

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

February 2nd, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.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 Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Minutes from January 19th, 2021 with minor corrections. 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 the snow plowing at the airport and the reclamation of the Winegardner's pit. Final finishing of the reclamation will be completed in the spring of 2021. Discussion ended on the time frame for delivery of the heater to the Ringling Building.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Jon Lopp and Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Lopp presented the Complaint Report for January 2021. Lopp presented the Commissioners with information of ARCH-GIS Software. Lopp, Kusek, Ogle, and the Commissioners discussed the software benefits, county addressing conversions with rural addressing from Great West

Engineering, and the costs associated up front and annually. Commissioners decided the following.

ACTION #2

Resolution 2021- 22

Commissioner Brewer moved to purchase the Arch -GIS Software for \$1,500 with a \$200 annual fee. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Lopp ended discussion by stating he planned to set the software up at the Fire training center and working with the Fire Department, Search and Rescue, Road Department, and Sheriff's Department on training and utilization for the various department.

Abandoned Property Policy:

Assistant City Clerk Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners discussed the cost of removal of the two abandoned trailers that were destroyed by the wind storm on January 13, 2021. Commissioners questioned whether the county is required to take abandoned vehicles and trailer houses. County Attorney Hurwitz reported to the Commissioners that under MCA and the Attorney General's opinion, volume 42, opinion 32, from 1987 Requires the Sheriff's office to "take, store, and sell abandoned vehicles. Discussion took place about how to handle situations of abandoned trailer houses, due to the fact that some, especially older ones, are titled as vehicles and their disposal. Sheriff Lopp reported that they had only been required to remove trailers on a handful of occasions. The Commission requested that the Sheriff's office complete the paperwork required for disposal without storing the trailer on County property, if possible.

FLAP Grant Application – Brian Obert:

Brian Obert, Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle, and Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Obert stated to the Commissioners that the FLAP Grant applications are due April 2021. Obert explained to the Commissioners applications will be reviewed and grants awarded in the early summer of 2022 with funding available January of 2023. Commissioners, Obert, Kusek, and Ogle discussed applying, scheduling a drafting meeting on February 18th, 2021, and requesting support letters from various federal and state agencies. Obert ended discussion about the Martinsdale Water and Sewer District and the potential grant opportunities available for them.

Grassy Mountain Fire District Reimbursement Claims – Richard & Valerie Siebken:

Commissioner Ben Hurwitz left the chambers due to a scheduling conflict .

Richard Siebken, County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, and Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with copies of the letters that Richard & Valerie Siebken sent to the County requesting reimbursement.

Chair Townsend asked Siebken if he would like to give any additional information to the letters for reimbursement of monies. Siebken stated he did not have any further information to give. The following decision was made.

ACTION #3

Resolution 2021 – 23

Chair Townsend moved to deny the following reimbursement claims; Additional cost of Home Owner’s Insurance totaling \$10,254.00, Secretarial services performed by Valerie Siebken from July 2016 – September 2018 totaling \$15,000, and Duties of Chairman performed by Richard Siebken from June 2012 – November 2018 totaling \$167,750.00. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Brief discussion took place about the Grassy Mountain Fire District Tax and how the rates were set.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57775 through Check #57805 totaling \$19,499.57. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, February 9th, 2021.

Tuesday
February 9th, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 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 Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from January 19th, 2021 with minor corrections. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners about upcoming petitions for road abandonments. Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed the Sanitarian Department in regards to septic permits.

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 Nurse Report for January 2021. Kerr updated the Commissioners on COVID19 vaccination numbers of Meagher County and Grant Applications for the Homemaker/Respite Care programs. Kerr stated that by February 12th, 2021 400 first doses of the COVID19 vaccine will be administered and 200 second doses have been completed. The numbers are combined total between the Meagher County Health Office and Mountainview Medical Clinic. Discussion took place about education on the COVID19 vaccine.

Sanitation Procedure Concerns – Larry & Karen Lekse:

Larry and Karen Lekse cancelled their appointment due to road conditions.

Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Liv West, and Jan Funston entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m. Sanitarian Sean Hill and Lee Menard attended via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

County Attorney Hurwitz opened discussion with proposals of changes to help the efficiency of the Meagher County Sanitarian Department. Sanitarian Hill present information about average number of septic permits requested per year and the current number of permits that are currently uncompleted. Discussion took place with all those present about the potential of splitting the duties of the office between current Sanitarian Hill and Great West Engineering. Discussion ended that Sanitarian Sean Hill would draft a new contract and Clerk & Recorder Plachy would request a work order from Great West Engineering on Septic Permit Approval.

Treasurer's Report – Shauna Porter:

Deputy Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m. Black Mountain Software Representative David Morton was in attendance via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Black Mountain Software shared the screen for a module demonstration of the Web Pay Tax Module and the Web Tax Module. Commissioners were given a step by step demonstration of how a taxpayer interacts with the Web Pay Tax module to pay their taxes and the Web Tax Module for tax research. After the demonstration discussion occurred about posting of the payment within the Black Mountain Software, how payment cannot be taken on properties with tax liens, and the third-party payment vendor.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the Cash Report for January 2021 and the quarterly Hamon Investment Report. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the decrease in the STIP interest from December 2020 (0.227%) to January 2021 (0.194%).

Lunch

MT Aeronautics Loan Resolution:

Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the formal resolution document from Montana Aeronautics to accept the offered loan amount of \$22,250.00.

ACTION #2

Resolution 2021 -24

Public Hearing – Consolidated Growth Policy – Commissioners/City Council:

Public Hearing took place in the Meagher County Courtroom at 2 p.m.

Consolidated Planning Board Members present were Nancy Schlepp, Jess Secrest, and Yvonne Kostelecky. City Councilmembers present were Michele Walker, Pattie Berg, Ron Coleman, Stacy Menard, and Mayor Rick Nelson. Meagher County Commissioners present were Herb Townsend, Rod Brewer, and Ben Hurwitz. City Clerk Michelle Stidham, Assistant City Clerk Shannon Graham, City Attorney Susan Wordal, County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, Sheriff Jon Lopp, and Kathy Hochstrat were also present. Those present participated in person and via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Consolidate Planning Board Chairman Nancy Schlepp and Vice-Chairman Jess Secrest presented the Meagher County Commissioners and White Sulphur Springs City Council and Mayor with the *City of White Sulphur Springs & Meagher County Consolidated City/County Growth Policy Final Draft*. Schlepp and Secrest discussed the purpose of the document, the Consolidated Planning Boards process in creating the document with Great West Engineer Jerry Grebenc, the public hearings held on the document, and the public input given on the document. County Attorney Hurwitz presented both the Commissioners and City Councilmembers with information about how the Growth Policy is utilized within a court of law.

COUNTY ACTION #3

Resolution 2021 - 25

Chair Townsend moved to accept the City of White Sulphur Springs & Meagher County Consolidated City/County Growth Policy as presented by the Consolidated City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously passed.

City Council Members and City Attorney Wordal discussed concerns about images and adoption timeline for the city. City Attorney Wordal stated that if the City moves to adopt the document as presented it would replace the current City Growth Policy that was adopted in 2017 and that the City can propose amendments to specific maps in the document.

City Council Member Michele Walker moved to accept the City of White Sulphur Springs & Meagher County Consolidated City/County Growth Policy as presented by the Consolidated City/County Planning Board. City Council Member Ron Coleman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Official record of the City's action are at City Hall.

Adoption of the City of White Sulphur Springs & Meagher County Consolidated City/County Growth Policy is to be reflected as February 9th, 2021. Copies of the document will be distributed to City Hall, Meagher County Clerk & Recorder's Office, and the Meagher County/City Library for general public availability.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57806 through Check #57827 totaling \$17,282.36. All Checks were signed as presented.

Tuesday
February 16th, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.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 Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from February 9th, 2021. Commissioner 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 usage of the library during January 2021. The library issued seven (7) new cards, held story time programs, fielded fifty-four (54) reference questions, and held forty-four (44) tech help sessions. Ketola and the Commissioners discussed the completed book inventory and upcoming events the Library will host in Spring 2021.

Road Report – Jake Kusek:

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

Kusek updated the Commissioners about the snow plowing around the county and culvert replacements for Battle Creek and Hay Creek. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed an upcoming work meeting with Brian Obert on the FLAP Grant application for the Smith River Road.

Fire Report – Chad Evans & Jake Kusek:

Commissioners and Kusek discussed the installation of the propane heater in the Ringling Building and that the electrical work should be completed by the end of February 2021. Kusek also updated the Commissioners about DRNC Grant work and truck servicing.

Sheriff Jon Lopp and new Deputy John Gearheart entered the chambers at 10:15 a.m. Lopp introduced Deputy Gearheart to the Commissioners.

Clerk & Recorder Report – Penny Plachy:

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

Plachy updated the Commissioners on the Spelling Bee and the different election deadlines. Commissioners and Plachy discussed the changes to the Sanitarian Department and waiting for paperwork from both Yellowstone Environmental Solutions and Great West on costs. Plachy will update Commissioners when paperwork is received.

Clerk to the Commission Report – Rebekah Luchterhand:

Luchterhand updated the Commissioners about updated to the Meagher County website (meagherco.com) and reaching out for help when necessary. Luchterhand and the Commissioners discussed the 2021 Spring agenda schedule.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #57828 through Check #57837 totaling \$2,327.58. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021.