

City Manager Comments  
April 6, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting

ARRA funding

As I apprized you all by email a couple of weeks ago, the Legislature divided up approximately ten million dollars in Federal stimulus monies among the Montana municipalities along the gas-tax ratios, of which Polson's share was just under \$95K. It was necessary to apprize the committee, on very short notice, what projects could be funded with those dollars. Your staff elected to put the money towards a number of water main replacement in the Riverside Addition; probably altogether six blocks worth. It is our intent to parcel the projects out to as many contractors as we can get involved, in accordance with what seems to be Congress' intent.

Skyline

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago having conducted a scoping meeting on this subject with the Lake County Commission. It is self-evident that the roadway is substandard; also evident is that usage is increasing. What I have suggested with the Commission is that it and the City work together to try to indentify, if possible, what can be done in remediation, with a view to making some final disposition. Figuring that out requires information, namely, what can be done to improve the roadway to the extent reasonably possible. I have asked our City Engineer to give me an estimate to prepare a study good enough to go forward with an SID/RSID combination package, and she tells me such a study will cost approximately \$3K. We have to realize that there is simply no way the roadway will ever meet City standards, but that we can do some meaningful improvement. The County informs me that their quarter million dollar share of the ARRA monies will be spent on a 50 ton, 35' wide bridge over the canal on the south end of the Skyline trace, which'll go a long ways towards significant improvement. We may get the cost study done, and discover that significant improvement is simply too expensive. The County has told me, however, that if that eventuates, if a RSID/SID looks too burdensome to go forward, they will reimburse us half the cost of the study. So I'd like your permission to spend the money and get the study done.

Municipal Elected Officials workshop

You all got a flyer in your box from MMIA regarding the annual elected city officials workshop, in this case, in the second week of May. Your colleagues who have attended over the years have universally found the workshop beneficial. I note this one contains segments on open meetings and on parliamentary procedure. If you wish to attend the City will pay for it. I'd strongly encourage your thinking about attending.

Fire Department

The PVFD membership has, of its own funds, purchased a giant Chevy utility truck for the purpose of mounting a Type III wildlands rig and water tank. It is a very nice piece of equipment. It has the additional benefit of being sufficiently stout to withstand rigorous

use, unlike our existing Type III apparatus, and as a consequence we'll be able to use it under DNRC and Forest Service wildlands firefighting contracts – it'll probably pay for itself.

### Congress

I was unable to travel to Washington, D.C., last week due to illness but managed to make my appointments with congressional staffers by telephone, instead. I spoke to the appropriations people in both Senator's offices. They were uniformly gracious, and gave some valuable insight into the process of the stimulus and jobs bills from the Federal perspective. In terms of implementation on the City end, basically, it will be helpful to take some managed risks in terms of getting projects to design phase, since the closer projects are to being ready to go the better chances the projects will stand going through existing State grant agencies. Possibly the biggest piece of news I received is that the jobs bills monies are in many ways little different than state-block grants from the Feds administered by state agencies; its just that the numbers, and some of the strings, are bigger.