

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

March 2, 9, 16 2010

Tuesday

March 2, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

Commission Office within Clerk & Recorder's Office

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Bernie Lucas and Chairman Townsend present by phone.

Road Report:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer met with commission to give an update on the Road Department. Ringer stated he is looking at a 1983 Autocar from the state priced at \$8,000. The road department still is working on the graveling of the Smith River Road. Ringer also reported that training on the CAT Grader is scheduled for today for himself, Ivan Bodell and Bruce Smith.

County Vehicle Bids:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer, and Sheriff Jon Lopp met with commission to open sealed bids that were received for county vehicles. After opening the bids Commissioner Hurwitz moved and Commissioner Lucas seconded to accept \$5,000 bid on the D8 Cat from Doug Russell, to accept \$6,516.16 bid on 1997 Dodge ¾ ton 4X4 from Mike Eckberg, to accept \$6,000 bid on 1977 IHC Dump Truck from Robert Dupea, and to accept \$450.00 bid on the Ambulance from Kenny Ogle.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Jon Lopp met with commission and asked for permission to purchase a mobile data terminal. Commissioner Lucas moved and Commissioner Hurwitz seconded to approve purchase of a mobile data terminal at about \$500.

Fire Report:

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz gave an update.

Public Hearing for Clear Range Road Abandonment:

Rebecca Johnston, Mari Johnston, Libby Johnston, Ty Wells, Adam Grove, and Ben Haugan were present at the hearing. There were no objections against the abandonment of the road. The investigation committee recommended that the county road be abandoned. The Commission will review and within 10 days will send a notice of decision regarding road abandonment.

County Health Nurse Report:

County Health Nurse Kari Jo Kiff will send all local businesses a letter reminding them about the no smoking law. Commission and Kiff discussed the relocation of her office from the courthouse to the Mountainview Medical Center.

Search and Rescue:

Otto Ohlson and Stacey Menard met with commission and gave an update on the Meagher County Search and Rescue.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1053, Ck#40470 - Ck#40530 totaling \$32,974.43 and Voucher #1054, Ck#40531 totaling \$1,900. Commissioner approved and signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Tuesday

March 9, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

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

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Bernie Lucas, and Chairman Townsend present by phone.

Commission read and approved previous meetings minutes.

Claims:

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

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Sue Phelan met with commission and asked if the meal allowance can be adjusted. She noted that it is hard to find a meal for the rates approved. The current rates is Breakfast \$5, Lunch \$6.00 and dinner at \$12.00. She talked to Lewis and Clark County and they have their meal allowances set at \$7.75 for breakfast, \$11.75 for Lunch, \$18.75 for dinner. Treasurer Phelan expressed she did not think the meal allowance needed to be raised for dinner but she felt the breakfast and lunch allowances were low. Commission discussed and agreed to increase meal allowances for county employees.

RESOLUTION 2010-8

Commissioner Lucas moved to increase county meal allowance to \$8 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch and \$16 for dinner. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Therefore it is resolved

Treasurer Phelan also reported that she and Deputy Treasurer Porter will go to Billings next week to spend 2 days at CSA to learn more about reports and other things regarding infinite visions software. Commissioner Lucas asked how the tax filings were. Treasurer Phelan reported that they had a few issues, but overall it went well. Commissioner Lucas asked how state reporting has been going. Treasurer Phelan said it is fine, they report monthly and they report Motor Vehicles weekly. She stated they balance daily and report accordingly. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how the bank bid is going. Phelan calls a day or two ahead for bids and then deposits money in the bank that had the better rate. Both banks are competitive.

Clerk & Recorder Report:

Clerk and Recorder Ogle reported that she was able to get a quote for an independent audit that would cover the time when the embezzlement occurred. The audit company is available mid April. They could start about April 17th with 2 people, which is \$85 per hour per person. They did not give an estimate of how long it would take. Commissioner Hurwitz would like to see it done, but would like to know the amount of time before they approve to have it done.

Commissioner Lucas agreed and continued by saying he would like to have an accurate bench mark for current finances, to help clean the slate. Commissioner Hurwitz felt it is important to have an audit so the county does not have any more financial surprises. Lucas asked if the company will recommend operations that would need to be changed to correct or avoid errors. Clerk & Recorder Ogle will call and ask for further information that the commission inquired about. Commissioner Lucas recalled that the county had an audit after a previous embezzlement that totaled about \$8,500. He continued by saying it is expensive and once they get an accurate quote they will make the determination if to have it done or not. Clerk & Recorder Ogle recommended that commission determine how many years that they would like audited. After discussing commission agreed to inquire with auditing firm how much it would cost to audit July of 2007 – July of 2009. Clerk and Recorder Ogle will report back with findings.

Chairman Townsend:

Chairman Townsend was contacted on the phone and was put on speaker phone to join in.

Clear Range Road Abandonment:

RESOLUTION 2010-9

Commissioner Townsend moved to Abandon Clear Range Road as petitioned by the Johnston's & the KK Walking Ranch. Commissioner Lucas seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Therefore it is resolved

Fire Report:

Chairman Townsend expressed he would like grassy mountain residents informed that they have the same fire protection as the rest of the county. He would like them informed while the county goes through the lengthy process of annexing land into fire districts. Seidlitz added it is very hard to start a fire district but relatively easy to annex. Seidlitz recommends that we keep the grassy mountain fire district and annex the rest of the county into it. Chairman Townsend would like to consult with the County Attorney to make sure we are in compliance before we move ahead. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if the trucks and volunteers are on a national forest fire and a fire starts in the county do they come back to the county. Seidlitz stated yes they do come back.

Library Board:

Library Board Members Tary Buckingham and Jim Johnston met with commissioners to give an update. Mr. Johnston then stated that the Library board would like to have a reserve in their budget to handle issues like these that they are facing. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he would like to see this done in all departments, to be able to pay up front for things. Commissioner Hurwitz said they could add to reserve and grow the fund to address building maintenance and other items. He agrees it is important to add this to department budgets. Commissioner Lucas explained by putting it in a separate line item, a separate fund, it does not reduce budget, and it does not show up in cash but is available for capital improvement.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1055, Ck#40532 - Ck#40578 totaling \$18,881.74. Commissioner approved and signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Tuesday

March 16, 2010

9:00am – 4:30pm

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

Commission Present: Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Herb Townsend on the phone during the Road Report

Road Department Report:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer reported that the road crew is still graveling Smith River Road. Commissioner Hurwitz asked the cost of graveling. Mr. Ringer replied it costs about \$10,000 a mile. Hurwitz stated he is trying to have FWP share the cost due to all the traffic that goes down that road for recreation.

Commissioner Hurwitz and Chairman Townsend discussed situation. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to give Mr. Ringer an extension until the end of May to use his 31 hours of vacation or he will lose it. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed.

Chairman Townsend asked what the status was of the gravel pit cleaning. Mrs. Ogle stated that Ken Ogle and Ken Mikesell have worked out a deal, and are working it together.

Mountainview Medical Center:

Hospital Board Chairman Bill Galt, and Hospital Administrator Aaron Rogers met with Commission to go over financials. Mr. Rogers gave Commissioner Hurwitz a copy of financials to review. Mr. Rogers stated the financials reflects the lack of patients they have had. He noted it is not good financially but it is good for the community that not a lot of people are sick right now.

Commissioner Hurwitz stated the county health nurse is doing a good job and would like community to be able to go into a nice facility not the courthouse basement. He added he feels it is the best location for the county health nurse to operate; it improves the safety of the patient by being at the hospital. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he would like to have the county health nurse at the hospital perpetually but if an issue arises there should be a way for either side to terminate it. They agreed to 120 day out. Commissioner Hurwitz stated he will sign on the other commissioners' behalf and then have Chairman Townsend and Commissioner Lucas review and sign agreement when they are available.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1055, Ck#40580 - Ck#40605 totaling \$33,877.84. Journal Voucher #255 for \$2,836.20, Journal Voucher #356 for \$1,766.60, Journal Voucher #357 for \$742.00 and Journal Voucher #382 for \$2,476.80. Void CK#40569 from voucher #1055 totaling \$1,554.66. Commissioner Hurwitz approved and signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER