

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

March 3, 10, 16 2009

**TUESDAY
March 3, 2009**

Commissioners Present: Herb Townsend, Bernie Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

ROAD SUPERVISOR:

Meagher County Road Supervisor: Ray Ringer reported the county has been trying to acquire the use of an old railroad bridge that crosses the old depot. The existing county bridge needs replacement. Libby Johnston requested the county abandon approximately 2 miles of county road that crosses the Clear Range. Ms. Johnston will bring in a petition and get the process started. The Commissioners gave Mr. Ringer approval to research the purchase of a dump truck to replace the 1972 truck. Mr. Ringer will be attending a convention March 30,31,and April 1, 2009.

MEAGHER COUNTY NEWS:

Jason Phillips Meagher County News will advertise for Meagher County Treasurer and temporary help in the Clerk and Recorder's Office.

SHERIFF:

Meeting with Sheriff Rick Seidlitz; for several weeks the commissioners and Sheriff Seidlitz have been exploring the formation of a countywide fire district. Mr. Seidlitz stated that he would like to retire from Law Enforcement and head up the Fire District when it is formed. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Seidlitz bring forth a plan and budget for said proposed Fire District.

AIRPORT BOARD:

Meeting in the courtroom with Airport Board, Concerned citizens, Jason Phillips, Stelling Engineers, Inc. represented by Mitch Stelling and Mike Bechoff. The subject of the meeting was Runway Rehabilitation at the Meagher County Airport. There may be \$1,800,000.00 from a Federal Government Stimulus, which would require NO county matching funds. The entire project, according to Stelling Engineers,Inc., will cost \$3,000,000.00 with out including an additional \$800,000.00 for the Apron. The following is the funding explanation sent forth by Mitch Stelling.

Runway Rehabilitation Funding

FAA- \$1,800,000.00

\$448,726.00

\$2,248.726.00

Economic Stimulus / No Match Fund

\$427,359.00 Part A & Part B

\$21,367.00 County Match

Total Non Primary Entitlements

Part A: \$187,373 Available last few months 2009

Part B: \$ 239,986 Available now.

\$21,367 County Match

\$448,726.00

Projected Costs

\$2,537,720 60' Runway Rehabilitation

\$460,000 75' runway Rehabilitation

\$2,997,720	Total Cost W/O Apron
<u>-\$2,248,726</u>	Fund Available
\$748,994	Funds Short W/O Apron

This shortage is supposed to come from other airports in Montana that will loan Meagher County their FAA annual allowance and Meagher County will need to pay 5% Match.

RESOLUTION #2009-26

Commissioner Lucas moved to sign a letter for preliminary exploration to rehabilitate the Meagher County Airport. Commissioner Townsend seconded, it is therefore resolved.

MIKESELL SALES:

Meeting with Ken Mikesell requested to be paid \$1600.00 for concrete Mikesell sales poured in the new firehouse. He was paid \$806.00 of a \$2400.00 charge. The contractor never paid the balance and went broke and left town.

RESOLUTION #2009-27

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to pay Mikesell Sales \$1600.00. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken, Commissioners Hurwitz and Townsend voted for and Commissioner Lucas voted against. Motion passed and therefore it is resolved.

WARRANTS:

Warrants approved, checks signed.

Meeting Adjourned.

TUESDAY
March 10,2009

Commissioners Present: Herb Townsend, Bernie Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Meagher County Attorney:

County Attorney Linda Hickman reported the investigation by the Attorney Generals Office on Misappropriations of County Funds has been completed on Cameron Lowe: County Clerk and Recorder and Treasurer Employee: Angie Ringer has been completed and they are cleared of pending criminal charges. Both have been removed from administrative leave and can resume their respective jobs. Notice will be put in the Meagher County News. A letter concerning Angie Ringer's job performance will be written by acting Treasurer Sue Phelan, said letter will be given to Mrs. Ringer and then placed in her employee file.

Meagher County Clerk and Recorder:

Clerk And Recorder Cameron Lowe was asked to meet with the commissioners and County Attorney: Linda Hickman. Mr. Lowe stated that he thought it best for himself and Meagher County if he resigned as Clerk and Recorder. He also stated he would like to be employed part time for a while to help a new Clerk and Recorder learn the demands of the job, particularly the responsibilities of the county, city, school, and national elections. The Commissioners asked Mr. Lowe to contemplate his decision March 16, 2009.

Meagher County Planning Board:

Planning Board Member; Mel Peterson met with the commissioners to point out the Planning Board has not held a meeting for four years. Jean Roberts is currently the Chairperson. We will contact Mrs. Roberts and let her know that Mr. Peterson would consider taking over the chair and start meeting again.

Meagher County IT:

Jake Odom suggested that he would like to train Christy Rogers to catch up our county Recordings, which are several months behind. Commissioners Lucas and Townsend agreed to hire Mrs. Rogers as a part Time employee, 6 hours per day at \$12.00 per hour.

Meeting Adjourned

MONDAY
March 16,2009

Commissioners Present: Herb Townsend, Bernie Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Meagher County Treasurer:

Met with acting Treasurer Sue Phelan. Mrs. Phelan presented the letter she gave to Angie Ringer, which will be placed in her employee file. Mrs. Ringer is welcome to come before the commissioners to discuss anything about her employment, including the letter in her employee file.

Meagher County Clerk and Recorder:

Meagher County Clerk and Recorder; Cameron Lowe and County Attorney Linda Hickman met with the commissioners. Mr. Lowe resigned as Clerk and Recorder time employee at \$15.71 per hour not to exceed 20 hours per week and not to exceed 1 year. Mr. Lowe agreed he would be hired to help train a new Clerk and Recorder after one is selected. This new Clerk and Recorder can terminate Mr. Lowe's temporary employment after giving Meagher County 30 days notice.

The Commissioners asked acting Clerk and Recorder until the Commissioners find a suitable replacement. Mrs. Wofford said she would continue to help out for a limited amount of time.

United States Forest Service:

Forest Service Ranger Carol Hatfield and Sara Hamlin: MSU Area Economical Coordinator, discussed the Economic Stimulus Money coming to the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the projects they planned to complete.

Meagher County Community Center:

Beth Hunt, director of the Meagher County Community Center, and Gene Leuwer: Montana Board of Housing, gave an update on the Castle Mountain Apartments project. Information with regard to the project details included; funding from the government is imminent. They plan to break ground this spring. The construction bid was \$1,740,100.00 to build 10 units comprising 12,222 square feet of building.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER