

Morgan

August 19, 1976

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

of the

Bozeman Study Commission on Local Government

to

The Bozeman City Commission

The special election held on June 1, 1976 provided the residents of Bozeman the opportunity to vote to retain the present form of government in Bozeman or to accept the alternative form prepared by the Bozeman Study Commission on Local Government.

The result of the election was that the present form of government will be retained. Two thousand four hundred sixty six (2466) votes were cast for retention of the present form of government and two thousand two hundred seventy eight (2278) votes were cast in favor of the alternative form. The suboption which provided for the election of community councils received a favorable vote of 2,661 as compared with a negative vote of 1,675. Every precinct supported the community council suboption with a substantial majority.

During our deliberations as a city study commission, we found very strong support for the present commission-manager form of government in Bozeman. The city commission, the city manager, and city employees are to be complemented for having served the community well.

It is, however, the feeling of the Study Commission that since the community councils received a favorable vote that they should be created. We feel also, that the people of Bozeman should have the opportunity to vote on the matter of an elected mayor since this matter was not provided as a separate choice in the June 1 election.

The matter of increasing taxes was a concern of several people attending our meetings and hearings. Several alternatives to present methods of operation were discussed by the Study Commission which in our minds would result in greater efficiency and reduce costs. Among the things discussed was the consolidation of certain city and county services such as law enforcement, street and road departments, ambulance service, library, and a consolidated financial management system which would include the city of Bozeman, Gallatin County, and Bozeman schools.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the city commission adopt an ordinance which provides that community councils shall be elected as provided in the suboption submitted to the voters in the special election held on June 1, 1976. We further recommend that members of such community councils be elected for the first time (on a non partisan basis) at the general election to be held on April 5, 1977.
2. We recommend that the city commission provide the electorate of the city of Bozeman an opportunity to vote on the matter of electing a mayor to that position rather than have it be the commissioner receiving the greatest number of votes at any given election. We further recommend that this be done at the general election to be held on April 5, 1977.
3. We recommend that a concerted effort be made to consolidate the Bozeman and Gallatin County law enforcement departments. If total consolidation seems impossible to achieve, we recommend that the coordination and cooperation of the two departments be maximized through joint facilities and working from a common headquarters.
4. We recommend that arrangements be explored which would consolidate city and county street and road departments.
5. We recommend that efforts be made to integrate and consolidate city and county equipment maintenance shops.

6. We recommend that the joint city/county ambulance service be maintained with an equitable financing arrangement established.

7. We recommend that a consolidated financial management system be fully explored, which would include city government, county government, and Bozeman Schools.

We as the Bozeman Study Commission request your consideration of these matters and request a written report of your deliberations and actions taken. We offer our recommendations in the spirit of what we feel are useful suggestions and offer our assistance in further consideration of these matters in any way that you feel will be helpful. We fully realize that our suggestions are strictly advisory and require no action on your part.

Submitted by:

Torlief S. Aasheim, Chairman
Bozeman Study Commission

Judy Mathre, Secretary

Ken Jones, Member

Keith Swanson, Member