

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 a.m. –12:10 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

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

**Commissioners Present:**

Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting. Chair Rod Brewer was absent.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the Minutes from February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom:**

Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners asked Wahlstrom if she would speak with Cassie Zimmerman, who cleans the library, if she would be willing to help clean the Courthouse while Rosie Spaulding is on leave. Wahlstrom will have Zimmerman contact Dayna Ogle.

Wahlstrom stated Library Board Member Carol Cartledge stepped down. The library will be advertising the open seat on the Library Board.

**Bair Grant Applications**

Dayna Ogle presented a Bair Grant application for the Sheriff's Office & Disaster and Emergency Services for Signature.

**Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek:**

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kusek stated that December's Treasurer cash sheet was incorrect because of a tax credit that was processed incorrectly in Black Mountain Software Program. Kusek presented the Commissioners with the correct December and January Treasurer cash sheet for signature.

Kusek also presented the Commissioners with a year-end adjustment for the Harmon Fund for interest.

Kusek presented Commissioners the mobile home delinquent tax list for review.

Kusek stated the return on STIP (Short Term Investment Pool) is 5.34%, Commissioners discussed the advantages of moving the Harmon Fund investment in to STIP. No action was taken.



**Non-Agenda Item – Pooled Sick Leave**

Dayna Ogle entered chambers at 10:23 a.m.

Ogle stated Rosie Spaulding will be off work for an extended amount of time caring for a family member. Ogle requested the use of pooled sick leave for Spaulding. Commissioners agreed and requested the issue be placed on the March agenda to formally approve.

**Cattleguard Policy Public Hearing:**

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:55 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz introduced a first draft of a resolution outlining regulations and procedures for installing, maintaining, and replacing cattle guards on Meagher County Roads. The commissioners will review this resolution and reconvene on March 5th, 2024, to discuss any potential modifications. A second public hearing on the Cattleguard Policy is scheduled for the same date in the Commissioner Chambers of the Meagher County Courthouse.

**IT Discussion:**

Ogle entered the chambers at 10:26 a.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with quotes from both MACo Montana Cybersecurity and Technologies (MCT) and DIS Technologies. Commissioners expressed a preference for staying with DIS Technologies at this time, but plan to conduct further research into the services MACo MCT offers. Commissioner Galt proposed requesting bids from both companies for services in October or November.

**Resolution FY23.24 #**

Commissioner Galt moved to rescind Resolution FY23.24 #66 and continue IT Services with DIS Technologies. Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the issue is hereby resolved.

**Ambulance Discussion – Jack Berg**

Ambulance Board Member Jack Berg entered the chambers at 11:28 a.m.

Berg reminded the Commissioners about the ambulance placed with Steve Apgar of Apgar Ambulance Services on January 10th, 2023. Apgar informed the Ambulance Board that a Dodge Chassis is currently unavailable and his next build slot is in 2026. Apgar stated they do have Ford and Chevy chassis options available within the next 6 months. The ambulance stated they are not interested in the Ford Chassis. They prefer a walk-through design which the Chevy model does not offer. Berg reached out to Joe Rehbein from the Billion Auto group to investigate any issues related to obtaining a Dodge Chassis. Rehbein stated he thought they could have a Dodge Chassis available in 6 months but there would be no build slot for the ambulance until 2026, which would make the chassis 2 years old before the ambulance would be in service. Ambulance Board Members Sara Driemeyer and Eva Kerr expressed the opinion to wait until 2026 for the new ambulance. Commissioner Galt suggested the ambulance board draft a new Request for Proposal (RFP) specifying the walk-through window requirement and any other specifics they want on a new ambulance. Berg will discuss the matter further during the ambulance board meeting on March 11th, 2024. No final decision has been reached.

**Willow Creek Watershed – Jess Secrest**

Jess Secrest, Secrest Fire Services entered the chambers at 11:50 a.m.

Secrest provided the Commissioners with an information packet regarding the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Forest-wide Prescribed Fire Project. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire and influence how wildfire and other disturbances will shape the landscape and impact local communities. The Helena – Lewis and Clark National



Forest proposes authorizing prescribed burning, hand treatment, and mechanical treatment of vegetation across the forest in areas needing restoration. This project will include the Willow Creek Watershed Area. Secrest stated that when he drafts a response to the Project, he will include the Willow Creek Watershed area specifically. Secrest stated in speaking with Helen Smith, the local ranger from the Forest Service, this will be a multi-year project.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #61144 through Check #61170 totaling \$17,067.26 and electronic check# -99980 through Check # -99981 totaling \$714.08 All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK & RECORDER

SEAL



*Absent*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems  
Distributed March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.

