PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

January 17th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.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 January 10th, 2023. Chair Brewer 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.

Wahlstrom updated the Commissioners about the 2023 Summer Reading Program and the Partner’s Sharing Program. Wahlstrom stated that currently the library has received one hundred (100) books for patrons and sent out an estimated two hundred (200) books a week through the currier. Also, that starting February 2023 the patrons of the library will have access to the Hoopla Audiobook program. Wahlstrom then updated the Commissioners that the Library will be receiving an equipment donation of four (4) to six (6) desktop computers from Triangle Communications. Commissioners and Wahlstrom ended on the discussion of the grant applications the Library Board is working on for the main entrance handicap button.

**Monthly Extension Report – Makayla Paul:**

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Paul presented the Commissioners with a January 2023 Extension Report. Paul updated that on Sunday January 15, 2023, thirteen (13) steer projects were weighed and measured. Paul then updated the Commissioners on the First Impressions Tourism (FIT) program and how MSU Extension is considering Meagher County as their pilot community. The FIT program evaluates a community’s resource availability and how to address areas of need. Paul ended her report with her Ag News and Brew Program; the first program starts at 6:00 p.m. at the 2 Basset Brewery and will be about formulating pesticides. The program is open to everyone in the community and pesticide license holders will receive one (1) credit for attending.

**Resolutions for Special District Elections – Burt Hurwitz:**

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners about the special district dissolution process questions received from a Grassy Mountain Fire District taxpayer. Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz then discussed the Predatory Animal Control Tax on cattle and the process to request an election to vote on the tax. County Attorney Hurwitz then requested that the Commissioners hold a special meeting on Tuesday January 31st, 2023 to formalize the processes of fire district tax and the Predatory Animal Control Tax election requests. Commissioners agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday January 31st, 2023 to further discuss the two (2) taxing districts and their requests for elections.

**Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek:**

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m. Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:15 a.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the December 2022 Cash Report and a delinquent Tax Report. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the interest received from the STIP investment accounts, currently STIP is a 4% interest rate. Ogle presented a question from the Library Board regarding the Library Checking Account and if the funds from that account could be pooled with County monies in the STIP accounts to earn a higher rate of interest. Kusek stated she would look into the account and what would be needed to place their monies within STIP. Kusek then presented the Commissioners with STIP designation forms for signature; this is to change Kusek to the Treasurer named on the accounts.

**ACTION #2**

Chair Brewer moved to sign the STIP Designation forms for the Meagher County Protest Account, the Higgins Scholarship Account, Meagher County Treasurer Account, School Bond Account, Zehntner Scholarship Account, and the Meagher County Debt Service Account. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

*STIP Resolution Designations forms can be found in Meagher County Resolution Binder Fiscal Year 22.23 starting at number 75-80.*

**Lunch**

**2nd Quarter FY 22.23 Budget Review – Dayna Ogle:**

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the 2nd Quarter expenditure and revenue budget reports. Commissioners and Ogle discussed the budgets 50% or more spent as of December 31st, 2022. Ogle explained impacts of the vehicle purchase in the Fire Account 2340 and how that expenditure was needing to actually be split between the Fire Fund 2340 and the Road Fund 2110; the truck will be utilized by both the Fire and Road departments. Ogle also discussed the revenue budgets that were less than 50% collected, it was pointed out how several departments have received donations from local businesses. Discussion ended on the Special Police Fund and that the Law Enforcement Agreement between Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs should revisited this year.

**MACO Insurance Review – Jodi Tierney:**

Mid-Montana Insurance Agent Jodi Tierney and Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Tierney presented the Commissioners with the Meagher County building, equipment, and vehicle lists. All present reviewed the building, equipment, and vehicles lists. During review the Commissioners changed the insured values of the buildings to appraised values instead of a stated value. Meagher County’s buildings were last appraised in 2021 by MACo. During the review of the County Vehicle list it was decided that Ogle would need to contact Sheriff Jon Lopp, Road Supervisor/Volunteer Fire Chief Jake Kusek, Ambulance Board members, and Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner to ensure the items listed are still in ownership and the value of the additional equipment is accounted for. Ogle will provide Tierney with a more current vehicle list by February 1st, 2023.

**Weed Department – Sale of Property – Lee Zehntner:**

Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Zehntner asked permission to place a 2003 Sled Bed Trailer out for bid with a minimum of $500. Zehntner and the Commissioners discussed the current vehicle/trailer inventory and requested that Zehntner review the Weed department inventory and report any changes to Finance Officer Dayna Ogle. The following decision was made.

**ACTION #3**

**Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #81**

Chair Brewer moved to placed the 2003 Sled Bed Trailer out for bid with a minimum bid set at $500. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Bids will be opened on Tuesday February 7th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #59957 through Check #59974 totaling $9,657.16. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, February 7th, 2023.

**CLERK & RECORDER CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand

Distributed February 7th, 2023 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.