that away from the revenue available of the 1.9, that leaves us in a shortage of $834,000 of available revenue to contract those projects.

So let's look at our spreadsheet. I'm going to walk through this. But the first column is -- or the first section is talking about cash and estimated revenues, and I want to point out estimated revenues. We don't know what the rest of the fiscal year looks like, so we can only estimate what that's going to be. So we've used the 2017 fiscal year as a gauge for what those months that haven't received revenue will look like.

So right now we have cash in the account of $5,530,816. The estimated revenue, meaning the last months of this fiscal year that we haven't received funding for yet -- of course, coal proceeds will continue to come in and then that interest will come down into the Coal Natural Resource Account -- is estimated at $1,274,938. Of course, that can fluctuate. It can increase or decrease or approximately be the same. But we don't do estimation of those revenue flow that comes into the account. That's really Department of Revenue's job.

So our estimate is based off of what we saw last year. So that's the best tool that we have. So the total amount of cash plus the estimated revenues would equal about $6,805,754.

So the next section talks about what our obligated accrual amounts are. So these would be -- what our accrual balance is would be those projects that haven't expended all of their dollars but have been awarded contracts and funds through the Coal Board, so they're obligated expenses, as well as anything that would have been accrued. So those are the first two lines that make up that $3,478,023, as well as the outstanding Fiscal Year '18 contracts that have been awarded this -- by the Coal Board just now during this fiscal year of the $2,805,640.

So basically what we're saying is we're taking a look at everything that has happened in previous biennium and previous fiscal year and we're adding it to the current fiscal year obligation, because those have already been awarded, and that's how we come up with those two numbers.

Then, of course, we have pending applications. And so if you look, we actually have a total of requests of about approximately $1.6 million of pending applications. We can get into those details. And then -- but the pending applications are really, are really limited by the amount of appropriation. So what you'll see there is that there's a number, 597,696, so $597,696. That is the amount that would be hitting the ceiling of this fiscal year's appropriation.

Let me say it a different way. Of the amount of funds that have been awarded to the Coal Board projects this fiscal year, that $2.8 million, there is a balance of $597,000 before you hit your appropriation ceiling.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Jennifer, just -- if I --

MS. OLSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. So what we have awarded to date is $2,805,640, awarded to date. Available appropriation for the remainder of this year is $597,696.

MS. OLSON: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That's available appropriation. It's not available funds. Available appropriation. So if the Board were to make awards, we cannot exceed that number.

MS. OLSON: So if the Board were to make awards...
in excess of $597,696, you're essentially looking at the
next fiscal year, and you haven't reached that fiscal year
yet.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So --

MS. OLSON: Additionally, you haven't had, even
had a drop of, a single penny of revenue come in for the
next fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Right. So that's something
for the Board to try to think on as we move into the
process of those applications that have been tabled and
the new applications that are before us and the unknown
applications that may occur in June.

MS. OLSON: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Correct?

MS. OLSON: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. OLSON: So then this -- the Coal Natural
Resource Account is also where we get the administrative
costs that the Department of Commerce provides as support
for the Board. So how do we draw funds, how do we make
sure that all of the processes, all of this magic happens?
That's these fine folks here and over there. That admin
cost actually only pays for two FTE, I should say, so
that's really just John and Anne.

But there's a balance of $64,327 left, which is about

right on par, actually. We've got -- our fiscal year ends
June 30th, so as we expend those dollars, that will, that
will continue to go down.

And then, of course, part of also the funds that come
out of the Coal Natural Resource Account for admin is the
audit costs, so Legislative Audit Services has their own
individual line item. And the Commerce Department goes
through an audit every other year, so that helps pay for
that, even though there could be audit things going on on
an annual basis to help prepare for that biennial audit.

And, of course, there's -- the last line is
Fiscal Year 2019 grant. Since we aren't there yet, that
line has no, no dollar amount in there because there is no
money.

So the total amount of obligated expenses that the
Board has is $6,946,331. So then what we're going to do,
and you can see there's appropriations and expenditures
and it repeats that expenditure amount. So when we take
the amount of cash and estimated revenues of $6.8 million
and subtract the obligations of $6.9 million, we come up
with a negative amount of $140,577. And again, it's an
estimated revenue amount. So if it goes up, that number
will -- well, it will go up. It will become a more
positive number. If the revenue estimates come in less
favorable, then that number will increase at a negative
trajectory.

So I wanted to walk through that because I think that
there was, at the last meeting, a lot of conversation
about what was in the account, how much is in the account,
what's the difference between revenue and appropriation,
what's the definition of available funds. So hopefully
this helps to provide some information to the Board so
that you're more informed about the budget.

So is there any questions? I think that helps maybe
explain a little bit about the summary that we provide at
the top.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Questions from the Board?

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Jennifer, this number
includes the MSUB grant in it?

MS. OLSON: That's a great question. And so at
the last January meeting, the $500,000 was awarded to
MSUB. So when you look at the March 2018 amount, it has a
revenue available -- excuse me, awards made of
$2.8 million. That includes the MSUB amount. So that
project was discussed at a February meeting to rescind it.
That was tabled and moved to today. So not only do we
have the MSUB in that 2.8 million, but then the total
amount of funds requested for this board meeting is also
the BSEDA MSUB application for 500.

So there's a little duplicativeness there, but we can

only -- we're only reflecting what the Board's decisions
are here in regards to awards made and then projects
requested. So good question. We don't want to confuse
you. So there is a $500,000 kind of redundancy there.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Any other questions from the
Board?

Any questions or comments from the public?
Okay. Do you have anything else, Jennifer?

MS. OLSON: Nope. In regards to budget updates,
I do not.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I will entertain a
motion to accept the report on the budget status.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: So moved.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second, please.

A BOARD MEMBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded.

Any other discussion?
Okay. Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Thank you.

Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.
MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

Thank you.

The next item is project updates.

MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chairman, I would just direct the Board's attention to, there's a letter in your packet from the Musselshell County, and just to make sure there's no confusion, the letter from Musselshell County is just giving us an update and letting us know that they may come in for an extension request but are not at this time. So you don't need to take any action on that. But we wanted to make sure you had that communication from them in your information.

And then throughout that section of your binder, you have some other pieces of communication that have come directed to the Board.

Then also you have two spreadsheets in that section with project updates. And the second one is your 2019 awards from your June meeting. Those are your 2019 biennium projects. We're in the process of routing all of those contracts. We have two that are getting us additional information, but the rest, you should be seeing soon if you have not already if you happen to also be one of the applicants.

And then you'll also see we have quite a few projects on the list that's blue and gray at the top. Those are the older projects. You'll see that we've got quite a few that are coming along and we've had some draws, we've got a few that are getting ready to close. You also have a letter in your packet regarding one of these from the Northern Cheyenne Utilities Commission returning or -- one of their grants for their software program. So that will be reflected on your next spreadsheet, that that will no longer be an open project.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Are there any items that we need to act on in there?

MS. PICHETTE: Not at this time. It will just be the heads-up on Musselshell County if they come in later.

Theirs does not expire until 2019, but they were just giving us an advance heads-up.

Oh. And it does not require action, but just to make sure you noticed that, in all of the communication, you do have some emails that were received in the board email box regarding the MSUB award. So to make sure that you saw that communication as well, we printed you the emails from constituents.

A STAFF MEMBER: And just also to add in that same section, you'll see an email from Joe Purcell regarding the Hardin, City of Hardin application as well.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. That was to put the item back on the active discussion list? Okay.

Okay. Are there any other issues with that?

Any discussion from the Board? Any questions from the Board?

Okay. Since there's no action required, we'll move to the next item, which is our old business. And at our telephone conference call, what was discussed with, with the MSUB application was to consider -- And I indicated at the conference call that we would have this as the first item of business; that we would consider suspending the award to MSU Billings, as has been recommended by our staff attorney, we would consider allowing Big Sky Economic Development to submit the MSU Billings application on behalf of the MSU Billings Foundation, and we would consider approval of the Big Sky Economic Development application, to include the waiver of the 45-day rule. And that's the action that the Board took at the conference call.

So having said that, then I will ask the staff to provide us an update.

MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chair, we did receive an application from Big Sky Economic Development for the MSUB Yellowstone Science and Allied Health Building in the amount of $500,000. The applicant is requesting $500,000, of a total project cost of $15 million, in Coal Board funds to complete the renovation of the 70-year-old science facility at MSU Billings. The request to the Board?

Okay. Since there's no action required, we'll move to the next item, which is our old business. And at our telephone conference call, what was discussed with, with the MSUB application was to consider -- And I indicated at the conference call that we would have this as the first item of business; that we would consider suspending the award to MSU Billings, as has been recommended by our staff attorney, we would consider allowing Big Sky Economic Development to submit the MSU Billings application on behalf of the MSU Billings Foundation, and we would consider approval of the Big Sky Economic Development application, to include the waiver of the 45-day rule. And that's the action that the Board took at the conference call.

So having said that, then I will ask the staff to provide us an update.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. We'll go right through this I think as we have other -- this is a little unusual, and we'll go right through this as we have other applications, and then after the presentation, then we'll go through those action items as addressed in the conference call. Does that fit with everything?

Amy, is that okay? Does that sound like where we should be moving?

I'm wondering, probably what I'll ask, Amy, is for -- after -- I'll have it introduced and have MSUB -- give the
MR. KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, I'd like to introduce the application, please. Big Sky Economic Development, the Mr. Kennedy, with 2019, we will have -- once we go out for bid; is that correct?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That would be earliest. And so you're looking at December 2018 to go out for bid; is that correct?

MR. KENNEDY: I would love to go out to bid by early winter, looking at December of 2018. And that's if -- Mr. Chairman, that's if the stars all line up and everything works correctly. The delay of a couple months on, on this has, has delayed another grant, which has pushed us back a little bit. We were hoping to -- we're hoping that, by early summer to have the full 5 million match and to go forward. But it does take six-and-a-half months to do all the drawings for the building.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So you're looking at December 2018 to go out for bid; is that correct?

MR. KENNEDY: Hopefully. December is the soonest we could go out for bid on this project.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That would be earliest. And the earliest point of beginning construction would be when?

MR. KENNEDY: Would be next spring.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It would be spring of 2019?

MR. KENNEDY: 2019. So what we would have, Mr. Chairman, is with 2019, we will have -- once we go out to bid, and you all know the construction process, we will
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At that time, you know, the future of the coal industry and the coal communities in this state was very bright, you know, and shiny and we were on the move. I would contrast that with today, where, you know, I think any characterization of that climate other than uncertain would be incorrect.

So, you know, I understand the -- having served in the Legislature, I understand the difficult task you always have to how to appropriate available money. That's a task that falls hard on everybody, and I thank you for your efforts in doing that. But I want to encourage you to, to keep this project moving forward for a couple of reasons.

Number one, I served as part of a community task force most of this past year trying to -- you know, working on focusing this unit of the University System on meeting the needs of the region. I, I think we came up with a good work product. I believe the unit, going forward, you know, will be focused on providing educators for the schools in the region, it will be focused on providing medical technicians for the health care units in this region, and it will be focused on, on providing staff in business and science and technology for the employees -- employers in the region.

So despite the uncertainty facing the coal industry and the coal communities -- And I consider Billings a coal community too. We have benefited greatly from the economic engine that the coal industry has been. I don't think a lot of people in the state and -- and my own community, unfortunately, don't realize the impact that the decline in the coal industry will have on this community. I really don't. But it will be negative. I would ask you to continue to support this project. I think it will be a good legacy for the children in this community, and in my case grandchildren, as they need jobs in these fields going forward so they can remain in this region.

So thank you very much for your time. If I may get your permission, I'm going to leave because I've got business affairs in Big Horn County to attend to.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you,

REPRESENTATIVE ESSMANN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you,

 REPRESENTATIVE ESSMANN: Chairman Williams, Members of
the Committee, Steve Arveschoug, executive director for
Big Sky Economic Development. I'm going to kind of put my
public hat on in this, if that's even possible in this
application process.

Our board of directors, we have 33 board of directors.

We have a public-private partnership. And they were very
1 unanimous in their support to move forward in this
2 application and support of the University. And I'll talk
3 a little bit about the commitment that we've made toward
4 this process and will continue to make on an ongoing basis
5 to make sure that this is successful for our community and
6 the fundraising is, is completed. And you have that, that
7 pledge from me both personally and in representation of our organization.
8
9 But I want to start by saying that we, we feel very
10 strongly, as an economic development organization, about the partnership that we continue to try and strengthen and build. And I think, Chairman Williams, it was maybe two years ago, we took a busload of our board members down to Colstrip at the invitation of Southeast Montana Development Corporation. Because we really wanted to be on the ground and talk with you about what your community is experiencing, what's happening, and kind of the in-ground-zero, as it were, with the, with the challenges.

11 That meeting led to what we now refer to as our Coal Country Coalition. It's a partnership of Southeast Montana Development Corporation, Snowy Mountain, Beartooth RC&D, and Big Sky Economic Development. And with your help, with the Coal Board's help, we initiated an impact study. The reason we're standing here today talking about an investment in our university has a lot to do with what we discovered in that study, which we probably in some part knew already, that we're connected.

12 We're connected because of that coal industry. That connection is no more stronger than it is with our regional university. That regional university connects us beyond our economy. It connects us in an education way. Students from throughout the region have an opportunity to attend school there, and they need and deserve a state-of-the-art science facility. And so this investment that you're making in partnership with us and other organizations is really an investment in that partnership that we want to continue to strengthen and that we've all been a part of.

13 Big Sky Economic Development has committed $200,000, and then we went out to the community and started talking to our business community, and we were able to get another $100,000. Our pledge to the University is just in excess of $300,000. We've got some more work to do, and we're hopeful to bring to the table additional contribution toward this project. Myself and other staff people are committed to continuing to work with the Foundation to see this through.

14 In, in my opinion and in closing, Jeff's comments earlier about kind of the uncertainties that are -- that you all live with on a daily basis with respect to the coal industry probably makes this investment, this long-term investment in education more important than it has ever been before. So it's in that context and in the context of our willingness to continue to partner with you and with our university and our communities throughout the region that we would ask for your continued support of this project.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

17 MAYOR COLE: Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, my name is Bill Cole, and I am the mayor of Billings, Montana. Steve Arveschoug mentioned the word "partnership," and I think that's a critical one.

18 Billings wants to be a great city, and we know that a great city requires a great university, and that requires partnership.

19 We want to keep our kids here. We know -- we have to fill about 15,000 jobs in the next 10 years because of attrition and in growth, and that means attracting the young, people between 20 and 40 in particular. So the problem, though, is that both Billings and MSUB need to strengthen our core competency, our reputation in technology and in science.

20 Here's an example that was brought home to me just yesterday and earlier this week. I had meetings with the leadership of Billings Clinic and St. Vincent's. Now, those are the two largest health care facilities in the state of Montana. Billings Clinic employs 41,000 -- or, I'm sorry, 4100 employees, mostly here in Yellowstone County but also around the state. My understanding is that Billings Clinic employees pay about 9 percent of the property taxes either in Billings or in Yellowstone County.

21 But they have a problem. They are in the constant hunt for physicians and nurses and techs, who can live anywhere they want. The jobs are out there anyplace. And so they and we have to find a reason why they will say we will move to Billings, Montana. It's essential to their future, those institutions' future, and it's essential to our future. Right now, at any given time, we have a deficit of approximately 100 physicians between the Clinic, St. V's, RiverStone, and private health care providers in Billings, roughly 200 nurses, and I don't know how many rad techs and other technology workers.

22 Reputation, competency in science, a good university is critical to attracting those people. And they know that brand and identity and reputation of a community all goes together.

23 So the City of Billings recognizes that, and, in order to strengthen this partnership and build our core
competency in science and tech, last year committed
$50,000 of scarce public resources to this project -- that
money has already gone out -- because we recognize that as
MSU pros pers, Billings will prosper.
Personally, my wife and I have toured the, the
existing science building and made a similar contribution
of $50,000 to this effort because we've seen the existing
facility and we know the problems that are there. If I
were a parent and I were considering sending my children
to MSUB and science was going to be any part of their
curriculum, I would be very, very concerned. And that's a
problem for MSUB, but it's also a problem for Billings.
So on behalf of the City and myself and my wife, I
would just encourage you to look favorably on this grant
application.
Thank you very much.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mayor.
Other comments from the public?
MS. BIRD WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Members of the
Committee. My name is Jody Bird Williams. I'm a resident
of Colstrip. I'm a former member of the Montana House of
Representatives, a former U of M Advisory Council member
during that time. And I have some questions. I wasn't at
the last meeting, I don't know what was discussed, but I
have some questions.
I know enrollment is down considerably at U of M, and
they just hired a bright, new, young guy that I think's
probably going to do a great job there. And I know
student costs are up and student debt is horrible. So I'm
thinking about these things. And I'm thinking education
is a wonderful thing. My family are a lot of educators.
And I think I heard Mr. Kennedy say timing is
everything, and that's exactly what I woke up thinking
this morning. And I thought is, is this a little bit
ahead of its time? Because enrollment numbers are down,
costs of going to school are up, and student debt is so
high. And our state is full of aging people. Families
are not replacing the aging. They aren't having as many
children. So how many students are we going to have
available? Is it going to match the cost, the investment?
I'm thinking about all these things. I'm being practical.
And I'm not against the idea, because I think it's a
wonderful idea. But I'm just wondering about the timing.
And it also kind of bugs me. My first committee I
ever staffed in Legislature was Appropriations, and I also
served on Taxation, Judiciary, and Natural Resources. And
it, it bothers me to see one group get the lion's share
and there's a lot of lambs out there in all the counties
in eastern Montana. We heard people talk about ambulances
and fire trucks and hospital elevators and boilers for
hospitals. And those things are all needful. The smaller
counties are talking about merging together because they
don't have enough money. The smaller schools are talking.
Our school district, the Colstrip School District, we're
going to be in bad, bad shape.
And so I'm wondering, if enrollments are down all the
way through the school system, all the costs are going up,
is it the right time? That's my only question. But I
applaud the idea.
And I thank you for your time.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.
Other questions, comments?
MR. LARSEN: Chairman, thank you. I'm
Ron Larsen, currently chairman -- or currently chancellor
at MSU Billings. As many of you know, my time at
MSU Billings is coming to an end. There was a search for
the position and they have hired Daniel Edelman, who will
start in May. He contacted me yesterday and said is there
anything he can do to try to make sure this goes forward,
and I said, you know, we'll do the best we can.
It has been an amazing opportunity for me to be a part
of MSU Billings. One of the moments that stands out to
me, we were having a, an enrollment management meeting,
and there was some question about who is our focus. And
there had been, at some point before my time, some
discussion on focusing on the Billings area high schools,
and I pushed back on that and said, "We are the university
that serves eastern Montana, and we're not giving that
away." And I was very pleased to see that the people
around the table were, were absolutely happy to have that
reaffirmed to them, that MSU Billings is the institution
that serves eastern Montana. And that makes us the
institution of coal country.
So I'm kind of humbled to be standing here with these
districts coming up talking about the contributions they
have made. We are so thankful to Big Sky Economic
Development, and we're so thankful to the City and
everyone else who has contributed to this project. We are
getting close. We're not quite done. And the timing is
truly critical.
So thank you. It has been my honor to be a part of
this. I thank you for what you're going to do, and I hope
we can get it done. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER BERRY: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, here I
am again, Members of the Board. Commissioner Berry from
Musselshell County, former representative, House
District 40. And I was in the House of Representatives
when this bill came before us, and I did vote for the
$10 million knowing that the community had to raise
I am an educator, taught in Colstrip. Taught your daughter, John, back in '81 through '84. I was there during the boom of the 3 and 4. We were trailer trash on the hill. We knew that. We were 7600 people strong. Now we're down to about 2200 in Colstrip. I was there during the, during the growth and the building of the $13 million school in Colstrip, which has gone from a Class A school now down to B and, and possibly could drop below that.

Everyone in Colstrip came to Billings to shop, came to Billings to, a lot of them to doctor. My dentist was in Colstrip, and I moved to Billings and my dentist recommended me to the dentist here. We do a lot of things together in coal country. And just to remind Members, Yellowstone County does have a coal mine in it, Signal Peak Mine. And we appreciated, as I was county commissioner, you allocated some dollars for the, for the mine road for us.

But every one of those school districts in southeastern Montana is dependent on educators and the sciences. And with that, as I talked to Commissioner Small-Eastman, and the chancellor and I made a trip down to Lame Deer and talked about educators, it's needed. I read in the paper all the time -- and school districts, we held a reception and talked to teachers about STEM. This weekend for all of southeastern Montana, we have the science expo.

So as we go forward and we talk about 3 percent of this budget is building -- rebuilding a 70-year-old building that's not adequate to serve the needs of education, of the sciences.

And the last thing I want to talk about is the superintendent over in Hardin talked about his championship teams, and I want to congratulate them.

Lodge Grass went to State.

Our athletics, our training, our nursing program that will be housed, some of it will be housed in this building, all reach out to every one of the communities. This is very important. I think we've delayed long enough. It's time to move forward. And we would invite you for the groundbreaking and making sure that you're a part of this.

We really appreciate your support today. Thank you.

\[\text{CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.} \]

Okay. Discussion from the public?

I'll make a couple comments on it. I support this.

I've, I've always supported what you're attempting to do and what you will accomplish. My reluctance and my vote against it was the fact it was $500,000, a half a million dollars. That was my issue, and it has been my issue all
This is a very large amount of money. And when we have the responsibility as a board on taking a look at the statutory requirements that are placed on this board, one of the things right up at the top of the line, and Representative Berry is here, but Representative Essmann was here, would the need of the proposed project enable the applicant to adequately address to provide for governmental services and facilities that are needed as a direct consequence of an increase or decrease in coal development or in the consumption of coal by a coal using energy complex?

Those are the rules that we -- that was the first, that's the first rule that we're required to follow, the first statute. And for us to fund this at a half million dollars I feel violates that statute, though I do support it, at probably a lesser amount of money than what you've requested.

You know, we lose sight of the fact of the value of what coal has been to our communities throughout Montana. Everybody has benefited as a result. You know, and the one tax alone that is collected on coal, the severance tax, over $2 billion has been allocated out across the state of Montana as a result of the mining and the power generation that occurs in coal country, those folks that live and work there. The process that we're going through and have been going through for 40-plus years is to assist those communities in the impact associated with that.

This board has been very responsive over the many, many years that -- We get a small percentage of that $2.1 billion that's been collected. We've been very responsive to allocating that back -- a large portion of it has gone back to education. Over 30 percent has gone back to education, of the funds that we work with. But it has gone to the school districts within the coal-impacted communities. It has gone to Hardin, it has gone to Lodge Grass, it has gone to Lame Deer, it has gone to Colstrip, it has gone to Forsyth, those school districts that is required by law for them to provide education.

Some has gone into the higher education. Some has gone -- I don't know what, if anything -- I believe something has gone back into MSU. And as far as my support on it, you're right, Mr. Kennedy, you taught my daughter there. She also graduated from Eastern. And so did my son and grandson. You know, so I have supported Eastern individually and I support as a board all of the educational processes that we've been able to work with in coal-impacted communities. Increase or decrease in coal development, those are the statutes that is placed before us that we're required to follow.

And while I support this, I don't support it at the half-million-dollar level. And those are my thoughts. But I do support it. And I support your effort. So that's, that's my position on it. And I think if I back off from that, I feel that I do a sacrifice against the integrity of what I am involved with on my responsibilities. I've been involved with this board for over 14 years as a member.

Prior to that, I appeared before this board as a representative of an impacted community, of people that live and work in the coal industry. And this was designed and set up to address those folks and to work with them on the quality of life that they have on providing that tremendous resource back across the state of Montana. Education, infrastructure, police protection, fire protection, medical, all those items that add to the quality of life that we're involved with in coal country place value on existence. So that's -- you know, it's not that I don't support it. I do. But not at the current level.

Now, having said that --

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: So the record reflects

in my book here we gave $500,000 to Colstrip for Phase 1 water; we gave $500,000 to Representative Berry -- Commissioner Berry's school; we gave $300,000 to Rosebud County. That's the record I have right in front of me today.

I'm Sidney Fitzpatrick, Big Horn County Commissioner, for the ones that don't know me that are sitting in the audience. I'm a tribal member from the Crow Tribe. My constituents are the Crow People and the Cheyenne People in the Busby area. They're my constituents. That's who I speak for today.

When this was under scrutiny -- This is the third time now. The second time, I heard the presentation when we were at MSUB with the counselor, with bringing counselors, training counselors in the LE building for my people. I want to have them trained counselors so they're not looked upon when they come to this beautiful city. Because I'll tell you what, bigotry is alive and well today here. It is. That's the truth.

So if I sit here heading to 60 years of age, being sober for almost 40 years, and I'm going to, I'm going to make a motion to approve this for my constituency, also remember I have three coal mines in Big Horn County.

Three. And, you know, I'll tell you something, every time when I came to that podium -- I've been in this seat
And MSU Billings is a state agency, and once you actually read through the rule, you can figure out that this project that MSUB has brought forth as a state agency is not actually an eligible project.

And so it was my recommendation that the Coal Board rescind that grant award, and that's what I recommended at the February conference call, and that's where we're still at today. The actual award is still in place. It was not rescinded at that conference call.

So I believe there are two different action items that are actually under item 7A. We've got the actual MSUB grant award that was awarded that we need to take action on, and then the other one is the BSEDA grant application that you should also take action on.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. I was just looking for the -- that number is --

MS. BARNES: The ARM is 8.101.306.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: What's the application number?

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman, this is Anne. The application number for MSU Billings that was previously awarded is No. 0832 --

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay.

MS. PICHETTE: -- which was the awarded one. The current new application from Big Sky Economic Development for the MSU Billings building project is No. 0848.

So the issue that we have is there was a, a grant that was awarded to MSU Billings back in January at the quarterly meeting for $500,000. But the problem is there is an administrative rule that the Coal Board has. It is Rule No. 8.101.306, and it is in regard to state agencies.

And MSU Billings is a state agency, and once you actually allocated 2 million? The 500,000 was included in the $500,000 today? It's not the first time this board gave the $500,000.

Rule No. 8.101.306, and it is in regard to state agencies. It is an administrative rule that the Coal Board has. It is Ms. Barnes. I'm legal counsel for the Coal Board. I believe there are two different action items that are actually under item 7A. We've got the actual MSUB grant award that was awarded that we need to take action on, and then the other one is the BSEDA grant application that you should also take action on.

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amount that Jennifer spoke of earlier; right?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That's correct.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: So my question, John, is

then we would have to -- Actually, I have two questions.

Would the process then be to approve the grant application

by the development organization and then vote again on a

dollar amount? I'm not real sure -- don't understand

exactly why we're rescinding the 500,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: We have to rescind the

$500,000. That's what we talked about at the telephone

conference call. We said we would rescind it in order for

to move forward with the new -- Big Sky Economic

Development to move forward with the new application

of 848.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Which will include their

request for 500,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That's correct.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. End of discussion on

rescinding 832. Any comments from the public?

MR. KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, Bill Kennedy,

MSU Billings Foundation. What I would ask is that you do

these all as one motion, that you approve and you rescind

at the same time, just like you did in the January

meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Comments?

Amy, any problem with what we're doing?

MS. OLSON: Mr. Chairman, can I make a comment?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Please.

MS. OLSON: As to Mr. Kennedy's suggestion, I

think we did have that discussion at the last conference

meeting, and I think that it just makes things clearer as

we go forward if we just take things piece by piece as the

current motion is set on the table and then move forward

to the other, to the other motion, just so that we're all

clear and that we're all on one page on what exactly is

happening.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I agree.

Any other discussion?

Okay. Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So then all that we have to
do is this; is that right? So we're okay with that?

MS. OLSON: Excellent. Just for clarification, you voted for the BSEDA application to have a waiver of the 45-day application rule as well as the -- you gave them a waiver of the 10-day rule as well. The additional environmental information that they just submitted --

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Right.

MS. OLSON: -- was already included as part of that --

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay.

MS. OLSON: -- decision that was made in February.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Very good.

Okay. Any other discussion, Board?

Public?

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: This is Marianne again.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I guess I -- after listening to all of these comments, I just would like to say, as a board member listening to everyone, I believe this does affect everyone clear across the state and that the coal communities, of which Billings is a part of, will greatly benefit on behalf of, of all of Montana and that it is for education and it is an investment in infrastructure. And
I believe it is a good investment of the Coal Board's dollars.

So thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other discussion?

Okay. Vote please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: No.

Okay. Thank you. Motion is passed on the Big Sky Economic Development 848. And thank you all for all your comments. I appreciate it very much.

MR. KENNEDY: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Montana State University Billings, we would like to thank all of you. It's been a long, drawn-out process, but thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. Motion is passed on that?

Okay. I'll entertain a motion on 833 to allow that process to occur without any further environmental review.

MS. PICHETTE: And Mr. Chairman, I apologize. It is 0834.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. 834.

MS. PICHETTE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: 834.

MS. OLSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe I might help a little bit.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay.

MS. OLSON: So what the Board is doing is taking on the responsibilities of the local government because the local government did not complete -- or the eligible applicant did not complete the environmental review process as part of the application that was submitted to the Board. So the Board has the option to -- in some cases such as this, to take on the environmental determination themselves and to make that environmental determination in order for the project to be completed.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Question, Chairman. I
have a question.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Please.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: With that thought, Jennifer, is there liability on our behalf on, on that?

MS. OLSON: So any environmental decision that the Board makes, the Board has the responsibility and the liability if there were any questions. So that's why you're holding it here at a public meeting, because any public entity that has interest in the project itself would be able to provide comment in regards to saying that they feel like that's not the appropriate determination.

And so your -- the Board does have that responsibility and holds that liability as that determination is made.

The option that we've talked about numerous times, particularly at the Coal Board orientation and then I think most recently at the September meeting, is that the Board can require that the local government or the eligible applicant complete the environmental review process and come back to the Board with that completed process in order to move forward. So it's not solely on your shoulders. You can actually take an alternative action.

You can also -- and I apologize, I didn't mean to say exempt. They are categorically excluded. And I apologize. In your Coal Board orientation binder, we went through several different slides about environmental, and one of those is that the Board can make an exclusion, a categorical exclusion. I guess I said that wrong, actually. But you can make a determination of categorical exclusion, saying basically that, at the public meeting that there's no impact, no further environmental review required. But then again, as you pointed out, Vice-Chairman, it would be a, a board liability.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Board action on that item. It's a piece of equipment. So I'll entertain a motion to exempt.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: I'll move to provide that exemption.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second?

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: And this is for Musselshell's equipment; right?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Golden valley.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Oh. Golden Valley?

MS. PICHETTE: It is Golden Valley for the Jaws of Life purchase.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Oh, Jaws of Life purchase. So does that need an environmental?

MS. OLSON: So that's, that's exactly why you can make this action and take this action.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: So it's kind of a hit and miss depending on -- Okay.

MS. OLSON: The type of project.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: I second it.

MS. OLSON: And the other reason that I would say, as we've chatted about before, is that the opportunity for the public being engaged here is to present information that would otherwise help to further define if there is environmental impact. So there is -- if that's part of the exclusion, the items that are excluded, it's typically minor repairs, vehicle equipment purchases, et cetera, et cetera. Those tend to be considered exempt. We would agree with that.

However, we don't understand the full context of what that equipment purchase might be, you know, being used for or how that relates to the environment. Local interested parties probably would have some thought about that. So as part of the Coal Board review process, we say just go through an environmental public hearing process, public meeting, engage the public and see if there's any comments. So that's what we're replicating here today.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other discussion?

Comments from the public?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: And I have a, maybe a comment/question.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Sure.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Since I'm new to this process. Is there a reason why these communities have not gone forward with this environmental process?

MS. OLSON: And maybe I'll just chime in. I don't know that we can exactly answer that. As part of our application, the Coal Board application, which the Board sets the format of the application, an environmental review process is outlined as the steps that you need to complete. I think in the past 12 months we've done eight trainings on that to offer people assistance to go through that. And as you can see in our staff report, our recommendation is that the project does not get funded because it hasn't completed the environmental review process as an example.

So -- but as to the specifics of why, I, I don't know that we can totally answer that each time.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Typically, a piece of equipment like that, you know, what we would like to have them do is go through the part of the process as far doing meetings, you know, that type of thing. You know, that's -- but we moved, we already moved on this, awarding it, and so we're kind of catching up. What we should have done at that time was address it when the award was made, which we did not do. So that's what should have been done.
happened. So it's just catching up.

Other discussion?

MS. BAILEY: I don't know if I missed my

opportunity or not, but Mr. Chairman, Board Members, I

would say that I apologize. I did not realize that this

would be discussed today or how it would be handled. My

file that covers that activity has additional information

that I could mail in later, but I don't have that with me.

And I apologize.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Kathie.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: The information you have is

on the Golden Valley grant?

MS. BAILEY: Yes. I'm, I'm reasonably sure. I

mean, like I don't have my file right in front of me to

look, but I'm reasonably sure that we did, did additional

environmental issues with the Golden Valley County

Commissioners on another meeting, subsequent meeting.

Because we had the application in, like, nine months

before you could act on it and so there was time, and they
did do some additional things. But I don't have that with
me.

It is equipment. In all other grants, equipment is

exempt and we don't go through this environmental process.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: The next one is No. 0836. It was

the Rosebud County Sheriff's Office equipment and

upgrades. And they provided a copy of their notice for

their meeting. We just have not received the subsequent

agenda or minutes that show the determination was made at

the public meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Could we, on that particular

one, request them to provide that? Let's go ahead and

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: The next one is No. 0837. It was

the Town of Broadus, and the project was the Powder River

First Responders capnography machine. And the

environmental documentation we received for that was an

agenda. We did receive meeting minutes. The minutes,

however, did not reflect that a determination was made at

that meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I now request the

Board to make the same motion on that, with them to

provide follow-up information. Okay.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: So motioned.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second?

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded

to exempt that with the request for them to provide the

documentation of their public meeting. Discussion?

Comments from the public?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.
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with that information to the Board.

Okay. That's approved.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: We're okay? Are we done?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Great.

MR. ATCHISON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Next one.

MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chairman, did you want me to do a vote with your motion and second?

Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

Okay. That's passed.

Okay. Next, Anne.

MS. PICHETTE: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I lost my

spot. The next one is No. 0838. It is for the Town of

Roundup, and it was for the public works department end

dump purchase. And the only item -- we received

everything from them. The only item we're missing is the

actual determination happening in the minutes. So we

received the minutes. However, the minutes do not state

that their determination was made for a categorical

exclusion.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Let's do a motion on,

on moving that exemption forward, with them to follow up

with that information to the Board.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: So moved.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Discussion?

Comments from the public?

Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.
Chairman Williams: If there's an item that comes up with Colstrip, I'll be removing myself from that.

Board Member Roose: Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Williams: Okay. So that's where --

Board Member Small-Eastman: Mr. Chair.

Chairman Williams: -- we're at, Board Members.

We need to -- Yes.

Board Member Small-Eastman: Mr. Chair, she was asking how you handled your positions in the past. And I feel that we're put into this position to represent our constituents; and by representing our constituents, it would seem like we'd have to be proponents for the applicant and also to vote for our applications -- for our constituents' applications. And so Marianne, her comment was what was the process in the past.

Chairman Williams: Well, the process --

Board Member Small-Eastman: And then lately now they're asking to recuse ourselves for the present.

Chairman Williams: The process in the past has gone both ways. But Amy, through her review of the statute has -- and I won't speak for you, Amy, but you've made the recommendation that that not occur; that we remove ourselves from the vote. If you would like to address that, Amy, please.

Ms. Barnes: Sure. So you have internal appropriation.

So my suggestion to the Board is this: We go through the tabled items, that's 841 through 846, and make our awards -- take them off the table, make our awards. But we need to have in the back of our minds how much money we have. So that means that those requested amounts will need to be different from what is awarded if we need to -- if we're going to move forward with this. So we need to look at those numbers constructively on looking towards the end of the year, which is in the end of June.

But let's, my recommendation is let's take them off the table, make our awards so those folks know what will be available and move forward in the process. But the applicants will need to understand that they will not be -- have a contract in place until revenue is actually available for that project or that piece of equipment. So we have to go through that, go through that and make the appropriate reductions or non-approval on those applications. Are we -- am I -- Are there any questions to what I've just stated?

We're at the process where we have to look very -- make some difficult decisions on our future, on awards because we don't have the funds to, to -- that we would like to have to recognize that. Are we okay with that?

Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick: Can I have -- make some comment?

Chairman Williams: Yes.

Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick: So 0841, most of them are my county, so I don't have a vote because I'll have to recuse myself. Here's some thought. Maybe let, let each applicant, if we can come up with maybe even paying half of that. For instance, here's Big Horn County law enforcement vehicle. Instead of 69,000, if they understand the Coal Board lack of funding, maybe half or -- it's just a thought. I'd like to see the whole funding because it's my county, but I don't, I don't have a -- I have to recuse myself.

Board Member Roose: John, I have a question.

Chairman Williams: Yes.

Board Member Roose: This is Marianne. I just -- in regards to Sidney's comment about recusing himself, I know other board members and you have had requests that are for your county. Do all of you folks recuse yourself when there is a vote that affects your county or do you vote on it? What has been the practice in the past?

management procedures that address the conflict of interest. But then there are also the code of ethics, which as Coal Board Members, you also have to follow. And the code of ethics is a little bit more stringent than the actual conflict of interest rule that you have in your internal management procedures.

So it would be my recommendation that if you have a direct conflict of interest, that instead of just recusing yourself from actually -- So the conflict of interest in your internal management procedure says that you may not participate in any decision that's relating to contracts that affect your personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership, or association in which you are directly or indirectly interested or you have a personal pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in the contract or in the process thereof.

And the way that your management procedures has actually defined what participate means, it means that you are prohibited from making motions, seconding motions, and voting. So as a baseline, that's my recommendation, that you definitely do not participate by making motions, seconding motions, or voting.

Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick: I have a question. So you can't even comment or try to influence or anything?

Where does that lie?
MS. BARNES: So that is up to a determination of how you actually interpret what participate means when you're looking at the code of ethics. They don't actually define what it means. I think that's part of how the public will perceive how you participate. And if you are sitting as a Coal Board Member and trying to wear dual hats as the county commissioner at the same time, it could be perceived as participation.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: I think that has to play a big role, because you know, we never know who's sitting in the crowd. And so -- That's, that's just my thoughts. And so if you look at the City of Hardin, Lodge Grass, I play a role in there. They're my -- we work with them, government-to-government relationships. So my thoughts there is -- You know what I'm saying? Even though I don't work for the City of Hardin, but we work right along with them and we do business, and the same with Lodge Grass. I mean, that kind of -- that's a fine line for me in my code of ethics and in my thoughts.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Other discussion?

Okay. Board Members, are we okay with walking through -- Here's my other thought. We would go completely through, need to be reminded I think of the applicants, need to take them off the table and walk all the way through, and we go back and make the awards, keeping in mind the available money.

Okay. Before we begin the process, however, are there any of the tabled applicants that would like to change any request before we...

MR. GERKE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. Again, my name is Dennis Gerke. I'm the superintendent at Hardin Schools. I'd like to address project No. 0846, activity center pool roof replacement. We would like to -- in an effort to help out the challenges the Board has and funding for these other projects, we would like to reduce our asking amount by $100,300. So the asking amount would be 284,000.

And I would also like to add in there while I'm up here that our board has approved going to our voters for a building reserve levy for our elementary. We are asking for $100,000 over the next 10 years from our elementary district, and we are asking for 50,000 a year for the period of 10 years for our high school district in an effort to partner with everybody on that.

So again, from 384,300 down to 284,000 that we are asking for. I'd entertain any questions at this time.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: What I'll do, Superintendent, is we'll take that off the, off the table and then we can address that further. Okay?

MR. GERKE: Thank you.
Ms. Pichette: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chad Fenner: I can answer part, part of that last question. I know the City of Hardin pays us a fee to police, to police the area. But overall, Big Horn County sheriffs gotta -- you know, they're, of course they're more busy in town. Most of the crime is in town. Probably 85 percent of the crime is in Hardin, Montana.

Chairman Williams: Questions from the Board?

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Chairman Williams: Questions from the Board?

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Chairman Williams: Questions from the Board?
there in those turnarounds waiting for that vehicle.

2 The other thing is, is MHP is not always on down
there, and we have extremely bad accidents on that -- as
you know, on that interstate, and so the deputies are the
first ones to respond, and they have to wait for a Highway
Patrolman to come down. But most of the time they're
awaiting -- it's an agency assist for another vehicle.

8 I make the schedule and I put those deputies on county
patrol. So you'll have one or two deputies that are only
out in the county, they're not in town. But as
Commissioner Fenner said, we are short-staffed and
sometimes I can't get two people out in the county at one
time. So they have -- we have a certain amount we have to
keep in town for the contract with the City.

15 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Okay. Thank you.
16 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I'd like to get it
17 back to the piece of equipment. You've got
18 three applications in here, Big Horn County library, law
19 enforcement, fairgrounds. Do you have any priorities on
20 any of those that you would like to move forward with?
21 And the other, the other comment, Chad, is the fact of
22 the cost of that piece of equipment, that I have -- I can
23 put a piece of equipment out, a brand new one, for
24 $37,000.
25 COMMISSIONER FENNER: That's totally equipped.

Radar, I mean, it's --

2 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes. And that's -- Yes. I'd
3 be glad to share this information with you. But that's,
4 that's what we can put out a piece of equipment, $37,735.
5 There wasn't any trade-in on this either, I don't think on
6 the $100,000 unit.
7 By anyway, back to my first question. You've got
8 three, three applications here. Do you have a priority on
9 any of those?
10 COMMISSIONER FENNER: I've been on that side of
11 the table. They're all important. I can't, I can't pick
12 one out. I mean, it's -- they're all, all important.
13 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. So we'll, we'll have
to go through with what we're going through. Okay.
15 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: I guess, Mr. Chairman, I
16 had a comment to make and a question too.
17 I was looking at the quote in, in your application
18 packet. And I was wondering if you received any other
19 quotes from any other entities to get these vehicles
20 possibly at the lower price that the Chairman was alluding
to.
21 MR. FUSS: I'm sorry. (Inaudible).
22 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes. I had a question on
23 the vehicle quote that was in your submission, application
24 submission, and I was wondering if you had received any

other quotes for vehicles and what those prices were and
2 if they were at a lower price. I know the Chairman was
3 alluding earlier that possibly he has gotten vehicles at a
4 lower price than what is estimated in your application.
5 MR. FUSS: Not that I'm aware of. I don't
6 believe he went to anyone else. The sheriff is the one
7 that got the quotes. And those come from a, a person that
8 we buy all of our cars from.
9 COMMISSIONER FENNER: Mr. Chairman, we can do one
10 car, do one car from you folks, and then if you fund the
11 rest of the ones. That car is
12 probably kind of covering the two other.
13 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: What's the least amount you
14 can get by with here?
15 COMMISSIONER FENNER: (Inaudible).
16 MR. FUSS: (Inaudible) Ford Interceptors.
17 Maybe I can make a suggestion. If we -- we could, we
18 could probably reduce that if we can go get a quote for
19 two pickups, which are way cheaper than the Ford
20 Interceptors. But I think like you said, Chairman, you
21 know -- I'm not sure if that's what your quote's on, is
22 37,000.
23 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's pickups.
24 But what's the least amount you can get by with?
25 (Inaudible conversation.)
we'll go back and make our awards. The next one is 842,
Big Horn County, library capital improvement needs.

MS. PICHETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. 0842,
Big Horn County, library capital improvement needs.

$30,433. The applicant is requesting $30,433, of a total
project cost of $40,433, in Coal Board funds to complete
the purchase of equipment for the library. The request to
the Board is 75 percent of the project cost.

The applicant states the need to upgrade equipment as
the current computer hardware, software, and wireless
routers are aging and problems are being experienced.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
Big Horn County.

MS. BOYER: Hi, Mr. Chairman and Members of the
Board. My name is Donelle Boyer. I am the director at
the Big Horn County Library. We have eight public access
computers for adults, we have five public access computers
for the children, three card catalogs, and six staff
computers that we're looking at upgrading to more current,
updated equipment.

Right now our -- all of our computers are about
eight years old. People that are going to college and
even to high school, their home computers that they're
purchasing have newer software than what we are able to
help them with. And so we have people that are coming in
needing to print out projects or work on projects,
resumés, job applications and such that our computers
won't handle what they're doing. And if they bring their
own equipment in, it's not -- our printers aren't able to
print because the applications are too old for the
machines that are available.

This last month, the library was open 19 days in
February. We had 150 children sessions on those
five computers and we had 697 adult sessions, which gives
us over 480 hours of computer usage just in February.

Right now we have, one of our modems is down at the
library. We've been kind of gimping along trying to --
for our WiFi, and we have not been able to give our
patrons the WiFi service that they have come to expect
because we can't afford the new modem.

I guess that's -- if you have any questions, I'll try
and answer them for you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Questions from the
Board?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yeah, a couple questions,
Mr. Chairman.

First off, I notice you have the, for the
environmentals, because we were just trying to --

MS. BOYER: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: -- procedure-wise, your
minutes did not show that an environmental
determination was made. Was there actually one that was not reflected in
your minutes?

MS. BOYER: We were told that we didn't need one
because it was equipment, and so I guess...

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: So --

MS. BOYER: That was my understanding.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: -- the Board will have to.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Anne.

MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chairman, and I apologize,
Amber, since you were not at the meeting. At the last
meeting there was some discussion back and forth regarding
the information provided in the staff summary because of the
entities of these last three that performed the
environmental process, after the January meeting, the
county commission, because the Big Horn County was the
actual applicant, went through the process. And you
should have that documentation in an envelope because it
wasn't part of the actual March binder.

So following the January meeting, the Big Horn County
Commission provided all of the environmental documentation
needed for the law enforcement vehicle upgrades, the
library capital improvement needs, and the one you may be
addressing next, 0843, is the fairgrounds
improvement. So while the library did not, and that's
what the staff report reflects, you do have some
supplemental documents that were mailed out that Big Horn
County supplied for all three. If that's helpful.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes, it is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other questions?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: I did have a further
inquiry.

What other grants have you looked into for this
funding?

MS. BOYER: We haven't gone looking for any other
grants at this point. We got -- the commissioners have
been generous and have committed $10,000 to the project,
and that's as far as we've gotten so far. We are working
with a capital improvement plan, putting it together so
that we can go and look for other grants if need be.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other questions?

MS. BOYER: Oh. We are up for an election in
June where the library -- every two years the library goes
out and asks for five mills additional to what the
commissioners, the County gives us. And this year we're
looking at trying to make it permanent so that we don't
have to go to the election every, every two years and so
we can keep our funding at constant instead of not being
sure -- you know, worrying about it every two years. And
we are asking for six mills at this permanent levy.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So you're increasing your
2 mills? Is that what you're out for election, to increase
3 your mills; is that what you're saying?
4 MS. BOYER: Well, the commissioners give us
5 five mills, and we are -- we're not totally funded out of
6 the general fund, and so we go to the, we go to the voters
7 every two years to ask for an additional five mills to
8 fund the library at its current level. And because the
9 mills are down, the cost of a mill is -- or the mill is
to still maintain where we are.
10 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I see. So you're increasing
11 it from five to six, that's what you're requesting?
12 MS. BOYER: Yes.
13 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. You know, and of
14 course, my question is that $30,000, could Big Horn County
15 just go ahead and fund that?
16 VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: You know, Mr. Chairman,
17 Members of the Coal Board, this past year we used all of
18 our gross proceeds in the budget, you know, and so there
19 was -- you know, what came in went back in to providing
20 services at our county government: Our library, our
21 roads, our ambulance. Ambulance this year, we're
22 projected to be 400,000 short by June 30. So, you know,
23 when you talk to us about, you know, can't you just do it,
24
25 MS. BOYER: Oh. The computers is just, just -- I
26 I know you would like all of it, but what's kind of the
27 pressing issues?
28 MS. BOYER: Yeah. The computers is just, just -- I
29 know you would like all of it, but what's kind of the
30 pressing issues?
31
32 Questions? Questions?
33 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Mr. Chairman, I had
34 another question --
35 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes. Please.
36 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: -- regarding quotes.
37 Did you receive any other quotes for this systems
38 upgrade?
39 MS. BOYER: No, we didn't. The quote that we
40 sent in is the company that we do all of our, we do all of
41 our computer -- I can't get the words out here, the
42 technical -- you know, they're the company that we go to
43 for all of our computers. And so they're familiar with
44 all of the infrastructure in the building and all of the
45 software and everything that we need to keep, keep going.
46 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: And further on this, on
47 this list, I guess what is the main priorities in your
48 library in this upgrade? What is, what is the most
49 important? Computers? WiFi? You know, from this list.
50 I know you would like all of it, but what's kind of the
51 pressing issues?
52 MS. BOYER: Oh. The computers is just, just -- I
53 guess it's all kind of tied together, because we do have
54 so many people that are coming in using the WiFi

1 connection as well as using it after hours. And, and then
2 the hardware itself in the building with the software is a
3 pressing issue for those that are coming in needing things
4 printed out for job applications, for unemployment, for,
5 you know, school applications, that type of thing. So
6 it's all kind of tied together.
7 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Other questions?
8 Okay. Thank you.
9 MS. BOYER: Thank you.
10 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Next is 843, Big Horn County,
11 fairgrounds improvements project, $66,000 requested.
12 MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chairman, 0843, Big Horn
13 County, fairgrounds improvement, $66,785. The applicant
14 is requesting $66,785, of a total project cost of
15 $116,785, in Coal Board funds to complete the fairgrounds
16 improvement project. The request to the Board is
17 57 percent of the project cost.
18 The applicant states the need to make improvements
19 including a pump house, well, electrical, and waterline
20 work to improve the facility and provide for cost savings.
21 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
22 MS. GREENWALT: Hi. (Inaudible) record,
23 Linda Greenwalt, Big Horn County Fair Board, Hardin.
24 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Coal Board, Department of
25 Commerce, it's a pleasure to be back before you. As you

1 you know, we're going to have to figure out how we're
2 going to pay our ambulance too. So...
3 Thank you, sir.
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5 another question --
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22 pressing issues?
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24 guess it's all kind of tied together, because we do have
25 so many people that are coming in using the WiFi

1 will recall, Big Horn Fair Board is requesting monetary
2 help with our project of drilling a water well, providing
3 irrigation water to our baseball fields and picnic areas
4 and livestock water to our arena, corrals, and to our
5 county stockyards.
6 In an effort to be fiscally responsible, the
7 fair board is always searching for ways to keep our
8 operational budget in check, and the county commissioners
9 have pledged $50,000 towards our project, acknowledging
10 the importance of this project. It's the fair board's
11 wish that the Coal Board look favorably at our monetary
12 request. And if I can answer any questions, I would be
13 happy to do so. Thank you for your time. It's greatly
14 appreciated.
15 Questions? Questions?
16 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: The Chairman said he'd be
17 right back.
18 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: The total amount of
19 your budget was 116,000; right?
20 MS. GREENWALT: Yes.
21 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: And the County is --
22 MS. GREENWALT: Pledging 50,000.
23 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: 50,000.
24 MS. GREENWALT: Yes, ma'am.
25 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Is there any other
concerts. They have the 4-H fair. I mean, they have the County and look at their, their county fair. They have know, as a fundraiser. And then I go to, go to Rosebud some of those happening there at Big Horn County as -- you are -- as a constituent of Big Horn County, I would like -- as a constituent of Big Horn County, I would like to see, you know, the tour rodeos that go on that Paula Small-Plenty, you know, is in charge of for the rodeo region.

MS. GREENWALT: Right now it's at the forefront of the past five-year CIP plan. We are in the process of updating the CIP plan. Actually, we've done work in two meetings back-to-back to revisit projects that was on the CIP plan moving forward and into the future. So we've done, we are doing our homework to figure out -- and ranking them as to which project in the future would be the most important on the board side. Of course, it needs to be filtered out through the commissioner side. But yeah, we are, we are diligently working on that.

MS. GREENWALT: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: And I'd like to see some of those happening there at Big Horn County as -- you know, as a fundraiser. And then I go to, go to Rosebud County and look at their, their county fair. They have concerts. They have the 4-H fair. I mean, they have the
1 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
2 MAYOR PURCELL: Chairman, Coal Board,
3 Joe Purcell, mayor of City of Hardin.
4 Like I stated earlier, I had asked for our application
5 to be tabled at the last meeting so I could review more
6 funding sources. I was hoping to be able to pull some
7 funds from our street maintenance, and with our snow
8 removal, kind of took care of our extra budget through
9 that. We were able to reduce it by 40,000. So the
10 request I come with today is at $129,296 to help kind of
11 complete that project.
12 Any questions of the Board?
13 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.
14 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes. Please.
15 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: I would like to ask,
16 have you sought out additional funding from other agencies
17 that are part of the community of Hardin?
18 MAYOR PURCELL: We have, in the past have
19 solicited the school, see if they would help come in with
20 that project. The discussion was brought up over an SID,
21 which is kind of our last resort type of an option.
22 TSEP at this point we do not qualify for because of the,
23 the loans and stuff we have out at this time with our
24 industrial park.
25 So we have pursued other options, and that's why I
103
1 wanted to go back and look at our budget and see what I
2 could pull from that. We were able to pull some of our
3 gas tax money that will be put towards the project. And
4 again, I was going to look at the street, street
5 maintenance part of our budget, and that kind of got shot
6 out of the water with, with the snow removal.
7 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: You mention the
8 Hardin School District. Have they provided a match at all
9 for any funds?
10 MAYOR PURCELL: No, they have not.
11 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: They haven't?
12 MAYOR PURCELL: No.
13 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Thank you.
14 MAYOR PURCELL: You're welcome.
15 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Mayor, what's your debt?
16 MAYOR PURCELL: Large. I don't have the exact
17 numbers with me. I do know that with our industrial park
18 and our, and our TSEP part, we're looking at approximately
19 20 million that we are paying down to, working with the
20 revenues on that. We have some tax issues with some of
21 the new, the new industry that has gone out north of our
22 town and we are working with that as well. So we do have
23 a pretty high debt ratio.
24 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Are you, are you planning on
25 doing this whole project? Do you have money available to
104
1 do this whole project?
2 MAYOR PURCELL: We are short the 129,000 to do
3 the complete project.
4 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That's what you're short,
5 129 --
6 MAYOR PURCELL: Correct.
7 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: 537,000 project and you're
8 short 129.
9 MAYOR PURCELL: Correct.
10 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: The additional money that
11 you'll receive as far as the gas tax ratio, have you, have
12 you identified where you're going to put that money?
13 MAYOR PURCELL: The current moneys and the
14 projected moneys for the next year or the next quarter is
15 around 120,000, and that money would be earmarked towards
16 this project. We do have the potential of looking forward
17 even to the next quarter, and the way I understand that
18 money is it's probably about the 30 to $40,000.
19 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So you could, you could set
20 aside some of those funds in order for this to move over
21 to this project, or had you planned on setting some of
22 those funds aside?
23 MAYOR PURCELL: The 120,000 is part of this
24 already.
25 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I understand. What's
105
1 the attitude to -- on the high school, completion project?
2 I know that the superintendent's here. Is the school
3 interested in picking up any portion of that? I don't
4 know if I've asked that question before.
5 MAYOR PURCELL: I know they've been approached in
6 the past. I personally have not approached them since I
7 took over as mayor. There's been a, a history of, of the
8 ask through the school board that was denied. The way I
9 understand, the biggest hang-up is just the school board
10 has a lot of projects going themselves.
11 The main ask from the City to the school board was
12 because the street basically kind of surrounds the school.
13 It's our school parking lot. It's the main activity
14 entrance for all of our sporting events and that.
15 Budget-wise, I don't think it has been considered in as
16 far as the school board. I don't know all the details, of
17 course, of all that process, but...
18 The City and the school does not have a bad, a bad
19 rapport.
20 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I'm not suggesting that. I
21 was just wondering if there was any commitment towards,
22 towards this because of the location of where your project
23 is. It's to serve the school, a part of it.
24 Okay. Any other questions?
25 And of course, you understand where we're at as far as
Okay? That was my ask.

I didn't have at that time the entire support of the board to come up with that money for this street project in front of the school because the street is considered city property, was their rationalization on that. Okay?

So we wrote a letter in support, but at this point -- or at that point when I went to the board, Veronica, they were not willing to put in money to fix a city street. You know, I hope that explains it.

And I might -- and I'm going to talk about our budget a little bit here as long as I'm up here, because our project is coming up. You know, we receive Impact Aid dollars. All of you guys know that. Okay? A lot of those Impact Aid dollars are earmarked for part of our salaries or a lot of our salaries.

Our elementary general fund this year was actually less than it was last year. Okay? Now, in the high school we had an increase in our general fund budget because of an enrollment increase, which we did a budget amendment with the State and we were able to get some dollars to hire another teacher for that.

So, really, those general fund dollars are pretty much earmarked, like almost 90 percent of ours are earmarked for salaries and benefits. Okay? And I know, Tim, you understand that part of it. We do have Impact Aid money.

Okay? That was my ask.

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We don't get it? Absolutely not. We're going to carry on with it. Anything is greatly appreciated.

I will take any questions at this time.

Okay. Appreciate that approach. Because I know that your, your folks voted in a mill increase to tax themselves for part of your operation of your facility, and that speaks highly of the local effort of that community, to tax themselves to receive the service.

Thank you.

Correct. Thank you.

Next is 846, Hardin Public Schools. This is the activity center pool replacement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

No. 0846, Hardin Public Schools, activity center pool roof replacement, $384,300. The applicant is requesting $384,300, of a total project cost of $499,590, in 77 percent of the project cost.

The applicant states the existing roof is 33 years old and sections have degraded the underlayment and produced leaks. The applicant states that the roof is at the end of its useful life.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board,
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COAL BOARD MEETING 3-22-18

1  (Lunch recess.)
2  
3  CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Call the meeting back to
4  order.
5  Where we're at, to reiterate, we have $597,696
6  available appropriation to make awards with. That does
7  not mean that that revenue is available, because it is not
8  available. But we can go ahead and make these awards
9  contingent upon available revenue.
10  As a reminder, the funds, available appropriation, is
11  to last for the remainder of this year. We do have
12  another meeting coming up in June that I'm sure we will
13  have applications for; I would anticipate that to occur.
14  So I will begin the process with the first, 841, and
15  entertain a motion to either fund it wholly, partially, or
16  to not fund. Application 841 for law enforcement
17  vehicles. The amount requested is $69,646. I will
18  entertain a motion.
19  BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Mr. Chairman.
20  CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Mr. Schaff.
21  BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: I would move to fund that
22  at $40,000.
23  CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: The motion is to fund it at
24  the $30,000 level.
25  BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: 40.
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1  CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: $40,000 level, and it's been
2  seconded. Discussion?
3  Comments from the public?
4  Vote, please.
5  MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.
6  VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: That is in my county,
7  which is Big Horn County, so I recuse my vote.
8  MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.
9  BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.
10  MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.
11  BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.
12  MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.
13  BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.
14  MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.
15  BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.
16  MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.
17  BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.
18  MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.
19  CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.
20  That is approved to move forward at a $40,000 level
21  contingent upon available funds.
22  The next request is 842, Big Horn County. This is the
23  capital improvement needs for the library. The amount
24  requested is $30,433.
25  BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like
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1  And I just feel that there is such a need due to so
2  many people in Big Horn County who do not have access to
3  computers, and so they are able to go to the library to
4  use the computers and do their job applications, do their
5  job research, and also to do their papers where they're --
6  for college, whether they're online college classes or
7  they're at little Big Horn College. And I just feel that
8  they have a great need for this, for this money.
9  In addition, I, I remember we accepted a letter from
10  Lame Deer, Northern Cheyenne Water Utilities, that
11  withdrew their, their grant saying that they don't want to
12  use that 47,000. So I'm hoping that this money that's for
13  the library would go towards that that will be additional
14  funds included in that.
15  And I'm just kind of wondering if Jennifer might be
16  able to confirm that, with the withdrawal of the Northern
17  Cheyenne Utilities Water application.
18  MS. OLSON: I'm just going to defer that to Anne,
19  because I think she has the letter that --
20  MS. PICHETTE: Are you looking for the exact
21  dollar amount that was in the letter they sent?
22  BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: I believe it was
23  47,000 that they, that they're withdrawing.
24  MS. PICHETTE: Was $45,710 for their software
25  upgrade, and this is a 2017 project.
MS. OLSON: So let me, let me answer it this way:

I think that that's really -- So when funds come back in to, to the Board's consideration, so somebody returns those funds, those funds would then go back into the Coal Natural Resource Account. So because it's the prior biennium, that's where this is funded out of, you can't direct them to the current biennium.

However, it still just goes back into the Coal Natural Resource Account. So those funds -- I'll go back to the budget spreadsheet that I handed out. Those funds are listed as an obligation as of this moment, right, thinking about it still being obligated under the $3.4 million obligation. So when that obligation comes out, you'll see that that accrual balance will be modified to show and reflect that those funds are no longer obligated. Then they go back into the cash available account. So it becomes cash that's available.

So when we look at appropriation and revenue in this biennium, you cannot exceed the appropriation amount by $6.8 million. So if appropriation is, if appropriation is lower than revenue, that money sits in the account, so you're not -- A dollar is a dollar is a dollar that it turns into. So the direction of $45,000 is irrelevant.

If revenue is less than appropriation, that $45,000 still is sitting in the account, it's still available for the Board to access, but it's really, again, a dollar is a dollar.

So you can't -- so hopefully that makes sense. You can't direct these funds from one biennium to another, one; but two, the money still goes back into the Coal Natural Resource Account. And if revenue, again, exceeds appropriation, that money will be there for the next biennium regardless of where it is.

So you still are only allowed the $597,696 as appropriation authority to award. So as you're considering awards, that's what's the maximum amount. Revenue sets the minimum; appropriation sets the maximum. Does that answer your question?

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes. And because of that money going back into the Coal Board revenue account, you know, it will eventually be recorded as an asset. And so basically it is available eventually when you get through with your accrual.

MS. OLSON: That's correct, and always is, again, tapped out by the appropriation authority of that maximum amount. And so again, if revenues exceed the appropriation, then that will be really the discretion of the Legislature, if they -- how they give the percentage of 2.9 percent or 5.8 percent to come into the Coal Natural Resource Account, or, and if it comes in lower, they don't -- you know, the Legislature could also modify what's in the balance in the account, they could take that money and put it somewhere else. But that's part of that conversation that would happen at the legislative level.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Other discussion?

I'll make a comment. I think that Big Horn County has committed $10,000 to this library capital improvement needs, as identified in their application. And I would encourage them to increase that to do those necessary activities associated with the library capital improvements. I don't think it would take a lot for that to occur, and I would encourage that to occur. I think the library is an important project, but I, but I will not support the funding request as, as, as it is.

Any other discussion?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: I just wanted to state yes, and I agree that this library improvement is a great need. It is important for a community. However, I, I also feel that funding it at the fund requested without having the County look at other funding resources, I feel that there are more sources out there that could fund this project in addition to our funds. I still want to support this, but not at the requested level.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other questions? Comments?

Comments from the public?

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: You suggested that the County fund the library another 10,000. With that being the case, would you be willing to reduce it by, by 10,000 and still award them the 20,000, what they need?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I -- but what we have right now, Veronica, is a motion to fund it at the $30,000 level. It's been seconded. If there's other action other than that, it would need to occur after, after the vote or some type of other motion.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make an amendment to the motion of --

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: -- of reducing the amount from 30,000 to 20,433.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. The motion has been amended to reduce it to 20,433; is that correct?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: The amendment has been seconded. Discussion on that?

Okay. Roll call vote, amendment.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Recuse my vote.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: No.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: No.

Okay. On the main motion.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Amendment is approved. Now we're going to vote on the main.

A STAFF MEMBER: So we have (inaudible) pass, two no, one abstain.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: You're cutting out. I can't hear you.

A STAFF MEMBER: The vote was four, four pass; two no, one (inaudible).

BOARD MEMBER SMALL- EASTMAN: So we're moving as amended?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Motion, main motion as amended.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Recuse my vote.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: No.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL- EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: No.

The funding on that is not approved.

Next is the City of Hardin. This is the high school, complete pavement restoration project. The amount requested is $129,296. And I will entertain a motion.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL- EASTMAN: Mr. Chair, I make a motion not to approve the pavement restoration, just because I feel that Hardin community -- Hardin School District should at least pay a percentage of the (inaudible). And I think that's (inaudible) the agency (inaudible).

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. I've got a motion to not act on the $129,296 request. And I'll lend to those that -- Typically, a motion is in the positive and then you vote no on it. And you can make a motion if you --

BOARD MEMBER SMALL- EASTMAN: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: -- even though you may not want to approve it, and then by not approving it, in the discussion you can make your position known. So I'd like to --

BOARD MEMBER SMALL- EASTMAN: I could switch that
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COAL BOARD MEETING 3-22-18

1 motion to approve.

2 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. And second?

3 A BOARD MEMBER: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded
to approve it at the 129,296 level. Now discussion.

5 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: We've already
approved for them for the (inaudible), and that was to the

8 City, and yet the Hardin Public School didn't donate a
dime. So basically I'm going to vote no for this.

9 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

10 Other discussion?

11 Discussion from the public?

12 Vote, please.

13 MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

14 VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Recuse my vote.

15 MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

16 BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: No.

17 MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

18 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: No.

19 MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

20 BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: No.

21 MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

22 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: No.

23 MS. OLSON: -- so we fixed that. We can always
do that, but...

24 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So we'll do that for the
motion -- make that change on the motion.

25 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Make the change,
please.

26 MS. OLSON: And that change would be to consider
it excluded?

27 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: I second that.

28 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And that amount was $60,000.

29 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Mr. Chairman.

30 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

31 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: I think we're voting on the
exemption -- or the exclusion first, not the dollar
amount.

32 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Oh, we are. Okay. Okay.

33 First thing, okay, motion to exclude, you're right. Okay.

34 And a second on that. Discussion?

35 BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: This is Marianne, and I
would be reluctant to fund the full amount when we heard
that they're going to be operating in the black and that
they are going to complete this, this project one way or
another, and so I would be reluctant to fund that amount.

36 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay, we're just -- this is
just on excluding the environmental.

37 BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Oh, I'm sorry.

38 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Discussion?

39 Public?

40 Okay. Now we'll vote on that.

41 MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

42 VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

43 MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

44 BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

45 MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

46 BOARD MEMBER HENNING: (Inaudible).

47 MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

48 BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

49 MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

50 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

51 MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

52 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

53 MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

54 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

55 Okay. Now we'll have the motion on the requested
amount -- Oh, that's passed. Now we'll have the motion on
the equipment at the $60,000 level.

56 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: So move.

57 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And second?

58 BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: No.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Discussion?

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: I would like to see Rosebud County receive this here hospital care equipment just because there is so many of my constituents in Rosebud County and Northern Cheyenne Reservation and on the Crow Reservation that do use their services there. They do -- their elderly people are housed there. And I just feel that, you know, we need to help this hospital to get into modern times. And so I feel that, you know, the better care that these constituents of mine have, I think the better off they are, especially with their, their need for comfort.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other discussion?

Comments from the public?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Mr. Chairman, I do have a comment as to the amount. I am in favor of supporting this cause, but not at the $60,000 amount. I would consider (inaudible). Again, Mr. Chair (inaudible) that we go with 50,000. I'm making an amendment for 50,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Amendment to the motion to reduce it to the $50,000 level. Second?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded for the $50,000 level. Discussion?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Again, Mr. Chairman, I am reluctant to fund at the $50,000 range. I would consider maybe $10,000. I know that's quite lower than the ask, what they requested. But given the funds that we have available, I'd rather support this as best we can with (inaudible). So without further discussion, yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll move to amend the, the amount from $50,000 to $10,000.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: This is Marianne. I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. We've got an amendment -- I don't think we've ever done that before -- and we've got a second on that to the $10,000 level. Discussion on that?

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: (Inaudible). Pardon me?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. (Inaudible) through your application here. And you've raised your millage rate for Big Horn -- or for Rosebud County, and I'm just checking to see if there was a match. I couldn't find if you had a match or anything.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Okay. Over a period of time.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other discussion?

Comments from the public?

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: And John, would you clarify what that vote is.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: The amendment has been amended to reduce it to a $10,000 reward -- award.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Other comment?

Okay. We'll go with the second amendment.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

reduce it to the $50,000 level. Second?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded for the $50,000 level. Discussion?

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Again, Mr. Chairman, I am reluctant to fund at the $50,000 range. I would consider $10,000. I know that's quite lower than the ask, what they requested. But given the funds that we have available, I'd rather support this as best we can with (inaudible). So without further discussion, yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll move to amend the, the amount from $50,000 to $10,000.

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BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: (Inaudible). Pardon me?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. (Inaudible) through your application here. And you've raised your millage rate for Big Horn -- or for Rosebud County, and I'm just checking to see if there was a match. I couldn't find if you had a match or anything.
amendment, we approve that, and then we go back to the
main motion, approve that, and the award is for $10,000.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.
BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.
BOARD MEMBER HENNING: (Inaudible).

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.
BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I can't hear Amber's vote.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne, I think I (inaudible)
your vote. Will you please state your (inaudible).

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Thank you.

TIM SCHAFF.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

So the award is, is approved for $10,000 level. Thank
you. And then previous to that excluded the environmental
requirement. Okay.

The next is 846, Hardin Public School, activity center
pool roof replacement, and the amount requested is
284,000.

MS. BARNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to
interrupt, but I think we still need to actually make a --
or take a vote on the main motion that was first made by
Veronica.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I'm sorry.

MS. BARNES: And her main motion was for $60,000.
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: 60,000. Oh, I thought we had
covered that. Okay. I'm sorry. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: So when did we vote on
the 50? Was that --

MS. BARNES: So that was the last one.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: That was the 50 we
voted.

MS. BARNES: That was the $50,000 amendment.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: So we approved 50?

MS. BARNES: You just approved 50.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: And we approved 10.

MS. BARNES: And you approved 10.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: So that's 60,000.

MS. BARNES: So now we're onto the main motion of
$60,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Vote on the main
motion.

MS. BARNES: So we want to say it's $60,000 as
amended to $50,000 as amended to $10,000. So you're still
voting right now to amend -- to award the project at
$10,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Right. Okay.

MS. BARNES: Okay.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay, on the main as amended
amended.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: (Inaudible).

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

MS. BARNES: So now we're onto the main motion of
$60,000.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. And I agree
(inaudible). Let me ask the superintendent.

If we made an award on this, let's say in the $100,000
area, could you accomplish the task of that project? What
And so we would have to look at our -- you know, we'd have to look at our funding at the end of the year. We would have to look at our Impact Aid dollars. We would have to look at our general fund. We would have to look at our coal proceeds. So that's a really hard question to answer that you ask me.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: If you know that we are willing to work with 100,000, (inaudible) you carry that back to the board and give us a yes or no?

MR. GERKE: Yes. And I have a board meeting Tuesday night.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Let me ask you this question. I don't recall the answer to that. When did you have this scheduled to work on it?

MR. GERKE: Well, if we, if we got the money, we -- I mean, it's gone this long. Okay? This, this roof just didn't start leaking. All right? We've got by since I've been here, and this is my fourth year. And so it would be something that can wait, but it's -- the problem's not going to go away. The problem's always going to be there. But we also have other challenges, as you know, with our feasibility study with the pool in Hardin. And so part of our long-term plan was to do it in steps, okay, this being the first step. And I think the district is committed to that, depending on district funds we have, the help of the Coal Board.

So to answer your question as honestly as I can, I believe that our current board is committed to making the improvements they need to have on that community center. Because it's not just for Hardin. Crow uses it, and Sidney knows that, and a lot of -- We have a lot of people that use that. And our revenues from last year from that, I think I presented those to you, were less than $100,000 that we take in in revenue, and the school district pays out the rest. We pay all the help. We pay all the maintenance. We pay all of those costs, to the tune of almost $600,000 a year. So we're taking over a half-million-dollar loss on keeping that open.

In a nutshell, that's, that's what it is. And those are hard numbers. I think I included that with everything. So...

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. So we could --

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: I was just looking at their, page 8-5 of their application where they have 412,000 to operate and maintain the swimming pool, and then their annual revenue for the swimming pool is 47,924.

So I'll be a proponent for the 100,000.

And I would also like to (inaudible) keep that swimming pool open (inaudible) Crow Fair to do maintenance (inaudible) for the school year (inaudible) have it before Crow Fair. During Crow Fair, you have so -- you have at least 10,000 people that come to Crow Fair that need a place to shower, need a place to go swim. And I think that if they kept that swimming pool open during that week and weekend, that would add a big, huge revenue to the swimming pool. That's my suggestion.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: A motion?

A STAFF MEMBER: You do have a motion and a second to consider funding.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: To consider the funding, A STAFF MEMBER: At 284.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: At 284. Let's, let's do this: I'm going to do a substitute motion to (inaudible) 100,000 level. Discussion?

Discussion of the public?

Vote on the substitute motion.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Recuse.
MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Tim Schaff.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Veronica Small-Eastman.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: (Inaudible).

MS. PICHETTE: Chairman Williams.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: (Inaudible).

Approved to go $100,000 level on that request.

MS. OLSON: So Mr. Chairman, we need to vote on the main motion, then.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: On the main -- Not on the main. I did a substitute. I did a main -- or I did a substitute, so that takes the place of the main.

MS. OLSON: Got it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Now we'll go with --

MS. OLSON: Mr. Chairman, if I could interject just to give you an update. So that leaves right now, with all of those awards, the remaining appropriation amount at $427,263.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. OLSON: And then also, I just wanted to revisit the first motion that you made on grant No. 0841.

The motion was made contingent upon available funds. So just to clarify that the rest of the motions are also --

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes. We need to, yeah, carry that all the way through. Because everything is contingent on -- Are we okay with that, Board?

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: (Inaudible) available funds.

MS. OLSON: Okay. Great.

And then just also wanted to -- especially as you start to look at your new tabled applications. In January, you prioritized the projects in order of your priority decision. And just as a reminder, you already voted on the MSU -- excuse me, the BSEDA application, rescinding the MSUB application. The MSU Billings application that was rescinded was the first on the list in January. So that moves that down to the collective.

So what we have been doing as staff is looking at the Board's decision if they're not prioritized on a group basis based on the meeting date. So what that means is that (inaudible), as an example when the $1.5 million was awarded in June without prioritization, we waited until available revenue of 1.5 million was available in the account before we moved forward with any of those contracts, because we didn't want to prioritize which order you thought -- you wanted to fund those projects in.

So just also to reiterate, this meeting, without that prioritization, we'll be looking at these as a lump group sum, including the BSEDA application, unless you otherwise dictate. And of course, we would recommend that you prioritize in a way that you, you so choose.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. So what you said is that we're going to go through as, as the numbers are -- as the numbers come up unless there's any other type of prioritization from the Board.

MS. OLSON: Actually, right now that is what we, what you decided in January. At this point, you haven't made a decision to prioritize any of them. So just as a reminder, we prioritized January so we can just walk through -- as funding is available, through each project. You haven't decided prioritization for this meeting. You can choose to do that however you want to. That could be numbers, that could be order of preference and priority, readiness to proceed, any number of things.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: You know, my suggestion to the Board is we just allow that to continue on as the numbers should occur, unless there -- (inaudible) have not heard of any other situation that would, unless board members have any other situation, that would make one a higher priority than any of the others as we've identified them.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Mr. Chairman. This is Marianne. I do have a question. So are you saying, then, that Big Sky Economic Development would be the last numbered request to be funded?

MS. OLSON: If we go with the grant number, BSEDA's application number is 0848, and, as an example, Big Horn County law enforcement upgrade that was just awarded, $40,000 contingent upon available funding, is 0841. So the tabled projects that were originally -- that you just went through would actually get the funding before BSEDA would.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I guess I have a problem with that. We've already hashed this out over three meetings, and then -- so now we've put them back to the bottom of the list. And I, I disagree with that.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. What I'll do is I'll ask the Board which direction they would like to head on this.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: When Mr. Kennedy made his timeline, can -- have you guys got notes on what he said his timeline was?
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COAL BOARD MEETING 3-22-18

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2. MS. OLSON: What I had was that he's going to go to bid in December of 2018 with construction beginning in spring of 2019.
3. BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF: So they wouldn't need access to those funds until 2019.
4. MS. OLSON: As I recall, Mr. Kennedy's comments were to that effect. Yes.
5. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: So this is Marianne. I have a question again. So if we put it at the bottom of the list, and then the next time around it still could be moved to the bottom of the list, and so when do we step up to the plate and actually fund them?
6. MS. OLSON: This, this is just an award. And I just will add this for context. In some of our other programs at Commerce, we establish startup conditions. They're pretty easy. Designation of the depository form, signatory form, updated implementation schedule, and budget. But one other thing that we ask for is the firm commitment of other leveraged funds before they get to proceed forward. So again, the Board can decide if you want to go through that by grant number, alpha numeric, any number of things. But that could be also something where it's contingent upon available other -- firm commitment of other available non-Coal Board funds. So you have --
7. Hopefully I'm not confusing. You have Coal Board revenue that's coming in that we're waiting upon, but then as the other non-Coal Board funds come available, if there's some sort of pending, you could actually say, you know, first come, first serve in regards to available funds and then next startup conditions, basically non-Coal Board funds. And then if they are tied, that could be, then the order of number. I don't want to make it complex, but just as a thought.
8. BOARD MEMBER HENNING: And Mr. Chairman, I just wanted -- again, Mr. Kennedy have (inaudible) million already raised. They still have to reach the 5 million. Again, he hopes to do that by, by December of this year. So again, when we're talking about prioritization, I, I understand the, the history of this specific grant application, but I don't think that it's imperative that it be moved up to the very top or make that prioritization different based on their specific timeline. Again, we can talk about that if there's a specific motion, but that's just based on what Mr. Kennedy said earlier.
9. So I guess, Mr. Chairman, I would make a motion to (inaudible) these grants that (inaudible) number.
10. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. It's been moved to award (inaudible) by grant, (inaudible) grant number. Second?
12. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
13. BOARD MEMBER SMALL EASTMAN: Mr. Chair, since we've discussed MSUB, you know, at the last --
14. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: (Inaudible).
15. BOARD MEMBER SMALL EASTMAN: (Inaudible) you all intents what was going on and, you know, with the, how do you say, the oversight of the agency to agency. I would prefer just to leave (inaudible) at 833 and even though they take another (inaudible) like to see (inaudible).
16. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Other discussion?
17. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I couldn't hear -- I couldn't hear Veronica's comment. She was cutting in and out.
18. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Her, her wish is that the MSUB, or the Big Sky Economic Development, actually, that project be moved at the top and set that out --
19. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I agree.
20. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: -- as a priority. Discussion?
21. Okay. We'll need a motion. We have a motion to move it as the grant numbers are allocated and listed. If there are any other motions.
22. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I would like to see the Big Sky Economic Development be at the top of the list.
23. BOARD MEMBER SMALL EASTMAN: So moved.
24. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Are you making that motion, Marianne?
25. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes, I will.
26. BOARD MEMBER SMALL EASTMAN: I second that.
27. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. So you're amending the motion that is before us on going with the number and you're amending it to move the Big Sky Economic Development up in front of all those others. Are you making that motion?
28. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And I've got a second on that. Discussion?
29. BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Mr. Chairman, I guess I would like a clarification on the motion, whether it's moving up to the very top of what has been allocated thus far or back to the original MSUB grant number.
30. CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Marianne, what's your --
31. BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: I don't know. I guess I'm not sure what that number was and what she's saying.
32. Because if it's a lesser number, it would automatically go to the top if you're going by the MSUB. However, we rescinded that and we voted on the Big Sky Economic...
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<td>176</td>
<td><strong>MS. OLSON:</strong> The way --</td>
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<td><strong>CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:</strong> The new number is 848,</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>Big Sky Economic Development, so you would be moving</td>
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<td>848 up in front of 841; correct?</td>
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<td>180</td>
<td><strong>MS. OLSON:</strong> Yes, just so you know our process, so</td>
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<td>181</td>
<td>when BSEDA submitted that application, we assigned it the</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>next number in line, so that's how it got 848. We did</td>
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<td>not preserve the 0832 number from MSU Billings because</td>
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<td>that was a different application, is how we viewed it.</td>
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<td><strong>CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:</strong> Okay. Everybody got it?</td>
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<td>186</td>
<td>Okay.</td>
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<td>187</td>
<td><strong>BOARD MEMBER ROOSE:</strong> I guess I just have one</td>
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<td>question. It was a different application, but in reality</td>
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<td>it really was the same application, just the change in</td>
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<td>name; right?</td>
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<td><strong>CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:</strong> Yes. It's a change -- 84 --</td>
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<td>192</td>
<td>the new number is 848. Big Sky Economic Development is</td>
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<td>the grantee.</td>
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<td><strong>BOARD MEMBER ROOSE:</strong> I understand that. I was</td>
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<td>195</td>
<td>just -- I just find it strange that it didn't have the</td>
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<td>same number it had before, when actually it's the same</td>
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<td>request; the name has just been changed. So that's my</td>
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<td>198</td>
<td>comment.</td>
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<td><strong>CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:</strong> Okay. So we've done the</td>
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<td>discussion. We'll go with the amendment. Vote.</td>
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1. **MS. PICHETTE:** The motion is that all (inaudible)  
2. order.  
3. **VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK:** Yes.  
4. **MS. PICHETTE:** Shawn Fredrickson.  
5. **BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON:** Yes.  
6. **MS. PICHETTE:** Amber Henning.  
7. **BOARD MEMBER HENNING:** Yes.  
8. **MS. PICHETTE:** Marianne Roose.  
9. **BOARD MEMBER ROOSE:** Yes.  
10. **MS. PICHETTE:** Tim Schaff.  
11. **BOARD MEMBER SCHAFF:** Yes.  
12. **MS. PICHETTE:** Veronica Small-Eastman.  
13. **BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN:** Yes.  
14. **MS. PICHETTE:** Chairman Williams.  
15. **CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:** Yes.  
16. Okay. (Inaudible) with the new business, and that is  
17. grant request 847. This is the City of Lodge Grass.  
18. **BOARD MEMBER ROOSE:** So could you clarify that  
19. last vote, Mr. Chairman.  
20. **CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS:** Okay. What has occurred is  
21. that 848, Big Sky Economic Development, MSU Billings  
22. science project, has been moved in front of all of those  
23. tabled applications. So it's been moved in front of  
24. 841 and 842 and so on.  
25. **BOARD MEMBER ROOSE:** Thank you for the
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clarification.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: You bet.

Okay. For Big Sky Economic Development -- or 847, City of Lodge Grass, community revitalization project.

The requested amount is $324,600.

MS. PICHETTE: Mr. Chairman, 0847, City of Lodge Grass, community revitalization project, $324,600.

The applicant is requesting $324,600, of a total project cost of $517,195, in Coal Board funds to complete a Lodge Grass city renewal project. The request to the Board is 63 percent of the project (inaudible).

Inaudible to purchase (inaudible) machinery to maintain safety and aesthetics, which currently the City has insufficient machinery to do so. The applicant states the project would increase safety by allowing for tree removal, broad scale cleanup, solid waste cleanup, addressing other public dangers, and subsequent maintenance. The applicant has plans to build a small business center.

MAYOR DABNEY: Hello, Chairman and Board. I've been waiting to say good morning to you guys all day. Is it okay if I approach?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Sure.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn and Marianne, currently the mayor is providing a handout to the Board. We will get you copies.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

MAYOR DABNEY: My name is James Quincy Dabney. I am the mayor of Lodge Grass. First -- so obviously, that is a big number for everything that's going on today. I'd also like to say I was a, from 2007 to 2017, heavy equipment operator at the coal mine at (inaudible) just about a half hour east of Hardin. And I guess I'll do a, more of a story line to kind of fill you in.

I'm not sure all of you know Lodge Grass's history. In the past year we've had quite a lot of stuff going on. We had a triple murder over there, and that's kind of what prompted me to even think about running for mayor.

Because I've been in the construction world my whole life. And so actually, we've already done quite a bit of change going on.

So with the equipment that we are looking at, if I were to just put it in order, if you go to the second page. So yes, the main (inaudible) need. We do have a street sweater. It's quite old, and I don't think the repairs are -- would be able to happen on this. So to probably cut the street sweater out. But the skid steer at $39,000, it has a street sweater attachment, which we could do the, the sidewalks and then move everything out of the way there and then be able to pick it up further with that.

And the trees are reaching (inaudible). We have 2550 (inaudible) all over the houses, and in December we had five drop. One dropped right, right behind the city hall and two were right in the street. So yeah, that was kind of one of the main focuses, was (inaudible). That would just -- that would be moving forward with the tree cleanup, which we would do in small, small (inaudible).

But moving forward (inaudible), if you switch to the, sorry, the third page was the equipment. The second page is something that sparked the community to (inaudible).

So if you guys know Lodge Grass, (inaudible) has (inaudible) downhill dramatically. But there is a vision and there are people in the community that are ready for change. And as where the vision has moved forward in this picture, on top is a family that their house was basically condemned, so they asked the community if they would like the windows, the doors, anything that they would need inside the house. They stripped it, then they demolished it.

And Raising Places -- you can see the picture better on the bottom. Together We Are Raising Lodge Grass. And in Crow, it is the Valley of the Chiefs. And so we got together with this nonprofit, Raising Places, and we got a Bobcat from Sheridan and we got a scissors lift -- scissor lift, which isn't exactly what you would need to trim the trees properly, but that branch was ready to go. And the new trailer that they got on the bottom picture, that branch that we cut off was directly above that. And so we made the steps to remove that.

The City was involved. I asked my maintenance man to bring in the backhoe, and he removed all the stuff that was inside; furnace, hot water heater, all that big stuff. And we filled it, and there you go. They're -- there's a family that is (inaudible).

So the community, we brought them together. No one asked for any money. Everybody's hearts are gold for helping move Lodge Grass forward. And we had the entire community show up, so we got some food together and we fed them.

And that was just a little bit of insight, but I'll go ahead for questions because I don't want to go too much further.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thanks, Mayor. I'm sure you've had an opportunity to go through the, the staff report.

MAYOR DABNEY: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And there's a lot of things within the staff report that need to be fixed --

MAYOR DABNEY: Yeah.
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1 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: -- with your application.
2 And my suggestion, and I know you've got a tough job in
3 front of you, a new mayor and everything, would be to come
4 back and visit with us and break out those items that have
5 priority with you being able to accomplish the tasks of
6 operating the city. Also with the understanding of what
7 we have as available funds.
8 MAYOR DABNEY: Yes, sir.
9 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: So that's my suggestion.
10 This is your first shot at something like this. Break it
11 down piecemeal, prioritize it on what your plans are to
12 perform those functions necessary for your city's
13 operation.
14 MAYOR DABNEY: Yes.
15 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: That's, that's my suggestion
16 to you. And that's just, just me. But I'll, I'll open to
17 questions from the Board.
18 MAYOR DABNEY: Okay. Yes. I agree. That was
19 one of the main -- the prioritizing, the equipment. So I
20 know that's a large number. But one thing I did like --
21 So the teens -- So it wasn't a campaign effort, but I walk
22 the streets normally, and I was walking the streets and
23 just interacting with everyone. I went door-to-door just
24 seeing where the community was. I'm just going to --
25 Another little story line.

Part of the prioritizing was the small city business
2 center. So with the lack of jobs and the lack of money
3 that was there, it's a 420-square-foot house,
4 three-bedroom style. Take out the three bedrooms, leave
5 the bathroom, and bring in computers. And we talked to
6 Little Big Horn College, and they are ready and willing to
7 conduct their GED program there.
8 And so with walking the streets, there is probably
9 about 15 children from 12 to 16, unfortunately,
10 that are -- dropped out. So we would be able to bring
11 them in, do some activities, and encourage them for
12 furthering their education. And that would be one of
13 them.
14 So yes, for prioritizing, that would probably be...
15 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you.
16 Other comments from the Board?
17 Other comments from the public?
18 MS. BARNES: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would just
19 point out your ARM that you have regarding submittal
20 deadlines.
21 So during the February meeting when you waived the
22 45-day requirement and the 10-day requirement, that's
23 something that you would also have to waive in this case,
24 the 10-day requirement, which says: Other matters shall
25 be submitted to the administrative officer 10 days prior
to board consideration. And then there is the exception,
that the Board has the discretion to make an exception to
that rule.
4 So in this case, there was some more documentation
that was just provided, and so if you would like to
consider that, I think you should actually make the
exception -- or make an exception to that middle deadline
of 10 days.
9 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: What I was, what I was
10 thinking about (inaudible) bring this up and deny this
11 application and vote it down, and then allow them to
12 resubmit -- and encourage them to resubmit a new
13 application at the next meeting, but do it in a, kind of a
14 reasonable approach on items that you feel are
15 (inaudible). That's, that's my thought.
16 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: Mr. Chair.
17 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yes.
18 BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: What about tabling
19 it, so then that way they can still keep their place on
20 priority, you know (inaudible).
21 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Well, I think with the way
22 that it's been put together, I think that would -- my
23 thought is it would make it cumbersome to go through,
24 because then we would be dealing with the same
25 application. I would rather see them submit a new

application based on the critical comments that were made
here in the report and then list out items that have
priority for you. That's -- I think that would be the
simplest way to do it. Okay?
5 Other questions? Other comments?
6 MS. DOYLE: Can I give public comment now?
7 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Sure.
8 MS. DOYLE: Okay. So my name is Megkian Doyle.
9 I'm the director for Raising Places, which is the
grassroots group that works in Lodge Grass with the
community improvement program. And our fiscal sponsor is
Big Horn valley Health Clinic in Big Horn Valley -- or in
Big Horn County rather.
14 So the cleanup and -- we have -- The cleanup itself is
a majority of the prioritized list that we have as a
result of an eight-month planning grant that we received
from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which is a
$60,000 grant that we used to coordinate and do research
in the community. We spoke to almost everyone in the
community, even the people that are not normally getting
spoken to, about where they want to see the community
grow.
23 And the result of that was that there are nine
24 projects which you have in your handout here that the
community has begun developing, and there are teams...
see them at least have some equipment to do the cleanup

Robert Wood Johnson to be connecting with more funders and
to do soon. Because we have the opportunity through
have a Bobcat that has those front things, we can at least
the equipment itself being prioritized. If we could just
do something, which is really important to us to be able
to do soon. Because we have the opportunity through

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. I'll entertain a motion.

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: I guess I'd like to
see them at least have some equipment to do the cleanup

July 1 will inevitably come and start the new fiscal year
for 2019, and then we'll know what our, what our -- we
will know exactly what 2018 looked like from a fiscal year
standpoint, and then we'll, we'll have those funds
available, but as they come in on a month-by-month basis.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I mean, we've got to think
about that, available funds. You know, we issued the
$500,000 to MSUB. That, that -- we're out until 2019.

Yeah, 2019.

So I'll entertain a motion on 847.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Mr. Chairman, I will move
to vote, vote on the grant application as it stands.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Second?

A BOARD MEMBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: It's been moved and seconded
to move 847 forward to a vote. Discussion?

Discussion of the public?

Vote, please.

MS. PICHETTE: Vice-Chair Fitzpatrick.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: I work with the mayor in
our county office (inaudible), and so I recuse myself.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: No.

MS. PICHETTE: Amber Henning.

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: No.
they didn't get lost in the mail. Thank you.

But our June ones, we wanted to know where they are and I know we're probably still (inaudible) September ones.

I have now received enough revenue to contract those. So we're still waiting on availability of funds. So John, what works for you? You mentioned that third week or that 21st and 22nd didn't work for you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Unless we moved it up -- what about if we moved it a little earlier, the 20th of June, something?

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: If we did it on the 20th, I could probably do that. I couldn't do the 21st, but I could do Wednesday the 20th.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Tell me what fits. The 20th, everybody?

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Wednesday the 20th would work good for me. What about everyone else?

BOARD MEMBER SMALL-EASTMAN: What's the chances of having it in Bozeman on the 20th?
it's not going to be in Bozeman, I would prefer Billings also.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay, Board, where do you want to have it? 20th is the date.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Billings.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: This is Shawn. I'm for Colstrip. I would love to go to Colstrip.

(Phone connection was lost.)

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Can you hear us?

A STAFF MEMBER: Shawn and Marianne, we can hear you again. We dropped the call, but we can now hear you again. Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: (Inaudible).

MS. OLSON: Motion (inaudible) review that.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Billings.

MS. OLSON: For the 20th.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Okay. Vote.

VICE-CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Shawn Fredrickson.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: (Inaudible).

BOARD MEMBER HENNING: Yes.

MS. PICHETTE: Marianne Roose.

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Yes.
to be moving at all, and I would like to see those people
that have contracts and -- Well, one of them's in my
county. They spent $2,000 out of $280,000 or something that
we granted them. I would like to see them do some kind of
report and tell us why some of those aren't moving
forward.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Sure.

Okay. Are there any other matters that need to come
before the attention of the Board?

Okay. Thank you all. I'll adjourn the (inaudible).

BOARD MEMBER ROOSE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Yeah, thanks, Marianne and
Shawn, (inaudible) on the, on the line. Thank you all,
Board Members.

BOARD MEMBER FREDRICKSON: Thank you,
Chairman Williams. Thank you (inaudible).

(End of recording.)

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STATE OF MONTANA

ss.
COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK

I, CHERYL ROMSA, Court Reporter residing in the
County of Lewis and Clark, State of Montana, do hereby
certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were transcribed
into typewriting by me from a recording; and that the
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quality of the recording.

DATED this 11th day of May, 2017.

/s/Cheryl A. Romsa
CHERYL A. ROMSA


