

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

**December 6, 13, 20, 2011**

**Tuesday**

December 6, 2011

8:30am – 2:30pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Schlepp called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Nancy Schlepp, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Herb Townsend.

**Closed Session—Personnel:**

Clerk and Recorder, Dayna Ogle, and County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, joined the commissioners for a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting was re-opened at 9:30am.

**Todd Klassy—Triangle Communications:**

Todd Klassy, Right-of-Way Agent from Triangle Communications, and a colleague, dropped by with a box of chocolates and holiday greetings.

**Ray Ringer—Road Report:**

Road Department Supervisor, Ray Ringer, met with the commissioners to give his monthly report. First he told the commissioners there has been little snow to deal with. Vice Chair Hurwitz mentioned to him he had spoken with Pat Drynan from Helena Sand and Gravel regarding the rescreening of the gravel. He realized it would cost about 30% of the gravel. Ringer agreed this was cost prohibitive and the money saved by not doing it could purchase a lot of fuel. It was agreed not to rescreen it, but rather to use it for base at Camp Baker. It would be put on as is and top dressed.

Commissioner Townsend asked if he has been getting fuel quotes from Van and Berg when he purchases diesel. Ringer replied he has not. They are always high and it takes days often to get a response. Hurwitz and Townsend both asked him to contact them going forward.

Ringer asked the commissioners if they had considered hiring a new Road Crew member to replace him when he retires April 2012. Schlepp suggested running ads in January and having someone new on board by the beginning of February. Ringer agreed that that would be a good idea.

**Action 1:**

Schlepp moved that, in light of Ray Ringer's upcoming retirement from the Road Department (April 2012), the County hire a new Road Crew member in February, with advertising to begin in January. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Ringer asked if there was any word yet on the Forest Service money for flood repairs. Hurwitz replied there has not but that he had asked DES Director, Rick Seidlitz, to look into it. Townsend asked how the roof at the shop was coming along. Ringer replied that work to replace it had not yet begun as B&B Construction was waiting for payment on the needed materials. Hurwitz asked if Ringer knew how much RAC money the County received for graveling Smith River Road. Ringer said he did not. It was agreed to ask District Ranger Carol Hatfield to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ringer shared some issues he had had with Torgerson's and T&E over-billing the County. He had taken care of the issues. Schlepp asked what happens when there is snow at the airport on a Sunday morning. Ringer told her that (Road Department Foreman) Bruce Smith takes care of it and then trades hours later in the week to minimize overtime.

#### **Ken Mikesell—Tax Sale on Trailers:**

Ken Mikesell visited with the commissioners regarding some trailers on his property for which back taxes are owed. He told them he has already hauled three or four away and has another two or three remaining.

*County Treasurer, Sue Phelan*, was asked to join the meeting. She did at 10:25am. Phelan told Mikesell and the commissioners that the one on his property now is in line to be included in an upcoming sheriff sale. Townsend asked what happens if it fails to sell. Phelan replied that the County would write off the taxes and Mikesell would be free to take ownership. Mikesell pointed out that it will cost him \$500 to haul the trailer from his property.

Schlepp suggested that nothing can be done until a sheriff sale. Mikesell pointed out that it is his trailer; he should be able to haul it away. Townsend countered that it is his if he takes title, in which case he would owe the taxes. Mikesell asked what would happen if he put a lien on the trailer. Phelan told him he could do that after the sheriff sale. Townsend wondered why Mikesell does not have the right to pull it off his property. Hurwitz agreed. Phelan recommended he talk to the sheriff about abandoned property. Mikesell agreed to do that.

#### **Sue Phelan—Land Donation to County:**

County Treasurer Phelan gave the commissioners copies of a letter she had received from Beverly Hopkins Heckford, asking the County to remove a parcel of land she owns from the tax rolls, with the stipulation that her blood family be able to camp on the property at no charge. It was unanimously agreed not to grant her wish and remove the property from tax rolls.

#### **Policy Amendment—Part-Time Holiday Pay:**

##### **Action 2:**

##### **RESOLUTION 2011-#73**

Hurwitz moved to accept the policy amendment as presented. Townsend seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously. It is therefore resolved.

#### **Rich Siebken—Grassy Mountain Fire District/Subdivision Fence Repair:**

Rich and Valerie Siebken met with the commissioners to discuss some issues with Grassy Mountain. Also present was Kyle Harlan and DES Director Seidlitz.

Siebken began by sharing his general frustration. He has in his binder of historical information requests without responses, and responses to requests he cannot locate. His first question was whether the developer of the subdivision has been released from its responsibilities. Blue Green tried getting out in 2007, he added. Townsend said he thought they had never been released. Siebken continued that according to the CC&Rs, the developer could only be released by the County Commissioners. It was agreed to have County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, look into the matter.

His second question was whether there was a written contract for the perimeter fencing, who signed, and when? Schlepp pointed out a letter written by former County Attorney Linda Hickman that addresses the issue, stating that responsibility clearly lies with the subdivision. Siebken added that it also mentions state law as well. Hurwitz asked what concern this was to the County. Siebken responded that the commissioners guided the development of the CC&Rs; therefore, it becomes the County's responsibility. If the County is washing its hands of this matter, he continued, he would just like to know. Schlepp told him they are not in a position to answer any of his questions right now but if he left a list, they could respond to it. Siebken gave the commissioners a list of questions and told them he just wants to protect the investment he has made. Townsend pointed out that the subdivision also has money in the bank. Siebken agreed and added that somehow it has to be freed up. Hurwitz concluded by telling Siebken he is in an

unfortunate situation. The few landowners who do live in Grassy, he told him, care deeply about what happens there. But the absentee landowners do not. Siebken agreed and added that he was simply trying to solidify his existence at Grassy Mountain and to protect the value of his property.

**Rick Seidlitz—RAC Funds Update:**

County Fire Chief and DES Director, Rick Seidlitz, visited with the commissioners. He shared with them that, according to Jess Secrest at the Forest Service, the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) Board approved all of the projects submitted by the County. He said the region still has to sign off, and then the County will have to figure out how to get the funds.

Seidlitz left the meeting at 11:00am.

**Kyle Harlan:**

Kyle Harlan, who recently contracted with Meagher County to replace the State as non-residential building inspector, met with the commissioners. He informed them they need to pass a resolution to adopt state codes for the County and send the resolution along with his credentials to the State. He told them he would put everything they needed together and bring it to the next meeting for them to have the County Attorney review and send off to the state.

**Jim McDanel—AvGas Rate:**

**Action 3:**

Chair Schlepp moved to raise the avgas price at the airport to \$5.15/gallon effective immediately. Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**Jim McDanel—County Commissioner Computers:**

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Townsend and Hurwitz would each receive an old Dell desktop updated with Windows 7, for County business. Townsend also mentioned he would like to be able to join the Commission meeting by webcam or skype when he was on his upcoming vacation in Hawaii. McDanel told him that could be done.

**Closed Session—Personnel:**

Clerk and Recorder Ogle and County Attorney Deschene joined the commissioners for a closed session over lunch to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting was re-opened at 1:00pm.

**Broadwater County WIC Program Satellite Agreement:**

Chair Schlepp signed an agreement extending Meagher County's satellite program of the Broadwater County WIC Program through September 30, 2012.

**CTEP Application:**

**Action 4:**

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve and submit the CTEP grant application as it was presented by Jim Richard at the November 15 meeting. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

**Closed Session—Personnel:**

Building Maintenance Supervisor, J.R. Shinabarger requested that the session be open. Also present were Clerk and Recorder Ogle, County Attorney Deschene, and Sheriff Jon Lopp. Shinabarger's response to a letter he had received from the Commissioners recently regarding his behavior and job performance was discussed. He was presented another letter, a few points of which he disputed. Then Hurwitz told him he was being suspended with pay. He left with Sheriff Lopp.

### **Jon Lopp—Sheriff Report:**

Sheriff Lopp presented his monthly report to the commissioners. He also had the Forest Service agreement to renew. Hurwitz told him he is not ready to do that. He would like the Forest Service to kick in more money. Lopp pointed out that the only ones who would be hurt by not renewing the agreement were the deputies. Hurwitz acknowledged this and said he just wanted to try and see what he could do. Lopp informed the commissioners that the amount available through the agreement for the coming year is \$8800, up from \$8000. He reminded the commissioners that up to half of the money could be used for equipment. Hurwitz asked if it could be applied toward the cost of a vehicle. Lopp said he would have to ask. He also said he would call Pete Moullet, of the Forest Service, to invite him to the next Commission meeting to discuss terms of the agreement.

### **Sheriff Office Overtime:**

Sheriff Lopp remained with the commissioners to discuss his department's overtime. Also present was Clerk and Recorder Ogle. Ogle handed the commissioners a spreadsheet showing the hours of overtime worked by the deputies month by month for the past year. The spreadsheet, Ogle pointed out, shows a steady decline in the hours of overtime each month.

Hurwitz shared with Lopp an idea he has, whereby if a deputy gets to the end of the week and is near his 40-hour limit for the week, he would not work the remainder of the week. Lopp acknowledged the idea but wondered who would work in that deputy's place, as chances are the deputies not scheduled to work will likely have made plans by then.

Lopp briefly talked about a new way of scheduling, where the deputies would on six days and off three. Hurwitz complimented Lopp on his efforts to bring down the overtime hours.

### **Clerk and Recorder Business—Upcoming Changes to Health Insurance:**

Clerk and Recorder Ogle informed the commissioners that Mountainview Medical Center was more than likely to leave the MACo Health Care Trust health insurance plan, which would result in more than a 15% change in enrollment. As a result, she continued, two things will happen. First, an actuary will need to come in. And secondly, there will likely be a mid-year premium increase, followed by a year-end increase. She has contacted an insurance broker, she continued, to explore other options. The broker would place the County in a large pool of statewide small businesses in order to get better rates. Schlepp added that she liked the idea of commissioners receiving health insurance too. Ogle mentioned that Pam Walling, from MACo, mentioned in a previous meeting that Meagher County is one of the few counties statewide that does not provide health insurance to its commissioners.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

### **Claims:**

Commission was presented Voucher #1234, CK#43285 through CK#43364, totaling \$90,706.13; and Voucher#1231, CK#43267 through CK#43268, totaling \$457.24. Commission approved and signed checks as presented. Payroll Voucher#8, CK#218000 through CK#218013 totaling \$11,113.02; Payroll Deductions Voucher#1233, CK#43278 through CK#43284, totaling \$83,802.52; and Health Insurance Voucher#1232, CK#43269 through CK#43277, totaling \$21,366.68 were also presented and approved.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Chair Schlepp adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 13, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Assistant to the Clerk & Recorder, Nathan Sanders  
Distributed November 13, 2011 to Chairman Schlepp, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Townsend, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

**Tuesday**  
December 13, 2011  
8:00am – 3:30pm  
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chairperson Schlepp called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chairperson Nancy Schlepp, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Herb Townsend.

**Closed Session—Personnel Matter:**

The commissioners met in closed session with Clerk and Recorder, Dayna Ogle, to discuss a personnel matter. The session re-opened at 9:30am.

**Policy Review—Sick Leave Grants:**

Clerk and Recorder Ogle remained with the commissioners to discuss making an exception to the County's sick leave grant policy to allow employees to grant sick leave to County employee, Ivan Bodell. She told them instead of granting him sick leave as it is donated, she would grant it as needed so as not to build up a balance that would need to be paid out upon separation. She said he would need 70-75 hours per month.

**Action 1:**

Chair Schlepp moved to make an exception to County policy to allow Bodell to receive sick leave grants from other County employees. Vice Chair Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

Commissioner Townsend asked Ogle how long she felt the sick leave grants would last. She replied that they would run until he made a decision on his status. Schlepp felt that employees would only make a grant one time. Ogle agreed, suggesting that the grants might buy him one to two more months.

**Minutes:**

**Action 2:**

Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (December 6), and from November 15, November 8, and November 1. Schlepp seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

**Angie Ringer—Safety Inspection Training and Review:**

County Safety Coordinator, Angie Ringer, met with the commissioners to give a report on a recent meeting with Ed Dawes, Safety and Health Specialist from Montana Department of Labor and Industry. She told them she had learned that much more needed to be done to get the County compliant. She needs to create a safety manual and a hazcom manual by the end of the fiscal year, for example. She showed them a copy of the Montana Safety Culture Act, which she is going to use as a guideline. Schlepp asked if there were other counties Ringer could steal ideas from. Ringer told her Jefferson County was suggested as an example.

Ringer then told them that Dawes is dead set against incentives, as they encourage employees not to report accidents. Hurwitz asked about the Road Department, whether they have been working on the safety modules. He encouraged her to ride them to get them done now as there is no snow. Ringer said she can do a group session, whatever is needed to get it done. She added that the Sheriff Department and its officers are a huge concern as well, with kids riding in County rigs, ride-alongs, etc.

Ringer mentioned the Road Department inspection report, which includes a few things that need replaced and some things that need fixed. In particular, she mentioned extension cords, covers for lights, air nozzles, and shields. An outlet in the bathroom is not grounded and either needs covered or replaced. She mentioned hazcom labeling, which the Road Department does well according to the report. There were three things that needed to be fixed within 25 days: the bathroom outlet, the drill press, and the air nozzles.

Townsend asked about the Weed Department. Ringer said she had asked Dawes about off-site inspections. She said she worried most about the Sheriff Department. Schlepp told her just to ask Dawes to come help her. Townsend asked about the golf course. Ringer told him she thought it was the golf course's responsibility whoever hired the employee. Townsend said they should definitely look at the Weed Department. What has hit the County hard, he added, is that people are distracted on the job. Schlepp agreed and added that the atmosphere needs to change.

Townsend asked Ringer how being Safety Coordinator works with her job. Ringer said she did get some grief the day Dawes was here as she was gone the entire day. She said it was right in the middle of tax time so he came at a really bad time and she had no idea he was going to be here for so long. It was agreed to have him return next year in December, after tax time, and on a Commission day.

#### **Pam Walling—MACo Health Care Trust:**

Pam Walling called in to visit with the commissioners regarding Mountainview Medical Center leaving the County's health plan. She told them that the hospital leaving the plan would result in a 15% enrollment change, which normally would require an actuary to revisit the plan, and likely rerate it. MACo though has decided not to do that or rerate the plan in the middle of the year. She did point out, however, that with the hospital gone, the demographics of the plan would change and the average age of eligible employees would be higher, leading to higher premiums.

Schlepp told Walling they have already discussed these issues in detail. She thanked her for keeping the rates till the end of the year, giving the County added time to make choices. She also assured Walling they understand what the Health Care Trust is trying to do long-term, but they are exploring options.

#### **Rick Seidlitz—Fire/DES Update:**

Fire Chief, Rick Seidlitz, met with the commissioners to give his monthly update. Of note, he said the furnace at Checkerboard Fire was lost. It cost \$100 to replace and there was also some damage to the truck.

#### **Kari Jo Kiff—Health Nurse Update:**

County Health Nurse, Kari Jo Kiff, presented her monthly report. Of note, the final report for the billing project was submitted. It included figures regarding the costs of vaccinations and revenue resulting from insurance and Medicaid reimbursements.

*Health Department Billing Clerk, Lorna Fox, joined the meeting at 1:30pm.*

She then mentioned a dilemma with private insurers—namely the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans for state and federal employees—not recognizing county health departments as preferred providers and thus not reimbursing the County for vaccinations. Kiff was unsure whether she should try to screen patients' insurance before giving vaccinations or just have the Health Department cover the cost. Schlepp said she knows the CFO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and it was agreed that she would meet Kiff and Fox sometime to call him and see if the County could receive an exemption as the Health Department is the sole provider in the County for most vaccinations.

Finally, Kiff mentioned that her previous assistant, Brooke Weishaar, had resigned effective November 30. She had interviewed candidates and has two strong ones. Townsend asked her what she would pay her new assistant. Kiff replied that Weishaar had been paid \$12. Schlepp said she was comfortable with that. It was agreed that Kiff's new assistant would receive \$12 per hour.

### **Jon Shafer and Julie Brown—RC&D:**

Jon Shafer, the new Executive Director, and Julie Brown, the Rural Development Housing Coordinator, for the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (RC&D), met with the commissioners. Also present was County Extension Agent, Nico Cantalupo. Shafer briefly introduced himself, as he had recently been hired. Townsend asked them what they can do for the County. Shafer replied that the biggest apparent needs facing the County are housing and infrastructure.

Schlepp mentioned that the school is looking at getting a new boiler and they want to tap into steam from the hot springs. She asked if there was any funding available for renewable energy. He replied that there was and he would look into it for her.

Shafer said they had met with Beth Hunt too. She said Meagher County needs housing as a whole, not just more senior housing, but for low income and people of all ages. Townsend asked if RC&D would help her with that. Brown replied that Hunt has great experience in that area and that she would be glad to help her. The first step would be to meet with Hunt and identify all the housing needs of the County. If the mine comes in, housing and infrastructure needs will be huge, she added. Townsend wondered if RC&D could help with that.

Schlepp told Townsend that since its main funding source has pulled its support, RC&D has to do programs that help fund itself. Schlepp mentioned the extreme poverty in Meagher County, that 65% of school students receive a free breakfast. Brown said she would help do a build in Meagher County, along the lines of one she had done in Livingston.

### **Jon Lopp—Forest Service Patrol Contract:**

Sheriff Jon Lopp met with the commissioners to discuss renewal of the patrol contract the County has had with the Forest Service. Hurwitz asked if he found out whether the funds could be used for vehicle maintenance. Lopp replied that he had spoken with Pete Moullet from the Forest Service, who told him that they could. Hurwitz said he would support the contract as long as the money could be used for tires and vehicle maintenance.

### **Action 3:**

Townsend moved to sign the contract with the Forest Service. Schlepp seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

Hurwitz said that he feels better about the contract, knowing it will help the County with its vehicles and help the deputies as well. Lopp then told the commissioners he had to replace the phone service in the jail cells for the inmates. The previous provider had dropped their coverage so he had contacted Triangle to set up new service. It would cost the County \$47 a month for each of the two phones. There would be no incoming calls and long distance could be accessed only by calling card, which the County would be selling.

### **Hospital District Board—Present Final Report:**

Pam Sundstrom, from the Meagher County Hospital District Board, met with the commissioners to present the District Board's final report. The commissioners had already received copies earlier in the day by e-mail from District Board member Michael Kakuk. Sundstrom explained some changes and additions to the draft report. She then told the commissioners she was drafting a letter to the hospital's liaison committee requesting copies of any publicly available financial documents going back six months and each month going forward. She said the hospital may ask the District Board to pay for copies of the materials. Hurwitz told her that was fine. Townsend said he would like to see the hospital's budget as well. Sundstrom replied that she was not sure it was public or not but would find out.

*Mountainview Medical Center Board Member, Chris Schlepp, joined the meeting at 3:00pm.*

Sundstrom asked Chris if the budget is public. He replied that he would find out, but as a 501(c)3 he thought it was required.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Claims:**

Commission was presented Voucher #1235, CK#43365 through CK#43394, totaling \$21,717.66. Check# 43299, from Voucher# 1234, was voided as it was made out for the wrong amount. Commission approved and signed checks as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Schlepp adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Assistant to the Clerk & Recorder, Nate Sanders  
Distributed December 20, 2011 to Chairman Schlepp, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Townsend, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

**Tuesday**  
December 20, 2011  
8:45am – 3:25pm  
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chairperson Schlepp called the meeting to order at 8:45am.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chairperson Nancy Schlepp, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Herb Townsend.

**Closed Session—Personnel Matter:**

The commissioners met in closed session with Clerk and Recorder, Dayna Ogle, to discuss a personnel matter. The session re-opened at 10:30am.

**Commissioners New Year's Resolutions:**

The Commissioners made the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2011-# 74

Whereas, unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays,

It Is Hereby Resolved:

The Meagher County Courthouse will be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dated this 20 day of DEC, 2011.



Dayna Ogle  
CLERK & RECORDER

Nancy H. Schlitz  
CHAIRPERSON

Tom Hurwitz  
VICE CHAIR

Hersh Townsend  
COMMISSIONER

**RESOLUTION 2011-# 15**

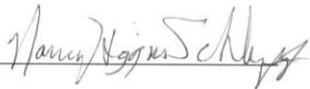
Whereas, it is recommended that counties adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel,

It Is Hereby Resolved:

Meagher County will use the prevailing state rates for the year 2012.

Dated this 20 day of DEC, 2011.





CHAIRPERSON



VICE CHAIR



CLERK & RECORDER



COMMISSIONER

**RESOLUTION 2011-# 16**

Whereas, the board of county commissioners must elect one its members presiding officer (MCA §7-5-2109), and

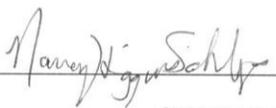
Whereas, the presiding officer shall preside at all meetings of the board, and in case of the presiding officer's absence or inability to act, the members present shall select one of their number to act temporarily as presiding officer,

It Is Hereby Resolved:

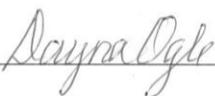
Nancy Schlepp shall be the Chairperson of the Meagher County Board of County Commissioners through December 31, 2012, effective immediately.

Dated this 20 day of DEC, 2011.



  
CHAIRPERSON

  
VICE CHAIR

  
CLERK & RECORDER

  
COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION 2011-# 71

Whereas, the governing body of the county shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date (MCA §7-5-2122), and

Whereas, the governing body of the county, except as may be otherwise required of them, may meet at the county seat of their respective counties at any time for the purpose of attending to county business, and

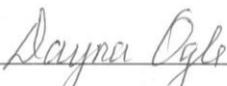
Whereas, the commissioners may, by resolution and prior two days' posted notice, designate another meeting time and place,

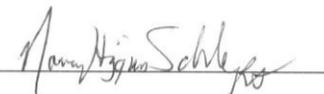
It Is Hereby Resolved:

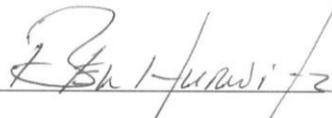
The Meagher County Board of County Commissioners shall meet the first three (3) Tuesdays of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running till said meeting is complete. The meetings shall take place in the Meagher County Courthouse.

Dated this 20 day of DEC, 2011.



  
CLERK & RECORDER

  
CHAIRPERSON

  
VICE CHAIR

  
COMMISSIONER

**Hospital District Board—Resignation:**

Commission was presented with a letter from Michael S. Kakuk, in which he tendered his resignation from the Meagher County Hospital District Board.

**Minutes:**

**Action 5:**

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the previous (December 13) meeting. Vice Chair Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

**Hospital District Board—First Reporting Session:**

Pam Sundstrom, Chairperson of the Meagher County Hospital District Board, and Michael Kakuk, recently resigned from the District Board, met with the commissioners. Also present was Mountainview Medical Center Board Member, Chris Schlepp. Schlepp brought Sundstrom hospital financial records going back six months to June of 2011, as she had been planning to request in a letter to the hospital board. Kakuk suggested using the information they had

received, revising the letter, getting commissioner approval, and sending the letter to the hospital. Hurwitz told him the commissioners would not require approval if there were no surprises. It was agreed.

Kakuk then pointed out to the commissioners that they have a vacancy to fill on the District Board, as he had resigned his position earlier in the day. He suggested the possibility of one of the commissioners themselves filling the role, at least temporarily.

Townsend asked (Chris) Schlepp about the recent drop in Bair Grant funding for the hospital. Schlepp acknowledged that it was an issue. More money is being given to schools and only \$30,000 a year for the next two years has been committed to the hospital. Kakuk asked Schlepp whether there has been talk among the board of asking to reinstate the mils. Schlepp replied that there had been none whatsoever.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Resource Allocation Committee Funds:**

*Jess Secrest from the U.S. Forest Service* met with the commissioners to give them an update on the application for RAC funds. He said they had been approved at the D.C.-level. There were more requests for funds than there are available funds, he continued, but he was confident that Meagher County would be fully funded for the projects they presented. He also told them the funds should be available by February of 2012.

*Road Department Supervisor, Ray Ringer, and Road Department Foreman, Bruce Smith,* joined the meeting at 2:30p.m.

A few more issues were discussed, including water treatment and logging on Forest lands. Secrest left the meeting at 2:40p.m.

**Road Department Recruitment:**

Ringer and Smith remained to discuss hiring new Road Crew employees in the new year. It was decided to advertise Ringer's job, as he is retiring at the end of March 2012. It was also decided to list Smith's foreman job, as he is expected to take over for Ringer.

**Claims:**

Commission was presented Voucher #1237, CK#43397 through CK#43431, totaling \$9646.58. Check# 43256, from Voucher# 1229, was voided as it was for an invoice that had accidentally been paid by the City of White Sulphur Springs instead. Commission approved and signed checks as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Schlepp adjourned the meeting at 3:25pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

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CLERK & RECORDER

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CHAIRMAN

SEAL

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER