

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

March 1st, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Minutes from February 8th, 2022, February 15th, 2022, and February 22nd, 2022. Commissioner Hurwitz 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 on the major and minor collector designation for roads and discussed how the change is directly connected to the release of road funds to the county from the Department of Transportation. Commissioners and Kusek discussed the maintenance on the Fire Trucks that the road department will be completing.

Chief Financial Officer/Human Resources Update – Dayna Ogle:

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

Ogle presented the Commissioners with Bair Grants from the Meagher County Search and Rescue and the Meagher County Ambulance for signature. Commissioners and Ogle discussed

the applications and the deadlines for the Bair Ranch Foundation Grants. Ogle then presented a wage increase for the custodial position since the six (6) month probation has ended. Commissioners stated that they were satisfied with the work of the custodian Rosie Spaulding.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #63

Commissioner Hurwitz moves to increase \$1.00 for the custodial position effective Pay Period 9. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ogle then requested permission to place an advertisement for a Full-Time Dispatcher in the newspaper for the Sheriff's Office and discussed the close of applications for the DMV position.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #58900 through Check #589018 totaling \$11,334.46. Payroll Check #13548 through Check #13569 totaling \$49,165.88 and Electronic Payroll Check #86513 through Check #86560 totaling \$127,823.32. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 8th, 2022.

Tuesday
March 8th, 2022
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Minutes from March 1st, 2022 with minor corrections. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

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

County Attorney Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with a February 2022 report. County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners on criminal and civil matters of the County. Commissioners and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed the progress on the County Tax Appeal Board and the Consolidated Planning Board. They also discussed the recent threat against the school students.

Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with a Health Report for February 2022. Kerr and the Commissioners discussed the decrease COVID 19 activity in the county during the month, vaccine clinics, and upcoming trainings.

Cemetery Project Update – Amanda Clayton:

Cemetery Sexton Amanda Clayton and Cemetery Board Member Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Clayton presented the Commissioners with a report on the Original Addition Records for the cemetery. Clayton updated the Commissioners on the remaining issues within the Original Addition records and the estimated time to resolve record discrepancies. Clayton, Plachy, and the Commissioners discussed accuracy for the records, records availability through digital and hard copies at the Cemetery and Clerk & Recorder's office, and mapping of the cemetery to help with sales of burial plots.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Sheriff Report for February 2022 and a grant for a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Meagher County. Lopp updated the Commissioners that statewide DES Coordinators are working on updating Hazard Mitigation Plans for region and county levels. The State would draft and pay for the plan and require that Meagher County hold public meetings during the process. Lopp and the Commissioners discussed the FEMA grant opportunities that would be available to the county once the Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed. Lopp then requested that the Commissioners grant Deputy Gearheart a 2% raise. Lopp stated that his probationary period has ended and has met the requirements needed during that time.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #64

Chair Townsend moved to increase Deputy Gearheart's wage by 2% for completion of his probationary period. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Lunch

Election Season Update – Penny Plachy:

Election Administrator Penny Plachy and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Plachy presented the Commissioners with a current list of filed candidates for both the general and special district elections. County Attorney Hurwitz, Plachy, and the Commissioners discussed the concerns with fire district elections and the current vacancy of members within the Meagher County Republican Central Committee. Plachy ended discussion about the Montana Elect Training that herself and Liv West will be attending via ZOOM on March 15th, 2022 through March 18th, 2022.

Catlin Ranch Minor Subdivision – Final Plat Approval:

Deputy Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

West presented the Commissioners with the Final Plat documents for the Catlin Ranch Minor Subdivision. County Attorney Hurwitz, West, and the Commissioners discussed the provided weed management plan, supplemental documentation of the old ranch dumpsite, and the agreement to remove the agricultural covenant. Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #65

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve and sign the final plat for the Catlin Ranch Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

County Attorney Hurwitz and the Commissioners the discussed the vacancy on the Consolidated Planning Board since Chairman Nancy Schlepp turned in her resignation on February 22, 2022. County Attorney Hurwitz discussed the appointment process with Commissioners and potential replacements; specifically, Kathy Hochstrat who provided comments during the growth policy public hearings. Clerk Luchterhand reached out to Hochstrat about the position and she stated that she would serve on the board if appointed. The Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #4

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #66

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to appoint Kathy Hochstrat to the Consolidated Planning Board for the remainder of vacant term. Chair Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ambulance Update – Sara Driemeyer:

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle and Ambulance Board member Jack Berg entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m. Ambulance Board member Sara Driemeyer attended via conference call.

Berg, Driemeyer, and the Commissioners discussed the Ambulance Bair Grant that was submitted on March 1st, 2022. Berg and Driemeyer stated that the board and crew members decided to apply for an engine “bullet proofing” rebuild for the 2005 Ford Ambulance. Berg, Driemeyer, and the Commissioners discussed the engine work that was completed by Rocky Truck Service in 4th quarter of 2021. Driemeyer ended the discussion with an update on the billing department and current revenue of the service.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #58919 through Check #58941 totaling \$21,062.91. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 15th, 2022.

Tuesday

March 15th, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from March 8th, 2022. Chair Townsend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Library Report – Jessica Ketola:

Librarian Jessica Ketola and Assistant Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Ketola introduced the Commissioners to Wahlstrom and updated that during February 2022 the library issued four (4) new library cards, held six (6) Storytime programs, donated 100 pounds of food to the local food bank, answered eighty-two (82) reference questions, and the meeting room was utilized for sixteen (16) non-library events. Ketola, Washburn, and the Commissioners discussed the Library Board's plan to restructure the Library Director position, current staff/hiring, and adjusting the Library Hours. Hours will remain the same until the end of March 2022.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul:

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Paul presented the Commissioners with an Extension Report for February 2022. Paul updated the Commissioners on the 4H Counselor training in Harlowton, Western 4H Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah, and upcoming programs of the office. Paul updated the Commissioners on the planning of 4H Camp that will take place the first week of June 2022. Paul stated that she has scheduled a Pesticide Training for Monday April 18th, 2022. Applicators can earn up to six (6) credits towards their license when attending for a full day. Discussion ended on Paul's current teaching in the White Sulphur Springs School for Agriculture in the Classroom and planning the rancher roundtable in May 2022.

Treasurer's Report – Shannon Graham:

Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Graham presented the Commissioners with a correct December 2021 Cash Sheet, January 2022 Cash Sheet, and February 2022 Cash Sheet. Graham and the Commissioners discussed the Cash Sheets. Graham then updated the Commissioners that the Local Option Tax collected from the web registrations on vehicles was improperly split at 75/25 versus the 50/50; the issue took place back in 2019. Due to this inaccuracy the County owes the City \$4,481.32 in Local Option Tax. Commissioners and Graham discussed how the option tax is based on Census Data; Meagher County has 1900 total residents, 49.55% reside within the city limits of White Sulphur Springs.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - 66

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to correct the percentage and pay the back owed monies of \$4,481.32 to the City of White Sulphur Springs. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Graham presented the Commissioner with information about a bulk mailing permit for the county. Graham stated that to initially purchase the permit it would cost \$256.00 with an annual fee of \$256.00 to maintain. Graham and the Commissioners discussed the cost savings to utilize a bulk permit for both the election office and mailing tax bills. Commissioners made the following decision.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - 67

Commissioner Brewer moved to purchase a postal permit for Meagher County offices. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Commissioners and Graham then discussed purchasing a folding machine for the courthouse. Commissioners stated that a folding machine is unnecessary at this time.

Lunch

HRDC – Community Services Block Grant – Krista Dicomitis:

HRDC Representatives Heather Grenier and Krista Dicomitis, Cal Moore, and County Attorney Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Grenier and Dicomitis presented the Commissioners with their Community Block Grant and plans to assist Meagher County. Grenier and Dicomitis updated the Commissioners about HRDC's plans to rent office space in Meagher County to create better availability to programs offered by them and their plan to implement a Housing Rehab Program within the next two years. Lengthy discussion took place about the current status of the housing study, further phases within the Housing Study and the associated costs. Discussion ended with scheduling a Housing Study Update with the Commissioners at their scheduled April 5th, 2022 meeting.

Weed Department Equipment – Lee Zehntner:

Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Zehntner updated the Commissioners about the need for and requested to place the department's 2018 Polaris Ranger XP out for sealed bid. Commissioners and Zehntner discussed the repairs needing to be made to the 2011 F150 and getting an estimate from Hedstrom Complete Auto Repair in Townsend for any repairs necessary. Discussion ended about the equipment needs of the department; mainly trucks for hauling equipment out to the field.

ACTION #4

Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - 68

Chair Townsend moved to place the 2018 Ranger XP out to bid with a minimum bid of \$7,500. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Public Comment:

School Resource Officer Jerami West entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

West updated the Commissioners that the White Sulphur Springs School District is currently revising the Crisis Intervention Plan and need to establish an evacuation point. West asked the Commissioners if the Courthouse could be designated as the evacuation point for the White Sulphur Springs School District. Commissioners agreed that the Courthouse could be utilized as an evacuation point for the White Sulphur Springs Schools in the event of a crisis during scheduled classroom hours.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #58942 through Check #58976 totaling \$39,540.58. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.