

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

June 20th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 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 June 13th 2023, Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom:

Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom enter the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Wahlstrom reported the installation of the ADA button on the Library's main door is complete. The electrician will be here next week to hard wire the ADA button to the existing electrical panel.

Wahlstrom stated the Library has received a Pilcrow Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1,200 through the Children's Book Project Grant program. The grant has a 2-to-1 match, the Friends of the Library contributed the required match. The program has over 500 children's books the Library can choose from.

The Library also received a Town Pump Charitable Giving Grant in the amount of \$1000. This grant will be used to help support the summer reading program this year. The summer reading program begins on June 14th and continues every Wednesday through the summer.

Wahlstrom stated Cassie Zimmerman was hired as new part time Library Clerk and is working out well.

Adoption Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Jess Secrest:

Jess Secrest entered the chambers at 9:20 a.m.

Secrest presented the updated Meagher County Wildfire Protection Plan 2023. Secrest reviewed the changes the Commission previously requested. The changes included establishing a countywide Fire Service Area excluding the City of White Sulphur Springs. The present Castle Valley Fire District, Grassy Mountain Fire District and Martinsdale Fire Service Area could be incorporated into the Meagher County Fire Service Area.

The second change was to the pump capacity at the Ringling Fire Hall was changed from 250 gallon per minute to 50 to 200 gallons per minute and a 10,000-gallon underground cistern.

Secrest stated the Community Wildfire Protection Plan should be reviewed every 5 years and updated every 10 years.

Secrest then talked about different grant opportunities for a Deputy DES Coordinator position. Secrest will pursue the opportunities and report back to the Commission.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - # 118

Commissioner Brewer moved to adopt the Meagher County Wildfire Protection Plan 2023, Commissioner Galt seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Clerk & Recorder Salary Comparison / Planning Board Appointment – Liv West:

Liv West, Jon Lopp, Penny Plachy, Maura Kusek, Candi Richardson, Emma Bess entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Liv presented a letter stating concerns regarding salaries for FY 23.24. West compared the salaries from 5 counties that are the closest in population and taxable value to Meagher County. Those counties are: Wheatland, Daniels, Powder River, McCone and Judith Basin Counties. West reviewed some of the differences in salaries for the position listed and the Commissioners agreed to take a closer look at salaries for FY 23.24 budget.

West reported on the June 14, 2023 Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board voted to reappoint Kathy Hochstrat and Mike Rhynard as county representatives and Yuvonne Kostelecky as a city representative to a 2-year term. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to accept the appointments as presented.

ACTION #

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #119

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to accept the appointment of Kathy Hochstrat and Mike Rhynard as county representatives to a 2-year term on the Planning Board. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Ambulance Board – New Ambulance Purchase Update:

Jack Berg, Jay Kolbe. Sara Driemeyer entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Berg opened by stating that Apgar Ambulance service has been corresponding with the Ambulance Board regarding their contract for a new 2023 or newer Dodge, Type 1 Ambulance. Apgar Ambulance Service has recently informed the board that due to delays in the supply chain, the arrival of the new ambulance would be pushed back to early 2025. The original arrival date was March 2024. Apgar stated in an email, they could get a Ford ambulance in earlier. The ambulance board chose to wait for the Dodge. The RFP will have to be amended to include the updated date of arrival. Galt questioned if the price was going to increase as well. Kolbe and Driemeyer will contact Apgar Ambulance to confirm the cost will remain the same and delivery date. The County Attorney will be contacted to amend the RFP.

Driemeyer reported Apgar Ambulance has a 2015 Chevy Duramax, four-wheel drive ambulance they will loan to Meagher County at no cost until the new ambulance arrives. The 2015 Duramax is for sale and Meagher County will have the opportunity to purchase the ambulance for \$65,000 with the trade in from the old 2005 Ford ambulance after the arrival of the new Dodge ambulance. The loaner ambulance will put the fleet back to 3 ambulances and will be here next week. The ambulance is equipped with a power cot but not a power lift

Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek:

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 11:10 a.m.

Kusek presented the monthly cash report for signature and stated she is pleased with the newly hired Treasurer Assistant / Motor Vehicle Clerk, Rebekah Luchterhand.

Galt and Kusek discussed the property appraisal notices for FY 23.24. The Department of Revenue has mailed out notices last week and Meagher County taxpayers can expect to see theirs soon. Kusek stated she is hearing Lewis & Clark County taxable values have gone up 30% - 70%. Kusek reminded the Commission that taxpayers have 30 days from the date on the notices for file a Request for Informal Classification and Appraisal Review (AB-26) and not the postmark on the envelope.

Ogle reminded the Commission the Department of Revenue will be in Meagher County on July 18th from 11:30 – 4:00 p.m. for the “White Sulphur Springs Road Show” to go over the appraisal process with Meagher County taxpayers and to answer any question they might have. This meeting is open to the public and will be held in the Meagher County courtroom.

Finance Report – Dayna Ogle:

Ogle review the open Finance Assistant position. Ogle has received 2 applicants and will schedule interviews for later this week or early next week.

Public Comment / Claims approved / Signed:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check # 60411 through Check # 60427 totaling \$ 22,900.31. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, July 5th, 2023.

CLERK & RECORDER

SEAL

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER