

MARCH 29, 2005

The Board of County Commissioners met for the continuation of the Public Hearing for C.V.F.S.A. in the Courthouse at 2:00 p.m. with Chairman Marianne B. Roose, Members Rita R. Windom and John Konzen and Clerk of the Board Coral M. Cummings present.

2:00 P.M. CABINET VIEW FIRE SERVICE AREA BOARD CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING: Present were: Fire Chief Dale Sabine, Marc McCully, Philip Coblentz, Robert J. Mast, Kathryn Witt, Tiffany Bower, Lloyd Miller, Robert W. Boothman, Austin Caravan, Blake Caravan, John & Bev Livingston, Robert & Emogene Hamlyn, Terry Maki, Marc McGill, Tony Bacon, Bruce Witt, and Yvonne Luscher. Discussion continued about the fee structure for property owners and private structures at the airport, boundaries, and the exemption issue. Fire Chief Dale Sabine would approve no assessments on the hangars at the airport. Sabine confirmed the five mile driving limit as established by law for determination of the boundaries. Commissioner Windom stated that some people would like to see the fees go down until insurance rates drop to balance out the cost. Sabine said that the C.V.F.S.A. Board has established a budget and the budget was established on fees as presented. Chairman Roose asked if when these fees meet the financial needs can they be lowered at a later date. Sabine said that if there is money left over there are some options. The money could be refunded to the customers or the money could be put toward reserves. Sabine also stated that he feels he has always been financially responsible in his past experience and currently as well. The C.V.F.S.A. Board feels the \$125 is justified. McCully said that at the Co Op meeting (all departments) it was felt that the fees are far too low and they are not making it and cannot provide adequate service required. He also said they were setting a precedent here and to leave the other Fire Service Areas out of this decision. Luscher said that she is already paying high homeowner's insurance and she has not heard that her insurance rates will decrease. Until the C.V.F.S.A. has an ISO number, insurance will not be decreased. Bower said she thinks insurance company's are all increasing their rates, and have raised the value on her home by \$20,000, and she has told her insurance company how far away she is from the fire hall and she got a decrease in her rate. After further discussion Chairman Roose outlined the Board's preferences as such:

No charge for outbuildings

\$125 per residence

\$75 for businesses

5 driving miles from fire hall will determine the boundaries

The question of exempting out was discussed, but still needs to be decided. Sabine said that if there are parcels of property that are exempt they will need to have a sign to let them know they are not in the fire service area. Commissioner Roose pointed out there will be 60 days to receive comments from the public and if 50% or more residents are against the proposition, it will not pass. Bower asked the Commissioners when it will make a determination on allowing people to exempt out. Commissioner Roose said that when they pass a resolution to create the fire district, the rates, boundaries, and exempting out, will be defined in the resolution. Chairman Roose said

the Board will meet at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 30th to finalize these issues. The public hearing was officially closed by Chairman Roose.

RE: COUNTY SANITARIAN RON ANDERSON, WOOD STOVE DISCUSSION: Present were MT DEQ Rep. John Coefield, Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association Peter Cyckoff and John Crouch, County Health Officer Dr. Brad Black, and Dan Thede. Anderson said that pellet, wood, and all other products used for this project will come from the Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Trade Association. The project would be to change-out old wood stoves to EPA approved products in the Air Quality District. Anderson also said that this project would take approximately two years and that the Libby Change-Out Program will affect programs in other parts of the country. The project is looking at \$300,000 to \$500,000 from EPA to help get the ball rolling. Anderson said that they will be working with two other local dealers, and that a project manager is needed, and doesn't feel it will be a problem to fund this position. Anderson asked if the person for this position could be a contract person for Lincoln County for the two year duration of this project. EPA is getting together a \$100,000 grant and that someone (government entity) needs to apply for it. Anderson said that he thinks the ordinance should be strengthened, so that very soon it will be prohibited to use a non certified stove after a certain date. Anderson said the deadline for this issue will fall at or near the end of the change-out project, and that air quality changes are already being reviewed for amendments. Practical implementation for 2005 will be 200 – 400 change-outs done with the remainder to be completed during the second year. Crouch conveyed this would take much effort and quick action, and asked if the County could handle this. Crouch is also looking at having some homeowners make some contribution toward replacement. Coefield said that the tax refund is \$500 to change out and that this came direct from the State Treasury. The Board gave its approval to move forward with the program.

Routine Business completed the day and the Board adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Chairman of the Board

Marianne B. Roose,

ATTEST: _____

Coral M. Cummings, Clerk of the Board

