

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

April 5th, 2022

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from March 15th, 2022. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Human Resources – Building Maintenance/ Treasurer Assistant – Dayna Ogle:

Human Resource Officer Dayna Ogle and Maintenance Supervisor Bill Dutton entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m. Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 1:15 p.m.

Ogle updated the Commissioners that Maintenance Supervisor Bill Dutton has been with the County 6 months. Commissioners, Ogle, and Dutton discussed the end of the probationary period, the requirements for the Maintenance Supervisor position, and wage. Commissioners decided to extend the probation of Maintenance Supervisor three (3) months to allow for more time to acquire a Low-Pressure System Boiler License.

Graham and the Commissioners discussed current workload of the Treasurer's Office and the staffing needs of the office. It was determined that the Treasurer's Office will run with two full-time employees and utilize Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand to assist the office on an as needed basis.

HRDC – Housing Study – Tracy Menez:

HRDC representatives Tracy Menez and Lyla Fleishman, Mayor Rick Nelson, City Council member Ron Coleman, Treasurer Shannon Graham, Cal Moore, and Jackson Rose entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Menez opened discussion with introducing Lyla Fleishman to those present and presented the *Housing Action Plan Process*. Menez and Fleishman discussed the next procedural steps within Phase 2, the public outreach, and the current application of work Fleishman is facilitating in Livingston, Montana with their *Housing Action Plan*. Lengthy discussion took place with all present about the work completed in Phase 1 of the Housing Needs Assessment, the current housing issues within Meagher County and City of White Sulphur Springs, concerns about private market investment, practical application of solutions during Phase 2, and costs associated to the City of White Sulphur Springs and the County for Phase 2 of the project. Menez stated during discussion that to complete Phase 2 of Study the cost would be \$15,000; \$7,500 per governmental entity.

Commissioners tabled decisions on funding Phase 2 of the Housing Project until further notice.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint Report for March 2022. Lopp updated the Commissioners on the scheduling of interviews for the Dispatch Position and Deputy Wilson's K9 Training Course in North Carolina. Lopp requested a \$1.00 per hour pay increase for Deputy Wilson due to the addition of K9 Handler duties.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #70

Commissioner Brewer moved to increase Deputy Wilson's wage by \$1.00 per hour for the additional duties as a K9 Handler starting in March 27th, 2022. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Open Sealed Bids – 2018 Polaris Ranger XP – Lee Zehntner:

Weed Department Supervisor Lee Zehntner entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Zehntner opened the single sealed bid for the 2018 Polaris Ranger XP; Nate Ogle bid \$7,551.00 for the Ranger. Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #71

Commissioner Brewer moved to accept the bid of \$7,551.00 from Nate Ogle for the 2018 Polaris Ranger XP. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Commissioners and Zehntner discussed specific hauling needs of the department and the ideal truck equipment for the department. Lee stated he will provide the Commissioners with a recent truck list from the State Surplus office.

Cemetery & American Legion Update – Jerami West:

Jerami West entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

West reported to the Commissioners that he resigned from the Meagher County Cemetery Board effective date March 30th, 2022. West asked the Commissioners if the County would maintain the flags flown on the three main flag poles at the cemetery per an old agreement held between the American Legion Post #25 and the Cemetery. Commission stated they will maintain the American Flag, State Flag, and POWA Flag. Commissioners and West discussed the extension of the area for the Avenue of Flags and the work that the Legion is completing with the Veterans Affairs Office. West ended discussion with presenting a letter from the Cemetery Board regarding a wage increase for Cemetery Sexton Amanda Clayton. Commissioners tabled discussion.

Road/Fire Report – Jake Kusek:

Road Supervisor/Volunteer Fire Chief Jake Kusek entered at 4:00 p.m.

Kusek updated the Commissioners on the MACRs conference and gravel crushing. Commissioners and Kusek discussed crushing gravel in the Lennep and Martinsdale area and county roads that need gravel. Kusek requested a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for Roy Goleman due to satisfactory performance during the six (6) month probation period. Commissioners made the following the decision.

ACTION #4

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #72

Commissioner Brewer moved to increase Roy Goleman's wage by \$1.00 per hour for satisfactory served probation starting March 27th, 2022. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Kusek then updated the Commissioners about the grass fire that took place in Ringling on Sunday April 3rd, 2022. Kusek and the Commissioners then discussed the maintenance of the fire trucks, installation of the recently purchased fire bed, and the weather outlook for the upcoming Fire Season.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #59022 through Check #59046 totaling \$23,874.41. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 12th, 2022.

Tuesday
April 12th, 2022
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Minutes from April 5th, 2022. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Southwest Financial – Health Insurance Renewal – Julie Blockey:

Human Resource Officer Dayna Ogle, Clerk of Court Candi Richardson, Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy, and Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m. Julie Blockey attended the meeting via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Blockey went through the 2022 Benefit Guide page by page with all present and stated that Meagher County saw an average 5% increase to the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. Discussion took place on the benefits within each offered policy, prescription drug coverages under the offered plans, and current inflation rates being seen within medical markets.

Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. and Kim Frisbie R.N. entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with the Health Report for March 2022. Kerr opened discussion with introducing Kim Frisbie to the Commission. Kerr updated that during March 2022 Meagher County had no resident cases of COVID 19. Also, that Mountainview Medical Center has recently acquired a PCR Test Processing Machine to help process COVID19 tests that

were originally being transported to the State Lab. Kerr and the Commissioners discussed the funding for the Disease Intervention Specialist position, the purchasing of Inreach GPS unit for Meagher County Health Office instead of a satellite phone, and local vaccination clinics.

Board of Health:

Board of Health Members present were Eva Kerr R.N., Mayor Rick Nelson, and Sandy Harris. Kim Frisbie R.N. was also present. Sanitarian Sean Hill was unable to attend.

Kerr stated that from January 2022 to March 2022 Meagher County had three (3) dog bites, 128 cases of COVID19, one (1) COVID19 related death, six (6) cases of influenza A, and one case of Influenza B. All present discussed the availability of the fourth (4th) COVID Vaccine Booster and varying reactions seen from the COVID Vaccine.

Mayor Nelson updated on the Willow Creek Water Shed and the current utilization of the two (2) city wells to provide water. All present then discussed the drought and predicted weather for the upcoming 2022 summer season.

Public Hearing – Meagher County Policy Change – Dayna Ogle:

Human Resource Officer Dayna Ogle, Treasurer Shannon Graham, and Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Ogle presented the current *Work from Home Policy* and the proposed Work from Home Policy and Work from Home Agreement. Commissioners, Ogle, Graham, and Plachy reviewed the proposed policy and agreement. Discussion took place about the feasibility of County Employees working from home, the approval process, and the criteria needed for an approval of a Work from Home Agreement. Commissioners requested that Ogle make changes to the presented draft and *Work from Home Agreement*.

Public Comment:

Food Bank Members Alvin Kujath, Bobbie Secrest, Karen Coleman, and Carl Hunt entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m. Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 3:45 p.m.

Coleman updated the Commission that damages have occurred to the flooring of the Food Bank area from a freezer and will need to be replaced or covered. Coleman then presented a cost estimate from Western Sky Construction and pictures of recent damages. All present discussed the damages, a cost estimate from Western Sky Constructions, and who would pay for the repairs. Commissioners instructed Coleman to move forward with the necessary repairs and that

Ogle will submit a claim to insurance for the damages. The Food Bank offered to help offset the cost of the deductible or share the cost if the claim was denied.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #59047 through Check #59065 totaling \$39,699.92. Claim Check #59058 was Voided due to incorrect amount. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 19th, 2022.

Tuesday
April 19th, 2022
12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from April 5th, 2022. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 12:45 p.m.

Plachy updated the Commissioners that on Wednesday April 27th, 2022 the Secretary of State Christi Jacobson will be coming to Meagher County to see how elections are facilitated and how the parallel testing of the MT Votes Software is progressing.

Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom:

Interim Librarian Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Wahlstrom updated the Commissioners on the current transitions with staffing at the Library and the ideal staffing positions for the library. Ideal staffing would be part-time clerks, a cleaner, and part-time Library Director. Wahlstrom also updated the Commissioners about the upcoming Summer Reading Program starting June 1st, 2022 and that the library will be hosting the photographs of Jacob Cowgill in Summer of 2022.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul:

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Paul presented the Commissioner with an Extension report for March/April 2022. Paul updated the Commissioners on the upcoming 4H Camp in June 2022, the MSU Extension Pesticide Education Update she attended, and her upcoming speaking opportunities at Judith Basin and Cascade County's Private Applicator Trainings. She also stated that Extension and Meagher County 4H will have booths at the Meagher County Community Expo on April 23rd, 2022. Paul and the Commissioners discussed the Private Applicator Training that took place on Monday April 18th, 2022.

Hard Rock Mining Impact Annual Report – Jackson Rose:

Jackson Rose, Mayor Rick Nelson, Nancy Schlepp entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Rose presented the Commissioners with a Preliminary Report and stated that the final report will be sent to the Commissioners the last week of April 2022. Rose explained the *2022 Survey Results* and how results correlated to impacts within Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs. Discussion took place about the Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan, the remaining Hard Rock Mining Impact payments available to the County and City, and the potential for extensions on the Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan payments due to recent events. Discussion ended on the recent ruling of Judge Bidergaray on the project and the next steps that Sandfire America – Black Butte Copper Project are pursuing. Schlepp stated that the Sandfire America – Black Butte Copper Project knew that the lawsuit would be appealed to the Montana Supreme Court and are hopeful that construction of the mine would only be delayed by one year at most.

Treasurer's Report – Shannon Graham:

Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Graham presented the Commissioners with a Delinquent Tax Report and the Harmon Trust Quarterly Report. Graham and the Commissioners discussed the delinquent tax report, balancing for March 2022, and the upcoming mailings of the Mobile Home Taxes.

Public Hearing – Meagher County Policy Change – Dayna Ogle:

Human Resources Officer Dayna Ogle, Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy, and Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the changes requested for the draft *Work from Home Policy* and two *Work from Home Agreements*. Ogle stated that instead of a full-page policy; Sub-

Section G. has been expanded to state times when a work from home policy would be acceptable or deemed necessary. Commissioners, Plachy, Graham, and Ogle discussed the presented policy and the two *Work from Home Agreements* and the language in the expanded Sub-Section G. Commissioners requested that a sentence be added to the agreements to state “*department heads and/or the Board of Commission have the right to terminate the agreement at any time.*” and to change “*teleworking*” in Section 2 to read “*Work from Home*”.

3rd Quarter Budget Review:

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with 3rd Quarter Budget, Cash, and Revenue Reports. Commissioners and Ogle discussed the funds that are 75% or more spent and the current revenues of varying funds. Ogle also stated that COLA for Fiscal Year 22.23 was released at 4.7%. Ogle and the Commissioners then started to plan for Fiscal Year 22.23 budget workshops.

Human Resources Update – Dayna Ogle:

Commissioners discussed the letter from the Cemetery Board received on April 5th, 2022. Commissioners declined the request for a wage increase for Cemetery Sexton Amanda Clayton and signed a letter with their decision to be sent to the Cemetery Board.

Ogle then updated the Commissioners about her appointments she made to meet with departments for inventory and job description updates.

Building Repairs – Sheriff Office:

Commissioners discussed hiring of Western Skies Construction to complete the repairs to the floor at the Food Bank in the basement of the Sheriff’s Office.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #73

Commissioner Brewer moved to hire Western Skies Construction for \$5,200 to complete repairs to the floor at the Food Bank in the basement of the Sheriff’s Office. Chair Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #59066 through Check #59094 totaling \$18,848.89. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022.