PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday
March 5th, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Brewer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1
Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the minutes from February 20th, 2024. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

White Sulphur Springs School – 5th Grade Class – Erin Case
5th grade students and Teacher Erin Case entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioners moved to the presentation to the courtroom.

The 5th grade class at White Sulphur Springs School recently presented to the County Commissioners their recent Meagher County Seals Project. The students designed a seal for Meagher County. Each student explained the symbolism behind their seals and explained why it authentically represents Meagher County. The Commissioners were asked to pick their top 3 choices.

Scout Clean Energy – Ursus Windfarm Update – Eric Smyth
Scout Clean Energy Project Managers Pat Landis and Eric Smyth entered the chambers at 9:55 a.m.

Landis and Smyth briefed the Commissioners on the Ursus Wind Farm Project. The Ursus Wind Farm Project is located on the border between Meagher County and Wheatland County. Scout Clean Energy is in the second year of a 2-year Avian survey in collaboration with Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Forest Service for both Raptors and Non-Raptor species, the survey identifies Eagles nests using helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft. At this time, there is no agreement or plan to start construction of the project. The team is preparing the site for a potential energy purchase interest. SCE does not yet have an agreement to sell the energy generated by the wind farm. If the project proceeds, construction is anticipated to begin no sooner than 2027.

Cattleguard Policy Public Hearing:
County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:59 a.m.

The Commissioners have asked for revisions to the proposed cattleguard policy. Once these changes are implemented, the Commissioners will reconvene to deliberate on the policy. Their final decision will be made after this discussion, which will be scheduled for a later date.

Document # 150459 Page: 1 of 3
Recorded at 9:05 AM on 3/13/2024 Fee: $0.00
Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By EB

Monthly Road/Fire Report – Jake Kusek:
Cancelled

Pooled Sick Leave Grant- Jennifer Deems
Jennifer Deems entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Per the discussion on February 20th, 2024 the Commissioner have made the following resolution.

Resolution FY 23.24 #74

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the request from 02/20/24 for the use of pooled sick leave for Rosie Spaulding. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The Issue is hereby resolved.

Harmon Fund Discussion:
County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 11:45 a.m.

Commissioners and Hurwitz discussed composing a letter to US Bank regarding developing a plan to liquidate the Harmon Fund and reinvest the principal in Short Term Investment Pool (STIP). STIP is an investment vehicle for local governments to safely and conveniently invest funds. Commissioners will continue this discussion at the next Commission meeting on March 12th, 2024

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp
Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 1:55 p.m.

Sheriff Lopp presented the Commissioners with Complaint Report for the Month of February. There were 251 incoming call, 16 9-1-1 calls, and 279 people entered in the Sheriff's Office for a total of 546 people who contacted the Sheriff's Office in February.

Lopp stated that Wheatland County brought their pickup over for inspection and consideration for trade with Deputy Wilson's Tahoe. However, the Sheriff's Office has decided not to proceed with the trade.

Sheriff Lopp stated the City of White Sulphur Springs will be installing new Radar Speed limit signs. These new signs will be posted at the south end of town by the Edith Hotel and the east end of town by Castle Mountain Grocery. The posted speed limit is 25mph.

Four Corners Recycling – Dave Leverett
Four Corners Recycling Co-Owner Dave Leverett, Mayor Rick Nelson, and Betsy Hammon entered the chambers at 2:20 p.m.

Leverett, representing Four Corners Recycling, informed the Commissioners about staffing challenges related to emptying the bins and collecting roll off boxes in White Sulphur Springs. The wind often complicates the process of emptying the small bins. To address this issue, Leverett proposed installing a second roll off box while eliminating the small bins. Having two boxes would enhance efficiency, especially since the small bins tend to blow over in windy conditions. The cost of the new roll off box is estimated at $10,000, which Four Corners Recycling will finance for a period of three years. The service fee will remain at $4,000 and there is a Maintenance fee of $500 per box. All costs will be shared equally between Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs.
During discussions, the Commissioners and Mayor Nelson considered the removal of small bins and the acquisition of the second roll off box. Mayor Nelson will present this proposal to the City Council during their upcoming meeting on March 19th, 2024.

Additionally, Nelson expressed interest in establishing a collaborative effort between the City and County to acquire a cardboard baler at the transfer station. Leverett suggested that Four Corners Recycling could also collect cardboard bails when they come to retrieve the Recycling Bins.

Resolution FY 23.24 #75

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to remove the small recycling bins and purchase a second roll off box, cost to be shared equally with the City of White Sulphur Springs. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim check #61181 through Check #61201 totaling $26,155.95. Electronic claims check# - 99979 through check# -99972 totaling $4,179.29. Payroll Check #14045 through Check #14051 totaling $33,335.31 and Electronic Payroll Check #-85270 through Check #-85329 totaling $168,876.78. 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 12th, 2024.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed March 12th, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West