

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

April 16th, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from April 9th, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 12:20 p.m.

Wahlstrom informed the commissioners that she and co-director Shannon Washburn will be attending the 2024 Montana Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place from Wednesday 4/17 through Saturday 4/20 in Butte.

Wahlstrom has indicated that Story Time for the Season will conclude at the end of May, and the library will transition to its summer reading program.

Wahlstrom relayed to the commissioners, she is closely monitoring the legislature's progress on HB91, which pertains to state funding for libraries. This legislation is expected to enhance funding for various library services, including Hoopla Audio services, hotspots, and other essential programs. On the morning of April 17, 2024, Wahlstrom and Washburn will join other library directors from across the state in meeting with the State Library Commissioners. They have already submitted a letter outlining how this increased funding would impact the Meagher County City Library.

Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer Kusek presented the Commissioners with the new quarterly report from US Bank. Kusek also presented the Commissioners with the March Treasurer Cash sheet for signature.

Cemetery Report – Angie Evans & Kathy Palmer

Cemetery Board Member Kathy Palmer entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Palmer informed the Commissioners that the board has hired an interim Cemetery Sexton. Palmer gave the Commissioners a letter of interest from Tamra Bears for the Cemetery Board.

Document # 150546 Page: 1 of 4

Recorded at 4:45 PM on 5/7/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By _____

Palmer informed the Commissioners the board has received three proposals for removing the dead trees in the cemetery.

Resolution FY23.24 #85

Commissioner Galt moved to appoint Tamra Bears to the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Grassy Mountain ROA Taxes – Anthony Perrone

Anthony Perrone and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chamber at 1:50 p.m.

Perrone informed the Commissioners about the increase of property taxes on the residents of Grassy Mountain in the last couple of years. Perrone appealed to the Commissioner on behalf of the Grassy Mountain Residents, requesting that the County maintain all roads in the Grassy Mountain Subdivision. However, the Commissioners unanimously declined the request, emphasizing that when the subdivision was established, it was explicitly communicated that Meagher County would not be able to provide substantial services in such a remote location. Perrone stated there is 2.3 acres owned by the Grassy Mountain Ranch Owners Association (GMRA) that he is proposing be donated to the County for the purpose of constructing a Fire Building. Attorney Hurwitz stated he is working with the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Although a board exists, they have yet to hold a meeting. Furthermore, the funds in the Grassy Mountain Fire Fund cannot be accessed until the Fire District convenes and determines how to allocate the money.

Area IV Agency on Aging – Gordon Doig

Gordon Doig and Beth Hunt entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Doig informed the Commissioners that he has stepped down from his position at the Area IV Agency on Aging. However, he will continue to volunteer as a driver. Hunt highlighted the numerous programs funded by the Area IV Agency on Aging. Representatives from Manhattan and Livingston are scheduled to visit at the end of the month to assess the operations of the Senior Center. The White Sulphur Springs Senior Center stands out as an exception. It Operates as a nonprofit, privately run facility. Hunt acknowledged that financial resources are stretched thin. She emphasized the need to prioritize services for the aging population in Meagher County. There is growing apprehension among seniors about driving out of town for groceries and appointments, it is crucial to address their needs. Notably, within the town itself, 21% of the population is aged 65 and over.

2nd Public Hearing Subdivision Regulations

No Public Comment

Resolution FY23.24 #86

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Subdivision Regulations. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Southwestern Montana Insurance Center – Julie Blockey

Julie Blockey attended via Zoom

Blockey presented the Commissioners with a proposal from United Health Care. The United Health Care proposal has similar plans to what our current provider offers with lower premiums and deductibles. United Health Care also has a Good Health Incentive Program, that will reward employees for engaging in health activities.

Election Camera Discussion – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 3:25 p.m.

