

**Tuesday**  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 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:**

Chairman 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 October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with minor corrections. Commissioner Townsend 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 gravel crushing at the Airport and the winter preparations for the graders. Commissioners and Kusek discussed the maintenance on all the graders within the fleet, estimated hours each grader gets per year in use, and the timeline for replacement of graders.

**ACTION #2**

Chair Hurwitz moved to lift the Fire Ban placed in August 2020. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The Open burning ban has been lifted and the sheriff's Office will be contacted.

**Library Report – Jessica Ketola:**

*Librarian Ketola canceled and will update at her scheduled time in November.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Report – Dayna Ogle:**

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

Ogle presented the Commissioners with 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Reports. Ogle and the Commissioners discussed budgets that are currently 25% spent or more. Discussion also took place about rate of pay for a new Volunteer Fire Chief. Ogle will contact similar sized counties for their rates of pay and the Commission will decide on rate once information has been presented.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #57482 through Check #57503 totaling \$61,733.45. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Tuesday**  
November 10, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 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 November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chair Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:**

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

County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners about civil and criminal matters of the county, the lawsuit against the Black Butte Copper Project, and sale of the Ringling Lot. County Attorney Hurwitz and the Commissioners also discussed the concerns of local businesses closing due to COVID19. County Attorney Hurwitz explained the protocols required by Montana DPHHS when an establishment has a positive COVID19 employee.

**Canvas the Federal General 2020 Election – Penny Plachy:**

Clerk and Recorder Penny Plachy, Sheriff Jon Lopp, and Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Plachy presented Kerr, Lopp, Commissioner Brewer, and Commissioner Townsend with tally sheets to canvas the Federal General 2020 Election. Chair Hurwitz left the room due to being on the ballot. No issues were found during the canvas.

### **Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:**

Kerr presented the Commissioners with the Health Report for October 2020. Kerr updated the Commissioners about COVID 19 particulars for the county, appointments for to Flu Shots, and vaccinations. Kerr stated that she had completed paperwork to be a distributor of the COVID 19 vaccine once one is available. Commissioners and Kerr discussed staffing at the health department and the currently employment advertisement for a part-time sanitarian.

### **Lazy Daisy Conservation Easement:**

Kendall Van Dyk from Montana Land Reliance attend the meeting via conference call at 10:30 a.m.

Van Dyk gave a history of the owner of the property, the reasoning behind placing a conservation easement on the property, and the restrictions that would be placed on it. Commissioners and Van Dyk discussed further the intended uses of the land and the incorporation of this conservation easement with other existing easements.

### **ACTION #2**

Commissioner Brewer moves to accept the conservation for the Lazy Daisy. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

### **Meagher County Stewardship Council Update – Becky Middleton:**

Mayor Rick Nelson, Nicolle Sereday, Becky Middleton, and Katie Boedecker entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m. Megan Shroyer, Jackson Rose, and Sarah Calhoun attended the meeting via ZOOM teleconferencing.

Middleton presented the Commissioners with a packet of information on the Meagher County Stewardship Council. Shroyer started off discussion with explaining the purpose of the council, goals of the council, the members of the council, and the overall reason the council was started. Shroyer and Sereday both updated the Commissioners about their goal to complete a housing study with HRDC to give Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs a document stating the housing and property available in Meagher County for development or restoration and the types of housing needed with Meagher County. Commissioners and those present discussed the cost associated with conducting the housing study and the help that the Meagher County Stewardship Council is seeking from the County and City to split the \$15,000 cost of the study. Commissioners agreed to help fund half of the study if the Stewardship Council can show that

the study will consider the current income levels of the residents and how the document will assist in obtaining grants for whom and for what purpose. Discussion ended on the time frame for the study to be completed and that the Stewardship Council would keep the Commission informed as the project moves forward.

## **Lunch**

### **Martinsdale Water and Sewer District – Kathy Berg:**

Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Board member Kathy Berg, Carol Martin, and Dave Martin entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Berg updated the Commissioners about the recent rate increase for service within the district, the number of hookups, and the concerns about the aging infrastructure of the system. Commissioners, Berg, and Martins discussed the upcoming Gordon Butte Hydro project. Commissioners gave Berg and Martins contact information for Absaroka Energy LLC to obtain more information on the project. Discussion ended on various grants that the district could pursue to help replace parts of the water system. Commissioners gave them contact information for Montana Business Connection and HRDC.

### **Public Hearing – Budget Amendment – Dayna Ogle:**

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with a budget amendment for Info Tech Fund 1000 294 for \$35,100.

### **Chief Financial Officer Job Offer:**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 an internal Job Posting was sent to all county employees on the newly available position as Meagher County's Chief Finance Officer and Human Resource Director. Applications were to be given to County Attorney Burt Hurwitz by September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After the close of deadline for applications, one application was received for the position. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Commissioners held an interview with the applicant for the position. After the interview it was decided to hire Dayna Ogle to be Meagher County's Chief Finance Officer and Human Resource Director. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Commissioners, Ogle, and County Attorney Hurwitz met with McKenzie McCarthy of MACo to discuss handling Ogle's transition from elected official to employee. After the meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the commissioners decided to offer the following to the Chief Finance Officer and Human Resource Director.

**ACTION #3**

**Resolution 2020 – 78**

Commissioner Brewer moved to offer Dayna Ogle the position of Chief Finance Officer and Human Resource Director. The position will earn the rate of pay at \$22.43 and will earn sick and vacation per the Meagher County Employee Handbook. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Ogle agree to take the position of Chief Finance Officer and Human Resource Director per the terms stated above.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #57550 through Check #57576 totaling \$4,741.84. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Tuesday**  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 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:**

Commissioners decided to table minutes until the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting to finish corrections.

**Road Report—Jake Kusek:**

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

Kusek updated the Commissioners about repairs to the 2012 White Freightliner, the estimated value of the truck and repairs to the dozer's fuel tank. Commissioners and Kusek discussed the finishing of the gravel crushing at the airport and the construction of the Ringling Fire Hall.

**Library Report – Jessica Ketola:**

Librarian Jessica Ketola entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Ketola presented the Commissioners with a Library Pamphlet that explains the hours of the library, the layout of the building, and services provided by the library. Ketola updated the Commissioners about the programs held during October 2020; Story Time, Preschool functions, and Halloween related events.

**Public Hearing Budget Amendment – Dayna Ogle:**

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

Ogle presented the budget amendment for the General -Information Technologies budget (1000 295).

**ACTION #1**

**Resolution 2020 – 79**

**Budget Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, the 2020-2021 budget has been set, and

**WHEREAS**, the General IT Fund (1000.294) inadvertently left consulting fees out of the budget and,

**WHEREAS**, the General IT Fund (1000.294) will have expenses estimated at \$35,100 and,

**WHEREAS**, the General Fund (1000) will receive an additional \$35,100 of County Entitlement money to offset the expense.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the General IT Fund (1000.294) and the un expected revenue and unexpected expense of \$35,000 (thirty five thousand one hundred dollars and no cents).

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020

Attest:

Board of County Commissioners:

  
Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle

  
Chairman Ben Hurwitz



  
Commissioner Rod Brewer

  
Commissioner Herb Townsend

**Clerk & Recorder Update – Penny Plachy:**

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

Plachy updated the Commissioners about the close of the Federal General Election and the digitizing of the backroom records by Meadowlark Research. Commissioners and Plachy



discussed increasing the Deputy Clerk and Recorder wage to the full 90% of the Clerk and Recorders wage, also increasing Plachy's wage by \$400 a year per MCA 7-4-2503(2).

**ACTION #2**

**Resolution 2020 – 80**

Commissioner Brewer moved to increase Deputy Clerk and Recorder Liv West's wage to the full 90% of the Clerk and Recorder Salary effective on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chair Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

**ACTION #3**

**Resolution 2020 – 81**

Commissioner Brewer moved to increase Clerk and Recorder Penny Plachy's wage by \$400 a year per MCA 7-4-2503(2). Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

**Fire Report – Jake Kusek and Chad Evans:**

Jake Kusek and Chad Evans entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Kusek, Evans, and the Commissioners discussed the roles of fire chief and changes that will be seen in the department. Discussion took place about current budget, inventory of the department, and future goals of the department.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #57577 through Check #57598 totaling \$23,758.77. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.