

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

August 4, 11, 18, 2009

**TUESDAY
August 4, 2009**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Lucas and Ben Hurwitz.

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Road Department:

Ray Ringer, Road Supervisor Reported on Eagle Creek bridge: Otto Olson will obtain the necessary permits to remove existing bridge and replace with 2 culverts this fall. Folkner Creek Bridge will be replaced with one 60" culvert pending permits. Rental rates on county equipment need to be increased at next meeting.

County Extension Update:

Rachel Soto, Meagher County Extension Agent, requested that Meagher County increase their share of her salary, which is presently 55% to 60%. The commission declined the request at this time.

Meagher County Sheriff Update:

Jon Lopp suggested the county pay for each deputy's cell phone basic rate instead of their land line because no one has a land line at present. Permission granted.

The request for the COPS grant was denied.

Clerk and Recorder Update:

It was decided Meagher County would provide digital images of recorded documents for the nominal charge of \$0.20 per document.

County Attorney Update:

At the next commission meeting the county attorney will tell the commission what she intends to do with the three employees that took unauthorized draws.

911 System Contract:

Maebeth Seidlitz presented to the commission and the commission approved a contract with the Century Tele-Communications to install a new 911 system. The total cost will be \$118,939.00 Meagher County has obtained \$125,000 grant from the state and take \$63,939 from their cash on hand. The new system should be completed October 2009.

CTEP Funding Available:

Sarah Hamlin, Community Development Specialist, asked the commission what we would prefer to see the \$40,000 for Community Transportation Enhancement Program money used for. No decision was made at this time.

Mental Health:

RESOLUTION #2009-51

Commissioner Lucas moved and Commissioner Hurwitz Seconded, to approve the MediCaid match with DPHHS (Department of Mental Health & Human Services), a total of \$1,968.00. Motion passed and therefore it is resolved.

Mountainview Medical Center Mill Levy:

RESOLUTION #2009-52

On July 27, 2009 the board of directors of MMC resolved to request the Meagher County Commission to hold a re-election for a continuation of the 20 mills allocation to help MMC with operating capital.

Commissioner Hurwitz moved, Commissioner Lucas Seconded, to continue another 2 years funding at a rate of 20 Mills in addition to the 8 Mills previously allocated. Motion passed and therefore it is resolved.

Board Resolution
July 27, 2009

BE IT RESOLVED, on July 27, 2009, at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Mountainview Medical Center, it was resolved to request Meagher County Commissioners hold a reelection for additional 20 mills (original election period - two years).


William Galt, Board Chair

7-27-09
Date


Joy Short, Secretary

7-27-09
Date


Aaron Rogers, CEO

7/29/09

Meagher County Salary Compensation Board:

Meagher County
Salary Compensation Board Meeting
August 4, 2009 @ 1:00pm

In attendance: Commissioner Lucas, Commissioner Hurwitz, Sheriff Jon Lopp, County Attorney Linda Hickman, Treasurer Sue Phelan, Clerk of Courts Donna Morris, Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle, and Community Representative Jim Witt.

Clerk and Recorder Dayna Ogle handed out a spreadsheet that broke down possible wage increases and what the total raise would be to help board decide on their recommendation.

Commissioner Lucas asked board if there were any recommendations. No one had one at the time so Lucas took the time to explain the different factors to help board come to a recommendation.

Lucas enlightened the board that a 3.8% COLA has been recommended by Mr. Blattie from MACo, and that historically the commission tried to give recommended COLA to the county employees. Lucas also conveyed that 2 commissioners needed to be in agreement to Salary Compensation Boards recommendation before it went to the commissioners for approval. Lucas continued to explain that the county will receive the same tax revenue but mils are not yet known. The commissioners will take recommendation and compare it to the mils when they come in and determine if recommendation can be granted.

Board discussed if COLA was mandatory and county attorney explained her understanding is that COLA did not have to be given each year but that you then are supposed to make the difference up in the following years.

Commissioner Hurwitz inquired what was done last year for COLA. It was shared that the COLA given was 2.8% increase. Lucas added that a significant raise was also given last year per the County Treasurer's recommendation. Hurwitz also inquired what policy was for department heads to give their employees a raise and how wage was determined. Salary Compensation Board was in agreement that commissioners and clerk & recorder should continue working on updating policy in the employee handbook to make pay raise policies very clear.

Board discussed that a raise to elected officials also effects deputies wages due to the fact their salary is a set percent of their supervisors salary. It was also pointed out that the commissioners have just approved an increase in the counties portion they pay per employee for health insurance premiums. They are paying \$429/employee compared to last year contribution of \$387/employee (an increase of \$42/employee).

After discussing and taking in consideration all of the factors such as COLA, counties health insurance contributions, possible increase affects elected officials as well as deputies, and MIL amounts that are not yet known the board came to a recommendation.

It was moved and seconded that a \$0.30/hour raise be given to all elected officials. A vote was taken, and passed unanimously. It was also agreed by commissioners present to give the recommended 3.8% COLA to all employees.

Claims:

Claims were presented by Becky Hurwitz-Leger, totaling \$223,186.85, check #39546-39606 , voucher #1006.

Claims approved, and checks signed.

Meeting Adjourned

TUESDAY
August 11, 2009

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

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Headwaters Recycling:

Commission unanimously agreed to fund the cooperative agreement for another year at a cost to Meagher County of \$1.55 per capita.

Cost of Living (COLA):

RESOLUTION #2009-53

Commissioner Lucas moved and Commissioner Hurwitz seconded to pay a 3.8% COLA to all employees on Meagher County payroll. Motion passed unanimously therefore it is resolved.

Airport Inspection:

Commission members inspected the progress being made on the airport rehabilitation.

Tax Appeal Board Selected:

Three new members were selected to serve on the Meagher County Tax appeal board. They are Jim Witt, Wayne Buckingham, and Dick Witt.

Golf Course Lawn Mower Purchased:

RESOLUTION #2009-54

Commissioner Chairman Townsend moved to approve \$10,000 expenditure to purchase a new fairway mower for Arrowhead Meadows, Meagher County's Golf Course. Commissioner Seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously passed therefore it is resolved.

The commission will receive a copy of their final profit and loss for 2009. The commission also asked the board to set aside money each year to replace equipment. Bob Rohletter board member, and Glen Brandt greens keeper represented the golf course.

Claims:

Claims were presented by Becky Hurwitz-Leger, voucher # 1008, check # 39618-39641 totaling \$11,483.02, voucher #1009, check #39642 totaling \$45,074.55.

Claims approved and checks signed.

Meeting Adjourned

TUESDAY
August 18,2009

Commissioners Present: Herb Townsend, C.B.Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz.

Commissioners read minutes and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Lopp reported on the arrests of Michelle Walker former treasurer, Paula Polizzi former deputy clerk & recorder and Tammy Thomas former secretary. Thomas and Polizzi were arrested here and Walker was arrested in Choteau County. Arraignment will take place at the courthouse August 26, 2009. Sheriff Lopp asked the commission if he could budget for a new law enforcement vehicle May 2010. The commission agreed although no formal motion was entertained.

HRDC Grant:

Granier and Jeff Rupp representing HRDC once again reiterated they have CDBG funds to be used by the Meagher County Health Nurse and the Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course.

Treasurer Report:

RESOLUTION 2009-55

Commissioners asked Treasurer Sue Phelan to transfer \$10,000 from PILT to the General fund for equipment for the Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course. Therefore it is resolved. Refer to Resolution 2009-54.



Meagher County, Montana

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

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COUNTY CLERK
& RECORDER
P.O. Box 309
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Fax (406) 547-3388

OFFICE OF
COUNTY
TREASURER
P.O. Box 429
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August 18, 2009

Sue Phelan
Meagher County Treasurer
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Dear Sue:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED WITH RESOLUTION #2009955 THAT \$10,000.00 shall be transferred from the PILT Fund to the General fund for the purpose of funding equipment for the Arrowhead Golf Course.

Sincerely,

Herb Townsend, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Meagher County Treasurer Sue Phelan asked the commission if the county could forgo collection of delinquent tax on garage fees not collected years ago when for a time Meagher County paid the garbage collection. Much discussion took place but there was not a decision made.

Interlocal Agreement:

Sara Hamlin Economic Development Coordinator is working on drafting a proposal on how Meagher County will allocate funds we may receive if someone builds a wind farm in Meagher County. Andy Lind School Superintendent and Paul Bartos Principal participated in the discussion. No final decision was made. A tentative plan called for School District 8 to receive 39% and Lennep School 1% and Meagher County 60%. These percentages would be derived from income generated by the corpus. The corpus could never be spent.

County Sanitarian Report:

Brian Clifton reported Dean Pomeroy would work an additional 8 hours per month to inspect all licensed eating establishments. The extra hours will come from Clifton's hours, so Meagher County will see no increased cost.

County Librarian:

Debbie Benedict reported the library is close to purchasing a \$40,000 lot between the Forest Service Office and the All Season Hotel. The money for the purchase will come from donations. They plan to raise enough money to build a new Meagher County Library.

County Attorney Report:

Linda Hickman reported on the property that the commissioners were interested in that is owned by L.B. Foster that has a bridge. Hickman reported that it looks as though it may have fuel contamination problems. Commissioners are no longer interested in the land and bridge.

RESOLUTION 2009-56

County Equipment Rental:

The county has for many years rented their equipment. After a short discussion Commissioner Hurwitz moved to stop the rental of county equipment. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and was unanimous. Therefore it is resolved.

Claims:

Claims were presented by Becky Hurwitz-Leger, voucher # 1010, check # 39643-39666 totaling \$14,020.52, voucher #1011, check #39667 totaling \$10,000.00.

Claims approved and checks signed.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER