

LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF BELT, MONTANA

To the Citizens of Belt:

The Belt Local Government Study Commission, elected by the voters on November 8, 1994, or thereafter appointed, present this final report to you, the citizens of Belt.

The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law is "to study the existing form and powers of a local government and procedures for the delivery of local government services and to compare them with other forms available under the laws of the responsibility of the study commission, to submit a final report recommending no change, or propose amendments to the existing form of government, or offer an alternative form of government to the qualified voters."

In every phase of this review, this study commission sought advice and information from as many people as possible. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials, county and state officials, community organizations, and citizens. All meetings of the study commission were open to the public. Public hearings were held, and a survey of citizen attitudes was made.

Our recommendations reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who participated in public hearings, and those who responded to the survey, as well as to the efforts of this study commission.

In this final report we recommend no change be made in the existing form of local government. Our concern has been to provide a form of government that will conform to the Montana State Code, and to the procedures now practiced by the local government.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva E. Staker

Craig Cummings

Philip K. Leffler

Belt Local Government Study Commissioners

RECEIVED
AUG 19 1996

COMMERCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SERVICES BUREAU

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY COMMISSION

After a study of almost two years, it is the decision of the Belt Local Government Study Commission that the commission-executive (also called the mayor-council) form of government is the one that best meets the needs of this town.

CERTIFICATE
ESTABLISHING THE EXISTING PLAN OF GOVERNMENT
FOR THE TOWN OF BELT

1. The government of the town of Belt shall be organized under the following provisions of Section 7-3-113, MCA, 1985, commission-executive form:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 7-3-201; | (i) 7-3-217 (2); |
| (b) 7-3-202 (1); | (j) 7-3-218 (2); |
| (c) 7-3-203; | (k) 7-3-219 (2); |
| (d) 7-3-212 (2); | (l) 7-3-220 (1); |
| (e) 7-3-213 (2); | (m) 7-3-221 (3); |
| (f) 7-3-214 (2); | (n) 7-3-222 (2); |
| (g) 7-3-215 (2); | (o) 7-3-223; |
| (h) 7-3-216 (2); | (p) 7-3-224. |

2. This form has terms of 4 years for all elected officials. The size of the commission shall be established by ordinance, but it may not exceed 20 members.

COMMISSION-EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

7-3-201. Commission-executive form. The commission-executive form (which may be called the council-executive, the council-mayor, or the commission-mayor form) consists of an elected commission (which may be referred to as the council) and one elected executive (who may be referred to as the mayor) who is elected at large.

7-3-202. Nature of government. The plan of government submitted to the qualified electors shall determine the powers of the local government unit by authorizing

- (1) general government powers.

7-3-203. Duties of executive. The executive shall

- (1) enforce laws, ordinances, and resolutions;
- (2) perform duties required of him by law, ordinance, or resolution;
- (3) administer affairs of the local government;
- (4) carry out policies established by the commission;
- (5) recommend measures to the commission;
- (6) report to the commission of the affairs and financial condition of the local government;
- (7) execute bonds, notes, contracts, and written obligations of the commission, subject to the approval of the commission;
- (8) report to the commission as the commission may require;
- (9) attend commission meetings and may take part in discussions;
- (10) execute the budget adopted by the commission;
- (11) appoint with the consent of the commission, all of the boards, except the executive may appoint without the consent of the commission temporary advisory committees established by the executive.

7-3-211. Structural suboptions. The plan of government submitted to the qualified electors shall further define the structural characteristics of the form by including on item from each of the choices listed in 7-3-212 through 7-3-224, MCA, 1995.

7-3-212. Administrative assistants. The executive

- (2) may appoint one or more administrative assistants to him/her in the supervision and operation of the local government, and such administrative assistants shall be answerable solely to the executive.

7-3-213. Supervision of personnel. The executive may

- (2) appoint and remove, with the consent of a majority of the commission, all employees of the local government.

7-3-214. Veto Power. The executive may

- (2) veto ordinances and resolutions, subject to override by a two-thirds vote of the commission.

7-3-215. Preparation of budget. The executive may
(2) prepare the budget in consultation with the commission and department heads.

7-3-216. Administrative supervision and control. The executive may
(2) exercise control and supervision of all departments and boards to the degree authorized by ordinance of the commission.

7-3-217. Financial officer. A financial officer (who may be called the treasurer)
(2) shall be appointed by the executive with the consent of the council.

7-3-218. Selection of commission members. The commission shall be
(2) elected by districts in which candidates must reside and which are apportioned by population.

7-3-219. Type of election. Local government elections shall be conducted on a
(2) nonpartisan basis.

7-3-220. Chairman of commission. The commission shall have a chairman who shall be
(1) elected by the members of the commission from their own number for a term established by ordinance.

7-3-221. Presiding officer of commission. The presiding officer of the commission shall be
(3) the executive, who shall decide all the tie votes of the commission, but shall have no other vote. The chairman of the commission shall preside if the executive is absent.

7-3-222. Terms of commission members. Commission members shall be elected for
(2) overlapping terms of office.

7-3-223. Size of commission and community councils. The size of the commission shall be six members, two to be elected from each of three wards. Community councils to advise the executive and commissioners may be authorized by ordinance.

7-3-224. Terms of elected officers. The term of office of elected officials shall be four, and shall be established when the form of government is adopted by the voters.

We, the Study Commission of Belt, do hereby certify that this is the Proposed Plan of Government approved by the Study Commissioners of Belt.

In testimony whereof we set our hands.

Done at 10:09 AM this 21 day of July

Eva E. Stober

Craig Cummings

Philip Kleffner

Local Government Study Commissioners

ATTEST: Jean Fontana

CLERK OF BELT, MONTANA

