

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

February 2, 9, 16 2010

Tuesday

February 2, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

Commission Office within Clerk & Recorder's Office

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

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from previous meeting.

Road Department Report:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer and Chet Sharbono from John Deere met with commission. Mr. Sharbono presented commission with a Pamphlet highlighting equipment that has steering wheels. Mr. Sharbono told the commission that Yellowstone County has ordered 9 motor graders and John Deere has approved to allow other counties to piggy back on that order to receive savings from the high number that was ordered. He encouraged commission to take advantage of the savings available at this time. Hurwitz stated that the county's CAT Motor Grader is in Great Falls getting a new motor. Hurwitz asked if this is a good time to trade in the CAT and then purchase a John Deere. Mr. Sharbono stated it is a good time because of the new motor we bring a good trade in value. Mr. Ringer stated the difference the county would need to pay would be under \$162,000. Road Supervisor pointed out that the road crew has a ten-year-old grader that will need to be replaced in the near future, so it may be a good time to take advantage of the savings available. Mr. Sharbono stated that there will be a state mandate that all motor grader's will have to have a certain size engine by 2012, so this is a good time to start getting prepared for that. Hurwitz asked if this kind of savings would be available again. Mr. Sharbono stated this is the first time in fifteen years this type of savings is available and he did not think it will come around again anytime soon. Chairman Townsend stated thank you for the information but feels we have a good road crew that can use the CAT Motor Grader and we do not have funds available for a new one. Commissioner Lucas stated this is the first time he can remember that the county owned all of its road equipment out right and it is nice to not have a payment at this time. Commission thanked Mr. Sharbono for the information and time. On a different note Mr. Ringer stated that they have graveled a mile and a half on the Smith River Road and they will continue as weather permits.

Sheriff Report:

Sportsman's Association stated that law enforcement could use the range when it was first built but now they have asked that the Sheriff's Department pay for their use. Sheriff Lopp pointed out that the road and cattle guard have been installed and maintained by the county. Sheriff Lopp stated that it would be around \$200 a year for deputies and reserves. Lucas moved to allow Sheriff Lopp to pay for a yearly membership at the range for deputies and reserves. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Lopp asked if the county owned Suburban that is parked could be used for search and rescue. They would have it stocked and ready to go for searches. It will also be able to pull a trailer if needed. Hurwitz would prefer to sell it and not continue paying for maintenance and registration. Chairman Townsend stated it is probably not worth anything and could be utilized by search and rescue. Commission decided to see what it blue booked for before a decision was made. Sheriff Lopp checked blue book value and found it is listed around \$7,400.

Sheriff Lopp reported they had a search last week where some people on snow mobiles got stuck. They were unable to get out so they stayed the night and were found by search and rescue the next day.

Hurwitz asked what the snowmobile training that was expensed out was for. Sheriff Lopp stated that Deputy Sheriff Shroyer attended and will train other staff members. Hurwitz asked if it is necessary. Lucas stated that he could see the necessity for training for the safety and also to help keep insurance premium's down. Sheriff Lopp added that the training covered many things such as shooting from a sled, chasing, being chased, how to use it as a shield, etc. Hurwitz does not see the point in the training and does not want the Sheriff Department to sign up again. Sheriff Lopp stated that Deputy Shroyer learned a lot and it is good to be prepared because you do not know what will happen.

Sheriff's Office is looking into different options for IT support. They are getting quotes and will make a determination of what service they will utilize. Hurwitz would like commission to make the decision on who will be utilized. Chairman Townsend would like to let the sheriff's department make their own decision and does not want to micro manage. Hurwitz would like commission to decide, and would like to use Jim McDanel if possible. Sheriff Lopp stated that McDanel would have to be trained for their systems and would like to know who would pay for the training. Chairman Townsend restated he would like Sheriff Lopp to be the one to make the decision on who he utilizes. Townsend appreciates the communication and feels Lopp will make a more appropriate decision. Lucas said Commission has a good sheriff doing a good job and we need to let him do his job. He is an elected official and has to answer to the public. Hurwitz would like Sheriff Lopp to gather information and bring to commission and they will make a decision together.

Senior Apartments:

Beth Hunt and Gene Richeson met with commission to give them an update of what they have done to the senior center in 2009. They have worked on drainage, painting, new refrigerators and some other things. The senior center is being rented out almost on a daily bases. She anticipates that they will bring in around \$10,000 this year in rentals. The community senior center has been working with contractor for the senior housing. Overall it has been moving along at a decent rate. They have made a few changes such as more windows, and hot water on demand. The hot water on demand was more money but will be worth it in the long run. Mrs. Hunt would like to eventually be able to install solar panels to utilize. She will look into grant money to use for additions such as the solar panels. Mrs. Hunt reported that the Senior Apartments will be managed by a management company. Mrs. Hunt invited commission to go see the new construction. Commissioner Lucas and Chairman Townsend left to go do a walk through. Commissioner Hurwitz thanked Mrs. Hunt but declined.

Martinsdale Road Project:

Peter Marchi Crazy Mountain Inn owner in Martinsdale is concerned about the county road being used for a detour. He felt it is important to not impede any water flow and to keep the traffic flowing through Martinsdale. Mr. Marchi feels 85% of his business is tourists going to the museum. His business would be adversely affected by road closures. Weeden construction asked school, emergency services but not businessmen like him if the detour would be okay. Mr. Marchi contacted Weeden construction and after discussing the situation they agreed to start earlier so the access to the museum will be available when they open. Weeden construction agreed to have a contract with Mr. Marchi and the Crazy Mountain Inn that if the work is not done as projected he will be compensated for business lost. He is happy with that agreement and will sign the contract with Weeden. His main concern was the road to the museum would not be open but since he has been working with them it has been agreed to start the project earlier. Chairman Townsend believes when Weeden presents contract to the commissioner for the road project detour that the commission will want to make sure that it includes a signed contract between Crazy Mountain Inn and Weeden as well as road maintenance. Commissioner Lucas suggested it may be beneficial to have a fire truck parked at museum to service museum area and anything north during the time of construction while the detour is in place. Mr. Marchi agreed it would be beneficial and he would talk to Errol Galt Fire Chief. Mr. Marchi and Commissioner Hurwitz spoke to other business owners, school, emergency agencies and everyone is on board and agreeable to detour with the dates being moved up. Chairman Townsend wants the following in contract

with compensation for Crazy Mountain Inn, agreement that they will put signage for museum, road maintenance and repair; signed agreement with Berg's to use barnyard access for bus and emergency services, and a date of being completed. Commissioner Hurwitz agreed the commission will need to have these listed in the contract with Weeden. Commissioner Lucas felt Mr. Peter Marchi has handled well and he appreciates it. Mr. Marchi will have Mike from Weeden Construction contact commission for list of items they want included in the contract.

Building Report:

JR Shinabarger Building Supervisor asked for an executive session at 3pm for Feb 16th. Commission agreed to meet with Mr. Shinabarger. Mr. Shinabarger presented a report regarding the sheriff office boiler. The inspector reported that it should be replaced and not fixed anymore. Mr. Shinabarger did the necessary repairs and contacted company to have designation updated. Mr. Shinabarger stated he feels that the sheriff's boiler is fine and we should continue to maintain. Chairman Townsend felt it is something to consider, that for safety reasons the county may want to replace. Mr. Shinabarger agreed to have a price for replacement at the next meeting. Chairman Townsend looks forward to the information Mr. Shinabarger will present because he is concerned about the safety. Mr. Shinabarger thanked commission for their time and he looks forward to meeting with them on the 16th of February.

Doug Ship and Kraig Pester CAT Representatives:

Mr. Ship and Mr. Pester reported that the new motor for the CAT grater is coming along and should be finished this afternoon. It will go out for testing tomorrow. Townsend asked if it would have more horsepower and Mr. Pester answered yes. The horsepower was okay but it was more of the cubic displacement, which affects it when it is cold. It starts but it dies so they replaced the engine, as well as a transmission heater. The changes they have made will make a huge difference. Commissioner Hurwitz was concerned with the joystick controls. Mr. Pester stated that there are not very many people in construction that use the steering wheel due to safety and control. They have made a change in the software so it is not as sensitive so operators feel more comfortable. Mr. Ship stated that it is something to get use to but once operators do they really enjoy it. Surprisingly it was the older operators that really liked it once they gave it a chance. Mr. Pester found that the older operators were more nervous for the change but once they did the simulator they were comfortable and had it down. Mr. Pester will send a trainer and the simulator to Meagher County to train all of the road crew. Commissioner Hurwitz stated that he would appreciate having someone come and train our crew. Mr. Pester has tracked fuel consumption with the assistance of Road Supervisor Ray Ringer and with old motor it was 4.38 g/hr (35 gallons a day). The John Deere averages 50 gallons a day. Hurwitz stated he is glad they updated the software so it is not so sensitive, put a new engine, and to hear about the fuel consumption.

Representative Klock:

Commission asked Representative Klock the status of tax re-assessment. Representative Klock stated he could not get any answers from anyone to get a clear picture. The numbers they received were not correct from DOR. He agrees there is no consistency. When presented to him he was assured that agriculture land would remain about the same or lowered on average. Representative Klock said unfortunately no one has any answers. He anticipates the Governor will have a special session regarding budget issues, he does not anticipate that the reappraisal will be addressed then. Chairman Townsend shared his frustration with the reappraisal situation. Representative Klock said there are many issues that need to be addressed. Commissioner Hurwitz stated the Mill Levy is incorrect so now our problem is compounded with the incorrect Mill Levy and the amount of taxes that are under protest due to the reappraisal. Representative Klock hopes this can be addressed early in the next regular session. Commissioner Lucas feels agriculture landowners will probably have to just pay taxes and does not believe it will be addressed and/or corrected. Representative Klock stated he understands their frustrations and he will do what he can. Commissioner Lucas expressed he is concerned that legislation will get rid of term limits. Representative Klock said he does not feel that will happen. They

had a bill that was trying to extend term limits and it failed by a landslide. Commissioner Hurwitz disagreed and thought it would be beneficial to extend term limits. He stated he thought it takes a while to figure out what you are doing and how to do it well.

Representative Klock asked the commission to give an update on the Martinsdale Highway Project. Representative Klock is concerned about the traffic not coming through Martinsdale. Commission gave an update and stated they were glad that the dates were moved up, and that local residents are content with it and that the Meagher County Commission will not sign any contract unless all of their criteria have been met.

On a side note Hurwitz asked how the nonsmoking has affected Representative Klock's business. Representative Klock said the economy has more of an effect than the nonsmoking. Representative Klock stated that with the cigarette tax, alcohol tax and gambling tax that he anticipates his business will show a decrease. Commission thanked Representative Klock for his time. Representative Klock told commission to not hesitate to call him with any questions or concerns.

Interoperability Montana, Ian Marquand:

Mr. Marquand and three of his associates presented Commission with a map and brochure to explain interoperability and show the trunking coverage. They then did a slide show for the commission. Kevin Bruski Executive Director introduced the presentation of the Interoperability project. He stated there will be updates in the Meagher County areas for communication. Mr. Marquand explained Interoperability is systems used to communicate; it uses links and removes barriers so systems can communicate. It has been created by volunteers to help public safety, and in long term save money. It will help public safety. Their goal is to help emergency services communicate to help save lives. It will help Montana's Public Safety be able to communicate. On Sept. 11th it became more of a focus because of disaster communications. Montana has created their own disaster plan and part of it is the interoperability project where there can be communication in times of emergency. They are projecting to have it in place by 2014. This will link all safety and emergency agencies to talk and share data. They hope to have all counties and Indian nations within Montana to be able to communicate when needed. Their plan is whoever will use this system will participate in creating it. They would like the counties to appoint someone to the consortium to contribute in creating the statewide system. They meet once a month, as volunteers. Many emergency personnel and sheriffs are voting members of the consortia. Local governments are an integral part of this project, to bring statewide communication. This will help with many things such as border control, vehicle data, and emergency communication. They will build the system following federal guidelines. Trunking (a backbone loop through the 9 consortia) will be compatible with old and new technology so whatever system is used locally will be able to communicate with the IM project. This will help safety personnel and public. Local, State and Federal levels will benefit from this. 3 of the 4 states surrounding Montana already have a similar system so we would be able to communicate with them in times of emergency. There are a few Montana counties that have something implemented already and they really like it. Northern Tier Project is very close to accepting the microwave. All 12 counties on the northern border are in the Northern Tier Project. The northern tier is almost up and running, they need to accept the micro-waving, updating towers and they need to address updating radios. Southern Tier of counties is making progress and they hope to develop the east consortia to complete the backbone loop for trunking. As they are building they are helping local entities develop rules and regulations, complete fleet mapping, and obtain funds from outside sources to help project. Mr. Bruski reported they have had their fare share of problems and delays that they have addressed. In the future they are breaking the state into groups so they can address things quicker and more efficiently. Now that they have the northern tier almost completed they have learned a lot and will be able to be more productive and successful. There are some systems in place but need some improvements. Mr. Bruski feels they will be able to address the issues quickly and efficiently. They have grant money that they will use to improve coverage in the Meagher County area as well as other areas. They have grant money available but they need to have match money to qualify for those grants. There is a mandate that is approaching that this project will help bring counties up to the compliance level of the FCC. Mr. Bruski asked if there was any questions. Commissioner Lucas asked if the

funding of this project can be cut off. Mr. Bruski stated it can change and that they try to get as much done as they can before the funding is cut off. They continually are looking for additional funding in case that happens. They have challenges but feel they can be addressed if everyone pools their resources. They estimate it will cost \$150,000,000 to complete project. They receive money from federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, and native nations. Federal funding from homeland security is the biggest contributor. They will continue building out of the trunking backbone and they need to figure out how to sustain it. It will be determined by federal funding, which will determine if they can complete by 2014. They have a draft plan of sustainability, which includes tower, trunking equipment and upkeep. They want local governments to help fund this upkeep because they are the ones that benefit from it. They are trying to decide if members need to contribute, tourist travelers, and nonmembers. They are meeting with local governments to open dialogue and to inform them of what the project is and what they plan in the future. There are a number of uncertainties but they believe the northern tier and its usage will help dictate what they will continue to do. IM is saving lives, and protecting citizens. Mr. Marquand asked if there are any other questions. Fire Chief Seidlitz stated that 90% of the Meagher County's radios are trunk capable and we are ahead of the game. Mr. Bruski stated there is a tower in Meagher County but it needs to get hooked up and they are pushing the contractor to get that done. Fire Chief Seidlitz stated that if it was available to us we would be able to hook up. Mr. Bruski asked Mr. Seidlitz what is the best site for a tower to serve Meagher County. Mr. Seidlitz stated he would have to put some thought into it. You need a separate operational system for fire, and sheriff so they know what to do when they get on scene. Local systems keep existing communication in place but they would use the interoperability system for emergencies. Fire Chief Seidlitz explained we have fare communication with surrounding counties but you need to know what channel and/or frequency to use and the Interoperability project does that for you, you just need to talk. Sustainability has been an issue because it was not addressed when this project first began. MACo is putting together a committee to address this with local governments. They will determine who is responsible and who will have to pay. If the commission has any other questions they can contact Mr. Bruski by phone or email. They work for the local government so feel free to contact with any questions or needs. Commissioner Lucas said hopefully we will never have a disaster or emergency that we would need this for but it would be good to have if we needed it. Chairman Townsend would like everything to be funneled through Fire Chief Seidlitz. The commission relies on his expertise. Mr. Marquand will send Seidlitz everything but also send it to Commission so they are informed. Chairman Townsend thanked them for the information and their time.

County Health Nurse:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to keep county health nurse on existing contract. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked County Health Nurse when she will move to the Mountainview Medical Center. Health Nurse Kiff stated she will touch base with CEO Rogers to find out when she can move. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he would like to use her office space for IT storage. Mrs. Kiff stated she would like to leave some things here for storage because she will not have enough room at the hospital. Hurwitz does not want that he stated the hospital has plenty of room for storage and that the county is going to use her office for IT storage. Hurwitz asked who is currently in the office that she is moving into. Mrs. Kiff stated that the dietitian is currently occupying it. Hurwitz wanted to know how to get it going. Mrs. Kiff restated she will contact CEO Rogers tomorrow. Mrs. Kiff covered handout she gave commission. Chairman Townsend asked if Laurie Brown took position as Public Health Officer. Mrs. Brown has not gotten back to her but she will follow up with Mrs. Brown.

Rural Fire:

Fire Chief Seidlitz stated he talked to the Interoperability Reps about some issues he was aware of. Seidlitz told them that dispatch does not have the capability to talk to the vehicles that has the radios with the trunk capability and to upgrade dispatch could take up to \$30,000. Interoperability reps will address and see if they can find a less expensive

conversion that we can use. The build out for Meagher County was to be done this summer but the eastern end of the state was given money so Meagher County got skipped over and told they will come back and finish build out.

Commissioner Hurwitz stated Chief Seidlitz put an ad in the paper for a truck to be bid on. Road Supervisor Ringer wants to sell a few vehicles he has. Hurwitz would like to have an ad for the vehicles Road Supervisor Ringer wants to sell. Hurwitz would also like to sell the suburban. Fire Chief stated that it could be used as search and rescue and be beneficial. Seidlitz feels it would be a savings because you would not be paying mileage. Hurwitz said it wouldn't be a savings and would like to get rid of it. Chairman Townsend stated if a vehicle has a use then the county should keep it and if it does not have a use put it up for sale. Hurwitz agreed. Commission decided to run an ad for all vehicles. Fire truck will run as it has been and the road vehicles will run in paper and be due March 1st and will be opened to March 2nd.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked where money went that Ben Galt paid for fire. Seidlitz stated it goes back into budget to help pay for costs. Hurwitz asked what money was used to pay for the Christmas party. Seidlitz stated that money donated to department pays for things like the party. Hurwitz asked about mugs sheriff office bought. Seidlitz explained it is done to keep a good working relationship with other agencies that help them out all the time. It is a small gesture for a huge service. Seidlitz would like to know if commission supports grants for fire truck garage. Jack Berg Ambulance supervisor agreed that the ambulance department would put \$50,000 as match money. Hurwitz and Townsend supported. Seidlitz asked if they support around \$16,000 match for a new fire truck. Hurwitz does not want any more trucks because he does not see how we can properly maintain the many trucks the county currently own. Townsend would like to match to have a new truck to eliminate maintenance. Seidlitz says it is replacing a truck that will need continuous maintenance. Chairman Townsend moved that the commission approved truck garage and to purchase a new truck with the ambulance department matching for the garage and the fire department matching for the truck. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken. Townsend and Lucas were for and Hurwitz was against. Therefore it passed.

Fire Chief asked if he could get a bid for IT help for his system. Hurwitz stated McDanel is available and that he did not want Seidlitz to go out to bid to get support.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked Jim McDanel to join them. Seidlitz explained IT issues to McDanel and asked if he could help. McDanel said he is not familiar with the 911 system and does not currently feel comfortable working with system, but he can be trained and learn system. Hurwitz stated the county has already paid for a 3 year maintenance contract with the new 911 system and feels McDanel would have no problem solving any 911 problems working with the existing contract. Hurwitz would like Seidlitz to explain everything to McDanel and if he can't do it then go to bid. Seidlitz would like to go to bid. McDanel would like to talk to the company before he accesses it. McDanel did not believe he had to be certified but had to follow protocol. Chairman Townsend stated Seidlitz could get bids and that they would compare costs and make a decision at a later date.

Russell Country:

Meagher County Chamber of Commerce president Kelly Huffield wrote a letter addressed to the commission stating the chamber found two people willing to represent Meagher County at the Russell Country meetings. After reviewing the chambers recommendation Chairman Townsend moved to appoint Deborah Eby and Sally Stewart as representatives of Meagher County to the Russell Country Board. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lucas:

Commissioner Lucas resigned at 5pm today. Townsend moved to accept resignation and Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Lucas stated he will help his replacement. Republican Central committee will submit three names and the

commission will appoint from that list. If they do not want any of those three it continues. Townsend asked if Clerk and Recorder would contact Mrs. Short of the Republican Central Committee. Appointee will serve until the next general election. Chairman Townsend thanked Lucas for his dedication and service.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk & Recorder presented voucher 1047, CK#40372 – 40403, totaling \$18,815.36. Commission approved and signed claims as presented.

Payroll:

Voucher 10, CK#217672 – CK#217685, totaling \$15,183.70. Voucher 1046 Payroll Deduction Checks, CK#40354 – CK#40361, \$87,252.25. Voucher 1048 Deduction Checks for Health Insurance, CK#40362 – CK#40371 totaling \$14,519.32. Voucher 11 Payroll Checks, CK#217686 totaling \$194.39.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Tuesday

February 9, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

Commission Office within Clerk & Recorder's Office

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

Commission reviewed and approved minutes from previous meeting.

MACo Health Care Trust:

Owen Voigt gave commission an update on county healthcare. He stated that there are 2,800 participants to date and about \$13,000,000 annual premiums. If we RIF an employee the county would pay 65% of their Cobra for one year however the Feds will reimburse that 65%.

Employee Health Screening is set for April 29th for all employees on our health plan. The screening will take about 15 minutes per person.

Commissioner Lucas:

RESOLUTION 2010-4

Commissioner Townsend moved to accept the change in Commissioner Lucas' Resignation. His last day is now scheduled for April 15, 2010. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded, a vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore is resolved.

Michael Kakuk:

Michael Kakuk met with the commission and presented his resume and told the commission he was running for county attorney. Mr. Kakuk has been a resident of Meagher County for 2 years.

Maren Olsen:

Commission met with field representative for congressman Denny Rehberg.

Mid Montana:

Jody Tierney from Mid Montana gave commission an update on insurance. She requested that county check building and equipment for insurance. She would like to have the information back before February 17, 2010.

Weed Board:

Weed Supervisor Otto Ohlson, and Weed Board Members Wally Bailey, and Rod Brewer met with commission regarding Weed Supervisor pay status.

RESOLUTION 2010-5

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to pay Weed Supervisor as a salary opposed to an hourly rate, and that the salary will be the same as last year's income. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore resolved.

Galt Ranch Aviation:

Bill Galt and Ron Burns met with commission regarding Galt Ranch Aviation. Mr. Galt offered to use his flying service for fires and search and rescues in Meagher County. Commission agreed to pay Mr. Galt for his services if the county is reimbursed from the state or the federal government.

IT Contractor:

RESOLUTION -6

Jim McDanel asked commission for approval to purchase 2 additional licenses for use in the courthouse. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve purchase of software licensing. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore resolved.

Meagher County Garbage Service:

Greg Ogden complained to the commission about Meagher County Garbage service. No action was taken.

Grassy Mountain Fire District:

Commissioner Townsend voted to disband the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Lopp is getting bids for IT. Chairman Townsed moved that Jake Odom, WSS Cable and Internet will be allowed to submit a bid to the Sheriff's Department for IT Services. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed 2 to 1. Commissioners Townsend and Lucas voted for and Commissioner Hurwitz voted against.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

SEAL

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Tuesday

February 16, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers in the Clerk and Recorder's Office

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, Chairman Herb Townsend, and Commissioner Lucas

Commission read and approved previous meetings minutes.

City Board of Crime Control:

BJ Hawkins and George Kirkwood met with commission to discuss crime control programs. Mrs. Hawkins presented commission with a handout covering program and grant funds. They discussed JAG Grant (Recovery Act Money) valued at \$20,000, and the budget for it. The city has agreed to contribute match funds and she is asking the commission if they would also contribute funds. She noted that 2/3 of grant will be in wages and the rest for the program and supplies. The program runs from October 1st to September 31st. There are 13 students participating at this time. She reported that this year they were able to place a young woman in an alternative program opposed to a juvenile detention center, which helps the youth as well as the county. By doing the alternative placement they were able to save the county a cost of \$1,600. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if grant funds can roll over or do they need to be utilized in the current year. Mrs. Hawkins stated you do have to use it that same year or it will go back into the coffers. Mrs. Hawkins is also looking into hosting a workshop that will help teach and aide her program and others in the county so they know how to sustain these programs that are started with grant money. She would also like the workshop to include a segment that helps teach how to apply for and receive more grant money that will help run programs and sustain them. She asked if any of the commission would like to attend the workshop. Commission did not commit at this time but would like to know about it when it is scheduled. Mrs. Hawkins noted that they are seeing a decline in the number of youths that are in need of these outreach programs. She stated they could be due to programs that have been run in the community like the New Years Eve ticket event. Her hope is that the numbers continue to decline.

RESOLUTION 2010-7

Chairman Townsend moved that the county donate \$1,000 from PILT as match funds for the JAG Grant. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously, it is therefore resolved.

Clerk & Recorder:

Clerk and Recorder Dayna Ogle notified Commission she has prepared the claim to submit to JPIA Insurance for reimbursement for the cost the county accrued due to the embezzlement. It totaled \$72,570.37, which was for payroll for the employees on administrative leave, payroll for temporary employees, additional attorney, unpaid advance and computer hardware, software and technical support. Commission thanked Mrs. Ogle.

Special Session:

February 24, 2009 Commission will meet in a special session to finish updating County Policy Handbook.

Cemetery Board:

Commission discussed possible candidates to serve on the cemetery board. Chairman Townsend moved to appoint Dee Kinnick as a Cemetery Board Member. She will take over Grace Sibley's seat and her term will run until July 2013. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Chairman Townsend moved to retain Marion Lucas on the cemetery board with her husband Chuck Lucas as her proxy.

Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken, Commissioner Hurwitz and Chairman Townsend voted for, and Commissioner Lucas did not participate in the vote.

Airport:

Mr. Bill Galt talked to commission about plowing runway for safety of aircrafts landing and also so patients could be transported from airport if needed. He would like to see runway get plowed when needed so if there is a need to transport a patient to another hospital they would be able to give the patient the best care in the most time efficient way. Chairman Townsend agreed it needs to be plowed and that he noticed the snow build up. Mr. Galt noted there was a need for a heart patient to be transferred but the snow and ice were an issue so they transported on the ground. Chairman Townsend stated the county would make sure it is plowed. It is an issue and it will be addressed. Mr. Galt also noted that he would like to get a GPS at the airport so they can have fixed wings approach airport. Chairman Townsend agreed it would be nice to have GPS so airplanes did not need to drop down in Livingston to come to White Sulphur Springs.

Mountainview Medical Center:

Administrator Aaron Rogers and Hospital Board Chairman Bill Galt met with commission. Mr. Rogers presented financials and discussed with commission the figures. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how 2010 would be different financially. Mr. Rogers stated they have had turn over in providers which have had an adverse affect on the hospitals financials and they plan and hope to have stability in staff. Mr. Galt noted it is a challenge to retain doctors in any facility. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if the hospital has any money in the bank as savings. Mr. Rogers noted they have over \$300,000 in an account and another account that they do not use is over \$400,000. Hurwitz asked if MMC has paid Meagher County the outstanding balance of over \$20,000 for IT equipment. Mr. Rogers stated his staff has gone over the bill and has found discrepancies and that after their research have found they only owe around \$4,400. Mr. Rogers gave Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Leger-Hurwitz the cancelled checks for what has been paid and a copy of the bill with notes that indicate what they have received. Mr. Rogers pointed out that the bill for IT equipment was presented to Chairman Galt before ever being presented to him and he would like the opportunity in the future to review before it is presented to his board. Chairman Townsend said he agreed it should go through the proper channels in the future. Once Mr. Rogers heard from Mr. Galt about the bill it was a month later before they ever got the invoice for the outstanding balance. Commissioner Hurwitz stated these discrepancies are exactly the problems the county had with IT department and he hopes it can be worked out. Mr. Rogers noted that IT Department purchased plenum cable for the hospital and the county to share and they were billed for the entire roll. Commissioner Hurwitz then moved on and asked Mr. Rogers to get an office available for the county health nurse and wanted to know when the move will occur. Mr. Rogers stated he had asked for a contract before the county health nurse moves in and he has not received one to date. Mr. Hurwitz felt the County Health Nurse should have already been moved to the hospital as verbally agreed upon. Mr. Galt noted Mr. Rogers presented this to the hospital board and they agreed with Mr. Rogers recommendation to have a contract in place before the move occurred. Mr. Hurwitz asked that Mr. Rogers note what he wants in the contract and then give it to the county attorney to draft a contract so the county health nurse can move over to the hospital as soon as possible. Mr. Galt noted the hospital will take a hit financially but is willing to do so to help the community. Mr. Rogers added that Mountainview will house the county health nurse but could not give a room for storage because they run as a cost base facility and they could not justify it financially. Commissioner Hurwitz then asked if he needed to appoint another board member to the hospital board because he heard there was a resignation. Mr. Galt stated Shane Sereday will be appointed to the vacant seat, and it is not a county board representative seat. Mr. Galt noted that it is about time for the commission to re-appoint their appointee. The county representative's term is for one year and that term is about up, so the commission may want to consider appointment. Commissioner Hurwitz continued on by asking if Mr. Rogers can come once a month to report to the commission. Mr. Rogers stated they have discussed this already and will meet as agreed. Chairman Townsend asked if he could get a copy of the hospital budget. Mr. Rogers stated they have a software issue with CPSI, so they are not able to input

budget information or print it out. They have a handwritten budget that they can copy and give to Chairman Townsend. Mr. Rogers stated their budget is not what they hoped for but because the number of patients is down it affects the budget. Mr. Rogers continued by saying MVMC is very frugal and has cut costs greatly where they can. Chairman Townsend asked if there is a need for Cypress Management Company because he has confidence in Mr. Rogers. Mr. Galt stated they have a contract with Cypress which includes Mr. Rogers, and the cost for Mr. Rogers and the Management Company are reimbursable. Mr. Galt added that the hospital board is very pleased with Cypress, Tony Pfaff and Mr. Rogers. Mr. Galt finished by saying the current administration has cut payroll and locum costs significantly. The costs that have been cut from payroll and locums totaled more than what is paid to the management company and to administration. Commissioner Lucas stated he is supportive of the management company because he feels it is important to have someone that can oversee all the continuous changes and turnovers that happen in hospitals. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Galt stated current provider status. Dr. Gebhardt resigned and Dr. Kidder is now hired to supervise Physician Assistants. MVMC will also be getting an FMP back in March so they will be fully staffed. Deputy Clerk and Recorder Leger-Hurwitz returned to discuss and work with Mr. Rogers to clarify the bill for IT materials. Chairman Townsend asked if the hospital had any opening for long-term care. Mr. Rogers stated they are close to full. They are possibly going to get a few more residents in but they need to keep a few rooms available for acute patients. Mr. Townsend stated he is involved in the Spring Manor Senior Apartments for seniors. He was wondering if the hospital could help with meals and other things. Mr. Rogers stated he would like to help the residents if possible. They discussed the existing home health contract and that the hospital cannot provide it legally at this time. Commissioner Lucas is willing to help see what he can do to help with the home care and feels it is important for our hospital to be able to do home health care for residents. Commission thanked Mr. Rogers and Mr. Galt for their time.

Mikesell Sales & Service:

Ken Mikesell met with commission to discuss the counties scrap metal at county gravel pit. Commissioner Townsend stated they are considering utilizing county road department to haul scrap. Commissioner Hurwitz said if they go out to bid they will open it up to the whole public to bid. Commissioner Townsend stated he did not know what it is worth but the county will have to go to bid, they cannot just contract without opening to the public. Chairman Townsend said the county would see what is out at the gravel pit and decide what they want to haul off and then go to bid. Mr. Mikesell said there are cars, scrap and a lot of mining equipment. Commissioner Hurwitz stated there is a culvert about 60' long that will be used at Eagle Creek. Mr. Mikesell said the culvert has a few dings but would work for Eagle Creek. Mr. Mikesell recommended that what the county wants to keep be marked with paint and then people will know what to bid on to haul and clean up. Commissioner Hurwitz said that they will have road department mark it and then have sealed bids on what needs to be hauled and cleaned up. Mr. Mikesell said it is a lot of other things too like wood and timber. He continued saying the commission will need to decide how much clean up they want done there. Commissioner Lucas asked if the price of scrap has increased. Mr. Mikesell said he thought it is about \$120 up in Great Falls. Commissioner Hurwitz contacted Road Supervisor Ray Ringer to let him know he needs to get what the county wants to keep marked so bidders will clearly know what to bid on. Mr. Ringer agreed and will contact Mr. Mikesell and Mr. Ogle so they can submit bids. Mr. Ringer will also contact the Clerk and Records Office so they can place an ad in the paper notifying the public. Commissioner Hurwitz also asked Road Supervisor Ringer to contact Mr. Ron Burns to identify and haul off turret that he purchased at the auction. Commissioner Hurwitz thanked Mr. Mikesell for his time and information.

Building Supervisor:

JR Shinabarger met with commission regarding his position; due to the individual's privacy the session was closed.

Cemetery Board:

Cemetery Board Chairman JR Shinabarger met with commission and Clerk & Recorder to discuss the status of Sexton position. Mr. Shinabarger expressed his frustration with the Sexton helping out at the Courthouse and not being compensated more than his normal wage. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he would hope all county employees be willing to help each other out, and to be neighborly. Mr. Shinabarger stated the Sexton does not fall under the county but the Cemetery Board and they are the ones that set Sexton’s hours and wage. Clerk & Recorder Mrs. Ogle stated that Sexton’s current wage status is not correct and should be corrected. It is against Labor Law to have a position salaried that does not supervise any other personnel. Commission agreed that the Sexton should be paid hourly. Mrs. Ogle added if Sexton goes over 40 hours in a week then he has the choice of comp time or over time. Commissioner Lucas asked if Sexton could accumulate comp time during the summer and use it in the winter. Mrs. Ogle said he could because the Policy Handbook currently says to use in a reasonable amount of time, which is up to interpretation. Mr. Shinabarger agreed with Clerk and Recorder and feels it is important to do things properly. Commission asked Clerk & Recorder Ogle to write up a contract with the changes and then present it to them and Cemetery Board for approval. Mr. Shinabarger asked what was the commission’s determination regarding Sexton’s compensation for helping at the courthouse. Commissioner Hurwitz stated because he is not a county employee he will not be able to do so, and Mr. Shinabarger will not be able to help out at the cemetery during his county time. Chairman Townsend stated if the county needs someone to fill in for Mr. Shinabarger they can contract with someone to do so, even the current Sexton if he is agreeable to it. Mr. Shinabarger was concerned who would dump the garbage when he was not at work. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he feels someone at the courthouse could do so. Clerk and Recorder agreed it would not be a problem.

Road Abandonment:

Commission was mailed a petition to abandon a section of road in Meagher County from Mari Johnston, Elizabeth Johnston, Rebecca Johnston, and Walking KK, Inc. They are asking commission to abandon the road commonly known as Clear Range Road, or formerly Lewis Road #15. Commissioner Hurwitz contacted Meagher County News to notify public of a public hearing scheduled for March 2nd at 1:00pm in the Commissioner’s Chambers regarding abandonment.

Claims Out of Session:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented claims to Chairman Townsend. Voucher 1044, CK#40404 – CK# 40414 totaling \$12,142.93. Chairman Townsend approved claims as presented.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented claims to commission. Voucher #1049, CK#40415 – CK#40449 totaling \$42,238.42. Commission approved as presented.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER