

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

September 7, 14, 21, 2010

Tuesday

September 7, 2010

8:30am – 4:00pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Townsend called meeting to order at 8:30am

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present. Commissioner Nancy Schlepp joined meeting at 1:00pm for the remainder of the day.

Triangle Communications:

Todd Klassy from Triangle Communications met with the commissioners to discuss current fiber optic project in Meagher County. One of the reasons for the update is that some of the current lines are at capacity and could not add additional lines for customers. With the fiber optic lines they will be able to continue to expand as people want to add lines. With fiber optic lines it provides opportunities to draw people because of the technological possibilities. Mr. Klassy will be here in town the next 6 – 8 months working on the project. He will be working on easements, and talking to residents. He is willing to give an update on the project as needed to the commissioners. Mr. Klassy asked what regulations, permitting or other requirements the county has for trenching. Road Supervisor Ray Ringer will work with Triangle Communications for permitting for when the lines intersect county roads. No other permits are required. Triangle Communications anticipates the project will be completed in about 2 years.

Road Report:

Road Supervisor Ray Ringer gave an update on personnel.

Action 1:

RESOLUTION #2010-37

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to make Bruce Smith the temporary county foreman under Mr. Ringer, with an increased hourly wage of .25 per hour, effective August 27, 2010. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hurwitz is donating 200 yards of gravel to bed the pipe on Eagle Creek project. Rocking C's is giving 4 belly dumps of gravel also. Discussed possible gravel pits. Ringer spoke to Jim McDanel regarding the fence at the shop yard. McDanel agreed to give an estimate for the fence. Commission would also like him to price steel posts. Ringer will finish up Eagle Creek and then go down and work on Bonanza Creek Road at Martinsdale, and then Lingshire.

Action 2:

RESOLUTION #2010-38

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to award Schuster the roof job at the county shop for \$16,888. Chairman Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Musselshell project manager spoke to Ringer and said the bridge is the counties and would like to know what to do with it. Ringer will follow up and see if another county has a need for it. Tim Allen is confirmed he will do the mowing they asked him to do earlier.

Road Shop Fence:

Jim McDanel met with commissioners and discussed options for the fence at the county shop. He reported price of materials and the possibility of steel posts. Using wood at 10 ft posts will be about \$6000, 12 ft posts would be around \$7500. He will look into steel and see what it will cost and notify commissioners.

Airport Board:

Ed Roatch, and Jim Higgins met with commission to discuss the status of the airport. Commission informed board Mr. Galt stepped down as chairman and needs a replacement, Mr. McDanel has experience with fuel systems and will be trained if they so choose and that there is FAA funds available for fencing to keep wildlife off the runway. Commission and airport board members agreed to pursue funds for fencing. Clerk and Recorder's office will follow up with Mike Beckhoff for FAA funding. Until the fence is done Mr. Roatch would like the game warden to keep wildlife out the best he can. County has looked at grass on the cross strip and will mow as needed. Mr. Roatch and Mr. Higgins agreed they would contact some others to join the board. Airport Board will meet to decide on chairman, manager, other members, who will service fuel system, and they also will try to implement two regular meetings a year. Commission agreed to call Lesofski and notify him that there is still an issue with antelope on the runway. Roatch would like field to be rolled to help with the gopher holes. Commission will ask the road department to take care of it in the spring.

County Health Nurse Report:

County Health Nurse Kari Jo Kiff met with commission and gave them her monthly report.

Hospital District:

Commission agreed to invite the top 3 candidates for the County Hospital District Board for appointment at the next meeting. Invitees are John Dracon, Pam Sundstrom, and Michael Kakuk.

Minutes:

Commission reviewed August 24, 2010 minutes and approved with corrections.

County Superintendent:

County Superintendent of Schools Helen Hanson met with commission to discuss current budgets for the elementary and the high school as well as the enrollment. Mrs. Hanson also reported on the current status and enrollment of Lennep School. Commissioners and Mrs. Hanson discussed Secure Rural School funds at length. They spoke to Mr. Andy Lind School Superintendent about the SRS monies on speaker phone.

Tom Lane:

Tom Lane came in and met with commissioners to ask what he can do to help the assisted living residents in the Mountainview Medical Center facility. Commission recommended he contact the Hospital Guild to make a donation. He also complimented the road crew on Birch Creek Road.

Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Jon Lopp met with commission and reported it was a successful weekend with minimal issues. The demolition derby, fish scramble, and the street dance were all well attended. No wrecks or arrests occurred this weekend. Mr. Hanrahan with Computer Hobbies agreed he will do an hourly rate for 90 days for the sheriff office IT service and also cooperate with Jim McDaniel for back up at Courthouse IT. He will work out of his house until he opens his business. Under Sheriff Shroyer picked up his new truck and will be using it soon. Discussed personnel status and possible changes in the next three years.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Sue Phelan met with commission and asked what they would like to do for delinquent property taxes. They reviewed the list, and a letter submitted by a resident regarding personal property taxes. Commission discussed.

Action 3:

RESOLUTION #2010-39

Commissioner Schlepp moved to charge off the delinquent taxes for Stockman Bar Larry Wilbur, and also Corbin Communications. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Commission asked Phelan to look into ownership of property and if tax rolls were accurate. Once confirmed ownership make any corrections that may be needed. Discussed protested taxes. Mrs. Phelan is working with Chris Todd and the DOR and will release other protests when Mrs. Todd notifies her. Treasurer Phelan asked if she can have Dayna Shepherd search for some of the people that have delinquent taxes. Commission agreed it is a good idea.

Action 4:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to charge off the delinquent taxes for Joe Kennedy. Schlepp seconded, and noted she would like for Phelan to follow up on who owns it now. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Phelan explained that the Title 1, SRS Forest Reserve monies are ear marked for the high school equalization, elementary school equalization, retirement, and county transportation. She also noted that the county is obligated to match the OPI contribution for transportation.

Budget Hearing:

Clerk and Recorder Ogle is continuing work on the FY 2010-2011 budget. She is meeting with Harold Blattie tomorrow to go over some of her questions.

Mileage Reimbursement:

Action 5:

RESOLUTION #2010-40

Commissioner Schlepp moved that every year when the IRS updates the mileage reimbursement that the county will follow the IRS recommendation and adjust the county mileage reimbursement to that rate. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1106, CK#41260 – CK#41314 totaling \$52,044.23. Commissioners signed checks as presented.

Out of Session Voucher #1103, CK#41241 totaling \$377.00. Payment was overdue so commission agreed to process and send payment 8/26/2010, out of session.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chairman Townsend adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held September 14, 2010, in the commissioner's chambers.

CLERK & RECORDER

SEAL

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Christy Rogers, Administrative Assistant
Distributed September 14, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Tuesday
September 14, 2010
8:30am – 4:00pm
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend, Vice Chairman Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Nancy Schlepp.

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Herb Townsend called meeting to order 8:45am.

Minutes:

Commissioners approved September 7, 2010 minutes with changes.

Claims:

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

County Hospital District:

Pam Sundstrom, Michael Kakuk, and John Dracon met with commission to discuss county hospital district. Chairman Townsend explained the county is reactivating the board and that the duties are explained in the law. Commission would like to include the community and find out what their opinion of the hospital. Commission would like the hospital to be successful and sustainable, and track how the county taxes are spent. County is responsible for the taxes and is following what the community wants. Appointed Hospital District Board Members will serve until the election is held at the school election in 2011. H.D. Board members will have to decide on offices at their first meeting. H.D. Board members shared their desire to serve and possible changes to improve hospital. The consensus was to be unified and work together to help the hospital be successful. H.D. Board agreed to go to the hospital board meetings and understood they would not have a vote. H.D. Board would like to hold a public meeting to hear public opinion. Commission asked if H.D. Board would identify problems the community has with the hospital and have solutions.

Action 1:

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to appoint Pam Sundstrom, Michael Kakuk, and John Dracon to the hospital district board until the next election that will be held in May at the School Election. Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Russell Country Board:

Action 2:

Chairman Townsend moved to appoint Melinda Venard to the Russell Country Board for another 3 year term. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Fire Report:

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz met with commissioners and handed out his department report. The 5 ton truck's equipment has been ordered and will be mounted when it comes in. Commission discussed Antelope in the Airport fenced area. They would like everyone to keep the gate closed at all times. Seidlitz gave an update on rural addressing and discussed Fire Budget. Seidlitz gave an update on trucks, maintenance, and storing of them. Commission and Fire chief discussed the status of the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Seidlitz concluded by sharing the hospital is having a disaster drill tonight, and the ambulance department is participating.

Budget Hearing:

Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle met with commission and worked on FY 10-11 Budget.

Weed Report:

Weed Supervisor Otto Ohlson met with commission and discussed weed spraying in the county. Commission talked to Ohlson regarding the Weed Departments budget, and the expending and receipting of grant monies. Ohlson asked if the commission would give permission to sale the 2008 Ranger. Commission gave permission. Commission decided to move cash balance that is in a grant fund to a capital outlay fund. Mrs. Ogle will check with the auditors to find out the proper procedure to transfer funds.

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented claims Voucher #1107 CK #41315 – CK#41348 totaling \$11,743.93, Commissioners signed as presented.

Chairman Townsend approved Voucher #1108 CK#41349 totaling \$377.00 out of session.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Herb Townsend adjourned meeting at 4:05pm.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet next Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Christy Rogers, Administrative Assistant
Distributed September 21, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Tuesday
September 21, 2010
8:30am – 4:00pm
Met in Commissioner’s Chambers

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Herb Townsend, Vice Chairman Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Nancy Schlepp.

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Herb Townsend called meeting to order 8:45 a.m.

Minutes:

Commissioners approved September 14, 2010 minutes with changes.

Claims:

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

Budget Workshop:

Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder Ogle reviewed department requests and worked on the county budget.

Department of Revenue:

Chris Todd from the Department of Revenue met with commissioners regarding DOR reimbursements. Discussed AB26 process and status. Two land owners in Meagher County that filed an AB26 correctly are receiving a refund with interest for 2009. Others that did not file an AB26 will not know until the lawsuit is settled. There is one landowner that has not been billed for taxes and she is following up with them and trying to collect back taxes, so the county should also receive some funds according to the mills. She has a few changes that will change the value slightly, but it will be an ongoing process. Department of Revenue is traveling around the county verifying structures and upgrades. She has a few they are scheduling for Saturdays so the owners can meet them and open locked gates.

Wally Congdon:

Mr. Congdon called and rescheduled for October 5, 2010.

Budget Workshop:

Action 1:

RESOLUTION #2010-41

Vice Chairman Hurwitz moved and Commissioner Schlepp seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to:

- Add Bowman Fire Fund (2343) money totaling \$2,872 into Fire Fund (2340)
- Transfer \$6,019 out of Planning Board Fund 2250 to the General Fund Cash
- Transfer \$12,000 from Records Preservation Fund (2393) to General Fund Cash
- Transfer \$20,707 from the Road Dept Fund (2110) to Liability Insurance Fund (2384) for road dept portion of liability insurance
- Transfer \$4,497 Cash Available from Hospital Fund (2275) to General Fund Cash
- Transfer Library money totaling \$4,291 from fund 7050 to fund 2220
- Pay health insurance for road employees out of Road Funds totaling \$31,740
- Transfer \$7,000 from District Court Fund 7160 to Regular District Court Fund 2180

Claims:

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Becky Hurwitz Leger presented Voucher #1109 CK#41350 – CK#41374 totaling \$40,554.50. Commissioners signed as presented. 9/14/2010 Voucher #1107 voided CK#41347 because the printer pulled two checks at one time so reprinted next batch.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Herb Townsend adjourned meeting at 4:00pm.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet next Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Commissioner Schlepp and Administrative Assistant Christy Rogers
Distributed October 5, 2010 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Schlepp, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle