

PUBLIC LIBRARY CERTIFICATION

This certifies that our library

Chouteau County Free Library

(library name)

qualifies as a "public library"
formed under either Title 7 or
MCA § 22-1-303 through 22-1-317

Attached is the legal documentation
establishing our library under the above.

Julie Judeman

Library Board Chairperson

Mary Meisner

Library Director

September 30, 1997

Date

Club Official Makes Reply

Gives More Information Relative To Free Library Proposition Now Being Considered

In reply to an article in the Bear Paw Mountaineer about a county free library, the president of the Study club brands the article as misleading, and for the information of the public that officer explains further the plans and benefits of such an institution.

At the last legislature a bill was passed for county libraries. The bill stated that if twenty per cent of the qualified voters would petition county commissioners, they could, after advertising in the county paper for one month, establish a library. The law also states it must be at the county seat. If Fort Benton does not get the library, no other town is eligible, and if Fort Benton does get a library, it will benefit the whole county, as the law states branches may be established at any town or district when an application is made for one. It is most appropriate for this library to be at the county seat which is now in the center of Chouteau county, and as there was no library at the county seat, this law certainly held forth new inducements to establish one.

The sympathy and support of the press and the public spirited citizens of every class should be enlisted in this movement; a movement worthy of the enthusiasm of every one who has faith in the beneficent educational agency of the county free library. The system is ideal. With the central library at the county seat, branch libraries in outlying towns and stations for the delivery of books at convenient points in rural districts, the people of the entire county can have the uplifting influence that springs from the companionship with good books. This system is practical as well, and has been tested in twenty-five states, where it has been found popular.

The library and distribution of books provides a simple yet unique system, and the librarian must have a year's experience and furnish a high bond, as she is responsible for all books.

The proposed library is maintained by a one-half mill levy. This means fifty cents on a thousand dollars of assessable property. Very few farmers in this county pay taxes on more than \$1000 to \$3000 of assessable property, and he should be unwise who should enter the slightest objection to paying so little for the privilege of getting so much.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1915

Commissioners Are Favorable

There was a lively hearing at the commissioners' room last Thursday when the county free library question came up for consideration, and after a heated word battle, the board decided that the library was a badly needed institution and one that was worthy of county support. The free library movement was strenuously supported by the Study club of this place, with Mrs. McLeish as spokesman and her well directed remarks were the source of much comment. Those who opposed the movement were two residents of the Kenilworth, and Big Sandy sections, W. M. Martin and J. B. Pancholet. Mr. Pancholet it will be remembered was the firebrand in the campaign for defeating the county high school.

The vote of the commissioners was unanimous, and their action meets with general favor, as the institution soon to be undertaken is one that is worthy of the utmost support of all. The workings of the county library system will be published as soon as the library is established. Chouteau county is the first to adopt the library under the new law, though several more counties of the state are now working with the ultimate establishment of the library in view.

1915 We have the signatures of all the largest taxpayers in the county. All were glad to sign for anything that would advance the cultural side of life. We would secure the rental of a building for library purposes, unless finances would warrant the county to build one. Andrew Carnegie has built nine libraries in Wyoming under a similar law, and no doubt, when once established, he could be induced to build a library in the historical town of Fort Benton.

The most important advantage of the county library is educational and cultural. Another advantage is its emphasis of the idea of unity in the county, and the constant encouragement of cooperation in all county activities and its development of county patriotism. The work of the library in the homes, among the teachers, among the clergy and county clubs has the effect of bringing all of the people of the county closer together. By taking advantage of the opportunities offered in its work among all the people, the library is able to develop to a wonderful degree, the spirit of cooperation, unity and patriotism, and this trinity is the salvation of the county. Furthermore all this gives the county a good name and makes it a good place in which to establish a home to earn a living and to rear a family. It develops the philanthropic spirit since it is maintained by a county tax. The poorest resident of the county and his entire family have just as much right to its services as the largest taxpayer. Many object to being taxed for libraries who would advocate taxation for such if they knew the great benefits to be derived.

We trust we have enlightened you a little and can still give you more information so that you may become a booster instead of a knocker. We know there is a class of men who are narrow in their ideas of taxation on general principles, and in these communities where people allow themselves to be influenced by such persons, little progress for good is made.

827 signatures total
237 in Ft Benton
at that time only 300
registered voters here

Big Sandy 67
Seraldine 122
Surrounding
Country
Carter 47

Pleasant Valley 43
Miller 22
Shokin' off 20
Highwood 47
Plowee 35
Godhue 15
Elin 12

Grand Union
Country & town 25
Mrs. McLeish 28
Country
Hard Mountain &
Milly Country
Schmidt

Greely 7
Clintonburg 6
T.C. Power

Shokin' Day 20
So. Butte 12

Fillmore
A prize box offered of
\$3 for the business house
in town that secured or tried
to get largest number of
signatures. Grand Union
got it. Only above places
tried at all.

Representing 3/4 of precincts
in country

Proceedings County Commissioners, Chouteau County

STATE OF MONTANA, June 9, 1915, Third DAY

CHOUTEAU COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

FORT BENTON, MONTANA 58442

and the Board of County Commissioners to accept as final the findings of said Board of appraisers.

It was further ordered by the Board that Mr. G.C. Ihmsen the Chairman of said Board have power and authority to choose the member of said Board of Appraisers to represent the interests of Chouteau County.

MINUTE ENTRY.

A petition having been filed with the Board of County Commissioners, requesting the establishment of a County Free Library at the County Seat of said County of Chouteau; it was ordered that the Clerk give notice by publication in the official newspaper of said County at least once a week for four successive weeks, of a public hearing to be held at the Commissioner's office at the court house in Fort Benton, Montana, on the 8th day of July A. D. 1915, at two o'clock P. M. for the purpose of having reasons submitted to them for and against the establishment of said County Free Library.

MINUTE ENTRY FOR BOND ISSUE.

"WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners in and for the County of Chouteau, State of Montana, deem it advisable and for the best interests of the tax payers and residents of the County of Chouteau to issue and negotiate coupon bonds on the credit of said County of Chouteau to an amount sufficient to enable the said County to redeem all legal outstanding warrants, and

"WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners of any County is vested with the power and authority to issue and negotiate on the credit of the County, coupon bonds to an amount sufficient to enable the said County to redeem all legal outstanding bonds, warrants or orders by virtue of Section One, of Chapter thirty-two of the Session Laws of 1915 of the State of Montana,

"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, By the said County Commissioners of the County of Chouteau, State of Montana, that coupon bonds to the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) be issued and negotiated on the credit of the said County of Chouteau for the purpose of redeeming all legal outstanding County warrants to that amount, such bonds shall be in the denomination of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) each, and shall bear date September 1st, 1915, and shall be redeemable and payable in twenty years after the date thereof, and shall bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, and such interest shall be represented by interest coupons payable semi-annually on the first day of January and July of each year, and each bond and all coupons attached thereto shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the Treasurer of said County, and each bond shall also be sealed and countersigned by the County Clerk of said County. Each bond issued shall be registered by the said County Treasurer in a book provided for that purpose which shall show the number and amount of each bond and to whom issued.

"IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That the County Clerk shall proceed to give notice for said County Commissioners by advertisement in the official newspaper of the said County of Chouteau, published at Fort Benton, Montana, for a period of not less than thirty days prior to the time said bonds are to be sold, for sealed proposals for the sale of Chouteau County bonds to the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars. The fourth day of August A. D. 1915 at ten o'clock A. M. is hereby fixed as the day for the opening of said proposals and the sale of said bonds. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00) which amount is to be forfeited in case of the refusal of the successful bidder to take the same and the parties offering the highest price therefor shall be entitled to receive the amount of such bonds which he or they may offer to buy, but no bonds shall be sold for any price less than the par value of same."

The Board designated as polling places for the election to be held in Geraldine, Montana on July 10th, 1915, the following places:

First ward - The office of H. G. Wagner

Second ward - the Auditorium

Third ward - the Luddy Hotel

The following appointments were made as to judges and clerks for the above mentioned election:

Proceedings County Commissioners, Chouteau County

July 8th 1915

Third

DAY

STATE OF MONTANA

CHOUTEAU COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

FORT BENTON, MONTANA 59442

The Board met at 10 o'clock A.M. Present: G.C. Ihnson, chairman; commissioners F.H. McGowan and H. A. Gray. Lester M. Bond, County Clerk.

The resignation of John Harris as trustee on Chouteau County High School Board, was accepted and A.E. McLeish appointed to fill the vacancy.

A petition duly signed by residents and taxpayers of Road District No. 11 residing on or adjacent to the alley located in Block 8, Original Townsite of Big Sandy, Montana, which alley is between Lots 15 and 17 of said block 8, asking that said alley be discontinued as a public highway, for the reason that the establishment of first street has made the same unnecessary as a public highway, was granted.

Upon proof being submitted by the county treasurer that L.H. Urton had paid the full amount of his 1914 tax but by a mistake has not been given credit therefore, the board directed the County Treasurer to credit said L.H. Urton with the amount paid by him and make the proper refund to him from the high school refund account.

Upon proof having been submitted by the county treasurer that Mrs. W.L. Obitz had paid the full amount of her 1914 tax but by mistake has not been given credit therefor, the board directed the county treasurer to credit said Mrs. W.L. Obitz with the amount paid by her and make the proper refund to her from the high school refund account.

Upon proof being submitted by the county treasurer that J.S. Palmer had paid the full amount of his 1914 tax but by mistake was not given credit therefor, the board directed the county treasurer to credit said J.S. Palmer with the amount paid by him and make the proper refund to him from the high school refund account.

Pursuant to notice given by publication, the Board proceeded at two o'clock, P.M. to hear the arguments for and against the establishment of a County Free Library at the county seat. After all said arguments were heard, the Board by an unanimous vote passed a resolution establishing the County Free Library at the county seat of Chouteau County.

After due consider, the Board decided that the application for renewal of the Flowerree saloon license No. 73 should not be granted.

Viewers report on the "Square Butte to Arrow Creek change" in Fort Benton to Arrow Creek Road, beginning at a point in the old Fort Benton to Arrow Creek Road at the railway crossing near the Southeast corner of Sec. 3 Twp. 20 N. Rng 12 E., running thence southeasterly on the northerly side of the railway right of way to the SE 1/4 of Sec. 13, thence under a railway trestle to the south side of said railway and thence southeasterly along the southerly side of said railway to the old road at the railway crossing near the northwest corner of Sec. 33, Twp. 20 N., Rng 13 E following ~~xxx~~ adjacent to the railway right of way as nearly as practicable. was accepted and the same declared a public highway and the road supervisor of road district No. 9 was ordered to open the same to the public, and the County Surveyor was directed to survey and plat the same and file the plat and field notes in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder.

Viewers' report on the "Haystack Butte Road" beginning at the northwest corner of Sec. 30, Twp. 22 N. Rng 12 E, running thence ~~to~~ east on section lines three miles to the Southeast corner of Sec. 21, thence north two miles to the Northeast corner of Sec. 16, thence following present county road north one mile to ~~the~~ Northeast corner Sec. 9, thence west two miles to Northeast corner of Sec. 7,

Northeast corner of Sec. 7, run north on county road to Northeast corner Sec. 6, thence north on section lines ~~xxx~~ four miles to Northwest corner of Section 17, Twp. 23 N. Rng. 12 E., thence east ~~1~~ one mile and thence south four miles to the southeast corner of Sec. 32, Twp. 23 N., Rng. 12 E., and thence west one mile to the southwest corner of Sec. 32. was accepted and the same was hereby declared a public highway and the Road Supervisors of Road Districts Nos. 8 & 32 were ordered to open the same to the public. And the county surveyor directed to survey and plat same, and file plat and field notes in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder.

August 4th, 1915, at 10 o'clock A.M. was set for a hearing on the "Hartling Road" running from the Northeast corner of Sec. 25, Twp. 23 N. Rng. 3 E to the Northwest corner of Sec. 30, Twp. 23 N. Rng. 3 E, at which time the Board will hear arguments for and against the establishment of said road.

August 4, 1915, at 2 o'clock P.M. was set for a hearing on the "Kershaw Tunis Road" as petitioned to run from Sec. 29 Twp. 24 N. Rng. 8 E westerly to Sec. 30, Twp. 24 N. Rng. 7 E at which time the Board will hear all arguments for and against the establishment of said public highway.

The petition for the establishment of the "McGee Change" in Fort Benton to Arrow Creek Road in Sec. ~~12~~ 18 Twp. 21 N. Rng. 12 E was rejected.

J.W.Lewellen, Robert Cook, John S.Culbertson, were appointed as viewers for the "Baker Road" as petitioned for in Sections 26 and ~~2~~ 35, Twp. 21 N., Rng. 7 E.

Robert Cook, V.E.Lewis, John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the county road as petitioned to run on the east side of the Goosebill in Twps. 26 and 27, N. Rng. 8 E.

Robert Cook, V. E. Lewis and John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the "Nicksch Road" as petitioned for in Sec. 21 Twp. 25 N. Rng. 8 E.

Robert Cook, V.E.Lewis and John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the "Reynolds Change" in Benton to Circle Ranch Road, as petitioned for in Sec. 4, Twp. 26 N. Rng. 7 E.

V.E.Lewis, Robert Cook and John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the "Rode Road" as petitioned for in Twps. 23 N. Rng. 9 E.

A.W.Arrosmith, George Atwood and John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the ~~XXXXXX~~ "Spring Coulee to Atwood's Road" as petitioned for in Twps. 26 and 27 N. Rng. 10 E.

Byron W.TenBroeck, Peter Sonksen and John S.Culbertson were appointed as viewers for the "Jorgenson Road" as petitioned for in Township 28, Rngs. 14 and 15 E,

The petition for the Montague Railway Crossing in Sec. 9 Twp. 22 N. Rng. 10 E. was allowed.

The Board adjourned at 5 o'clock until July 19th, at 10 o'clock A.M.

G. B. Jansen

Chairman

Lester M. Bond
County Clerk

CHOUTEAU COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

FORT BENTON, MONTANA 59442

STATE OF MONTANA, November 1, 1915. First DAY

REGULAR SESSION.

The Board met at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Chairman, G.C.Ihmsen, Commissioner, O.F.Tate and Lester M.Bond, Clerk.

The bonds of the following named road supervisors in the penal sum of \$500.00, each, were examined, approved and ordered filed, to-wit: William Garland, District No. 18; David N. Edwards District No. 30; Benjamin Warehime, District No. 28; Robert A. Lord, District No. 39.

The bond of Joseph Gyron as ferryman for the Loma ferry in the sum of \$500.00 was examined, approved and ordered filed.

The bond of the Carter State Bank in the penal sum of \$5,000.00 given to secure the payment of any county money, together with interest, which may be deposited in the said Carter State Bank from time to time by the County Treasurer, was examined and approved.

The bond of the Farmers State Bank of Geraldine, in the penal sum of \$5,000.00 given to secure the payment of any county money with the interest, which may be deposited in the said Farmers State Bank of Geraldine from time to time by the County Treasurer, was examined and approved.

Upon request of the County Treasurer, approved by the County Assessor, the Board directed the County Treasurer to cancel from the tax roll the following taxes, to-wit:

The tax of \$3101.00 in mortgages assessed against N.B.Nelson of Geraldine for the reason that the same was a double assessment.

The tax of \$2084.00 in mortgages assessed against Martin Connolly of Fort Benton, for the reason that the same was a double assessment.

The tax of \$4000.00 on mortgages assessed against the Geraldine Hotel Company of Lewistown for the reason that the same was a double assessment.

The tax of \$3832.00 on mortgages assessed against Leet & Bergeson of Geraldine, for the reason that the same was a double assessment.

The tax of \$3000.00 on mortgage which was paid prior to March 1st, 1915 and should not have been assessed, assessed against Walter Cooper, Fort Benton.

The monthly report of the County Treasurer for the month ending October 31, 1915, was examined, approved and ordered filed. Said report showing the following balance to the credit of the several county funds, to-wit:

General Fund - - - - -	\$4309.96
Road Fund- - - - -	-1271.32
Poor Fund- - - - -	-1874.01
Bridge Fund- - - - -	-2899.90
Contingent Fund- - - - -	-5498.95
County Sinking Fund- - - - -	-4777.07
Institute Fund - - - - -	124.35
High School Fund - - - - -	-2285.40
High School Refunding Account- - - - -	-6028.27
Public Library Fund- - - - -	223.44
Total County funds on hand Oct. 31, 1915.	\$ 29282.67

At 5:00 o'clock P.M. the Board adjourned until November 2nd, 1915.

G C Ihmsen
Chairman

Lester M Bond
County Clerk

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November 2nd, 1915.

Second day.

The Board met at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Present G.C.Ihmsen, Chairman, O.F.Tate and F.H.McGowan