

FINAL REPORT
OF THE
MELSTONE GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 1, 1985

TOWN OF MELSTONE STUDY COMMISSION

FINAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 1985

TO THE CITIZENS OF MELSTONE:

You voted to have the town government reviewed in November of 1984. Since that time, we the commission, have held numerous meetings and discussed our present form of government verses other forms. The attached material is our final report to you of the work we have done on our NO change policy.

In our findings, the present Mayor-Council government, is best suited for this small town.

STUDY COMMISSION MEMBERS

PATTI LANG

PAUL ZENTNER

ROBERT ROSTAD

1985 GOVERNMENT STUDY PROGRAM FOR
THE TOWN OF MELSTONE, MONTANA

The Government Study Committee for the town of Melstone, Montana was authorized by the primary election of 1984 with a vote of 26 for and 25 against the study commission. Since no one had filed for the offices before the general election time, the county clerk and recorder failed to prepare a ballot for the election and no one was elected. Legally, when less than the required three are elected, the mayor with the consent of the council can appoint to fill the vacancies. This should be done at the first council meeting after the election. The clerk called around among the voters, asking for people to serve. Many refusals were received, but finally four persons did agree to serve. These four were Paul Zentner, Patti Lang, Bonnie Opie, and Robert Rostad. The Mayor appointed Bonnie Opie, Patti Lang and Paul Zentner the council approved. Notices were mailed out and the information that they were to organize within ten days was included. The oath of office was enclosed in each letter. The position of ex-officio member a member of the administrative staff was also necessary. This is a non-voting position. Clara Mae Spek was appointed to this spot. Oath of offices were all returned signed.

The organization meeting was set for December 10, 1984 at 7:30 PM in the clerk's office, Attorney Pratt was asked to attend.

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING. December 10, 1984

Present were Patti Lang, Bonnie Opie, Paul Zentner, Attorney John Pratt, and Clara Mae Spek. Attorney Pratt gave a handout on the laws ruling this commission. They were read and discussed. Copies of the 1974 commissions final report was given to every member present. Patti Lang was chosen President and Bonnie Opie was named Secretary. The seminar in Bozeman was discussed, no one wanted to go. Due to the shortness of finances it was decided to ask Roundup's delegation to pick up as much material for us as possible. Maybe, we can meet with the Roundup delegation later and get a report from them. First regular meeting to be set in early January, at the convenience of the committee. Signed Clara Mae Spek, Clerk.

Some study has shown that according to section 7-3-178 a recommendation of no change may be adopted, after study and following certain procedures. This would finalise committee action within 30 days after such decision

was made public.

February 21, 1985-- The resignation of Bonnie Opie was received. She had moved to Helena. At the regular meeting of the council, March 12, 1985, the letter of resignation of Bonnie Opie, was read and accepted. The Mayor appointed Robert Rostad to fill the spot. Robert was officially notified on April 1, 1985 and signed his oath of office on April 4, 1985.

Thursday, May 2, 1985 Patti Lang and Clara Mae Spek met at Clara Mae's home and did some studying of the manual and drew up a tentative form to be used as our tentative plan, all discussions have led to a total plan of NO change.

May 13, 1985 , 7:30 PM Meeting at City Hall. Present were President Patti Lang, Robert Rostad, and Ex-officio Clara Mae Spek, acting as Secretary, Open discussion on what we wanted to do; what could be done; and what had to be done, based on the study manual. Our tentative plan as drawn up by Patti and Clara Mae was shown to Robert and openly discussed. It was decided to have our first public meeting at the Fire Hall , Thursday, June 6, at 7:30 PM. Advertising to be run in the May 22 Issue, and posters posted in the various business spots in town. Patti will conduct the meeting and coffee and cookies will be served. Meeting adjourned. Signed Clara Mae Spek, Clerk.

Many different points of reference were noted. Again the point of no change in our final report was discussed. After talking to John Pratt after the May 13, meeting the date for the first Public Hearing was changed to June 20, so he could attend. Notices were in the June 12 and 19 Roundup Record and notices posted in public places in Melstone.

The first Public Meeting of the Melstone Government Study Commission of 1985 was held in the Melstone Fire Hall at 7:30 PM on June 20, 1985. Only 7 persons showed, all of which were either town officials or members of the study commission. The town attorney was there also. From this, the assumption was drawn that very little interest in change was present. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patti Lang and turned over to Attorney Pratt. A plan of NO change was presented and openly discussed. Such plans seemed agreeable to all present. The presented work sheet was adopted with no suggested changes by those present. This will be accepted as the tentative report of the committee. Discussion of time and date of the next required public meeting was held. It was agreed by all present that the next, or second public meeting be held at 7:30 PM on July 18, 1985 at the Fire Hall. Meeting adjourned and coffee and cookies were served.

July 18, 1985 second Public Government Study Meeting held for final adoption of report. Final Draft of NO change, for 1985. Meeting called to Order by Clara Mae Spek at 7:30PM in the Melstone Fire Hall, 8 persons present. Flossie Eike being the only interested citizen, the others were either members of the City Council or the Study Commission. The plan, as published in the paper, of NO change was again presented. No new discussion. Motion to accept the NO change report was made by Paul Zentner and seconded by Robert Rostad, it passed with no objections. It was agreed that the final reports to the necessary departments be drawn and signed, and that the final meeting be held, to be sure that all angles were cared for. At which time the committee be relieved of their duties, within the 60 days, as proposed by law. It is hoped that some educating be done before the next cycle, so that people know what they are voting for. Such final meeting will be held on October 1, 1985.

Written by----- Clara Mae Spek, Ex-officio Member

This is a true account of our actions as the official Government Study Commission of the town of Melstone for the 1985 year.

Ex-officio Member

Clara Mae Spek Clara Mae Spek

Committee Signatures

Patti Lang Patti Lang
Paul Zentner Paul Zentner
Robert Rostad Robert Rostad

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The first Public Hearing of the
Melstone Government Study Com-
mission will be held in the Melstone
Fire Hall on June 20, 1985 at 7:30
p.m. All citizens are invited to at-
tend.

Patti Lang
Chairperson,
Melstone Government
Study Commission
(Pub. June 12 & 19, 1985)

Public Meeting
Government Study Commission
Melstone Fire Hall
June 20, 1985 7:30 pm

1. Alvin S. Boshart, Jr.
2. Robert Pestal
3. ~~John D. ...~~
4. Patti Lang
5. Charlotte M. Kanta
6. Clara Mae Dpek
7. Henry R. Williams

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Second public hearing of the
Melstone Government Study Com-
mission will be held at the Melstone
Fire Hall on July 18, 1985 at 7:30 p.m.
All citizens are invited to attend. The
Final report will be drawn at this
time.

Patti Lang, Chairperson
Melstone Government Study
Commission
(Published July 10-17, 1985 2 wks)

Second Govt Study
Public Meeting
July 18, 1985

- 1 Robert Rostad
- 2 Clara Mae Spek
- 3 Charles S. Chum
- 4 Florence Eike
- 5 Glenn E. Williams
- 6 Abdul Basath
- 7 Charlotte M. Kanta
- 8 Paul Zentner
- 9

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Melstone, Montana Government Study Commission Report

SUMMARY

Area of Comparison	Present Form	Proposed Form	Summary
Form	Mayor-Council Form, Four Council members elected at large, Mayor elected in his own right.	No change	Election franchise is more fairly exercised.
Powers	General Government State Laws define what the town government may do and how to do it. Town council may exercise any power which the state does not deny. Legislative power vested in town council.	No change	Our present mayor-council government already allows action not prohibited by law.
Governing Body	Town council four members, elected at large.	No change	The town is small enough to have the members elected by all the voters, four members will give adequate representation.
Terms	Four years overlapping terms, two members elected every two years.	No change	Overlapping terms allow for continuity of government. There will always be members with experience on council.
Duties	Legislative body. Duties are split between policy making and daily administrative. Council is the legislative body. Mayor is responsible for the daily administration and supervision. Mayor is accountable to the council.	No change	The combination of policy making and administration working together makes for greater flexibility.
Mayor duties	Presiding officer of council. Political spokesman. Administrative officer of town. Mayor will be chairman of the council. He will act as administrator executive of the town and is accountable to the council.	No change	The mayor will be in charge of daily activities of town, and together they will be able to concentrate on policy making rather than minor details.
Mayor Term	Four year term. Elected at large by total electorate.	No change	Longer term makes mayor more informed of government issues concerning the populace.
Taxation restriction	Montana law allows for taxation of property in the town as prescribed by state law.	No change	This gives the people protection on taxation. If the people need more funds extra levies can be allowed.
Treasurer-Clerk	Appointed by the mayor with consent of council.	No change	Allows flexibility and accountability to Mayor and council. Melstone is not large enough to require an elected treasurer or clerk.
Election	Non-Partisan	No change	Non-Partisan best for small community. If the voters want to change they may do so by resolution.

THEREFORE, as projected above, we the undersigned Government Study Commission of the Town of Melstone, Mondo hereby certify that this is the existing plan of government for the town of Melstone, as well as our proposed plan for the future government of the Town of Melstone. We, as a commission, propose absolutely no change in the present form of government for Melstone. It shall remain the same as the previously, and no election will be held. Under authority of Section 7-3-187. Annotated Codes of Montana.

Dated at Melstone, Montana, this 18 day of July, 1985.

Copies available at city office.
Government Study Commission members.
Paul Zentner
Robert Rostad
Patti Lang

Clara Mae Spek,
Ex-officio Member, Town Clerk.

(Published July 31, Aug. 7, 1985 2 wks)

Since no interest was taken by our public to attend the 2 prescribed open meetings of the Government Study Commission, as authorized by Section 7-3-171 through 7-3-193 annotated codes of Montana, we, as the Government Study Commission, of the town of Melstone-after several meetings and much discussion do hereby set forth the following summary of our present form of town government. We propose absolutely NO change for the next ten year period.

We the Study Commission of the town of Melstone, Montana do hereby certify that our proposed plan for government is the same as our present Mayor-Council Form. Absolutely no changes were made. Therefore no election is necessary.

In where of, we, the undersigned have set our hands this 1 day of October, 1985 at Melstone, Montana.

Patti Lang
Patti Lang

Paul Zentner
Paul Zentner

Robert Rostad
Robert Rostad

Local Government Study Commissioners

Clara Mae Spek
Clara Mae Spek
Town Clerk of Melstone, Mt.