

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

**April 7, 14, 17, 2009**

**TUESDAY**  
April 7, 2009

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

Commissioners read and approved the minutes for March 16, 2009

**County Road Supervisor:**

9:00 am – County Road supervisor Ray Ringer asked for approval to crush 20,000 yards of gravel at a cost of \$5.00 per yard. Crushing to start immediately. Commissioners gave unanimous approval. Funding to come from 2008 – 2009 Road budget.

Airport Engineer asked the county for gravel for the airport improvement project. The commissioners agreed to sell them gravel at \$1.00 per yard above the cost of crushing.

**County Treasurer:**

**RESOLUTION #2009-28**

10:00 am – Following the wishes of the treasurer Sue Phalen the commissioners agreed to put Angie Ringer on probation for 6 months. Commissioners Lucas moved and Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held, Commissioners Lucas and Hurwitz voted yes and Commissioner Townsend voted no, and it is therefore resolved.

**Personnel Interviews:**

Job interviews for Clerk and Recorder will take place April 17, 2009.

**Meagher County Librarian:**

10:30am – Meagher County Librarian Debbie Benedict asked to hire 3 part time employees to help with the summer reading program. Commissioners told Mrs. Benedict the decision was hers to make.

**Deputy County Attorney:**

11:00am – Deputy County Attorney Wally Congdon phoned the Commission chambers and spoke on speaker phone to update the commission on terminating the Deputy Clerk and Recorder Paula Palozzi and Administrative Assistant Tammi Thomas. A letter was mailed to them both on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April informing them they are terminated. However, should they choose to appeal their termination they have until April 15, 2009 to do so.

**Mountainview Medical Administrator:**

11:30am – Mountainview Medical Administrator Aaron Rogers reported to the commissioners the financial condition of the hospital. According to Mr. Rogers the financial health of the hospital continues to improve. Mr. Rogers also explained they are continuing to explore taking on the duties of the County Health Nurse.

**Meagher County TV Board:**

12:00 pm – Tim McGuire was asked to be chairman of the Meagher County TV Board.

### **Meagher County News:**

1:00 pm – Jason Phillips Editor of the Meagher County News suggested he would like to print the minutes, and a summary of claims of the Meagher County Commissioners meetings at no charge. The commission is contemplating an efficient way to do this. Due to our present staffing problems caused by placing 5 people on administrative leave the Clerk and Recorder's office is several months behind and to a lesser extent so is the Treasurer's office.

### **Personnel:**

The remainder of the afternoon was spent going over the numerous employment applications we have received for the Clerk and Recorder position.

### **MACo:**

Harold Blattie from MACo informed Commissioner Lucas nearly everyone working in the courthouse is bonded.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**TUESDAY**  
**April 14, 2009**

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

Commissioners read and approved the minutes for April 7, 2009

### **U.S. Bank Representatives:**

10:00 am - Representatives from U.S. Bank, Bill Northey and Deb Moretto met with the Commissioners regarding the Harmon Trust. The trust is valued at \$1, 099, 877. Income from the trust for this year is unknown at this time. \$31, 500 per year pays the FHA Loan on the Rest Home and \$12,000 per year is ear marked for 911.

### **Northwest Energy Representative:**

11:00 am - Northwest Energy Representative Howard Skiervem (pronounced Shervum) reported a rebate program that exists. Mike Hoerner heads up the rebate program (1-800-823-5995). Mr. Hoerner will inventory our courthouse's energy loss.

### **Meagher County Sheriff:**

1:30am – Sheriff Seidlitz met with the commission to discuss resigning as Meagher County Sheriff. Mr. Seidlitz is contemplating contracting Meagher County's Fire Prevention and Fuels Mitigation as dictated by the requirements under Title II and Title III money received from the Forest Reserve Secure Rural Schools grant (See Contract). Sheriff Seidlitz contemplates a July 1, 2009 resignation.

### **Meagher County Under Sheriff:**

2:00pm – Under Sheriff Jon Lopp reported he would implement the Cops Hiring Recovery Program that is funded by a grant that they applied for. The Grant will pay 100% of a new deputy's salary for 3 years with Meagher County paying the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The new deputy will receive a vehicle allowance and be on probation for 1 year.

### **Meagher County IT Department:**

3:00pm – Jake Odom Meagher County IT Department suggested we need a payroll audit. According to Jake our payroll is fraught with errors for at least the previous 12 months, perhaps longer.

**Montana Department of Administration State Accounting Division:**

3:00pm - The commissioners requested the Montana Department of Administration State Accounting Division accomplish an annual financial report and budget assistance for 2008 – 2009 fiscal year.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**FRIDAY**  
**April 17, 2009**

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

Commissioners read and approved the minutes for April 14, 2009

**Personnel:**

**RESOLUTION #2009-29**

The commissioners convened a special meeting for the sole purpose of hiring a Clerk and Recorder and two persons as temporary employees to work in the Clerk and Recorder's office. The Clerk and Recorder position was advertised in the Meagher County News on March 26, 2009. The temporary jobs were advertised on March 5, 12 & 19, 2009. The persons hired as temporary employees will be filling in for Tammy Thomas, Administrative Assistant; and Paula Palozzi, Deputy Clerk and Recorder until such time as their administrative leave is settled.

On this day we interviewed 8 people that were selected by the commission from a long list of applicants. The 8 people that were interviewed were as follows: Kierstie Ledesky at 10:00am, Erica Johnston at 10:30am, Paula Marks at 11:00am, Liz Johnston at 11:30am, Penny Plachy at 1:30pm, Becky Leger at 2:00pm, Christy Rogers at 2:30pm, and Dayna Ogle at 3:00pm. After the interviews were conducted Commissioner Townsend moved to hire Dayna Ogle for the job of Clerk and Recorder and Becky Leger and Christy Rogers as our temporary help in the Clerk and Recorder's office. Commissioner Lucas seconded. It therefore has been resolved. (When the vote was taken regarding Becky Leger's employment Commissioner Hurwitz abstained from the vote. Commissioner Hurwitz abstained because Mrs. Leger is his niece.)

The backlog of work extends not only from February 9, 2009 but also perhaps from months earlier. .

**Meeting Adjourned**

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**CLERK**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**