

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

March 14th, 2023

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from March 7th, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved. Commissioner Galt abstained from voting.

ACTION #2

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the Minutes from February 21st, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved. Chair Brewer abstained from voting.

Monthly Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chamber at 1:00 p.m. County Attorney Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:15 p.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with the February 2023 Health Nurse Report. Kerr stated that the grant for the Disease Intervention Specialist position was submitted to the State and grant awards will be announced in the first part of April 2023. Kerr then updated the Commissioners on the upcoming Immunization Training and Public Health Training that the department will be attending in the next few weeks. Discussion ended on the continued availability of vaccines and COVID boosters through the health office.

County Attorney Hurwitz and Kerr then updated that Sanitarian Sean Hill will not be renewing his contract with Meagher County in 2024. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that he has been in contact with neighboring county health departments across the state regarding their sanitarian positions. Statewide there is a shortage for sanitarians that handle restaurant/bar inspections, licenses, communicable diseases, and other duties not related to land use planning. County Attorney Hurwitz and Kerr will continue to search for available contract options for Meagher County and will report back.

Monthly Clerk & Recorder Report – Liv West:

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m. County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:45 p.m.

West updated the Commissioners on trainings she has attended since taking office in January 2023. West attended County Superintendent of Schools Training and the MACo Mid-Winter Training. MACo Mid-Winter training focused on Elections and the MT Votes software. West stated that the County Superintendent Training held extra sessions for the fifteen (15) new County Superintendent of Schools. Creating an opportunity to network with other superintendents and learn the position.

West then stated that Deputy Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy and herself met with contract Land-Use Sanitarian Ryan Pearson on septic permits. Pearson is assisting West and Plachy in creating a required document list that certified installers will file in the Clerk & Recorder's office for completed septic permits. Commissioners inquired about the septic permit under DEQ review for the Crazy Mountain Vet Clinic. County Attorney Hurwitz stated Great West Engineering resubmitted the permit for review to Brian Clifton at DEQ. It is expected to be approved within the next several weeks as there is a back log of permits within the State offices.

County Attorney Hurwitz, West, and Clerk Luchterhand updated the Commissioners on the Predatory Animal Control Fee. Commissioners were presented with draft letters and petitions that would be sent to cattle producers regarding the Predatory Animal Control Fee. They proposed to the Commissioners that the documents be mailed by May 15th, 2023 with a petition due date of June 30th, 2023. The dates coincide with the Personal Property Tax bill mailing and due dates for the producers. The Commissioners agreed with the proposed dates for mailing and return of the petition.

Monthly County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

Cal Moore entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz updated Commissioners on the Housing Kickoff Meeting that took place on February 23rd, 2023. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that there was twenty-five (25) people in attendance with ten (10) attending virtually. Also, that Extension Agent Makayla Paul assisted as the meeting facilitator and lined out solution topics to discuss at future events. Commissioners, County Attorney Hurwitz, and Moore discussed how the committee is researching multiple project solutions to apply to Meagher County's housing needs. Proposed solutions are land trusts, home rehabilitation projects, projects that could be funded through the USDA Rural Development funds, and creating a community investment fund focused on housing. Committee members are wanting to have housing options that would benefit both city and county growth. The Commissioners inquired if the county could utilize the Harmon Investment funds to further any solutions towards the housing crisis. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that the County is prohibited by statute to directly invest monetary funds, but is able to pay for assistance through a recognized housing authority organization; i.e. HRDC, Habitat for Humanity, NeighborWorks Montana. County Attorney Hurwitz ended the discussion by stating the next Housing Committee meeting will be on Wednesday March 29th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #60131 through Check #60148 totaling \$103,480.11. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 21st, 2023.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand
Distributed March 21st, 2023 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.

DRAFT