

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

June 11th, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from June 4th 2024, Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Victim Witness Advocate Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 9:10 a.m.

Attorney Hurwitz briefly updated the Commissioners on civil and criminal matters. There have been two new Partner and Family Member Assaults (PFMA), two burglary cases, and two felony probation violations.

Meagher County Fire District Long Term Planning

Mayor Rick Nelson and City Council Member Pattie Berg entered the chambers at 9:20 a.m.

Attorney Hurwitz stated he attended the Grassy Mountain Fire District (GMFD) meeting on June 8th, 2024. The board elected their officers and set a meeting schedule. Hurwitz stated the board will meet again on June 15th, 2024.

Mayor Nelson discussed merging WSS City fire Departments with Meagher County. Most volunteers respond to fires regardless of their location, and it is hoped that by merging into a single entity would streamline training, financial tracking, and equipment management. Attorney Hurwitz discussed the possibility of creating a County wide Fire Service Area. This county-wide fire service area would include all other fire districts, such as Grassy Mountain Fire District and the City of White Sulphur Springs. To place all services under one umbrella would require merger or annexation agreements with each entity. Mayor Nelson and City Council Member Pattie Berg discussed how this would help the White Sulphur Springs Fire Department as they need to replace one of their fire engines. All Commissioners expressed support for the idea. Attorney Hurwitz stated he would begin researching the best course of action and return to the commissioners with an outline.

Discussion – Flying T v. Catlin

Attorney Susan Swimley, Jake Kusek, Scott Jackson entered the chambers at 10:05 a.m.

Susan Swimley, Scott Jackson and the Commissioners discussed where the road to be abandoned is located and followed it on a map. The road committee will travel the road and write a report and submit it to Susan Swimley.

Red Ants Pants Festival Update – Sarah Calhoun

Red Ants Pants Founder, Sarah Calhoun entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

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Recorded at 10:30 AM on 6/21/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By BD

Calhoun opened by requesting a temporary closure of Jackson Road from the Red Ants Pants Campground entrance to the west parking field and reducing the speed limit to 15 mph from July 24th – July 28th, 2024.

Calhoun asked about mosquito spray and the Commissioners asked if Jackson Road needed Magnesium Chloride. The Weed department will spray for Mosquitos if the conditions are appropriate and Road Supervisor Jake Kusek will assess the road conditions prior to the festival and apply Magnesium Chloride if needed.

Lastly, Calhoun stated ticket sales this year are a little sluggish due to an excess of summer events around the state.

Cemetery Board – Angie Egeler, Kathy Palmer, Tamra Bears

Kathy Palmer and Tamra Bears entered the chambers at 10:55 a.m.

Palmer stated she thinks things are working out ok at the Cemetery. Efforts are underway to improve communication between the Sexton and the Cemetery Assistant.

Bears mentioned the bagger for the new mower is currently out of stock at both Lowes and Home Depot. However, Frontline in Great Falls has one in stock, although they do not offer shipping.

Palmer inquired about hiring Randy Porter to assist with digging cremation plots, given his small excavator. The Commissioners agreed, provided Porter has the necessary insurance coverage.

Sheriff Update- Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 11:24 a.m.

Sheriff Lopp requested that Zane Frisbie's dispatch wage be increased to the same as his Deputy Wage \$19.92 an hour

Resolution FY23.24 #105

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the wage increase for Zane Frisbie to \$19.92.

Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Monthly Health Nurse Update

Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 10:16 a.m.

Kerr started by informing the Commissioners that the County Health Department was awarded a Bair Grant for \$9,000 to help with wages. Kerr stated she requested a grant for \$12,000 for the Homemaker program and \$4,500 for Respite but have not yet heard back regarding those. Kerr stated she should be hearing about those soon.

Kerr stated the county will be participating in the Community Assessment for Public Health Response (CASPER). This a state assessment to make sure the community is getting the services that it needs.

The Sanitarian, Sean Hill was here for Central District Table Top Exercise and stated he will be here for Red Ants Pants. Kerr stated that 2 other counties have also lost their Sanitarians.

Attorney Hurwitz is still looking into getting a new Sanitarian hired.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #61473 through Check #61502 totaling \$57,697.41 and electronic check #-99908 through electronic check # -99906 totaling \$1,634.36 All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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Recorded at 10:30 AM on 6/21/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By BO

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 18th, 2024.



CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN

SEAL





VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed June 18th, 2024 to Chairman Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West.

