

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

September 12th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Rod 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

Chair Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from September 5th, 2023. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:05 a.m.

Hurwitz started by discussing the City County Consolidated Planning Board (CCCPB). The Planning Board's previous 2 monthly meetings were cancelled. The next CCCPB meeting is tomorrow Wednesday September 13, 2023 to discuss the annexation on Badger Street also known as the Bruce Lay Annexation Request.

Attorney Hurwitz stated, he spoke with Greg Brunner from DA Davidson regarding the meeting next week and the funding options the county has and how they could possibly be used for affordable housing.

Attorney Hurwitz discussed with the Commissioners the counties ADA accessibility issues at the courthouse and Sheriff's office. Last year the county applied for a CDBG grant. The grant was for a preliminary architect review for a new building. The grant was not approved however, it does show that we are working towards being ADA compliant.

Attorney Hurwitz discussed the changes to election security and the requirement to have cameras where ballots are stored and counted. The courthouse will have cameras installed on the Clerk and Records office, courtroom, Jury room, judge's chambers, and commissioner's chambers. The camera in the Commissioner's chambers could be used to comply with **Section 2-3-202 MCA effective July 1st 2024.**

Attorney Hurwitz stated that he is prioritizing his cases and is planning to contract Paralegals to help with his civil cases.

Attorney Hurwitz indicated the Driscoll case will go to trial. The Fredrickson case and the Smith case will most likely go to trial.

County Health Nurse – Eva Kerr R.N.:

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

Kerr started by informing the Commissioners that 19 children and 3 adults have come in for regular vaccines last month.

Kerr presented training for staff at White Sulphur Springs School for Blood Borne Pathogens and administering Narcan.

Kerr stated she had attended her monthly opioid webex and Public Health Law Training.

Kerr stated she had a training with the State Coroner liaison that is a resource to all the coroners in the state. Kerr discussed with Sheriff Lopp that the Coroner Liaison is available should he need her.

Kerr has started the paperwork to do Medicare billing. Currently she only bills Medicaid and private insurance, any Medicare patients go to the Mountainview Clinic. If the process is approved Kerr can care for both Medicare and Medicaid patients.

Kerr stated she has preordered 20 of the new COVID vaccines in preparation of approval from the CDC and ACIP.

Weed Department Sale of Capital Asset – Lee Zehntner:

Lee Zehntner entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Zehntner requested to sell the 2011 Ford F150 pickup with the blown motor. Zehntner stated that he done some research and pickups in similar condition are going for around \$2000 - \$2500. Commissioner Brewer stated he would like to see a minimum bid of \$1000. Brewer asked about replacing the motor and Zehntner stated he asked Berg garage, but they have not gotten back to him yet. The pickup doesn't have enough power to haul water and the pull the Ranger.

Zehntner would like to put the 2019 Polaris Ranger out to bid in November with a minimum bid of \$8500.

Hurwitz asked what the process is to spray for weeds when the landowner refuses. Zehntner stated the Weed Department will send a letter requesting the landowner to spray and indicating the area in question. If the landowner does not comply, the county can spray what they feel is necessary and bill the landowner. Commissioner Galt asked how often does Zehntner look for bugs that help with weed control? Zehntner stated that he looks pretty often. Some bugs are working well but not on all noxious weeds.

Commissioner Brewer inquired about the agreement with the Forest service for weed control. spray. Zehntner stated they spray all of the Tenderfoot, part of the Castle Mountains.

Action #2

Brewer Motioned to put the 2011 Ford F150 Pickup out to bid. Sealed bids will be accepted through October 2nd at 4:00 p.m. and opened on October 3rd at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed

Request for Proposal – Engineering Services:

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Ogle started by explaining there is funding opportunities for bridge replacement on the Canyon Road. and the county will need a bridge engineer for this project.

Action #3

Chair Brewer motioned to move forward with a request for Proposal for Engineering Services. Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. RFP's will be accepted through October 2nd at 4:00 p.m. and opened at 11:00 a.m. on October 3rd.

Lunch:

Cemetery Report – Mike Marion

Cemetery Sexton Mike Marion entered the chambers at 12:50 p.m.
Angie Egeler entered the chambers at 1:20 p.m.

Marion opened by informing the Commissioners that a dead tree needs to be removed. The Cemetery Board is aware of the need to remove the tree. Commissioner Galt stated Todd Shock from Harlowton owns Commercial Yard Service and can remove trees.

Marion stated the new snowplow will be installed on the Cemetery pickup on Wednesday 9/13/23. With the plow, Marion will be able to maintain the parking area and around the buildings at the airport in the winter along with the other county buildings.

Marion stated that the flowers will come off graves next Monday. The water will be shut off next week and Castle Mountain Sales will come drain the system.

Grassy Mountain Fire District Board Appointments

Rich Seibken entered the chambers at 1:15p.m. Anthony Perone entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Per County Attorney Hurwitz direction names were to be drawn out of a hat to determine the terms of the Grassy Mountain Fire District Board members. Seibken drew the names.

Rich Seibken - 1 year term
Anthony Perone - 1 year term
Ben Haugen - 2 year term
Penny Plachy - 2 year term
Valerie Seibken - 3 year term.

Action #4

Chair Brewer motioned to approve terms as drawn. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Grassy Mountain Fire district board member terms are set as drawn.

Non-Agenda Item

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:30

Ogle advised she had spoken with Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom. Ogle then presented the Commissioners with a revised budget for the library. The Commission requested to meet with Wahlstrom to discuss the revisions. Discussion was tabled until next Commission meeting when Wahlstrom will be present to give the library report

Great West Engineering – Martinsdale Water & Sewer Project Update – Craig Erickson & Kasia Bothman – Little:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

This was scheduled for the wrong time today. Commissioners asked that this meeting be rescheduled for next week. Kasia Bothman-Little arrived at 2:45p.m. Bothman-Little met with Finance Officer Dayna Ogle. There is no need to reschedule for next week.

Public Comment / Claims Approval / Signed:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #13772 through Check #13805 totaling \$29,532.13. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 19th, 2023.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER