

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

May 14th, 2024

12:00 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.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 May 7th, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Non – Agenda Item

- **Congressman Matt Rosendale, Rep. Randy Bogden**

Bogden opened by asking the Commissioners if there were any issues Meagher County wanted the Congressman to be aware of. The Commissioners stated they had nothing at this time. Bogden informed the Commissioners that Congressman Rosendale will be retiring at the end of the term.

- **Wipfli – Clayton Johnson**

Johnson started by introducing himself and presenting the Commissioners with a letter outlining the scope of the audit. Johnson went on to explain that because the County did not have more than \$750,000 in federal expenditures, this is not a Federal Single Audit. Johnson stated his team is responsible for testing the county's accounting practices to the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and issuing a opinion on the finances and internal controls in the county.

Senior Center Update – Beth Hunt

Beth Hunt, Gerald Zarr and Rosalee Greener entered the chambers at 12:25 p.m.

Hunt introduced the Commissioners to Gerald Zarr, Senior Center Board President and Rosalee Greener, Senior Center Board Secretary.

Hunt explained that the percentage of seniors over the age of 65 in the county has decreased from 33% to 31%. However, that number is constantly fluctuating.

Hunt provided the Commissioners with a detailed breakdown of the meal service costs at the Senior Center. In January the Senior Center increased membership and meal fees to mitigate the impact of inflation.

The Senior Center is requesting \$15,000 to help with operating costs and requesting and additional \$10,000 to help with the cost of kitchen renovations that is estimated to cost around \$200,000. A significant portion of this expense is attributed to the range hood. So far, they have raised approximately \$70,000 and are actively seeking grants through letter writing.

Hunt asked that one of the Commissioners represent Meagher County on the Area IV Agency on Aging Board, but the Commissioners stated that is not something they can commit to at this time.

Call For Bid – 2020 Polaris Ranger – Lee Zehntner

Lee Zehntner entered the chambers at 12:55 p.m.

Zehntner stated he would like to place the 2020 Polaris Ranger 4x4 R20TAE99A7 with 75-gallon sprayer unit and boom jet nozzle out for bid. Commissioners set the minimum bid at \$10,000.

Resolution FY 23.24 #90

Chair Brewer moved to place the 2020 Polaris Ranger 4x4 R20TAE99A7 with 75-gallon sprayer unit and Boom Jet nozzle out for sealed bid with a minimum bid of \$10,000. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 2024 and opened on June 4, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Issue is hereby resolved.

Monthly Cemetery Board Update – Kathy Palmer

Kathy Palmer and Angie Egeler entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Palmer stated the Cemetery Board has hired a new Cemetery Sexton, Randy Harden, who will start on Wednesday May 15, 2024. Egeler and Palmer both stated that the interim Sexton, Travis Deems, did a lot of work in a short time. Egeler stated Deems cleaned up all the pinecones and debris from fall and winter, painted the building, parking stones and marking stones. Palmer stated the Cemetery looks fantastic.

County Health Nurse – Eva Kerr

Health Nurse Eva Kerr was unable to attend, Finance Assistant, Jennifer Deems presented the Commissioners with the monthly Health Nurse Report.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Victim Advocate Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 4:40 p.m.

Attorney Hurwitz stated that all the trials originally scheduled for this summer have been postponed by the defense until later in the year. Hurwitz expressed doubt that they would be postponed again, especially considering that Judge Spaulding will be retiring in January.

Hurwitz stated he is continuing negotiations with the City attorney regarding the Meagher County / City of White Sulphur Springs Law Enforcement Agreement.

Taylor stated she received a letter related to her grant; the grant has progressed to the next stage of the process. She anticipates receiving the final decision in June.

Sheriff – Forest Service Agreement – Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp was unable to attend. Finance Officer Dayna Ogle presented the Commissioners with the law enforcement agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for signature.

Call For Bid – Gravel Crushing – Jake Kusek

Jake Kusek was unable to attend. Commissioners discussed crushing gravel at the Birch Creek gravel pit and the Cottonwood Creek gravel pit. Both pits are on private land. Ogle will work with the County Attorney to draw up a memorandum of understanding for the gravel crushing. Commissioners would like to crush 10,000 yards of 1” minus gravel from each pit.

Resolution FY 23.24 #91

Commissioner Galt moved to place a call for bid to crush 10,000 yards of gravel from Birch Creek Gravel Pit and 10,000 yards from Cottonwood Creek gravel pit. Bids will be accepted until May 24, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. and opened on May 28, 2024 at 9 a.m. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed the issue is hereby resolved.

Public Testing – Express Votes Primary Election – Liv West

Commissioner Hurwitz assisted with the public testing for express votes.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check # 61407 through Check # 61426 totaling \$51,231.55. And Electronic Check# -99925 through Electronic Check# -99922 totaling \$4,316.18. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 21st 2024.



CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN





VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Document # 150582 Page: 3 of 3

Recorded at 11:30 AM on 5/22/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By 