

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chairman Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chairman Rod Brewer, Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

**Claims Review / Minutes Review:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

**Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom**

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Wahlstrom stated the number of children who attend story time generally decreases from Thanksgiving until the first of the year. Because of this the library stops story time from November through New Years and will resume in January.

Wahlstrom stated the library was open during the White Sulphur Springs Christmas Stroll. Wahlstrom stated they counted approximately 340 people walked through the doors throughout the night. Santa and Mrs. Clause were at the library for children to get their picture taken and Friends of the Library provided several crafts for the children to participate in.

Wahlstrom stated she has not heard back from the construction company regarding the Ceiling repairs at the library.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Treasurer Maura Kusek presented the Commissioners with November's cash sheet for signature.

**Fire Reorganization Discussion**

White Sulphur Springs Mayor Rick Nelson, Secret Fire Solutions Jess Secrest, City Council Member Ron Frisbie, County Fire Chief Jake Kusek, County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, White Sulphur Springs Fire Chief Sam Peeler, Sheriff Jon Lopp, City Council Member Patty Berg, Clerk & Recorder Liv West, and Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Frisbie started the discussion by asking if the Commissioners were open to the idea of combining the City Volunteer Fire with County Volunteer Fire. Frisbie briefly touched on the City's aging vehicles and equipment. Secrest stated there is potential for increased grant appeal if the departments were combined. Kusek stated the training requirements are the same for both city and county volunteers. Peeler raised a question on whether the Firefighter Relief Fund would continue, this is a retirement fund for city volunteers. Other concerns include funding a

combined fire dept, liability insurance, and oversight of the new department with a part-time or possibly full-time employee. Questions on how the combined department could affect Meagher County ISO ratings were also raised. A follow up meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025.

### **Finance Report – Dayna Ogle**

Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Ogle discussed the impact of the Department of Revenues 2024 tax adjustment and subsequent refund on 3 wind turbines in Martinsdale.

Ogle and Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems presented information regarding AV Capture All to the Commissioners as a tool for recording Commission meetings and assisting Deems in creating Commission Agendas and minutes. AV Capture All offers three subscription levels. Deems is requesting a one-year trial of the basic level subscription at a cost of \$3000.

### **ACTION #2**

#### **Resolution FY 24.25 #45A**

Commissioner Brewer moved to purchase a one-year subscription of AV Capture All for \$3000. Commissioner Galt Seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ogle stated the Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Project is complete and the district allocated \$13,954 of their ARPA funding to help offset the cost of a single audit. Ogle requested this money be moved to the general fund and be used for the Single Audit.

### **ACTION#3**

#### **Resolution FY 24.25 #45**

Commissioner Galt moved to transfer \$13,954 from ARPA Fund (2991) into the General Fund (1000) to offset the cost of a Single Audit. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ogle informed the Commissioners that after the Department of Revenue (DOR) raised the exemption limit on Class 8 personal property taxes, HB212 supplemented Meagher County with \$12,509.50 in lost revenue. Ogle requested that money be disbursed to the appropriate funds identified by the DOR.

### **ACTION#4**

#### **Resolution FY 24.25 #46**

Commissioner Galt moved to transfer \$12,509.50 out of the Entitlement Reserve Cash Account (1000.107950) into Cemetery Fund (2240) \$233.21; General Fund Operating Cash (1000.101000) \$9,511.33; Mosquito Fund (2200) \$6.67; Road Fund (2110) \$2,659.84; Search & Rescue Fund (2382) \$17.15; Special Police (2191) \$81.30. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A Vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

### **Stahly Engineering -Greg Benjamin**

Stahly Engineer Greg Benjamin attended via Zoom.

Benjamin stated the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) contracted Stahly Engineering and HDR Engineering to help with implementing Senate Bill 536 which provides funding for reconstruction and repairs to local roads and bridges. Benjamin stated the meeting was to discuss Bridge #3654 in Martinsdale and to confirm the county is interested in MDT replacing the bridge, the county has not already engaged in design or construction efforts and the county does not have any grants for the bridge. MDT will send a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow MDT to perform work on a county bridge. Once that is complete MDT will

manage all aspects of the bridge replacement project. MDT will send out bid packets in 2025 and construction is expected to be complete in 2026.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #62172 through Check #62191 totaling \$36,371.89 and Electronic Check # -99746 through -99743 totaling \$4,856.64. All checks signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems  
Distributed Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West