

Tuesday
August 10th, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 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

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Minutes from August 3rd, 2021 with minor corrections. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz and Sheriff Lopp updated the Commissioners about the current fires' statuses, county areas with pre-evacuation notices, and a communication error by the Southern Area Incident Management Red Team. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that on August 7th, 2021 the *Needles Fire*, was created by the filing of a "209 Form" stating that a human caused fire had begun on the northeastern side of the Woods fire. In fact, it was a tactical back burn set by the Meagher County Volunteer Fire Department to stop the growing Woods Creek Fire from burning private range and structures. County Attorney Hurwitz and Sheriff Lopp are working with the Forest Service and DNRC to fix the error, retract the "209 form" that created the fire, and address the communication issues. Commissioners, County Attorney Hurwitz, and Sheriff Lopp discussed the upcoming switch from the Southern Area Incident Management Red Team, with Steve Parrish as the Incident Commander to the Rocky Mountain Team 1, with Dan Dallas as the Incident Commander that will be overseeing the American Fork, Divide Complex, and Woods Creek Fires.

Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with a Health Report for July 2021. Kerr updated the Commissioners about school vaccines, COVID 19 vaccination rates, and the current status of COVID 19 cases in the County. Kerr and the Commissioners discussed the current number of COVID 19 cases and future concerns of COVID 19 in the community.

Library Report:

Library Board Members Elton Lee, Betsy Hamman, Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle, and Library Director Jessica Ketola entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Lee stated to Commissioners that the board spoke with Paddock Heating and Cooling and he highly suggested the Mitsubishi split system for the library building. Lee, Hamman, Ketola, and the Commissioners discussed the benefits of the system and issues with the earlier proposed evaporative cooling system. Paddock Heating and Cooling gave a cost estimate of \$15,000 for two (2) Mitsubishi split systems with labor. Discussion then turned to the heating issue within the building. Ketola also received a cost estimate for the boiler upgrades totaling \$1,500 with labor. Commissioners, board members, Ketola, and Ogle discussed that the repairs would be paid out of the Library Depreciation Fund. Lee and Hamman stated that they would update the rest of the Library Board members at their scheduled meeting that evening.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul:

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Paul presented the Commissioners with a July 2021 report. Paul stated the Meagher County 4H fair had 43 members compete in multiple events. The 2021 4H sale gross sales totaled just over \$103,000 with beef averaging \$5.10/lb., hogs averaging \$6.75/lb., and lambs averaging \$9.00/lb. Indoor projects totaled \$15,675 of the sale. Paul and the Commissioners discussed the attendance of the sale, sponsors of the fair, and carcass grading that took place the week after the fair. Paul then updated the Commissioners about her outreach goals for 4H through presentations at the school and a night for interested families. Paul ended her update on producer programming for the fall of 2021 and her plan to introduce Reimaging Rural program in a series of programs beginning in September.

Public Comment:

HRDC Representative Tracy Menez entered the chambers at 12:00p.m.

Menez asked the Commissioners if they had any questions on the Draft Housing Study, or if they wanted any other materials for the meeting on August 17th, 2021. Menez also asked the Commissioners to reach out to HRDC for assistance as necessary from impacts of the wildfires.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58306 through Check #58330 totaling \$18,791.75. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, August 17th, 2021.

Tuesday
August 17th, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 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 Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from August 10th, 2021. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Road Report – Jake Kusek:

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the applications received for the road maintenance worker position and fall mowing of ditches.

Fire Report – Jake Kusek:

Kusek updated the Commissioners about the engine replacement occurring in one of the Fire UTV Units. Commissioners and Kusek discussed equipment issues seen during the current fire season, donations received from the community, and current fires statuses within the area.

Clerk & Recorder Report – Penny Plachy:

Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Plachy presented the Commissioners with her Clerk & Recorder Report. Plachy updated the Commissioners on the Clerk & Recorder's Conference that herself and deputy Liv West attended

last week, the Municipal General Election, and the Transportation Committee Meeting. Commissioners and Plachy discussed the concerns about the School District current need to employ 2 more bus drivers for the upcoming year.

Sanitarian Contract Review:

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N., Tara Wilson, and Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m. Sanitarian Sean Hill, Sanitarian Collette Anderson, and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Liv West appeared via ZOOM.

Anderson introduced herself to those present and explained her process of Septic Permit review. Commissioners and Anderson discussed the process of billing and the additional costs of site visits, if the permit review requires. Anderson stated that current certified installers have reached out about a yearly training. Commissioners requested the Plachy and Anderson reach out to the County Extension Agent Makayla Paul to setup a training.

Kerr and Hill gave a recap of the duties completed during the Red Ants Pants Music Festival and Hill included the establishments that he licensed or inspected. Commissioners, Hill, and Kerr discussed the proposed contract from Yellowstone Environmental Solutions and the coverage of services under the monthly retainer.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #12

Commissioner Hurwitz moves to contract services with Yellowstone Environmental Services for remainder of calendar year 2021 and the entire calendar year of 2022. Also, that Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. remain as the appointed Meagher County Health Officer until further discussion at the Board Health meeting scheduled on October 12th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Sean Hill will email an updated contract to Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand for signature and distribution.

Draft Housing Study Review – Tracy Menez:

HRDC Representative Tracy Menez, Jackson Rose, Mayor Rick Nelson, and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Menez went through a page by page explanation and discussion about the *Draft Housing Study*. Menez explained the main themes explored during the working group sessions, how HRDC collected data on housing conditions, the recommendations HRDC has for Meagher

County/White Sulphur Springs based on the collected data, and how the data correlates within phase 2 planning. Commissioners asked how the information learned within the *Draft Housing Study* would transfer into plans or hard results for community. Menez stated that Phase 2 would layout potential programs that could be utilized within Meagher County/White Sulphur Springs and that for future projection Meagher County/White Sulphur Springs will need between 114-122 housing units. At this time Menez felt rehabilitation programs and split housing units would target the needs of Meagher County/White Sulphur Springs. She also stated that she would include a section within the draft about the change in needs if local projected industries do not materialize.

Lunch

Cemetery Report – Mike Marion:

Cemetery Sexton Mike Marion, Cemetery Board Members Jerami West, Mike Wofford, Penny Plachy, and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Marion opened discussion with stating his last day as Cemetery Sexton would September 3rd, 2021. Commissioners, Marion, Wofford, Plachy, and West discussed equipment conditions at the cemetery, sprinkler system condition, replacement building ideas, wage of the position, and if Marion would be willing to help train the new Cemetery Sexton. Marion stated that he would be willing to help train and that he recommends replacement of one mower and the main line of the sprinkler system. Discussion took place about communication between the board, Sexton, and the Commissioners to ensure that needs of the cemetery are being addressed properly. Plachy stated the job advertisement in the Meagher County News.

Treasurer's Report – Shauna Porter:

Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand presented the Commissioners with the Cash Report for July 2021 on behalf of Treasurer Shauna Porter.

Public Comment:

JD Walker and Michele Walker entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. & Mrs. Walker presented the Commissioners with a donation check for Meagher County Emergency Services totaling \$3,000.00. Commissioners thanked the Walkers for their donation from their fundraiser.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58331 through Check #58365 totaling \$11,676.20. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 7th, 2021.