

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

October 8th, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 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-Charmain Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Claims Review / Minutes Review:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from October 1st, 2024. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Library Budget Discussion

City Council Members Rick Ellison and Ron Frisbie, Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom and Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m. Library Board member Glenda Ritchie entered the chambers at 9:15 a.m.

Commissioner Brewer started by explaining Meagher County's budget process. Ogle and Wahlstrom discussed how many Mills the library gets from Meagher County and how many from the City of White Sulphur Springs. It was discussed going for an increase in mills on the ballot in the next primary. It was discussed that the City Council will be invited to sit in on Meagher County's budget discussions in the future for the library, special police and the Airport. Wahlstrom, Ogle and the Commissioners agreed to start budget discussions in May next year.

Monthly Report County Health Nurse – Eva Kerr

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

Kerr stated that the blue green algae bloom at Bair Reservoir turned out to be not harmful. Kerr stated she will talk to the DEQ about removing the signs at Bair Reservoir.

Kerr stated that she is working with Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz on a letter / contract for clients in the Respite care program. Ogle stated she is expecting information from Lewis and Clark regarding how they handle their respite care program.

Kerr stated her office is in the process of replacing the refrigerator and freezer for vaccines and medications. Kerr stated they have been grandfathered in with the freezer on top of the refrigerator but because the freezer is not keeping temperature, they have to go to a separated refrigerator and freezer. The refrigerator needs to be 36 – 46 degrees and the freezer needs to stay below 5 degrees. The appliances are in the process of chilling now and once they reach temperature Kerr will send the temperatures to the state for approval. Once the state approves the temperatures the vaccines and medications can be transferred over.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul

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

Paul started by stating 9 4-H members went to Montana 4-H Congress. Sheila Hamlen was elected as the State 4-H Ambassador Team President. Four of the members competed in horse judging, placing 3rd as a team. 1 member competed in livestock judging and the other 4 members attended workshops.

Paul stated there were 53 members that exhibited at fair this year. There were 80 entries that were sold in the sale, which brought in over \$111,000. Paul stated overall, fair went very well and all members have been paid for their sale items.

Paul stated that Annie Lester has stepped down as the Maverick 4-H Club leader. Tami Horman will be the new leader. Paul informed the Commissioners that the pig barn got new siding this summer to match the other barns. Paul also stated they are having trouble with the doors. However, right now they have the doors secured for winter until a plan can be put in place to fix the issue.

Paul stated Leadership 47 kicked off the first meeting in September. There are 21 participants in the program which will meet once a month through April. Each month will showcase a different leadership topic.

Paul stated throughout the summer she had multiple visits for disease diagnosis of trees, insect identification, gardening, and other horticultural topics. Paul completed nitrate and soil tests. Paul had a booth at the Crazy Mountain vet customer appreciation trade show. Paul also hosted a gardening workshop where she discussed composting and tree care. Paul stated she has educational programming planned for the fall. She is working on a rancher round table for December. Paul has 2 confirmed speakers for this and is working on a third.

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

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

Sheriff Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint report for the month of September. The Sheriff's Office received 270 incoming calls, 31 9-1-1 calls, and 294 people that came into the office. A total of 595 people that contacted the Sheriff's office in September.

Sheriff Lopp stated that Labor Day weekend was pretty quiet and so far, hunting season has been uneventful. Lopp stated that Deputy Wilson is preparing to possibly go to Florida for mutual aid after Hurricane Milton.

Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Discussion

HAB Development Corporation, Mark Taylor attended via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Taylor stated that single biggest complaint by major employers and Chambers of Commerce across the State of Montana is the lack of housing. Montana needs to build anywhere from 30 to 50 thousand houses to deal with the population issues. Taylor stated there are programs for low income but there are very few programs for people in the middle. House Bill 819 allocates 50 Million dollars to the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan. The \$50 Million is broken out by County based Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The program requires Counties to opt in to the program and designate one Community Reinvestment Organization (CRO) no later than December 31, 2024.

MEAGHER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution No. FY 24.25 #32

Resolution to Affirmatively Participate in the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan by Identifying and Approving HAB Development Corporation as Meagher County's Community Reinvestment Organization.

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Board of County Commissioners recognizes every community within Meagher County has been impacted by a lack of affordable, attainable workforce housing, which in turn has led to a variety of issues for constituents and businesses.

WHEREAS, the State of Montana, through enactment of House Bill No. 819 (HB 819), has established the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan (MCRP), which is an innovative public-private platform to help middle-class income earners find an attainable pathway to owning their own home. The MCRP program calls for formation of a Community Reinvestment Organization (CRO) to provide facilitated assistance for workforce housing and related services within Montana, and to which state money is allocated based upon a county's gross domestic product.

WHEREAS, the MCRP program will provide the opportunity to meet significant community development needs and will enhance economic stability within Meagher County.

WHEREAS, HAB Development Corporation ("HAB") is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was founded in 1994 and is directly affiliated with HomeFront, which is the largest municipal housing authority in the State of Montana. HAB qualifies as a CRO pursuant to the statutory requirements of HB 819. Each county must "opt into" the MCRP program by choosing one CRO within which to participate. Each CRO must establish a revolving fund which holds the state's allocation.

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Board of County Commissioners believes, after examining the program materials and considering the needs and potential benefits to its residents, participation in the MCRP program is important to the continued health, welfare, and economic prosperity of the County's constituents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED.

The Meagher County Board of County Commissioners selects HAB Development Corporation as its chosen Community Reinvestment Organization for purposes of participation in the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan.

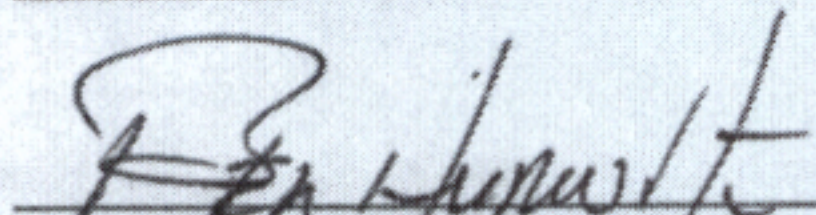
The Meagher County Board of County Commissioners is prepared to work with regional governmental partners and interested stakeholders to support HAB with its undertaking to

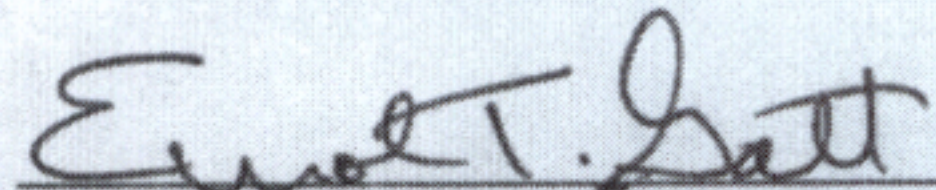
effectively and efficiently implement housing solutions for eligible participants in Meagher County.

Passed and Adopted on this 8 day of October, 2024.

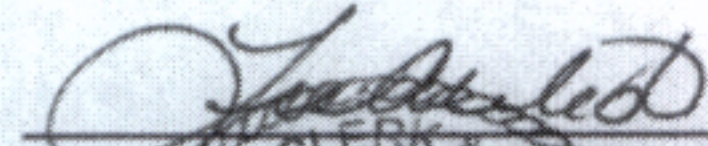
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA


_____, Chair


_____, Member


_____, Member

ATTEST:


_____, Clerk and Recorder



Attachments:

TBD

Black Mountain Software Positive Pay Discussion – Dayna Ogle

Chief Finance Officer, Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:50 a.m.

Ogle explained that Bank of the Rockies does not offer Positive Pay.

Express Votes Testing / Post Election Audit Committee – Liv West

Clerk and Recorder, Liv West entered the chambers at 11:55 a.m.

Commissioner Brewer tested the express votes machine and everything went smoothly.

West requested that the post-election audit committee consist of Clive Townsend, Makayla Paul and Lacey Morrison with Brandi Driedlien as a backup.

ACTION #3

Commissioners approved the post-election audit committee.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #61882 through Check #61904 totaling \$ 36,808.19 and Electronic Check # -99795 through -99794 totaling \$1,213.13. All checks signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

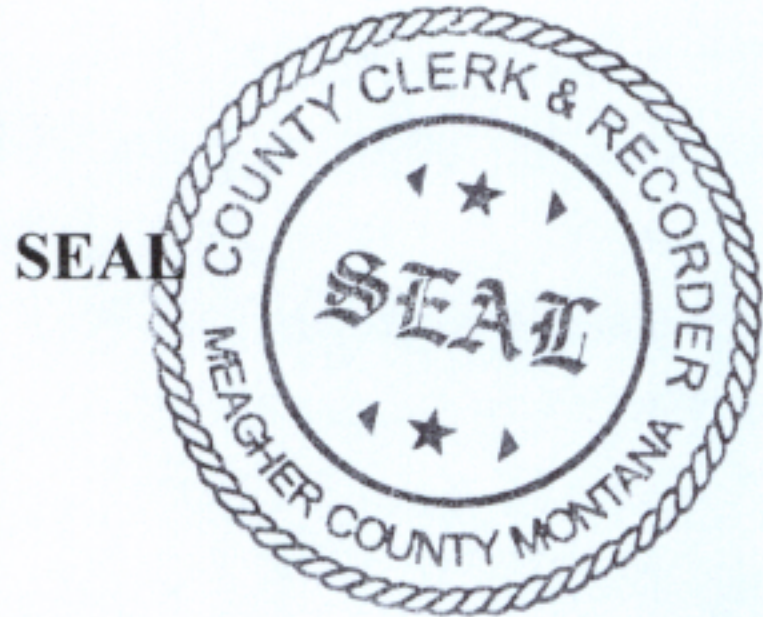
Next Meeting:

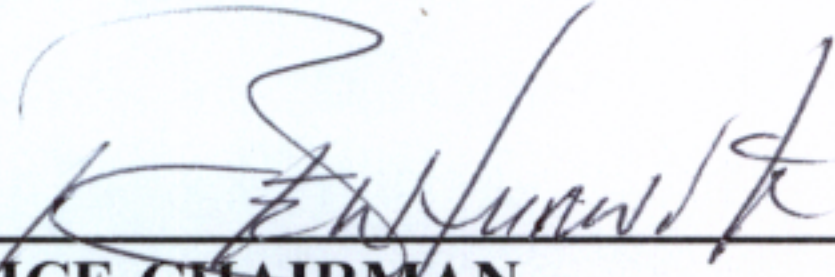
Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, October 15th, 2024.



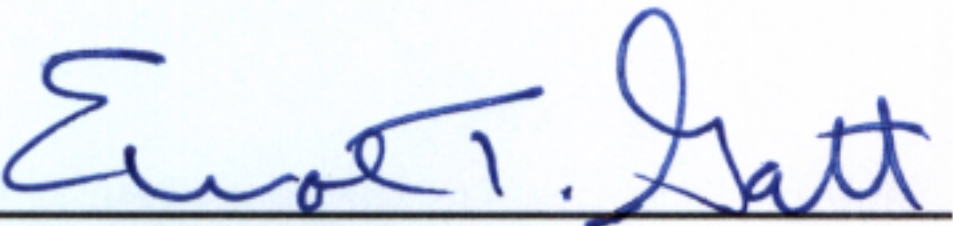
CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN





VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems
Distributed October 15th, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West