

Town of Ennis
Local Government Study Commission
January 15, 2025
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Meeting opened** 4:05pm by Kelly Elser
2. **Roll Call:** Kelly Elser, Brittney Hirsch, Karen Ketchu, Lisa Roberts. Other present: Mitch Abernethy (Town Commissioner), Bob Bayley (resident)
3. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** NONE
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** NONE
5. Meeting Minutes 1/2/2025. **Motion to approve by Roberts, Seconded by Hirsch. Motion approved.**
6. **New Business**

- a. **Timeline of Study Commission: Motion to approve the timeline by Roberts, Seconded by Hirsch.**

February 2025: 1st Public Hearing (information gathering) *2024 Ke*
June 5, 2025: Draft Report Due
June 18, 2025: 2nd Public Hearing (Final Report)
July 10, 2025: Town of Ennis Commission Vote (if necessary)
July 31, 2025: All materials to County Election Administrator
Nov 4, 2025: Election *Ke*

Discussion: Study Commission agreeable to the target of having any recommendations ready for the November 2025 ballot. Hirsch recommended dates for publishing in the newspaper to meet requirements for hearings and will coordinate with the Madisonian, asking that the timeline also be included on the events page and a press release also published.

Motion approved.

- b. **Public Engagement Strategy:**

Open Discussion:

Newspaper: Ketchu noted that repetition is the key to public outreach. All hearings will be noticed 2x. Timeline published in events section, press release, and article request.

Website: Hirsch will again request a tab on the Town of Ennis website specifically dedicated to the Local Government Study Commission, she will ask at the upcoming Town of Ennis Commissioner's meeting.

Brochure: Karen Ketchu presented a draft brochure for public engagement. Group consensus was that there should be 3 main categories. 1. What is the Town Government Role For? 2. The Role of the Study Commission 3. And the role of the Ennis taxpayer? With bullet point descriptions of each. This brochure will be ready for the Feb 20th public hearing and list dates of meetings and

timeline.

Direct Mail: group discussion of a direct mail postcard prior to the Feb 20 public hearing. Ketchu will work on design and have the goal of having postcards mailed the week of Feb 10th.

Community Survey: The public hearing would be a great place to start the community survey. Study commissioners and others present are encouraged to get sample survey questions to Ketchu by February 10th.


Scope of Study Commission: Ketchu and Roberts had a call with Dan Clark of MSU on Monday 1/13/2025. Dan confirmed that it would be within the scope of the Study commission and appropriate to hold interviews with current elected officials and employees. Questions must only pertain to government structure and not personality issues. Study Commissioners are to submit interview questions to Ketchu by Feb 10th.

- c. **Measuring Success of Local Government:** The study commission would like this study to be data driven. Audits are one measure of success/effectiveness of the local government, turnover of elected officials is another, consistency/continuity of addressing issues. Bob Bayley suggested talking with other town governments of our size. Dan Clark mentioned West Yellowstone as a community similar to ours that might have some insight and have a commissioner-manager form of government.
- d. MMIA Risk Management Insurance/Workers Compensation: ***Motion to formally request insurance coverage by MMIA for the Study Commission to the Town of Ennis Commission made by Roberts, Seconded by Hirsch.***
Discussion: Roberts stated that this would be a good idea as we are elected officials not just volunteers. Abernethy and Hirsch mentioned that the cost was relatively low and affordable to the Town.
Motion approved. Hirsch will relay this motion/request at the Town of Ennis Commission 1/16/2025 meeting.

Approved by:



Kelly Elser, Chair



Date: