

Tuesday
December 1st, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from November 17th, 2020. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Road Report—Jake Kusek:

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

Kusek updated the Commissioners about Bishop Inc leaving the airport gravel pit and general work the crew is completing. Commissioners and Kusek discussed the later delivery date of the Ringling Fire Hall building materials and the direction that the doors should face for entry. Discussion ended on the current requirements for a CDL License.

Sheriff Report – Sheriff Jon Lopp:

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

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Compliant Report for November 2020. Lopp and the Commissioners discussed the impacts that the office saw during the 2020 Rifle Hunting Season, the potential for a Highway Patrol to be stationed in White Sulphur Springs, and re-opening the Deputy position for applications. Discussion ended on the break-in and damage to the Library; the break in happened the second to last week of November.

Funds Transfer – Dayna Ogle:

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with a funds transfer of \$4,000 from the Fire Education Fund 2341 to the General Fire Fund 2340.

ACTION #2

Resolution 2020 – 82

Commissioner Townsend moved to transfer \$4,000 from the Fire Education Fund 2341 to the General Fire Fund 2340. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Consolidated Growth Policy Update – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners about the recent workshop that the Consolidated Planning Board held with Jerry Grebenc on November 19th, 2020. Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed a major concern of the one mile donut radius that could be impacted with the City's Interim Land Use Planning Ordinance, the future public hearing dates, and the views the County would want to have in the document and upcoming Subdivision Regulations. Discussion ended on the topics for the Joint Housing Study Meeting taking place on Thursday December 3rd, 2020 at 2 pm with HRDC, the Meagher County Stewardship Council, and the City Council.

CLOSED – Personnel Session

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57600 through Check #57637 totaling \$135,453.72. Payroll Check #13220 through Check #13241 totaling \$49,234.69. Payroll Check #13220 was presented at void. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 8th, 2020.

Tuesday
December 8th, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from December 1st, 2020. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz cancelled until scheduled January 2021 meeting.

Consideration of the Housing Assessment & Condition Studies:

Commissioners discussed necessity of a Housing Assessment and Housing Condition study for Meagher County.

ACTION #2

Resolution 2020 - 83

Commissioner Brewer moves to spend a maximum of \$7,500 on the Housing Assessment and Conditions studies. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:

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

Kerr present the Health Nurse Report for November 2020. Kerr updated the Commissioners on flu vaccine numbers and the Sanitarian Job Posting. Kerr and the Commissioners discussed the COVID 19 rapid tests/ standard, the vaccine availability for Montana, and the most recent Governor's Order pertaining to businesses.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57638 through Check #57657 totaling \$38,269.32. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 15th. 2020.

Tuesday
December 15th, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from December 8th, 2020. Chair Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Library Report – Jessica Ketola:

Librarian Jessica Ketola entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Ketola updated the Commissioners on the use of the library, upcoming events for children, and progress of repairs on the Library. Ketola stated that Clayton Welding has been contacted to reinforce/fix the door that was damaged. Also, that DIS Technologies was coming directly to the library to install the new fax/printer/copier machine within the building. Discussion ended on the total number of library card holders within the county. Ketola estimated about 1,200 library cards are issued in the county with 1,000 being active.

Road Report – Jake Kusek:

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

Kusek presented the Commissioners with three different options of Semi-Truck to replace the 2012 White Freightliner. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the options and the trade-in value of the 2012 White Freightliner and future equipment that will need replacement in the future.

ACTION #2

Resolution 2020-84

Chair Hurwitz moved to approved the trade-in of the 2012 Freightliner Semi-Truck and the purchase of a Kenworth Semi-Truck for a total cost to the County at \$5,000. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Discussion ended on the Ringling Fire Building's change of delivery and construction date to the last week of December 2020.

Fire Report – Jake Kusek & Chad Evans:

Volunteer Fire Chiefs Jake Kusek and Chad Evans entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Evans and Kusek updated the Commissioners about the organizational and clean-up work that is on going in the office building located at the airport. Both stated that Pat Davis at the local Forest Service office was contacted to help grade the equipment to current standards. Commissioners, Evans, and Kusek discussed the disposal of outdated gear and a digital inventory tracking system. Discussion ended on replacement of valves for the spray foam pump unit that is housed on the main extrication truck. Evans, Kusek, and the Road Department will jointly complete the work before the end of the calendar year 2020.

Treasurer Report – Shauna Porter:

Treasurer Shauna Porter conference called into the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners were presented with the Cash Report for November 2020. Porter and the Commissioners discussed the School Bond principle amount of \$8,040,000 and the upcoming interest payment of \$137,087.30. Discussion ended if the Treasurer's Office has seen any differences in collection of property taxes due to COVID19 Pandemic. Porter stated that little to no direct changes have been seen at this time. She will be able to discuss the possibility of an impact on tax collections after balancing December 2020 and will present information in January 2021.

Public Comment:

Clerk and Recorder Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Plachy updated the Commissioners about student participation in *Ag in the Classroom* offered to those in Kindergarten through 6th Grade, the digitizing of records, and the overall cost of the

Presidential Federal General Election of November 2020. Commissioners and Plachy discussed the costs of the election and the next steps of placing Meagher County's records online for research.

Robert Peccia and Associates Engineer Lance Bowser called into the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Bowser updated the Commissioners on the re-payment of the loaned FAA Entitlement Funds to the Havre Airport and concerns about payments not received during the FY 2019 and FY 2020 years. Discussion took place on how to contact Hill County and the Havre Airport Director to discuss the repayment of the loaned FAA Entitlement Funds. Bowser is to contact Hill County Commissioner Mark Peterson and report back with information in January 2021.

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57658 through Check #57689 totaling \$39,294.71. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.

Tuesday
December 30th, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

MSU Extension Agent Position:

MSU Extension Central Region Department Head Tracy Mosley was conference called into the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Following the December 10th, 2020 interviews that were conducted for half-time Extension Agent by MSU, the candidate offered the position declined the offer. Commissioners stated that the policies and procedures implemented by the MSU Extension Department in Bozeman has negatively impacted the extension program/relationship with Meagher County. Commissioners stated to Mosley that she is not to take anything personal and that she has been very accommodating to the needs of the Commission. Discussion ended with a plan to meet with all parties involved in Meagher 4H, council members, volunteers, parents, etc, on January 12th, 2021 to discuss the 4H program. After the meeting the Commissioners will contact Mosley to make future decisions.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed an email from the Montana Stockgrowers Association about predator control tax of cattle in Meagher County. Commissioners have concerns about the tax being placed on all cattle, regardless of their location, including yearlings within feedlots. Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed the reporting done yearly to Department of Revenue, the agreement between the Department of Revenue and the Montana Stockgrowers, and the agreement between the Montana Stockgrowers and the USDA predatory control contractors. Discussion ended on the possible options the Commissioners need to consider regarding the tax.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57690 through Check #57715 totaling \$39,254.31. Payroll Check #13242 through Check #13263 totaling \$49,633.73 and Direct Deposit Check #87142 through Check #87183 totaling \$112,227.11 were also presented. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.