

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

December 6th, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from November 15th, 2022.

Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Monthly Road Report – Jake Kusek:

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Kusek updated the Commissions on the installation of emergency lights on the Fire Chief/Road truck; truck will be available in January 2023. Kusek requested permission to place the Ford out for competitive bid to help off-set the cost of the light installation. Commissioners agreed to place the truck out for bid when the new truck is within possession.

Kusek then updated the Commissioners on the Fort Logan Gravel Pit. Kusek stated that gravel was found underneath ten (10) inches of top soil. The estimated area of the pit would be about seventeen (17) to eighteen (18) acres. Kusek is working with Eric Urban on the permit application to submit to DEQ.

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the November 2022 Complaint Report. Lopp and the Commissioners discussed the report. Lopp then updated the Commissioners on how the Ford Interceptor Patrol Vehicle is currently out of service due to engine issues. Lopp and the Commissioners discussed how the department is shifting vehicles between staff. One patrol vehicle is being repaired from a wildlife collision and should be back in service within the next two weeks. The new patrol vehicles are still waiting for radio and light installation to be completed at different locations. Discussion ended on a how the Sheriff Department, Fire Department, and Ambulance are looking into updating all emergencies vehicle radios for user compatibility. Lopp stated they are in the beginning stages of discussion and will look into grant options for the project.

Open Sealed Bids – 2019 Ranger XP – Lee Zehntner:

Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner at 10:00 a.m.

Zehntner opened the two (2) sealed bids received for the 2019 Ranger XP with attachments. The first bid was Greg Indreland for \$10,001.05 and the second bid was from Phil Rostad for \$8,700. The following motion was made.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #53

Commissioner Brewer moved to accept the highest bid from Greg Indreland for \$10,001.05 for the 2019 Ranger XP. Commissioner Hurwitz seconds the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Zehntner will contact Greg Indreland on his winning bid.

Zehntner and the Commissioners then discussed utilizing drone spraying for specific areas in the county for the 2023 season. This would assist the departments to spray in areas that are more difficult to reach by ground transportation.

Commissioners signed the Modification of Agreement with the United States Forest Service and the Meagher County Weed Department.

Black Mountain Software Tax Upload Discussion:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, Treasurer Shannon Graham, and Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m. Department of Revenue (DOR) personnel Kory Kofland, Carol Neal, Robin Rude, Jason Bogges, and Katie Kakalecik attended via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Commissioners asked how the DOR uploads special districts into the Meagher County's Black Mountain System and what differences occurred this year that deleted the Forest Fire Protection Fee. Rude explained how Meagher County is one of the few counties that the DOR uploads the DNRC Fire Protection Fee File into the Black Mountain System. Rude and Kakalecik stated that the file this year was uploaded in September 2022 and was removed when the Treasurer's Office uploaded the special district taxes/fees in October 2022. Rude stated that at this time it is believed that Meagher County's Black Mountain Assessor Module is configured differently than other counties. Discussion took place about how this special district fee is all handled through the DNRC office and how the County will need to collect/pay the fees to the DNRC office. The County and the DOR just serve as the collection point for the monies. Commissioners tabled any decision until further information about the program could be presented by the DNRC. During discussion Graham requested that the DOR please notify the Meagher County Treasurer's Office whenever files are uploaded to ensure this error doesn't occur in the future. Discussion ended on how the Meagher County Treasurer's Office, DOR, and Black Mountain Software need to schedule a meeting to properly configure the Assessor portion of the program.

Cemetery Board Member Appointments:

Cemetery Board Member Mike Marion and Rosie Spaulding entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners were presented with three (3) applications for the two (2) vacant seats on the Cemetery Board.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #54

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to appoint Rosie Spaulding to the Meagher County Cemetery Board. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Commissioners then discussed the other applicants and decided to table appointing the other vacant seat until the December 13th, 2022.

Marion proposed to assist in winter burials until the Cemetery Sexton position is filled. Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #55

Commissioner Brewer moved to contract with Mike Marion at a rate of \$18.14 per hour until the Sexton position is filled. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Lunch

Building Improvements – Rosie Spaulding, Dayna Ogle, & Candi Richardson:

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle, Clerk of Court Candi Richardson, and Custodian Rosie Spaulding entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Spaulding presented the Commissioners with a cost estimate from Frontline Glass, cost estimates for blinds, and pictures of the existing windows in the courtroom and stairwell landing area. Richardson explained how the current windows and glass block have become a hinderance for District Court proceedings due to the light glare when using the Telecourt system. Also, with new windows would help in proper temperature control of the courtroom and dampen the street noise. Spaulding stated that the current single pane windows have started to create problems in the trim and the sills because of the condensation collection. Spaulding then explained that the cost estimate received from Frontline Glass is for the removal, installation, and cost of the windows; about \$49,705 in total. The estimate also includes an option of tinting the windows within the courtroom. Spaulding, Richardson, and Ogle discussed the cost comparisons of tinting the courtroom windows verse purchasing blinds; cost of either products was comparable. All present then discussed the pros and cons of blinds verse tinting. It was decided that tinted windows would be preferred. Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #56

Chair Townsend moved to grant Spaulding the ability to solicit bids for replacement of the windows and removal of the glass blocks in the Courtroom and the stairwell Landing. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Spaulding will present the phone solicitation at the December 13th, 2022 meeting and the Commission will make a final then.

New Ambulance – Request for Proposals:

Ogle presented the Commissioners with a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the behalf of the Ambulance Board. The RFP presented is for a 2023 or newer Type 1 Dodge 4x4 SLT 4500 Diesel Ambulance. The RFP will be sent via email to potential vendors along with being posted

in the Meagher County News. Commissioners will open the sealed requests for proposals at their January 3rd, 2023 meeting.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #57

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to submit a RFP for a 2023 or newer Type 1 Dodge 4x4 SLT 4500 Diesel Ambulance. Chair Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ogle will coordinate with the Ambulance Board on the advertising of the Request for Proposals of a new ambulance.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58 through Check #58 totaling \$. All Checks were signed as presented.


Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 13th, 2022.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand
Distributed December 13th, 2022 to Chairman Townsend, Vice Chair Brewer, and Commissioner Hurwitz, and Clerk & Recorder Plachy