

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

November 7, 13, 20, 2012

Wednesday

November 7, 2012

9:00am-2:30pm

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Schlepp called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Commissioners Present:

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

Bruce Smith—Road Report/Speed Limit Sign Near Rick Jacobs Residence:

Speed Limit Sign:

Vice Chair Hurwitz mentioned to Smith that he had spoken with Rick Jacobs about getting a speed limit sign put up near his residence. Cars race by and have been known to hit his dogs. He did not mention a particular speed. Smith thought all county gravel roads had a speed limit of 40 mph, but it was agreed to double check with Sheriff Lopp. In the meantime, Smith would put up some 40 mph speed limit signs.

Asphalt Crushing:

Smith told the commissioners that Rick McDaniel from Sierra Rock and Dirt has begun crushing gravel. Smith asked them about the asphalt crushing McDaniel suggested they consider. Townsend said McDaniel thought he could do it for about \$4.50 a yard but did not put anything in writing. Hurwitz asked about David Voldseth's road, which was part of the gravel crushing agreement that allowed that County to crush on Voldseth's property. Smith thought McDaniel likely would not get to Voldseth's until spring.

County Roller:

Smith mentioned that the City is often borrowing a roller that belongs to the County. It is made for asphalt and the County rarely uses it. He wondered if it would be possible to sell it to the City, maybe for \$7000-8000.

Action 1:

Hurwitz moved that the County offer the roller to the City for \$8000. Townsend seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

It was then realized that the County might not be able to sell the roller without putting it out to bid first. It was agreed to discuss the issue with County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, later in the meeting.

Maebeth Seidlitz—Dispatch Update:

Seidlitz visited with the commissioners to discuss a policy issue that had arisen recently. One of her employees took a day off, without putting in for vacation, even though she had talked to fellow dispatchers about filling in for her in advance. She then put in the request for vacation after the fact. Seidlitz wanted to make her take that day off without pay but had to receive commissioner approval first.

Action 2:

Townsend moved, after a brief discussion, that the employee be required to take the aforementioned day without pay. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

Seidlitz then mentioned another employee she has who is regularly scheduled to work 16 hours a week. She was wondering if there was any way to get her up to 20 hours a week, maybe in a different department—the Justice Court perhaps—as a way to help her qualify for benefits. She is a great employee and Seidlitz wants to give her an incentive to stay.

Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle, joined the meeting at 9:40am to discuss the matter. Ogle's primary concern was that none of this was included in the budget for the year, in particular having another employee receiving benefits.

Sprinkler Maintenance—Decision on Contract:

Schlepp opened the two bids received for the upkeep and maintenance of the sprinkler systems on County property. The first bid was from the Garden Shop and Espresso. The rates included in the bid are \$45/hour labor, \$19/sprinkler head replacement, \$24/valve replacement, and \$8/zone winterization and shut down. Including turning on the system in the spring, the bid continues, repositioning certain heads, adjusting certain heads, adjusting left to right swing of all heads, and winterizing each system for the next five years, it will cost a total of \$880.

The second bid was from Tim Barth Sales, LLC. To winterize the three sprinkler systems is \$143.00, which includes their reactivation in the spring. Any further maintenance would be billed at an hourly rate of \$19.50, plus any required parts.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to accept the bid from Tim Barth Sales, LLC, as it was cheaper.

Action 3:

RESOLUTION 2012-#92

Townsend moved to accept the bid from Tim Barth Sales, LLC. The County will contract with Barth for five years, for the maintenance and upkeep of the sprinkler systems at the Courthouse, the Library, and Cemetery, at a cost of \$143.00 for the annual winterization (including spring reactivation). Any further maintenance will be billed hourly at \$19.50, plus required parts. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0). It is therefore resolved.

Planning Board Discussion:

Also present for this part of the meeting was Mike Eby, City Council member and City representative to the Meagher County Planning Board. The meeting was called as the Board has an issue they will have to address before the end of the year, namely an easement they will have to approve for the Montana Land Reliance, and the Board has not been active for years.

Hurwitz asked Eby if he knew of anyone who would be a good board member. Schlepp mentioned Jim Richard, who had said he would help the County review its growth policy, and also serve on the Planning Board. Eby said it would be nice for the County and the City to be able to work together, especially to be prepared for the potential growth involved in having a copper mine functioning in the County. Hurwitz wanted to find out what the Montana Land Reliance wants and have them address the commissioners.

Townsend suggested it would be nice to have some rural and some city people involved. Eby suggested a County Commissioner. After further discussion, it was decided to appoint three new members to the Planning Board.

Action 4:

Townsend moved to appoint Jim Richard, Megan Shroyer, and County Extension Agent, Nico Cantalupo, to terms on the Meagher County Planning Board. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

Nico Cantalupo—County Extension Agent:

County Extension Agent Cantalupo visited with the commissioners to discuss some issues related to them as ranchers. He also agreed to serve on the Planning Board.

Kimberly Deschene—County Attorney Update:

County Attorney Deschene visited with the commissioners to give her weekly update. She said there was not much going on related to county business. Hurwitz gave her a copy of a few articles he had read regarding the Tenderfoot issue.

County Roller Sale:

Schlepp asked if it was necessary to advertise the sale of the County roller or if they could offer to sell it directly to the City. Deschene said that because the City is not a private entity, but another government entity, it was possible to sell it without advertising it.

Predator Control:

Hurwitz mentioned he has visited with Dennis Biggs, from USDA, regarding aerial hunting of coyotes. He said in the last three years the USDA has flown 101 hours and killed 465 coyotes, by air and by trapping. In 2010 they flew on the property of 60 producers, in 2011 56 producers, and in 2012 57 producers. Hurwitz said his main concerns with having Bill Galt take over aerial hunting of coyotes are 1) liability; and 2) Galt is a one-man band. What would happen if he decided down the road not to do it anymore? According to USDA it would cost upwards of \$40,000 to get them back, versus the \$20,000 the County currently pays.

He conceded that he understands Galt's point that at \$.50 a head and with Galt being such a large producer, it would make sense to keep the money in the County and not pay an outside entity for freight. The USDA people can shoot wolves though. Deschene wondered if it would be possible to keep the USDA contract in place *and* pay Galt for aerial predator control as well. Schlepp said it was simply an issue of money. She wanted to discuss the issue with the Stockgrowers, then put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

LUNCH:

Commissioners broke for lunch at 11:45am. They returned at 1:00pm.

Marc Pryor—Courthouse Boiler:

Marc Pryor visited with the commissioners to discuss the courthouse boiler. There had been some climate control problems recently and Pryor explained the cause. He said the boiler itself works fine. The problem is there are many components of the system itself, primarily the steam traps at many of the registers, which simply need replaced. Dave Covert from Combustion Service had joined him the previous week and did a walk-through of the system to see what worked and what did not. He estimated that \$4500-\$5000 would be needed to fix the system but Pryor could do the work himself. He said it was pretty simple but would just take time. He would like to do the repairs in phases. He pointed out that right now no one has control over the system, but once things were repaired, the savings in fuel costs would pay for the repairs.

Action 5:

RESOLUTION 2012-#93

Townsend moved to allow Pryor to move forward with the repairs to the courthouse heating system, providing costs do not exceed \$5000. If they do, he would need to return to the commissioners to revisit the issue. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0). It is therefore resolved.

Weed Board:

Otto Ohlson, Weed Department Supervisor, and the members of the Weed Board, Wally Bailey, Phil Rostad, and Rod Brewer, met with the commissioners. Townsend told them that one of his concerns with the Weed Department is Ohlson trying to spray the County by himself. Townsend mentioned some land on his property that needed sprayed. Ohlson assured him that had he asked, Ohlson would have sprayed it for him. Townsend wondered if it would not be better if Ohlson had a crew to help him. Ohlson replied that he keeps two Rangers for that very reason. He has two guys who help him in the summer when his workload is too much, Lonny Briggs and Lee Zehntner.

Ohlson said he sprays the County roads and a quarter of the highways so he gets to keep an eye on things. He writes grants for problem areas, half of which are funded by the State. Much of those areas are sprayed aerially.

Rostad pointed out that the commissioners said a while back that the Weed Department cannot compete with private enterprise, so they had made an attempt to get the Rangers used by the department into the hands of the private citizens who would use them most effectively. There is more benefit to be had that way than if the Rangers were kept by the department. Bailey added that they are trying to keep spraying on private lands in private hands.

Schlepp asked Ohlson if he would like another full-time employee for the summer. Ohlson said he would not be with the County forever and hated to leave a successor with a policy he did not like.

Schlepp explained the process by which the County would have to advertise the sale of the Ranger. Rostad shared his frustration that it would likely lead to a valuable tool being lost to the County. Ohlson responded to Schlepp by saying they are actually handicapped by equipment. They pay Zehntner mileage because he uses his own equipment. Bringing in another full-time employee would involve another truck and a lot more equipment.

It was agreed in the end to sell the Ranger in question.

Clerk & Recorder Ogle joined the meeting at 1:45pm. She said they need to include the appraised value in the bid request. Ohlson said he already knows the replacement cost of the Ranger with the sprayer, and generally would ask for half, which is close to Blue Book value.

Before the members of the Weed Board left, Hurwitz asked if they would be willing to serve another term. They all agreed.

Kurt Burns—Airport Courtesy Car:

Airport Manager, Kurt Burns, visited with the commissioners to discuss getting a courtesy car for the airport. Also present were Mike and Deborah Eby, proprietors of the All Seasons Inn. Burns said the main issue would be insurance. As a rule, it is the responsibility of the pilot driving the car to use his or her own insurance. The County should also have liability, however, which is required by Montana Aeronautics anyway if applying for the available grant. Deborah mentioned that the town has lost business because of not having a courtesy car at the airport.

Burns added that the added annual cost to the County would be \$22 for title and \$370 for liability.

Schlepp wondered if this was the role of government or whether private enterprise should provide something like this. Burns countered that Montana Aeronautics has provided various airports with 16 courtesy cars. He does not know how many other airports have cars too. But he was sure the Airport Board would be able to cover the \$300 plus in added cost. He also mentioned that many airports have a jar for pilots who use the car to leave a tip. It is also expected that pilots leave the car with a full gas tank. Mike Eby added that the people using the car would be pilots, who have disposable incomes, and would come to town for various reasons, generally benefitting the community financially.

Hurwitz asked about DUI incidents. Burns told him that Carter County and Plentywood, for example, have keys in a lockbox, that they can access only after contacting the local sheriff department. That way their information is on file if something were to happen. Townsend said he felt like the County should give it a try. Schlepp said she was not for it, but if it were going to happen anyway, she would like to see certain safeguards in place.

Hurwitz said he was not for the program as it gives the pilots too much leeway with the car. He told Schlepp and Townsend it was up to them. Burns reiterated that the County would be missing out without it. Townsend said if the Board would handle it, he would support it. Schlepp said she would not vote for it today. She would like to vote on it as a package, with safeguards and policy in place. She added that also wanted to consult MACo as well before making a final decision.

Burns reminded them that the deadline for the grant was November 23. Schlepp pointed out that the grant comes back up next spring again though. Mike Eby added that many pilots plan trips based on which airports have courtesy cars.

Jon Lopp—Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Lopp was unable to meet with the commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Minutes:

The commissioners decided to wait till the next meeting to act on the minutes.

Claims:

Commission was presented Voucher #1326, CK#44689 through CK#44765, totaling \$213,998.26. Commission approved and signed checks as presented. Also presented were Health Insurance Voucher #1324, CK#44681 through CK#44687, totaling \$21,314.52; Payroll Deduction Voucher #1323, CK#44674 through CK#44680, totaling \$88,984.44; and Payroll Voucher #4, CK#218290 through CK#218304, totaling \$9,449.01. Commission approved as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chair Schlepp adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Assistant to the Clerk & Recorder, Nate Sanders.
Distributed November 13, 2012 to Chairman Schlepp, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Townsend, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Wednesday
November 13, 2012
9:00am-12:00pm
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Vice Chair Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Commissioners Present:

Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz.

Sue Phelan—Treasurer Update:

Treasurer Sue Phelan met with Hurwitz to give her monthly report. All she had to report was an issue with Ken Martin, the Courthouse Janitor/Maintenance person. Martin had given her a list of things he felt he could accomplish cleaning-wise in the Courthouse if he could work more than two hours a day. Neither Phelan nor Hurwitz could understand why he felt limited to two hours a day. It was even remembered when Martin was hired that he was offered health benefits, which would not have been available had he been hired less than half time. It was agreed to tell Martin he could work four hours a day.

Commissioner Townsend joined the meeting at 9:30am.

Dayna Ogle—Clerk & Recorder Update:

Senior Center Insurance:

Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle met with the commissioners to discuss a few issues. First, she related that Senior Center Director, Beth Hunt, had dropped by last week to let her know the company that had been insuring the Senior Center dropped their coverage. She had asked Ogle if they could go on the County's policy with MACo. She said they could not, but if it was determined that the Senior Center was a 501(c)6 public non-profit, then MACo would write a policy for them.

Canvass Election:

Ogle told the commissioners that, barring a recount, they would be canvassing the recent general election at the following week's Commission meeting. She explained the process involved in a recount and the counting of provisional ballots, which is currently happening. She said they would know soon whether a recount would be required.

Library Budget:

Ogle related a miscommunication with the Library Board. She thought that board members Leone Michalec and Gordon Doig had said they did not want to utilize the city mills, that they wanted to save them. They had added \$16,000 to the "transfer in" line, which they were expecting from PILT funds. The County budgeted to give them \$11,000 in entitlement funds, which they were not expecting, but not the \$16,000 in PILT, which they were expecting. Ogle added that if they were to add the city mills in to their budget, that would be \$9384, which would still leave them short \$7349 in revenue.

Hurwitz pointed out that last year they had spent \$91,000 and this year they were requesting only \$72,000, plus \$10,905 in reserve. Townsend commented that things looked pretty tight at \$72,000. Hurwitz asked if the County had used any PILT yet for FY12/13. Ogle said they had not, and there is still \$2,000 remaining in entitlement funds.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the County would do its best to make the library whole should they wind up with a shortfall at the end of the fiscal year. Ogle pointed out that two years ago they finished the year \$7000 under budget and last year \$8000 under. Then she realized she would have to do something to make their budget balance, if they were going to leave them short on the revenue side. In the end, it was decided to cover the shortfall out of the

remaining entitlement funds. No action would be necessary as it was part of the budget process. A budget amendment would be required instead.

Planning Board Terms:

The commissioners had appointed three new members to the Planning Board the previous meeting, November 7, 2012. Today they gave the appointees terms.

Action 1:

Townsend moved that Jim Richard's term on the Planning Board would run from November 7, 2012 through December 31, 2015. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

Action 2:

Townsend moved that Nico Cantalupo's term on the Planning Board would run from November 7, 2012 through December 31, 2014. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

Action 3:

Townsend moved that Megan Shroyer's term on the Planning Board would run from November 7, 2012 through December 31, 2013. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

Kari Jo Kiff—Health Nurse Report:

County Health Nurse, Kari Jo Kiff, met with the commissioners to give her monthly report. She said she had given "a ton" of shots the previous month, mostly flu shots. She had given shots at the school, both colonies, and a lot in her office. She also gave a recap of her recent trip to Atlanta for a workshop at the Centers for Disease Control. They briefly discussed some of her department's grants as well.

Kimberly Deschene—County Attorney Update:

Tenderfoot Hearing:

County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, visited with the commissioners to give her weekly report. She briefly discussed the show-cause hearing the following day at the Courthouse between the State and Howard Zehntner regarding the Tenderfoot issue. She admitted she was concerned that if the State were to lose, they would accuse her of not doing her job. Hurwitz pointed out it was the commissioners' decision not to get involved, adding that the Forest Service should have done a little more research before it decided to spend \$10 million on land.

Fire District Taxation/Grassy Mountain Fire District:

Deschene said she was still working on how to fix the taxation of a fire district from one based on acreage to one based on valuation. She also mentioned that it appeared that the Grassy Mountain Fire District Board has decided to dissolve the district. She felt comfortable that all of this could be completed by July 1 of next year. Hurwitz countered that a lot would be involved and wondered if it would not be better to plan on completing things over the course of the next winter.

Deschene agreed that there is a lot of work involved and dissolving the District would not change the coverage they get, as the county-wide district that Fire Chief Seidlitz is proposing would be strictly for wildland fire coverage as well. Hurwitz wondered if the County can raise the fees Grassy landowners are paying for the District without a petition. Deschene said that they can. Hurwitz said otherwise they have zero incentive to do anything. Townsend agreed. Why would 40% of them agree to dissolve if they currently have the breaks they do, on insurance for example.

Hurwitz shared his concern that the Grassy residents think they have fire protection, and the insurance companies think so too. The County cannot allow them all to live that lie right up until it comes back to haunt them, he argued. He added that when the County does raise their taxes, it will need to give them a reason. Currently they are not protected. That is all the reason they need.

Deschene suggested that she and Seidlitz meet with the commissioners the next available opportunity. Townsend asked her what authority the commissioners have now that Grassy has a board in place. None whatsoever, Deschene replied.

Minutes:

Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the previous two meetings (October 16 and November 7) with changes. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

Weed Board Appointments:

Action 4:

Hurwitz moved to appoint Phil Rostad to another term on the Weed Board, to run through June 30, 2014. Townsend seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

Action 5:

Hurwitz moved to appoint Rod Brewer to another term on the Weed Board, to run through June 30, 2015. Townsend seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (2-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Claims:

Commission was presented Voucher #1328, CK#44767 through CK#44787, totaling \$3,594.89, and Voucher #1327, Ck#44766, totaling \$50.00. Commission approved and signed checks as presented. Ck#44707 was voided as it was entered twice resulting in twice the value it should have been.

Meeting Adjourned:

Vice Chair Hurwitz adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Assistant to the Clerk & Recorder, Nate Sanders.
Distributed November 20, 2012 to Chairman Schlepp, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Townsend, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle

Wednesday
November 20, 2012
8:45am-1:30pm
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Ambulance Garage Issues:

Hurwitz related a conversation he had had with Ambulance Board Chair, Sara Driemeyer. She had told him that they still have yet to receive the proper engineered plans from Coast to Coast Carports for the new ambulance garage. Coast to Coast realized they had gotten the snow load wrong on the original plans and as a result, had to move the doors. Hurwitz then discussed the possibility of a lawsuit against Coast to Coast. The commissioners shared their general frustration that the process was taking so long, which they attributed primarily to the fact that there was no general contractor overseeing the project.

Dayna Ogle, Election Administrator—Canvass Election:

Election Administrator, Dayna Ogle, joined the commissioners to canvass the recent general election. She pointed out that Commission Chair, Nancy Schlepp, and Clerk of the Court, Donna Morris, would be unable to canvass as they were on the ballot. Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Christy Rogers, briefly joined the meeting until it was decided that County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, would help with the canvassing. Also canvassing were Commissioners Hurwitz and Townsend, and County Treasurer, Sue Phelan. The canvassing was complete at 9:55am.

County Superintendent and Safety Coordinator, Helen Hanson joined the meeting at 10:00am.

Budget Amendment—Public Hearing:

A public hearing was held on the budget amendment for the library, namely that they would not receive PILT funds; they would utilize the City mills in their budget; and they would receive \$7350 in entitlement funds from the County. There was no comment.

Airport Courtesy Car Discussion:

Schlepp said she had had a conversation with Airport Board member, Wayne Mathis, regarding the proposed courtesy car and the working of the board itself. He pointed out that all the local hotels pick up pilots and passengers at the airport, if they request it. He has also done so. He is concerned about liability and does not feel it is a job for the local government. Hurwitz added that he had spoken with an employee of an airport near Portland. She told him that her airport has courtesy cars, but they also have an employee there to sign the car out and back in, and to make sure all is in order and there is a full tank of gas.

Schlepp said that Mathis was also concerned with the workings of the Airport Board. They tend to make decisions and do things, but they do not have meetings with agendas and minutes. It was decided that that was an issue that would need to be addressed.

County Boards—Review and Update:

The commissioners reviewed a sheet listing the County boards that required some kind of formal action—lack of terms for board members, expired terms, members needed. After discussing the various boards and their needs, the following decisions were made:

Action 2:

Hurwitz moved that the following occur: The terms of Sam Berg, Kurt Burns and Wayne Mathis on the *Airport Board* expire June 30, 2014. The term of John Zawada on the *Airport Board* expires June 30, 2015. The term of Cindy Mesecher on the *Cemetery Board* expires June 30, 2013, and the term of Mike Wofford expires June 30, 2014. The term of Sally Fredenburg on the *Checkerboard TV District Board* expires June 30, 2014. Travis Novark is appointed to the *Salary Compensation Board* effective immediately, with a term expiring June 30, 2015. Jim Witt is reappointed to the *Tax Appeal Board* effective immediately, with a term expiring June 30, 2013. Wayne Buckingham is reappointed to the *Tax Appeal Board*, with a term expiring June 30, 2014. Dick Witt is reappointed to the *Tax Appeal Board*, with a term expiring June 30, 2015. Tim McGuire is reappointed to the *WSS TV Board* effective immediately, with a term expiring June 30, 2015. Jeff Novark is appointed to the *WSS TV Board* effective immediately, with a term expiring June 30, 2014. Townsend seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously (3-0).

Kimberly Deschene—County Attorney Update:*Fire District Taxation:*

Fire Chief, Rick Seidlitz, joined Deschene, and they visited with the commissioners regarding fixing the taxation of the County's fire districts in preparation for the potential development of a countywide fire district. Deschene recommended consolidating all the districts rather than disbanding any of them. She said the County should first create a countywide district that touches all the others, ask the trustees of the others' boards to approve consolidation, and then go ahead and consolidate. That way the 40% required for a petition would be on the protest side, which would be likely to fail.

Seidlitz suggested they use Castle Valley Meadows and expand from there. The taxation would need to be fixed first though, as it is currently based on acreage and not taxable valuation, as required by law. He said once they fixed the taxation, they could petition those without a fire district to see if they wanted to join. Then they would expand Castle Valley Meadows to the County, and consolidate Grassy Mountain Fire District and Martinsdale Fee Area into it. Seidlitz said they should be able to make a countywide district work with the same amount of money the various entities are receiving right now. Meagher County Fire receives around four mils. Castle Valley Meadows, a small district, receives about \$500 from its residents. Martinsdale brings in around \$7000 in fees from its residents. And Grassy Mountain receives around \$8000 from its landowners. All together this would work out to about 6 mils, which he felt would be sufficient to run a countywide district.

Townsend wondered how the County's largest taxpayers, utilities like Northwestern Energy, for example, would react to being required to pay more in taxes. Schlepp felt comfortable that they would not protest the assessment. Their primary concern is valuation, she continued. Hurwitz said they would have to do a good job of convincing the taxpayers that this is in their interest. Seidlitz responded that currently, Meagher County is legally bound *only* to fight wildland fires. Legally, they are *not* allowed to fight structure fires. Hurwitz agreed that that fact is rather convincing.

Deschene agreed to draw up a petition as soon as the taxation issue is fixed.

Planning Board Representation:

Deschene, in response to a question from the commissioners as to whether they could appoint one of themselves to the Planning Board, told them that they should. She said they could put all three of them on the Board if they so choose. Seidlitz suggested having someone from emergency services represented. Townsend shared his concern that given the way water and sewer rates are going through the roof in the City, people will start moving just outside of town, digging a well and building a home. He does not want the resulting development of little settlements unregulated.

Lunch:

The commissioners broke for lunch at 12:00pm. They returned at 1:00pm. Hurwitz did not return.

Jon Lopp—Sheriff Report:

Sheriff Jon Lopp visited with the commissioners to give his monthly report. Of note, he handed the commissioners a sheet with a breakdown of the overtime to the County Sheriff Department for law enforcement and dispatch at the Red Ants Pants Music Festival in July. It was a total of \$3,593.32.

He discussed an arraignment that happened the previous day of an inmate who was in for assault, among other things. He also told the commissioners that FWP was in the process of splitting in two. The Parks section was creating its own law enforcement division, which would take over many of the roles of the game wardens.

Minutes:

It was decided to act on the minutes from the previous meeting (November 13, 2012) at the following meeting as Schlepp had not been at the previous meeting.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Claims:

Commission was presented Voucher #1329, CK#44788 through CK#44825, totaling \$58,775.25. Commission approved and signed checks as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Chair Schlepp adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 4, 2012.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Assistant to the Clerk & Recorder, Nate Sanders.
Distributed December 4, 2012 to Chairman Schlepp, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Townsend, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle