

# Resort Tax Renewal Board Meeting Minutes September 4, 2019

Meeting Held at City Hall Council Chambers

Those present were: James Caniglia, Tim Weamer, Jeremy Battles, Jody Ronning, Diane Dimich, Tom Kuntz and Colleen Stevenson

James began the meeting by stating that we are bound by a ten-day notice rule and since this meeting was not noticed ten days in advance, we are unable to elect officers or adopt by-laws until our next meeting. In a discussion of officers, Tim Weamer nominated Tom Kuntz to be Chairman of the Board. Jody Ronning nominated Colleen Stevenson to be secretary.

A mission statement will be created. It was suggested to consolidate what is stated on the city website. We are to make recommendations to the Council and educate the public on Resort Tax issues going forward. James will revise and amend the statement and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Tom questioned the roll call vote for motions stating that it could be overwhelming for the secretary if a lot of voting took place. James promised to look into the language in the resolution and report to the Board.

Diane suggested we look at the 10 day notice requirement. Is it too long? Jody suggested we ask the Council to change Resolution 3520, Section 2 to read 48 hours notice instead of 10 days.

James distributed a stakeholders list which came from the Parks Dept. He rearranged the list with the more important entities in bold. Tom noted the list is mostly parks users and we should possibly condense it and add groups such as EMS, Police, Firefighters, etc. Tim supported adding these groups.

A discussion was had on how to get information out to citizens. James suggested a large public meeting. Speakers and department heads such as Jim Bushnell could dispense facts and figures to the citizens. A survey asking for positive, neutral, or negative ideas and suggestions from the public could be done. James told us that every lot in Red Lodge would have to be taxed \$240 per lot, per year if the Resort Tax was allowed to expire.

It is important for the Board to have a list of expenditures for years past to see where previous resort tax revenues were spent. James will provide that list at the next meeting. Diane commented that there will be no required expenditures from the Resort Tax after next year. She also stated that during the first 15 years of the Resort Tax, a lot of money came out of the RT for water and sewer.

Jeremy suggested we have a timeline of the RT since the beginning to note the bigger items coming out and where it all went and why. Diane noted that until last year the money was not getting to tax relief but going to the general fund. It has now been corrected.

Tom suggested we build a road map leading to the successful accomplishment of our mandate. We need to review the items included in the RT from the beginning. Jeremy questioned how changes have been made in the RT in the past. James remarked that there are three binders in his office with all records from the beginning of the RT. He offered them for our review.

A discussion of items to be used in a road map:

- 1) Past expenses?
- 2) If no RT, how, what, when?
- 3) How has it changed over time? What has been added or subtracted?
- 4) Lifestyle benefits (non property owners)?
- 5) What do citizens value most? sidewalks, etc?
- 6) Should the 1% be added?
- 7) Should the RT provide only basic, safety, or other needs? Luxury?

Jody suggested a marketing portion should be added to promote Red Lodge and add to the RT base. Tim added how important it will be to educate ourselves on all aspects of the RT so we will be able to more appropriately answer inquiries from citizens. In preparation for our next meeting, Diane agreed to assimilate information on previous expenditures and email to Board members

Our next meetings will be:

Monday, September 23, 2019 at 5:30 at City Hall

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:30 at City Hall

Respectfully Submitted,



Colleen Stevenson

Acting Secretary