

County Commissioners—Appropriations for Advertising Resources of County—Advertising a County's Resources.

Board of County Commissioners may appoint the Secretary of the Board to gather data and statistics and to have general supervision of the work of advertising the county's resources but the entire matter and general supervision must be directed and controlled by the Board and claims for work and material must be presented and allowed as other claims against the county.

Jan. 15th, 1918.

Mrs. E. M. Niles,
County Attorney,
Livingston, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of recent date submitting the following question:

"Chap. 70 of the Laws of Montana for 1909, and Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of said Chapter provide that the County Commissioners on receiving petition may make certain appropriations for advertising the resources of the County. I wish to ask whether the Board has a right to make this appropriation upon petition, and to make payment to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of this County, authorizing him to expend the money for advertising purposes, and authorizing him to secure the data for that purpose and in fact to expend the money as the Chamber of Commerce may see fit, along the line of advertising as contemplated by this Chapter."

By the provision Sec. 5 of said act, upon the filing of a proper petition the board is authorized to make an appropriation from the General Fund of the county for the purpose of advertising certain resources of the county. Section 6 provides that where an appropriation has been made as authorized by Sec. 5, the Board of County Commissioners may appoint some suitable person to gather data and statistics, and compile and have printed pamphlets or folders of the size and character provided for in Section 1.

Reading this Act in connection with the general powers and duties of the board, I am of the opinion that your question must be answered in the negative.

The board may appoint the Secretary of the Board to gather data and statistics and to have direct supervision of the work, but the entire matter and general supervision must be directed and controlled by the board and claims for work and material must be presented and allowed as other claims against the county.

Respectfully,

S. C. FORD,

Attorney General.