

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

December 19th, 2023

12:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from December 12th, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Building – Rosie Spaulding:

Building Maintenance, Rosie Spaulding entered the chambers at 1:02 p.m.

Spaulding informed the commission that during this time of year, sunlight enters the courtroom through the windows and affects the judge's visibility. She obtained quotes from The Blind Guy Custom Window Coverings for \$2,307.00. The blinds, are expected to arrive within 2-3 weeks. The 'Blind Guy' requires a 50% down payment for supplies, with the remaining balance due upon completion of the work.

ACTION #2

Resolution 23.24 #56

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to purchase the blinds for the court room from The Blind Guy Custom Window Coverings for \$2,307.00. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Spaulding addressed the commission regarding the building's rugs. She highlighted that Montana Linens has consistently increased the bill over the past few months. Spaulding explored the possibility of purchasing carpets instead of continuing to rent them. She has requested quotes from American Floor Mats, Express Mats and Montana Broom and Brush. Spaulding will choose the most economical choice. Since Spaulding intends to use existing budget funds for this purchase, no formal motion from the Commissioners is required.

Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom:

Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Wahlstrom presented the commissioners with a comprehensive handout detailing this year's library statistics. The Meagher County City Library was open for a total of 1404 hours this year. Wahlstrom stated 861 people in our community have library cards, which is more than half the

population. A grand total of 4,599 visitors walked through the library doors this year. The Meagher County City Library boasts an impressive collection of 1,140,036 items. Wahlstrom stated that the library lent 2,535 items and patrons borrowed 2,526 items through the Inter-library Loan (ILL) Program. Wahlstrom shared that the Meagher County City Library hosted 75 programs this year, benefiting a total of 1,153 patrons.

Cattle Guard Discussion – Rick Luther

Rick and Sam Luther, Doug and Diane Russel, Rachel Wahlstrom and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:45 p.m. Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers are 2:30 p.m.

The Luther's and Russel's came to discuss the cattle guard on Schendel Rd that was removed by the Road Department. Kusek removed the cattle guard after several complaints from residents in the Grassy Mountain Subdivision. The group discussed the circumstances leading up to the removal of the cattle guard including condition, ownership and prior maintenance. Commissioner Galt suggested further investigation into the cattle guard. The issue was tabled until the Commissioners meet on January 2nd 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Paul updated the Commissioners on 4-H enrollment, which concluded on the December 15th for returning members. Currently there are 64 members including 21 new participants. Paul stated the 4-H council met on December 14th and is exploring the installation of gutters and snow breaks for the newly constructed 4-H barn. Paul stated the 4-H council approved the purchase of Fair Entry software, streamlining fair-related processes. Paul stated discussions are underway regarding a Bair Grant application for the purchase of shooting sports equipment and a collaboration with the local shooting range is also being considered. 4-H will be hosting a Demonstration Competition and Stir-Ups Contest in the new year. Currently 12 members have signed up for steer projects this year. Steers must be in participants possession on January 1st of each year.

Paul stated that she and Meg Rowe will be hosting a Senior Fitness Program. An informational meeting will be held on January 8th at the Senior Center to gauge interest. The Program will run for 12 weeks with 2 sessions each week at Stone Temple Fitness. Classes are being held through the Adult Education Program.

Paul stated the MSU Extension Community Vitality Update will be hosted in White Sulphur Springs January 9th -11th. Agents attending will hear from several local businesses on what the community has done to revitalize the town.

Paul informed the commissioners that she is applying for a Geospatial Skills Camp grant aimed at Rural Montana Youth through Montana State University. This transformative camp will be hosted in five communities across Montana during June. Participants will gain valuable expertise in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), local problem-solving, and aerial imaging.

Paul is collaborating with key stakeholders, including White Sulphur Springs Schools, Black Butte Copper, the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Together, they are working to secure the grant and address local challenges.

Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

County Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 3:23 p.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the November cash report for signature.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #60983 through Check #61011 totaling \$18652.45. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.



CLERK & RECORDER



SEAL
MEAGHER COUNTY MONTANA
CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN



VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed January 2nd, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West