

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**April 6, 13, 20, 2010**

**Tuesday**  
April 6, 2010  
9:00am – 4:30pm

Met at Jail at 9am to review stairs  
The Remainder of the day met in Commissioner's Chambers

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Herb Townsend

**State Building Inspector:**

Commission met with inspector Kyle Harlan State Inspector. They discussed the possibility of replacing the front steps of the jail. Mr. Harlan discussed the cost and details of the replacement. Commissioners are contemplating stair replacement and if the budget would allow improvements. State inspector stated with the replacement the county would be in compliance of accessibility standards.

**Road Department Report:**

Ray Ringer Road Supervisor met with commission to discuss current issues. They discussed road crew status. Only one crewmember is healthy. Mr. Ringer would like to have one person hired and trained so they will be ready to replace current workers when they retire. Chairman Townsend asked if the road department has enough funds in the budget to cover temporary help. Chairman Townsend stated it is up to Mr. Ringer but would like to be informed when they hire. Commissioner Hurwitz thought it is a good idea to be prepared for when road crew employees retire, so he thinks having someone come in would be beneficial to the county. Mr. Ringer would like to fly a job for two weeks for temporary help to drive truck and other labor tasks. Commissioner Hurwitz asked the status of the Smith River Road. Mr. Ringer stated they got to White Tail Road and a few other spots that were in need. He stated that they have done as much as they had planned to do this year. Commission would like to look into and see what deeds are on file for the gravel pit and other county owned land. They want to make sure deeds are on file. Mr. Ringer continued by reporting he gave the city the truck sander because the road department had no use for it. Mr. Ringer would like to get price quotes for an operator and machine rental because the current contract with Ringer Trucking expires the end of April. . Commissioner Hurwitz stated he felt it wasn't needed at this time. If he has a need he can call all that have an excavator and get bids and take the lowest bid for that job and then bring bids to the courthouse. Chairman Townsend said Mr. Ringer could put an ad in the paper requesting bids if he wanted. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if the cleanup of the gravel area is done. Mr. Ringer stated it was.

**Ken Mikesell:**

Ken Mikesell asked commission if he could get \$750 for excavator work to clean up the gravel pit area. Mr. Mikesell reported he did 90% of the clean up and hauled about 3 tons, so he would like compensation for his time. Commissioner Hurwitz said he heard they did a nice job and thanked him, and he thought the fee was reasonable. Chairman Townsend told him to submit an invoice and he will be paid through a claim.

### **County Attorney**

County Attorney Linda Hickman met with commission to touch base regarding the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Chairman Townsend felt a county wide fire district is not sustainable with current taxes that are brought in. Hurwitz would like to inform grassy mountain residents that they do not have a fire protection beyond anyone else in Meagher County. County Attorney Hickman stated that a land owner from Grassy Mountain has submitted paper work that states he feels the funds the county has received should be sent back to the residents. She has gone over the information the county has on file and feels the county does not owe any money to Grassy Mountain. The land owner said the money was to build a building and was not done. Mrs. Hickman's understanding is the county held up their end of the deal and has a fire truck that could be housed up at Grassy Mountain but the Fire District did not do their end, which was to build a heated structure for the truck. In a draft document from fire chief it states a history of fire districts and what training and equipment was purchased. In these documents it states his recommendations and concerns. County Attorney Hickman feels it is not a county responsibility but the home owners' responsibility. She explained by default the commission is acting board and she advises them to hold a public hearing to discuss what options landowners have. She has to respond to the land owner that has contacted her and she will voice the same point of view. She does not know his full intent but will keep the commission informed. Commissioner Hurwitz is concerned that the residents in Grassy Mountain are misinformed and wants them to know and understand what service they are truly receiving. Commissioner Hurwitz added he personally wants them to dissolve the fire district. Chairman Townsend is concerned that they think they have a full fire department designated just for them but they need to understand the funds they pay in taxes do not even come close to the revenue they need to generate to run it successfully. Chairman Townsend would like to discontinue taking in fees and dissolve the district. Commission and Attorney discussed fire district options at length. Chairman Townsend moves to hold a public hearing in an effort to rectify the fire district. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The county will send residents a letter, and also publish it in the paper to hold a public hearing May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the courtroom. A letter will be drafted and reviewed before it is mailed out.

### **Southwest Chemical Dependency:**

Dan Krause, Michael Hagenlock met with the commission, and Jean McCulley director could not make it so they came in her place. They wanted to update the commission on their outpatient treatment center. Mr. Hagenlock comes twice a month for patient treatments the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Mr. Krause explained that they receive \$4,600 to utilize in Meagher County for chemical dependencies. They have prevention services in place, as well as counseling and other interventions to help residents in the county. Mr. Krause explained that anyone can refer people to inpatient treatment and other services if needed. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how many are being seen at this time. They reported there is one gentleman that is being treated that was ordered by the court. Majority of referrals are from the courts, on occasion school or hospital refer. Hurwitz asked how often they meet with the commission. Mr. Krause stated they come once a year but can come more frequent if needed.

### **Purchase of County Truck:**

Mike Eckberg asked if commission would take payments for truck he bid on. Chairman Townsend moved that they would accept payments from Mr. Eckberg for the truck, and once paid off he may take possession of the truck. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

### **Clerk and Recorder:**

Clerk and Recorder Dayna Ogle met with commission and discussed 09-10 budget. Mrs. Ogle would like to do a budget hearing so she can do a budget amendment to make

corrections to two funds. She noted that communications was not levied for but she believes it will be okay, because there has not been very much coded out of it to date. She wanted commission to be aware of it and know she is monitoring it and will keep them informed. Chairman Townsend stated he would like to see the budget amended and completed. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if we could start the budget process earlier to have time to go through it thoroughly. Clerk & Recorder Ogle suggested that when we send out a letter requesting budgets from department heads that the clerk and recorder will handle the payroll. Commissioner Hurwitz noted it sounds okay. Mrs. Ogle said she does not mind if they do it but she would be doing it to help them and to make sure no raises were overlooked. Also she would like departments to list any large purchases they plan on making so there are no surprises to the commission. Hurwitz stated he saw Mr. Reese from DOR and he said the state is going to re-access property valuations for 2010 to help rectify some of the issues. He also feels it is important to file AB26 to be safe this year. Townsend agrees valuations needs to be redone. Hurwitz stated all these changes would have ramifications on the county budget. Townsend added that protested taxes would have an affect too so we need to keep that in mind while doing the upcoming budget.

### **Sheriff Report:**

Commissioner Hurwitz asked Sheriff Lopp if he could have is deputies patrol the road to the smith river during the peak floating season. He said there are quite a few cars that speed down that road.

Sheriff Lopp told commission that there is an individual that has asked the city if they can have a store front to dispense medicinal marijuana, and the city is determining what they can and cannot do. He wanted the commission to be aware so they can be prepared, because most likely they will be faced with this issue too. Hurwitz asked what are the county's options and where can people that need it go if we do not have a storefront. Sheriff Lopp said Great Falls, Billings, and some other towns have it available, but people could get permits to grow their own. The City said they are looking into it, to see if it is within the city rights to pass an ordinance to not allow it. Townsend asked how the county is could be affected. Sheriff Lopp explained if the city does not allow it then the person would try to open a store in the county. The dangers of it are that typically this type of facility has numerous break-ins and cause quite a few other safety concerns. Townsend expressed that he would support setting an ordinance that medicinal marijuana would not be allowed in the county. He feels they do not need anything like this that could cause problems. Sheriff Lopp explained how many rules, regulations, ticketing etc that is involved in this processing. Sheriff Lopp recommended that the commission talk to the county attorney to find out what options they have and how they can prepare for this. Hurwitz stated it is legal for medical marijuana, so we are faced with these decisions. Hurwitz stated the county will look into our options and talk to county attorney. Sheriff Lopp stated the state can not give identity of card holders they only can give the number of card holders that reside in the county. Sheriff Lopp stated they looked into getting laptops for vehicles the deputies vehicles and that they received two. The cost to the county will only be \$1,200 for both. They can get two more at \$1,200 a piece which is a 25% match of the actual cost. Right now they do process tickets and inquiries by running it through dispatch so laptops would be faster and more efficient. It also has gps were officers and dispatchers can see locations of others which addresses safety concerns. Hurwitz would like to have just the two and wait on the others. Townsend agreed, he felt two would be fine for now. Sheriff Lopp continued by saying the only vehicle that is leased is Deputy Shroyer's. The contract between the county and Deputy Shroyer states the deductible is \$500, but Mid Montana stated it is \$2,000. If the deductible is \$2,000 Sheriff Lopp asked if the commission would approve the purchase of a county vehicle for Deputy Shroyer to use. Commission is going to look into deductibles and the options they have. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if 4 wheel drive is necessary for deputies or can they have a car. Lopp stated winter is hard to have a car and when they are called to respond to a remote area a 4 wheel drive is needed and they would have to come into town and trade vehicles and their response time is adversely affected. Chairman Townsend asked at what mileage do they try to trade in the used vehicles. Sheriff Lopp stated it is typically around 100,000 miles but it varies. Sheriff Lopp stated if a vehicle is purchased for Deputy Shroyer next year then Deputy Rauser would not

receive a new vehicle as planned and wait another year. Commissioner Townsend stated he would approve the purchase of a county owned vehicle for Shroyer if they decide to do that after looking at the insurance options. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed and added that if something happens in the mean time then the county would be responsible for the difference in the deductible and Deputy Shroyer would be responsible for the \$500 as indicated on his contract. Sheriff Lopp then informed the commission that Deputy Rauser completed his training and is back working. Sheriff Lopp stated at the community expo they will hand out ID kits for parents to take fingerprints of their children. They will also have a receptacle to turn in expired prescriptions to keep kids from experimenting with them. Commission thanked Sheriff Lopp for his time.

**Public Concern:**

A community member dropped in to voice his concerns to the commission regarding clean air act violations in business in town.

**Claims:**

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented claims to the commission voucher #1060, CK#40659 – CK#40689 totaling \$141,319.16. Commissioners approved and signed as presented.

**Payroll:**

Payroll Checks Voucher #13, CK#217700-CK#217711 totaling \$10,588.30. Direct Deposit totaled \$47,307.19. Insurance voucher #1058, CK#40613 – CK#40622 totaling \$14,495.42. Deduction voucher #1057 CK#40606 – CK#40612 totaling \$79,931.67.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

**Tuesday**  
April 13, 2010  
9:00am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Herb Townsend

Note: Commissioner Bernie Lucas joined on the phone for Commissioner Appointee and Chairman Townsend left to attend a MACo Health Care Trust Meeting at 10:00am.

**Meagher County Conservation District:**

Lacey Rasmussen from the Conservation District asked commission to sign a grant application confirming how much the county levied for the Conservation District. Chairman Townsend moved that the commission sign verifying the county levied \$8,410.

Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Chairman Townsend signed grant application.

**Arbor Day:**

Dean Anderson dropped in to invite the Meagher County Commissioners to Arbor Day that will be held in White Sulphur Springs this year. He believes it will be held at the school but will notify commission of the final location and time. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed to attend if his schedule allows.

**Commissioner Appointee for District #3:**

**RESOLUTION #2010-10**

Mike & Deborah Eby were present and Commissioner Lucas was contacted and put on speakerphone. Chairman Townsend opened by stating the Republican Central Committee had submitted three names to be considered to fill Commissioner Lucas' Office. He continued by explaining the names were in order of the Central Committee's recommendation; which was Nancy Schlepp, Rick Seidlitz, and Mike Eby. Chairman Townsend then asked if Mr. Eby had anything to say. Mr. Eby said he trusts the commissioners' decision, and had nothing else to add.

Chairman Townsend moved to appoint Nancy Schlepp to fill Commissioner Lucas' office. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. It is therefore resolved.

Chairman Townsend contacted Mrs. Schlepp by phone and congratulated her for being appointed to County Commissioner for District #3. Mrs. Schlepp will be into the courthouse today to take oath. Commission thanked Mr. Eby for his willingness to serve the community. Commissioner Hurwitz thanked Commissioner Lucas for 16 years of service. Chairman Townsend agreed and noted he appreciated all Commissioner Lucas has done.

**The Standard Life Insurance:**

**RESOLUTION 2010-11**

Clerk & Recorder's Office informed commission that an employee had asked if they could receive the life insurance benefit without enrolling in the health insurance benefit. MACo confirmed that the employee would sign up for the option 2 life insurance and the county could pay for that benefit. Chairman Townsend moved to allow employees that are not signed up for health insurance to sign up for life insurance. The benefit is only for the employee and not dependents. The value of life insurance is \$20,000 which will be charged to the county at the age-banded rates, which is locked in until 2012.

Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore resolved.

**MSU Extension:**

Dave Phillips contacted the Clerk & Recorder's office and notified commission he would not be able to attend due to road conditions.

**Fire Report:**

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz met with Commissioner Hurwitz and gave an update. Mr. Seidlitz received a notification that one of the main grants he applied for was denied. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if Fire Chief Seidlitz would oversee the airport fuel tank. Commissioner Hurwitz added he felt Mr. Seidlitz was qualified and could do a great job. Fire Chief Seidlitz stated he would oversee the airport fuel tank. Seidlitz explained there is a computer system to purchase fuel with a credit card. It is supposed to be checked once a month for purchases. Also when the tank is filled the price needs to be adjusted.

Mr. Seidlitz added there is a card that is located out there that the state can use in emergencies. Mr. Seidlitz stated he received materials from IT for the machine.

Fire Chief Seidlitz continued reporting that he applied for a state DNRC. He explained that each county that applies receives funds, he will not know amount until state receives all applications and determines how much each county will receive. He noted the Hummer is all done except one hose. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if it will be left in town. Seidlitz stated he is not sure where they will have it, it will be decided soon. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if Fire Chief Seidlitz would attend the Grassy Mountain Fire Public Hearing May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Seidlitz said he would definitely attend. A fire truck will be picked up by Paul Kroeger that will be stored in his garage for Grassy Mountain. Commissioner Hurwitz expressed he was thankful this issue is being addressed. Fire Chief Seidlitz reported on maintenance and condition of fire vehicles. This coming Saturday a training for volunteer fireman will be held with Galt aviation and some helicopters from the state. He also is working on having some sort of tank added to one truck that will help fill trucks while working on fires. The fire volunteers responded to a hay fire and later that day responded to a mutual aid vehicle accident. Seidlitz asked that all commissioners attend a cooperators meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. They will discuss how fires are handled in Meagher County. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he would try to attend, and will let the other Commissioners know.

### **LEPC Meeting:**

Commissioner Hurwitz went to the Sheriff Training Center to attend the LEPC lunch meeting.

### **Library Board:**

Library Chairwoman Julie Witt and Library Board Member Mari Johnston met with commissioner Hurwitz and gave him a report from the library. Mrs. Witt asked if the Librarian is an exempt or non-exempt status. She noted the Librarian has been situations where she has been noting comp-time. Commissioner Hurwitz stated it is the library boards concern not a county commissioner issue but that the county believes she meets the non-exempt criteria. Hurwitz recommended that she be non-exempt and that the Library board not approve any overtime. They should have her adjust her hours to compensate for the times she needs to work on the weekend or late. Like if she has an evening meeting come in later. Hurwitz noted a maintenance reserve will be set up for next year's budget for departments to utilize. Mrs. Witt presented figures that project what costs could be incurred into redoing existing library building. After the costs are totaled it was estimated at \$552,505.00 and to do new construction it was only estimated to be about \$700,000. Mrs. Witt shared some proposed plans to fix and add on to the library, that Candace Miller prepared at no cost. Mrs. Witt noted what a great job Mrs. Miller did. Hurwitz stated the first step is to hold the cooperation meeting to see what the community will support.

### **County Health Nurse:**

County Health Nurse Kari Jo Kiff handed out her Health Department Report. She updated Commissioner Hurwitz on grants and grant reporting. County Health Nurse moved on and asked what was the decision made about leaving her position as a contract position or making it a county employee position. She would like for it to be made a county position that included benefits. She noted she would like the wage to remain the same or close to the same. Commissioner Hurwitz explained the commission decided to leave it as a contract so the county could budget her wage what it is. If they made it a benefited position the wage would have to be decreased significantly. Mrs. Kiff asked if the commission could look into what they could pay with benefits to see if it worked for her. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed to revisit this topic but also pointed out if they create this position that they would have to notify the public, and hire the most qualified person. Commissioner Hurwitz thanked County Health Nurse Kiff for the information and her time.

**Budget Amendment Public Hearing:**

Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle explained budget corrections that were needed to rectify the budget so it can be finalized. Mrs. Ogle asked if the commission would authorize a transfer from PILT to Waste Admin (2500 Fund) in the amount of \$9839.65, and Land Use (2860 Fund) in the amount of \$15,288.60, totaling \$25, 128.25. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed it needs to be done and will present to other commissioners to vote on it and have it resolved.

**Claims:**

Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1061, CK# 40690 – CK#40719, totaling \$13,460.00. JV #255 for Road & Cemetery Reimbursement to Road for fuel. JV #406 to balance cash in Gas Tax Fund (prior period adjustment). JV #407 to balance cash in Gas Tax Fund. Commissioner approved and signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

**Tuesday**

April 20, 2010

9:00am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner’s Chambers

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Nancy Schlepp, and Chairman Herb Townsend

**Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer Sue Phelan met with Commissioner Hurwitz and Commissioner Nancy Schlepp. Treasurer Phelan stated she received a letter noting the state law requires the Clerk & Recorder to sign as well as one of the commissioners. The commissioners checked the law and agreed it needed to be done, so from here on out Mrs. Ogle and one Commissioner will sign. Treasurer Phelan asked the commissioners to give her permission by signing a letter to the bank allowing her to receive cash from her deposit for up to \$10.00. On renewal bills the state included a fee of \$1.00 for postage, so if someone brings it in the treasurer’s office refunds that dollar. The state is working on it to take that charge out so the Treasurer’s offices do not have to be giving cash refunds. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed to sign the letter to help her in this process. Treasurer Phelan handed out a report noting the balances of funds. Commissioner Schlepp asked if they could receive it monthly and Mrs. Phelan agreed that was her intent so the commission is aware of the status of the county’s accounts. Mrs. Phelan then asked if the commission would consider renting the vault area in the Mason’s building for storage of records. She noted they will be storing the assessor records once the current assessor retires. When Pat Pallas retires the assessor office will move downstairs and the Treasurer will move into the current assessor’s office.

### **Deputy Clerk & Recorder:**

Deputy Clerk & Recorder Becky Hurwitz-Leger presented claims for review and approval.

Commissioner Townsend asked the status on the county's gravel pit. Mrs. Hurwitz Leger reported she researched the documents and that in fact the 40 acre gravel pit is deeded to the county. She also found that there are right of way deeds for the airport and a deed for a metal building. The state owns the airport ground but has given the county an easement to use it as an airport.

### **Budget Hearing:**

#### **RESOLUTION 2010-12**

Clerk and Recorder Ogle has found that two funds were overlooked in the budget. It appears that they have been overlooked for a few years. She recommends that a PILT transfer be done to bring these funds into balance. One transfer to be done is for the Transfer Site, fund 2500 for licensing and recycling bins at the school in the amount of \$9,839.00. The second transfer for Land Use, fund 2860 for the amount of \$15,288. The total from PILT would be \$25,128.25 total transfer.

Commissioner Ben Hurwitz moved to transfer the recommended amount of \$25,128.25 from PILT into fund 2500 and 2860 to bring them up to date. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore resolved.

Clerk & Recorder Ogle noted that the auditor will be here tomorrow to help get our funds and clearing funds in balance. Once he reviews tomorrow he may begin the day after. She is concerned about the treasurer's and the clerk and recorder's numbers matching. This audit was requested by Clerk & Recorder and approved by the commission to clean up all the funds. The auditing firm stated they would also inform current staff the proper way to process, document and store pertinent information.

Chairman Townsend looked at Treasurer's report and asked why the fire fund is in the hole and also the general. He expressed he felt the report is meaningless unless they know why the numbers reflect what they do. Clerk & Recorder Ogle said she thought it maybe because the first half of taxes collected are already expended and the second half of taxes has not been collected yet. Mrs. Ogle pointed out that the Local Government office recommends that Meagher County have higher cash balances to help out through this time while you are waiting for the second half of taxes. Chairman Townsend would like clarification on the report Treasurer Phelan handed out earlier. Treasurer Sue Phelan joined commission to answer questions. Chairman Townsend asked why there are deficits and surpluses. Treasurer Phelan stated she gave the report to commission so they can see where all the departments are financially. She does not know why it is in the hole but could look into it. Mrs. Ogle asked if Mrs. Phelan knows what will be brought in for the second half of taxes. Mrs. Phelan said she is not able to predict but it definitely will bring these funds into the black. Mrs. Ogle will bring a budget report monthly as well so commission can have a clearer picture. Commissioner Hurwitz stated it would be valuable to know how much of the budget a department has spent, that is the most important information. Mrs. Phelan said some of these numbers are not true values. Chairman Townsend stated without true numbers this report is not beneficial. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if the rest home is done or does the Harmon trust is still contributing money monthly. Chairman Townsend explained the Harmon trust is still responsible to fund the activity room, and that the county pays monthly. The county is responsible to pay off the 30 year loan. It will be paid by the interest from Harmon Trust.

Mrs. Ogle and Mrs. Phelan will meet monthly to report to the commission financial status. Commissioner Schlepp noted if you look at the overall the numbers look pretty good. The individual accounts may be in the hole but the overall looks good.

### **County Web Page:**

Jim McDanel and Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle informed the commissioners that they are working on the web page. Mr. McDanel explained the county does not need a new domain because they already have meaghercounty.mt.gov. Mr. McDanel asked if the commission wants him to host the web page or do they want to spend \$10.00/month to let the state host it. If the state hosts the web page it would be limited and you would need to use their format. If Mr. McDanel does it then he can design it the way the county wants it. The county has to do updates regardless, so commission only needs to decide who will be designing. Mr. McDanel stated he has minimal information on the county web page currently. He recommends that the county designs it so it is tailored to what commission and employees want. Commissioner Schlepp asked if the chamber could be on it too or at least a link to the chamber on the county web page. Mr. McDanel said absolutely they could have a link. Commissioner Schlepp stated the time it would take to manage and update information on webpage would determine if the county should pay the state to do it or if we would do it in house. She continued by saying if it is not kept up, even daily people will not utilize the web site. Commissioner Schlepp noted it should be considered in next year's budget, so at this time it maybe more feasible to have the State do it until the funds and time are available. Chairman Townsend questioned even if we need the webpage. Mrs. Ogle asked if they could try and then turn it over to the state if there was not time to keep it updated. Mrs. Ogle expressed she thought it would be manageable because there would not need to be daily updates but monthly updates. Mr. McDanel voiced he would like to design the county's webpage. Commissioner Schlepp asked to table discussion and to revisit this topic at a later date before a decision is made. Chairman Townsend agreed.

### **Library Board:**

Commission met with Library Board and went to the old Mile High building to view it and see if it is an option for the Library. Commission, Mayor Theriault and the Library Board met with owners Margaret and Gary Wilhelm and their realtor. The building was in good condition, had 8,500 square feet, parking, and one bathroom. The overall consensus was that it was a great location, a lot of space, but would need a considerable amount of work to convert it into a library. The concerns voiced were in regards to the old gas tanks, parking lot, insulation, handicap accessible bathroom, dropping the sealing, new front windows, flooring, new heating system, and wiring for additional outlets. Commission agreed to meet with the Library Board later to discuss.

### **Fire Chief:**

Chairman Townsend voiced his concern about the Fire Chief Position and the perception in the community. Commissioner Hurwitz agrees with the concerns. He has been approached by many community members and has explained that the Fire Chief is paid by the Title III money that only can be used for fire mitigation. Chairman Townsend asked for Fire Chief to be contacted to see if he could come in today and clarify the details of his position.

### **Gateway Economic Development:**

Terry Myhre and Brian Obert wanted to check in on the commission and see how things are going. They are applying for an USDA Grant. These grants are starting to require capital improvements, so you need to document. Commerce is excited about this capital improvement plan. They are helping Broadwater County with a hospital improvement project. The county would match 10% of the USDA and the CBDG. The USDA brings in people to help train and show the county how to apply and report for these. This helps everyone be in compliance. The training helps communities do it right and to continue doing it right in the future. Commissioner Hurwitz clarified it is money that would be used for a long range plan, not for actual road work. They answered yes. There is 3 lines coming through Meagher County, and also a grassland projects so there will be more funds available. Hydro pump is a closed system that you don't lose that energy and the funding is available because it is a green system. They would like to get USDA funds to

get an engineer report to help bring this program to Meagher County to help economic issues in the county. The USDA is on a grading system and if you have more points you are the one that would receive it. Chairman Townsend stated that the airport is a good example you plan and prepare so it is shovel ready and then you are the one that is granted it. Meagher County is a target area that was identified five areas that can be development. Chairman Townsend feels the commission needs to focus on the infrastructure, and to organize all the county boards, we need to pull it together and be organized. Mr. Obert feels the capital improvement plan is the first step. It would be the extension agent that could coordinate these things. MMC has a profit 101 training that educates you how to organize and bring people together. It shows how to communicate and become more organized. Commissioner Schlepp stated the county continuously re-events the wheel, they do great the first two steps and then they keep going back over it. She would like to utilize what is already been done and move forward. Chairman Townsend stated the county may be the one to head it up. Commissioner Schlepp asked who in Broadwater County they could contact for more information. Mr. Obert said Gayle is a good contact because he has connections to both the county and hospital. He continued by saying the county will need a planning board where all entities can come together and plan, organize and come together. You have a better chance of accomplishing something if everyone is informed and working together. RCND is asking that Meagher County contribute, they ask that the county contribute \$2500. Chairman Townsend would agree to contribution if the city contributes too. Mr. Obert pointed out that Meagher County has not been active for 2008 and 2009, so at this time they need Meagher County to contribute. Commissioner Schlepp would like to look into it and talk to Broadwater County before a decision is made. Chairman Townsend would like all the boards to come together and work together. Mr. Myhre and Mr. Obert will come up with a proposal plan and get back with the county commission. Once that is completed Townsend said the county would sign the contract and pay contribution that has been requested. Mr. Myhre said they will talk with Mayor Theriault and see if he is willing to share the contribution. Commission thanked them for their time.

### **US Bank Harmon Trust:**

Deb Schroedel & Bill Northey met with commission. They handed out an updated report. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how long the funds will last paying the indicated monthly payments. They figure it will be the end of November or the beginning of December; which at that time they would have to dip into the principal to continue expenditures. The annual income is about \$35,111.00 stated Mr. Northey. Hurwitz asked if they could suspend the payment for 911 in the amount of \$1,000 per month. Mrs. Schroedel said they could do that if it is requested by the commission. Deputy Treasurer Shauna Porter joined the meeting. Mr. Northey stated they have seen an acceleration in the economy in 2009, but the US economy has not grown from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. They are accelerating off a very low base. They predict it will be an uneven growth. Consumers are still in hardship with 10% unemployment with more foreclosures to come. They anticipate this fund to grow below national rate. Inflation is not anticipated to be a big risk. It is pretty much muted. Fed funds define interest rates. MCA title 7 governs this trust. This depends on what the government does. Year end forecast 2.5 % – 3.5%, because it will be adjusted with the changes that occur. Mr. Northey noted that the 5 year rate is creeping up, so the interest rates will continue to get higher. Yield spreads jumped significantly .5% to 6%. Mr. Northey covered information regarding the Harmon trust portfolio. They anticipate that at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the rates will improve. They are not leaving it in money markets because it is yielding 0. Mr. Northey pointed out Current market value is \$10,693.00. The bond maturity schedule shows when and how much is due. Both 2011 and 2012 are around \$111,000. By 2014 it will show the biggest growth. Mr. Northey explained the portfolio at length. Commissioner Schlepp asked if they for see a second tier of foreclosures. Mr. Northey said not another jump but a continuation for probably the next five years. Home owners are going to have a long hard road for the next five years. Chairman Townsend asked how secure the U.S. Treasury is. Mr. Northey said we are seeing other countries struggling and fighting this exact same thing. He said it is a possibility; our national debt is starting to affect our economy. Chairman Townsend asked if the dollar is going to lose the gold rate. Mr. Northey said the dollar is the standard for world currency reserves, but with our issues we have opened the door for others to be accepted in the future. Mr.

Northey explained that if the interest rates go down then bonds go up and vice versa. 1991 is when this portfolio began. Mr. Northey asked if the commissioners will sign an objective title. Commissioner Schlepp asked if the Harmon Trust is earmarked. Mrs. Schroedel explained it is up to the commission, but the senior retirement home is committed at this time and so is the 911. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he is going to look into ending the \$1,000 a month for 911. The trust is secure so it is in the lower yield interest rates. If Commissioner Hurwitz does stop the monthly amount 911 receives then commissioners need to contact US Bank and notify them. Mr. Northey pointed out he will be the main contact until Mrs. Schroedel is replaced, she is transferring to Idaho. Commission thanked for their time.

### **County Board of Health:**

Mayor Julian Theriault and County Health Nurse Kari Jo Kiff met with commission. Kiff reported on the diseases that have been confirmed in the last three months. Once these are confirmed she investigates to find out if more have or how to avoid. She advises them how to treat and prevent. She noted there are five H1N1 confirmed cases in Montana. None have been reported in Meagher County. They anticipate it will peak again, so they are still providing vaccines.

Mrs. Kiff noted that the Mint and Stockman were cited for disobeying the Clean Air Act, they were both signage violations. The Mint owner disputed the validity of the violation and wanted a copy of the complaint. Mrs. Kiff met with him to go over complaint and to give him a copy of the it. After discussing Mrs. Kiff agreed she would take away the violation. She will process it this week and fix it. The Stockman did not pick up their certified letter yet. The Roadhouse and the Lane were cited for active smoking. The Lane has not returned the certified receipt. Commissioner Schlepp asked what the violation process is. County Health Nurse explained there has to be 3 registered complaints in a year's period of time to have receive a fine. The Lane and the Roadhouse have two violations. The state representative said all establishments received a packet. Mrs. Kiff expressed she wants the Board of Health to support her, which includes the commission. She would like the Board of Health to use its authority to show the support in the community. She also added she would like the board of health to come back into compliance by having the members all know what authority they have and how to use it, for situations like quarantines. Mrs. Kiff would also like the office terms straightened out. It has been 6 years but by law it should only be 3 years. Brian Clifton has the board book, and he is going to be bringing it to her to check and make sure it is updated. Commissioner Schlepp asked if Mrs. Kiff has anyone in mind. Mrs. Kiff replied no, but they will notify the community and see who is interested. County Health Nurse Kiff said Laurie Brown declined the County Officer position so she would like to ask Brett Williams if he would be interested in the position for the \$100/mo stipend.

Chairman Townsend moved to give Mrs. Kiff permission to offer County Health Officer Position to Brett Williams. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

### **Library Board:**

Tary Buckingham, Jim Johnston and Chairman Julie Witt met with commission to discuss building possibilities for the county/city library. After a very lengthy discussion about the options the library has and the positives and negatives to each scenario Commissioner Schlepp said it ultimately is their choice, and she expressed she supports their decision. Mr. Johnston stated they are coming to the conclusion that buying a building and renovating, or fixing what they have and expanding would be almost the same cost of purchasing land and building a new facility. He further stated it may be financially wiser to have a new facility so they do not keep running into this situation of costly maintenance and improvements. Library Board Chairman Witt said they are leaning toward the forest service land and build a new facility, but would like to know what the public prefers. Mrs. Witt said they really are trying to do what is best for the community and what they will support the most. Commission thanked the Library Board for their hard work and their diligence.

### **Stelling Engineer:**

Mike Beckoff reported to commission they hope to be done paving Thursday night, it depends on the weather. It is critical to have good weather to pave. They then will do tie downs, and clean outs for drain system on the runway. Those are things that can be done in any weather. They will still need to stripe it before it is re-opened. Mr. Beckoff presented paper work to amend contract and to update program and asked if the commission would sign off on it. Hurwitz asked if they will be paid for the gravel Helena Sand and Gravel used. Mr. Beckoff said he will contact them and will not release final payment to them until they pay for the gravel. Hurwitz asked if the runway is sealed. Mr. Beckoff replied no, and in fact it will not need a seal coat for about 5 years. Chairman Townsend signed new paperwork that includes land acquisition and that the airport will take over responsibility of the fencing.

### **Fire Chief Information:**

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz met with Commission to discuss his position. Chairman Townsend expressed concern on the community's perception of the county fire chief position. He feels it is important to clarify some things with the community. Chairman Townsend asked Clerk & Recorder Ogle what were Fire Chief's Titles and how much he was paid. She explained he held the DES position as well as Fire Mitigation. Commissioner Hurwitz stated the county always has to have a DES person and that the Fire Chief truck was bought by Title 3 money that was ear marked for mitigation. Commissioner Hurwitz stated that he has been approached by volunteers that were concerned about the fire chief truck not being parked in the fire garage like all the other fire trucks. Commissioner Schlepp asked what the policy for county owned vehicles is. Commissioner Hurwitz stated the road crew parks their personal rigs and use county vehicles during the work day. He added that the Sheriff's department has their rigs all the time in case of an emergency. Commissioner Hurwitz asked Mr. Seidlitz if he has taken a part time job for search and rescue for the state. Fire Chief stated he did but does not use the county vehicle for personal transportation. Commissioner Schlepp feels there should be a contract implemented that all employees sign agreeing to not use county vehicle for personal use or if needed then they at least agree to document personal use. Chairman Townsend noted even if the fire chief is paid by federal funds it is still taxpayer money and the community is questioning what the fire chief was hired for. Townsend stated he feels there should be some public relation work done so the community has a clear understanding. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed. Chairman Townsend asked why the sheriff use to run both the fire and sheriff departments. Fire Chief explained he was able to do both because he had a great undersheriff that took over a lot of the sheriff work which freed him up to do the fire duties. They made it work but it was not efficient.

### **Building Supervisor:**

Building Supervisor JR Shinabarger met with commission to discuss the possibility of helping out the library. The Library Board has asked the commission if they could utilize Building Supervisor's services. They would like to have someone come and mow the lawn, change light bulbs, and other similar duties. Building Supervisor Shinabarger explained that back in 1995 he was asked the same question and agreed to assist the Library for an additional \$50 per month. Mr. Shinabarger explained the Library later asked the commissioners for an increase in their budget. After Commission and the Library discussed, Commissioner Dogget informed Mr. Shinabarger he was to not assist the library anymore and that the additional \$50 per month would not be paid anymore. He expressed frustration that they have changed their minds again and now would like him to come back. Commission does not know specifically what the library wants, so they would like to clarify needs before any decisions are made. Commission decided to table discussion. Mr. Shinabarger agreed the Library Board could contact him to discuss.

**Claims:**

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Hurwitz presented Voucher #1062, CK#40720 – CK#40738 totaling \$10,611.83 and Journal Entry #438 for fuel reimbursement. Commission approved and signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

**SEAL**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**