

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING
February 17, 1981

The meeting was called to order by JACK K. MOORE, CHAIRMAN at 5:05 p.m. in Room 104. All Committee members were present except Rep. Gene Donaldson, Sen. Himsl, Sen. Haffey, and Sen. Thomas. BOB ROBINSON, Legislative Fiscal Analyst was also in attendance.

Testimony was given by Rep. Dan Oberg, HB 497; Mr. Gerald Miller, Harlowton National Guard; Dave Piper, Harlowton Chamber of Commerce; Joe Bridges, National Guard; David Rice, Havre Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Tony Hagener, Hill County Commissioner; Jay Glen, Havre; James Keeler, Havre National Guard; Major Walsh, Helena National Guard; Col. Keim, Helena National Guard; Phil Hauck, Director of Architecture and Engineering.

THE CHAIRMAN asked to discuss first HB 497 with REP. OBERG, Sponsor, and then the Department of Administration.

HB 497

REP. OBERG gave a brief overview on the need to use Long Range Building to replace National Guard Armories. He noted the two in the state that were in the worst condition would be the Harlowton and the Havre facilities.

MR. MILLER, Editor of the Harlowton news, stated besides being the editor, he is also the Commander in the Army National Guard. He stated it is necessary to have a new National Guard armory in Harlowton because this will have an impact on maintaining a viable military unit, and also because he feels the National Guard in Montana deserves public support. He gave a brief history of the Armory in Harlowton, involving the construction of a garage facility in 1956 built entirely with federal funds. See Exhibit A.

MR. PIPER, Bank President at Harlowton, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce stated with the railroad leaving last year around April, everyone felt this would affect the economy, but the Harlowton bank grew 18% in one year, and had the highest percent increase out of 4 banks in that area. He stated they are not a dying community and do not plan on being. He feels one of their drawing cards is the hospital and the schools, and he feels there is a great need for a new National Guard Armory in both Harlowton and Havre.

MR. BRIDGES, Harlowton Unit member, stated in the last 12 months, they have enlisted 12 members with 6 year obligations. Their current strength is at 79%. Their strength will be at 85% by May 1. He stated they are a very viable unit and have only lost 2 members in the National Guard as a result of the Milwaukee Railroad deletion.

MR. RICE, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee for the Havre Chamber of Commerce, explained why Havre should have a new National Guard Armory. He noted the current armory is located in the basement of Northern Montana gymnasium. There is quite an inadequate space for 85 members of the Guard, plus no control over the heat. Another problem is that the current lease runs out in 1983, and there is strong indication that the lease will not be renewed. There is strong favorable community support for this project, and the land has been committed by the Hill County Commissioners for the new facility. He stated recently the 396 station hospital in the Army Reserve has established a satellite unit in Havre, which now has 115% strength. They need a facility, and they propose to combine a facility that not only the National Guard can use, but also the U.S. Army Reserve. He stated this combination has been endorsed by Rep. Marlenee.

MRS. HAGENER, Hill County Commissioner, stated she does support HB 497, and would concur with everything Mr. Rice has stated. The County Commissioners have felt this project is important enough to donate a piece of land for the construction of the new Armory. She stated the intent of the Commissioners would be to deed 4 acres of land, but she did not have all the information in regard to this.

MR. GLEN, Motor Sergeant for Havre unit, stated the current facility that maintains the equipment for combat readiness is very difficult to work in. The shop facilities are very inadequate and small, and moisture constantly runs through the shop whenever it rains.

MR. KEELER, Havre National Guard Administrator, explained the problem with the current location in regard to lack of heat control, and maintenance problems. There are no classrooms in the building, 2 offices, and a 10 x 10 kitchen. The biggest room is the supply room and no one is allowed in. There is no place to sit down and eat, and the Unit has been constantly reprimanded for its lack of storage space.

MAJ. WALSH stated since the passage of the Dick Act in 1903, the federal government has paid most of the share for the National Guard Armory. The figures in Montana represent 97% of all costs associated with the National Guard. He stated they have been around 343 years and the organization has a federal and state mission. Economically, the Guard's bring in annually \$30,000,000 of federal money to the state. Any unit around 100 will average \$150,000 to \$200,000 of business to the state. He summed up

his testimony by reading a quote from a North Dakota newspaper regarding the importance of supporting the local National Guard units. He stated in FY 79, out of the general fund appropriations for the support of the Montana National Guard was \$602,000, matched against that amount was 97% Federal Boarder fees, and most of this federal money was in the form of payrolls. He stated using the multiplying effect and rolling that money around as presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Guard has brought into Montana around \$3,000,000.

REP. OBERG stated he feels the Legislators in the past have realized the need for a new Armory in Havre and Harlowton. He stated both communities support these projects and Havre already has their land. In Havre having the hospital unit brought in will be very important, and as soon as the contract is signed, he will be able to make amendments to the bill by having more money revert back to the general fund in rent payments from the Army Medical Unit. He noted that the schedule for replacing these Armories has fallen behind, and other communities in the future will also suffer if something isn't done at this time. He stated building costs will not be any lower at a future time, so the time to start the construction is now.

THE CHAIRMAN asked what the strength was for the Havre unit.

MR. GLEN stated the Havre unit is currently at 82% strength, and is a 77 man unit. This is an Armored and Calvary Unit.

MR. BRIDGES stated that Harlowton is a 60 man unit, and is currently at 78.3% strength. This is an Artillery Unit.

THE CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Hauck if there were plans drawn for these units, and if not why they couldn't use a standard set of plans.

MR. HAUCK stated that there are no set of plans at this time, He noted some of the Armories in the past are not considered adequate for security, energy and storage. He would like to caution that it is easily said to use standard plans, but once you get down to actually designing the units, there are many changes needed because of the difference in the units.

REP. BARDANOUE asked what money was used for the Havre unit at Northern Montana College.

COL. KEIM stated 25 years ago that facility was built, and 25% share of army money was used. At that time the college wanted to build a gymnasium so everyone pooled their money to build the existing facility. He noted if the Guard moves, their portion will revert back to Northern Montana College. He stated whenever

an Armory is built, it is necessary to enter into a State-Federal Agreement which is an intent to use in the facility for a period of 25 years.

REP. HURWITZ asked if the land was being provided for the Armory in Harlowton. COL. KEIM stated two years ago they did have the land, which was owned by the federal government. The time for using the land was up 1 year ago, and it was put up for bids. He noted they did not have a plan for the funds available at that time, so the Guard could not purchase the land so it was sold. He feels if the Bill is passed and the appropriations are made for the fund, the Harlowton Chamber of Commerce and County Commissioners will do everything they can do to obtain the land perhaps on a trade basis.

MR. HAUCK stated he has just received word from the Montana National Guard that the federal National Guard Bureau has presented the state with a \$615,000 grant to put an addition on the Armory in Butte. He stated this building would have to be authorized by the Legislature.

COL. KEIM read Exhibit B to the Committee. He noted there would be no state funds involved in this, and the A&E fees would be funded by the federal government. He stated this proposal would double the existing space at Butte, and he would be happy to get more information back to the Committee on the Reserve share against maintenance, etc. He stated the Army Reserve and the National Guard will be able to use the new facility on different week-ends, but both units will be able to use the facility. He stated there are 5 acres which were donated to the state for this facility.

MR. KEELER stated this concept would not work the same way in Havre as it did in Butte, because Butte is a Unit and Havre is a satellite unit. The Havre Unit is going to try for a separate detachment status, and he is not sure if they can do this or not.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

MR. HAUCK explained Replace Roofs #6 and the money referred to is the Capitol Land Grant Fund, which is the fund for construction and preservation of the capitol complex. The specific roofs are the rough shingle roof on the Agriculture building which \$12,000 is earmarked for that project. The roof area is 4,400 square feet and would estimate at \$175 per square foot. The other item is the old portion of the Veteran's Memorial building roof, and from the \$58,000 earmarked revenue besides the roof this would include insulation for energy conservation purposes.

Replace Elevator #30 relates to repairing and updating the elevator in the old liquor warehouse. He noted the old elevator can not even be repaired and has been condemned, so they are requesting to completely replace the elevator, at \$55,000 which would again relate to the Capitol Land Grant Fund.

THE CHAIRMAN asked about the old surplus property building, and if the GSA is trying to charge some money for the old building.

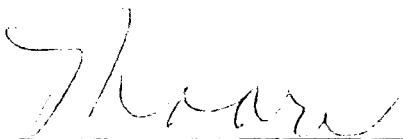
MR. HAUCK stated they are trying to sell it, but the state doesn't want to buy it. Their asking price is \$265,000, and at this time the state is not sure what they want to do with it. The state is considering abandoning it and giving it back to the government.

REP. BARDANOUE stated he has talked to the Department of Administration and he feels the federal government will let the state use the building at no charge, as long as the state does not charge the federal government for any use of any other area. So this is a trade off.

MR. O'CONNEL stated at this time they are not sure the federal government will go with this option, but it is presently being pursued.

MR. HAUCK explained Handicapped Accessibility #10, which would request \$100,000 from the Capitol Land Grant fund. He noted the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 dictated that all public buildings be accessible and usable by the handicapped. He stated rather than asking for several million at once, they have developed a program to continue the accessibility from year to year. He noted this \$100,000 would be used to modify toilets for the use of the handicapped in the old Highway building, the Justice Building, and a few toilets in the Capitol Building. He feels this is a token amount of money to be used to put the money where it will do the most good. He noted this is a continuing effort to meet the federal requirements, and there are around 1,500 state buildings that encompass these requirements.

There being no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



JACK K. MOORE, Chairman

My name is Gerald Miller. I am the publisher of a weekly newspaper in Harlowton. I have been a lifelong resident of Harlowton. I am also a commander in the Montana Army National Guard.

My purpose in testifying on this bill is two-fold. First of all, a new armory building is important to the National Guard unit in Harlowton because of the impact it will have on maintaining a viable military unit (with secondary benefits also accruing to the City of Harlowton), and secondly because I believe the National Guard program in Montana is deserving of public support -- much more than it has received in the past.

If you look at the history of the National Guard in Montana, you will find its parallel in Harlowton. A unit was first organized in Harlowton in 1927 -- an Infantry company known as Company "H." The unit was organized and active until September 16, 1940 when the entire National Guard was mobilized for World War II.

Company H was reorganized in December 1946, and a unit has remained in Harlowton since that time.

Company H drilled in the American Legion hall when it was first organized, and in the late 1930's moved to another rented hall which was occupied until mobilization.

In 1946 the newly reorganized unit occupied a basement under a hardware store until 1950 when a garage facility was constructed. That garage building has served as an armory since that time. The garage building was built entirely with federal funds.

To this date, no State of Montana funds have been expended on construction of an armory in Harlowton.

Over these 54 years the public has laid many demands on the National Guard. In the years between the two World Wars the military -- including the National Guard -- was held in low regard. As war became more imminent, the public became more insistent that the military rise to the call and be prepared to defend this nation. The National Guard answered that call.

Since reorganizing after World War II, the National Guard has been called on to restore peace at a prison riot, to provide emergency services in a number of disasters including forest fires and floods, and to replace striking state employees at the public institutions. Harlowton Guardsmen were among those who served on four forest fires, two floods in Harlowton, and at

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the Boulder River Hospital two years ago.

These men -- and their counterparts from all around the state -- have not only served, the HAVE SERVED WELL! Many of them took on this type of service at a great sacrifice to themselves and to their families. They accepted it because it was their duty and a responsibility that came with membership in the National Guard.

National Guardsmen are paid for their services. They are seldom thanked, particularly in public.

What does a National Guardsman get who is a member of the unit in Harlowton?

He gets to go to drill in a garage building that is referred to as an "armory." It is constructed of cement blocks and is now 30 years old. It is situated on a high hill and receives full benefit of the rapidly circulating fresh air that is rather common in our area. Somehow the fresh air seems to miss the armory, but the dust storms manage to penetrate every crack in the building and it almost seems the roof is supported by a constantly moving cloud of dust at times. White glove inspectors are in seventh heaven in the building because there is no way the building and equipment can be kept clean.

The building has two large overhead garage doors, one in front and one at the side of the building. They permit easy access of large items of equipment. They also make it impossible to heat the building. Montana Power bills are now in the neighborhood of \$800 per month in the winter -- and this is in spite of the fact that no attempt is made to heat the building except on drill weekends. The rest of the time they only maintain enough heat to keep equipment from freezing on the drill floor, and the orderly room is heated.

Because this facility was constructed as a garage, it did not contain any classroom space, and only one tiny office. A secure vault area for storage of weapons and critical items was not included in the original building, nor was there any storage area for individual equipment of soldiers such as sleeping bags, tents, mess gear, gas masks, etc. .

What was the solution? Down through the years the Harlowton Guardsmen have worked -- as volunteers -- to construct many of these items themselves. Usually the state has scrounged funds to purchase materials. The labor was donated. Because of their contribution, a so-called "vault" area was created in an upstairs corner. I say so-called "vault" because I guarantee you that with two good men to help me, I could penetrate that wooden enclosure

and remove 50 M-16 rifles, 5 pistols and four machine guns in less than 15 minutes. There are also four sets of night vision goggles in that room which cost about \$8,000 a copy.

Where does the unit store supply items that are not in everyday use?? Again, the unit members donated their time and labor to construct an overhead storage area above the drill floor, accessible only by ladder -- to hold those items.

The unit cooks work in a "kitchen area" that was built by the cooks which is 8 feet wide and about 24 feet long. They did their own plumbing and electrical work.

The unit mechanics partitioned off a corner of the drill floor to use as a storage area for vehicle tools and small equipment.

The unit communications men built a small room in a back corner to store the radios and telephones.

Three full time men share the office space during weekdays. They also partitioned off a small corner for the unit commander to use as his office, a space that is about 8 feet square.

The structure is not in good shape. When it was originally constructed, it was not properly engineered and the cement slabs were poured out on the bare ground without proper footings being poured first. Because of that, it was necessary to excavate the northwest corner about 15 years ago, pour a new footing, and replace most of the blocks in that corner to keep the building together.

Now the southeast corner and the central part of the west side of the building are experiencing the same type of damage -- the base of the building is giving away and the blocks are separating. The unit called for estimates six weeks ago and repair of the walls, insulating the building and a few minor repair items that have to be done, received an estimate of more than \$38,000. That does not create a secure vault area, does not build any classrooms; it only amounts to "stopgap" measures.

Classroom space for this unit is obtained by renting two classrooms from the elementary school which is located ½ block away from the armory. The soldiers get to sit in grade school children's desks while being instructed.

Many outsiders look on Harlowton as a "disaster area" because of the recent loss of the Milwaukee Railroad. I live there and I can assure you we are NOT a disaster area. We have lost some people -- we have had many other new people move into the area.

The National Guard unit has lost some people -- they have gone out and found new members. The unit knew they had to have a strength of 85% in order to get an armory funded with federal funds. Right now they are at 79% and will hit 80% as soon as the Social Security people see fit to give a young man his Social Security number. They are still beating the bushes and there is no doubt that the unit will have more than 85% of their strength before May 1st.

The important fact to remember here is that the unit has not gone out and found "ghosts" to put on the payroll to make the figures look good. They are bringing in young high school age men who are incurring six year military obligations. This means that the unit strength will be viable for years to come.

As a commander, I am ashamed to require as much of the troops under my command as I sometimes do. The Regular Army, the State of Montana and the public are not hesitant to tell us what they want done -- and they do not care how it is accomplished. We are restricted by budget limitations, training requirements that have to be met, and in a variety of other ways. Yet each demand has to be met or we "catch it in the neck."

As a commander, I sit before you and tell you that I am proud of the men in my command. Every one of them does more than is required. Each of them exhibits pride in belonging to the National Guard, and more particularly in being a member of his hometown unit. They are proud because they are civilians at heart, and part-time soldiers because they believe in what they are doing.

I believe the people of the State of Montana have an obligation to every unit of the National Guard -- and to every individual soldier in the National Guard. That obligation is to provide him with the things necessary to build and encourage their pride in the military. Those men and women will repay every dime invested by the state a thousandfold.

Federal funds are available for construction of an armory in Harlowton. I believe the State of Montana has an obligation to fund its 25% share of that building proposal and count it as one more positive step towards encouraging the growth and maintenance of a viable and needed resource in our great state.

I believe the National Guard unit in Harlowton has proven itself in more than 50 years as a valuable asset to its community and state. The economics of repair costs on the present facility, plus high monthly maintenance expenses and a totally unsuitable building certainly place emphasis on construction of a new armory in Harlowton.

Harlowton

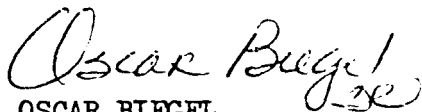
Office of the Mayor

February 17, 1981

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On behalf of the City of Harlowton, I wish to make it known that we are extremely interested in seeing a new armory built for the National Guard unit. The officers and men of this unit have been an important part of our community for about 50 years and they have always been available to help the public in any way they could. Their help was especially beneficial during two different floods in our city and while they weren't officially put on active duty for those occasions, they responded as an organized body and our citizens suffered a lot less damage and loss because of their work.

In preliminary discussions on the proposed new armory, our City Council has agreed that the city would cooperate in every possible way in connecting the building to existing sewer facilities and in any other way that we can be of assistance.


OSCAR BIEGEL
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS



TED SCHWINDEN GOVERNOR

PO BOX 4789

STATE OF MONTANA

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

HELENA, MONTANA 59604

NG-FAC

17 February 1981

Department of Administration
ATTN: Div Arch & Eng
1500 - E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Gentlemen,

I am forwarding herein a copy of a letter from Department of The Army, Office of The Chief Army Reserve, requesting that the State initiate design for an addition to the National Guard Armory in Butte.

Department of Defense Directors, and Public Law, dictate, that whenever a facility requirement exists for two or more Military Reserve Units in the same locality, then the units shall either jointly build, or construct additions, whichever is in the better interest of the Federal Government.

The Butte National Guard Armory is owned by the State of Montana and is on five acres of land which was donated to the State.

The proposed addition to the Armory, will accommodate the 841st Ordnance Company, U.S. Army Reserve, stationed in Butte. The unit has an "on board" strength of 69 personnel.

The cost for the Butte Armory addition is estimated at \$615,000.00 per project documents attached and will be funded 100% by the Federal Government, to include architect/engineer services. State administrative costs will also be funded by the Federal Government.

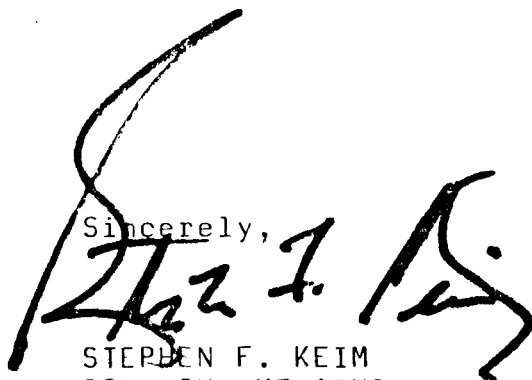
Title to the building remains with the State of Montana upon completion. All costs for maintenance and utilities will be pro-rated and shared by the National Guard and Army Reserve.

It is therefore requested that your office coordinate the necessary approval for this project. The project officer for this construction is Colonel Stephen Keim, 449-2779.

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NG-FAC, 17 February 1981

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Keim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

CC:
USAR
USPFO

STEPHEN F. KEIM
COL, IN, MT ARNG
Facilities Mgn't Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DAAR-CM

27 01 100

SUBJECT: Design Authorization, Expand AFRC, Butte, MT

The Adjutant General
State of Montana
ATTN: NG-FAC
P.O. Box 4789
Helena, Montana 59601

1. References:

a. Ltr, NGB-ARI, USAR Construction Requirements, Butte, MT, 23 Nov 79, with 1st Ind NG-FAC dated 14 Dec 79.

b. NGB-ARI, OCAR and FORSCOM Joint Construction Planning Conference, 2 Dec 80.

c. Ltr, DAAR-CM, USAR Construction Requirements, Butte, MT, 16 Dec 80, with 1st Ind, NG-FAC, 23 Dec 80.

2. Attached as Inclosure 1 are three copies of project documentation pertaining to expansion of the AFRC, Butte, MT to accommodate the USAR and construction of a maintenance facility.

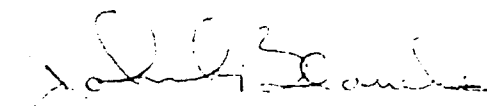
3. Request you initiate design for this project. We desire the State of Montana to be the design and future construction agent to include legal and technical review of the project design and related documents in accordance with reference 1c above. Channel for transfer of Federal funds must remain between you and the NGB and between the NGB and this agency. Appropriate amounts will be transferred upon request.

4. Point of contact for project development is LTC Donald R. Kelley, DAAR-CM, Telephone Number (202) 697-2753 (commercial) or 227-2753 (Autovon).

FOR THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE:



CF. See attached.


JOHN G. BLANCHE III
Colonel, GS
Chief, Construction
Management Office

