

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

August 3, 10, 17, 24 2010

Tuesday

August 3, 2010

8:30am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 8:45am

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Nancy Schlepp

Minutes:

Commission reviewed July 20, 2010 minutes and approved with corrections.

Road Department Report:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer reported he will hire someone to mow the Smith Road to Forest Boundary which is 19 miles long. Discussed employee Dan Fuller. Mr. Fuller said to Mr. Ringer that he cannot work a full 10 hour shift even 1 or 2 days a week. Commission will look into options. Mr. Ringer intended to build the detour at Eagle Creek and after that he intends to gravel Lower Lingshire.

Claims:

Claims were reviewed by commission.

Cemetery Indigent Burials:

Cemetery Chairman JR Shinabarger met with the commission to discuss and update Indigent Burial procedures and possible contract with a funeral home for indigent burials. Mr. Shinabarger would like to go to bid to have a contract with a funeral home that will handle county indigent burials. Shinabarger would like to look and redo the Policy. County Attorney Linda Hickman joined the meeting. Hickman reported that she is still following up regarding the indigent burial that the county just handled. She will file for the estate of the indigent as the public administrator so she can recoup the cost of the burial. If someone also files for the estate the county will still file to try to cover the costs incurred.

Action 1:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to have County Attorney Hickman draft a policy for county indigent burials. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Action 2:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to call for bids from funeral homes for indigent burials. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commission discussed building priorities, and what the remaining grant funds should go towards. Commission agreed windows should be the first priority to help be energy efficient, and the second would be to paint the courtroom.

Northwestern Energy:

Mike Cashell, Tom Pankratz, Dave Gates, and Sarah Hamlin met with commission and presented information regarding the 3 projects they are working on right now. Northwestern Energy representatives explained projects in great detail. They shared that their tax increase for these projects would increase in the taxable base for the county. The obstacles they face are the reality of transmission development. Commission voiced they are in support of development and implementation of these projects in Meagher County. Northwestern stated a collection facility in

Meagher County would help the Collector System be successful and they would keep it in mind. Northwestern will keep commission informed of project status.

Grassy Mountain Fire District Public Hearing:

Commissioner Schlepp and Commissioner Hurwitz met with community at City Hall for the Public Hearing regarding Grassy Mountain Fire District. Total attendance was 16. Commission conveyed the purpose is for community at Grassy Mountain is to decide what they want to do about their fire district. The first option is to establish a working fire department board. The second option is to dissolve the fire district. If they choose to maintain the fire district then they will need to have a mutual aid agreement with Meagher County Fire District. If the land owners choose to keep fire district the commission will appoint a board. Grassy Mountain Landowner stated he would like to go ahead with the petition to dissolve the district and see if it gets the 40% - 40% support needed. If they do not then they will move forward with the establishing a working fire district.

Fire Report:

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz met with commission and reported Engine 3 needs a new radiator. Two fires are burning north of Meagher County. Seidlitz explained fire hazards and current status. He facilitated a large training recently out at Grassy Mountain for volunteer firemen.

Employee PERA:

Commission discussed delinquent PERA contributions for a county employee. The consensus was that the county has paid there half and feel the employee should be responsible for his.

Action 3:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to not pay employee's portion of interest for delinquent contribution to PERA. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Budget Workshop:

Clerk and Recorder Dayna Ogle met with commission to continue working through department budgets.

Airport Board:

Bill Galt met with commission to discuss aviation fuel system. Galt explained the status of the fuel system and specifics. They discussed branded fuel, tank size, reporting, and costs. Galt also explained details regarding the airport remodel. Bill Galt stated he would like county to have one person be responsible for fuel pump, computer, lights, and notices to air men. Commission considered training deputy sheriffs so they would be available to help with the lights when pilots needed assistance. Galt is concerned about liabilities and would rather not be involved in the fuel tank. He turned in a letter addressed to the commission notifying them that he will no long be chairman of the airport board but is willing to remain on the board. He noted the airport is an asset to our community and he would help whoever becomes the chairman. Commission discussed agreed to increase budget to cover cost of signs that are needed. Galt shared that FAA has monies for a snow plow and a broom and also a facility to house it. Commission will look into possible grant funds for snow plow.

Action 4:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to have Mike Beckhoff contact FAA notifying pilots of antelope and other wildlife on the runway. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Courthouse IT Report:

Jim McDanel discussed with commission servers, and backups for the Sheriff's Office. McDanel would like to have the Sheriff's Office tie into the courthouse system and use the same servers. He feels it is cost effective and would allow courthouse and sheriff's office to share documents. Mcdanel reported that the networking and the phone bid to fix wiring in the

courthouse was around \$3,000 to \$4,000 dollars and they could do it with him one weekend and show him the other information.

Action 5:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to give McDanel permission to have an assistant to help fix wiring for the courthouse. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Airport Fuel Master:

Mike Beckoff, Bill Galt, and Jim McDanel met with commission to discuss fuel system. Hurwitz asked Galt to contact Mr. Odom for the software for fuel pump system. Galt agreed he will give him a call to have him drop it off at the clerk & recorder's office.

Mike Beckoff from Stelling Engineers reported the fuel master system is a viable system and will look into the process to have people trained on it. Galt recommended having a log to sign off when work is done Beckoff also agreed he will update information on airport status such as mowing, snow plowing and wildlife on runway.

Payroll:

Payroll Checks Voucher #1 \$104,492.53; CK#217769 – CK#217778. Payroll Deduction Voucher #1001 \$88,428.02; CK#41125 – CK#41129. Health Insurance Voucher #1002 \$17,701.81; CK#41130 – CK#41139.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Hurwitz adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held August 10, 2010 in the commissioner's chambers.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Commissioner Ben Hurwitz and Christy Rogers, Administrative Assistant
Distributed August 17, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Tuesday

August 10, 2010

8:30am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 8:30am

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Nancy Schlepp

Road Department:

Commissioners met with Dan Fuller and Ray Ringer on speaker phone from Billings.

Hospital Board – County Representatives:

Jim Witt and Michael Kakuk asked to resign and hospital board members who were appointed by the county commission. The commission has decided we need not appoint anyone to the

hospital board. Instead the county commission intends to appoint 3 members to a hospital district.

Library Board:

Jim Johnston and Gordon Doig reported on the Library slab remediation. At our next meeting the commission will vote money necessary to remodel the Library's back room.

MSTI Line:

Wally Congdon reported by speakerphone on the MSTI Substation and collector lines.

Personnel:

Action 1:

Chairman Townsend moved if an employee cannot fulfill the duties of a job in the job description due to illness the employee must take sick leave or leave without pay until a workman's comp doctor makes a determination. This change to the county policy will take effect immediately. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Fire:

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz reported on Meagher County Fire.

Attendance:

Marcy Rethwisch was present after lunch

County Health Nurse:

County Health Nurse Kari Jo Kiff reported.

Action 2:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to renew medical services to the Martinsdale Hutterite Colony. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Public Administrator:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to have our county attorney be the Public Administrator for Meagher County pursuant to section 7-3-441. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff's IT:

Jim McDanel, Sheriff Jon Lopp, and Maebeth Seidlitz met and discussed IT issues at the Sheriff's Office.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Hurwitz adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held August 10, 2010 in the commissioner's chambers.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Tuesday

August 17, 2010

8:30am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:35am

Commission Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Nancy Schlepp

Road Department:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer met with commission to open two sealed bids for shop fence and shop roof. Matt Schuster bid \$16,888.85 for the shop roof. Paul Kroeger bid \$20,522.20. Commission discussed and decided to contact them and see what the gage of the metal is. Commission will discuss, look at the budget and determine if they will go ahead with the roof and fence projects. Commission agreed it is important to maintain the building. Commission will notify Ringer after they review the budget. Ringer asked if the commission would approve a raise for one of the road crew workers.

Action 1:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to put Nick Lester on full time and to increase his pay by .25/hour effective immediately. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

The temporary road for the Martinsdale highway project had quite a bit of gravel and the commission would like Ringer to look into buying the gravel when Weeden Construction is done with the detour road. Ringer told the commission that the old 6 is not working very well. Musselshell project is starting to put in a new bridge. The completion date is to be at the end of October. Road department does not have a mower but they have a disk. Commission discussed options of a mower versus a disk. Ringer wanted to make sure commission still wants to contract with Tim Allen to mow, and they do. Commission asked Ringer to coordinate with Weed Supervisor Ohlson to address weeds along the county roads.

Sheriff Office:

Jon Lopp met with commission to open sealed bids for IT services. Ryan Porter bid \$25/hr. Computer Hobbies bid \$500/month (29 hrs @ \$17/hr) plus \$17/hr for after hour calls. WSS Cable and Network bid \$1,050/month plus additional \$55/hour for additional work.

Closed Session:

Discussed personnel.

Opened Session:

Action 2:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to give Sheriff Lopp authority to contact the two lowest bidders and then determine which one the Sheriff's Office will contract with for IT services.

Courthouse IT:

Commission opened sealed bids. James McDanel bid \$25.00/hr. Ryan Porter bid \$25.00/hour. Computer Hobbies bid \$500/month (29 hrs @ \$17/hr) plus \$17/hr for after hour calls.

Action 3:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to contract with James McDanel at \$25.00/hr. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Attendance:

Commissioner Hurwitz left for the remainder of the day.

Library:

Action 4:

Chairman Townsend moved to go to bid for the Library back room repair and the bids will be due 8:30am on August 24, 2010 in the Clerk & Records Office. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Jim Johnston met with commission to discuss specs for library repairs and going to bid. Mr. Johnston shared that they will have the plans put together for the new library and start soliciting for donations. Mr. Johnston agreed he will contact the engineering firm and have compaction tests done when needed.

County Attorney:

County Attorney Linda Hickman and Kimberly Deschene met with commission regarding the indigent burial. Hickman informed them that there has been a relative located. The son has traveled to White Sulphur Springs and has agreed to pay the costs of the burial. He is currently cleaning out the trailer. There is no estate because there is no personal property. The son does not have an obligation to pay the burial fees because there is no estate but has generously offered to pay for the fees out of a life annuity. Hickman will continue working with him and report to the commission. Hickman is putting together a policy addressing indigent burials and will present it when completed. Commission inquired if they need a medical marijuana policy for workers. Hickman recommends having a policy that addresses all narcotics. Hickman asked if Deschene could be hired temporarily at \$25/hour for 20 hours a week starting October through December 31st. Commission will review the budget and notify them of their decision.

MSU County Extension Position:

Action 5:

Chairman Townsend moved to accept county extension position as drafted by Dave Phillips from MSU. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Chairman Townsend signed the approval form for advertising extension agent position.

Senior Center:

Beth Hunt met with commission requesting \$10,000 from PILT Funds for the Senior Center. Commission will review her budget let her know. Hunt invited commissioners to do a final walk through of the senior housing next Tuesday.

Minutes:

Commissioner Schlepp and Chairman Townsend read August 3rd and August 10th minutes and approved with changes.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Lopp followed up with the two lowest bids for IT. He would like to contract with Computer Hobbies. They will have a one year contract.

Action 6:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to accept Sheriff Lopp's recommendation to sign a one year contract with Buddy Hanrahan with Computer Hobbies. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Budget Hearing:

Action 7:

RESOLUTION #2010-33

Commissioner Schlepp moved to increase the daily fee inmate compensation \$75 per day. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented claims to be approved and signed. Commission approved as presented. Voucher #1102, CK#41221 – CK#41240 totaling \$6,438.00.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chairman Townsend adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm

Next Meeting:

A special session will be held August 24, 2010 at 8:30am in the commissioners’ chambers.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Christy Rogers Administrative Assistant
Distributed August 24, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Tuesday
August 24, 2010
8:30am – 4:00pm
Met in Commissioner’s Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30am

Commission Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Nancy Schlepp

Library:

Library Board Chairman Jim Johnston and Dan Rooney joined commissioners to open the sealed bid for the back room project. Only one bid received, which was from Rooney Construction for \$33,376.00. Dan Rooney noted that the bid does not include removing the carpet on the walls. If it is removed they will have to replace the sheet rock, so it would be an additional fee. Commission noted the cost for the back room exceeds the remainder of the stimulus money by about \$4,000. Mr. Johnston noted if the Library’s budget is what it was the previous year that the Library could pay the difference.

Action 1:

RESOLUTION #2010-34

Chairman Townsend moved to accept Rooney’s Construction Bid for \$33,376.00 for the back room of the Library project. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Jon Lopp met with commission and informed them that he was contacted by South West Chemical Dependency Task Force. They would like to conduct alcohol compliance tests in the county. Sheriff Lopp noted there is no cost to the county and he would send a letter to all the bars notifying them that these tests will be done sometime in the next three months. The SWCD Task Force then goes to the establishments verifying all laws are being followed. Lopp expressed he felt it is a good program, is no cost to the county, and would be beneficial.

Action 2:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to contract with South West Chemical Dependency Task Force to conduct alcohol compliance tests in the county. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commissioners signed contract with South West Chemical Dependency Task Force to have alcohol compliance tests done in Meagher County. Sheriff Lopp then gave an update on issues the sheriff's department has dealt with.

Commission:

Action 3:

Commissioner Schlepp moved to have Commissioner Hurwitz be Vice Chairman of the Meagher County Commission. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Action 4:

Chairman Townsend moved to accept August 17, 2010 minutes with changes. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

2010/2011 FY Budget Workshop:

Action 5:

RESOLUTION #2010-35

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to hire Kimberly Deschene for a temporary part time position in the County Attorney's Office for 20 hours a week at a rate of \$25/hour from October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 for training. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken, Hurwitz and Schlepp were for, and Townsend was against. Motion passed.

Action 6:

RESOLUTION #2010-36

Chairman Townsend moved to transfer \$10,000 from the PILT fund to the Senior Center Fund for the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chairman Townsend adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held September 7, 2010 at 8:30am in the commissioners' chambers.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Christy Rogers Administrative Assistant
Distributed September 7, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle.