

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

December 1, 2015

8:50 a.m. – 11:28 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Herb Townsend, Commissioner Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz.

Road Report – Bruce Smith:

Commissioner Hurwitz signed the title for the Road Departments 1992 Kenworth semi that will be placed on the state auction website. Smith updated that whomever purchases it will come and pick it up.

Smith updated the Commissioners that Jim Gregory was not fully released back to work at his most recent Doctors appointment. Gregory is continuing physical therapy to gain enough range of motion to return to work. The Commissioners and Smith are still in agreement that they want him back to work, but not until he is completely released.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked Smith about the latest update for the ground water sampling at the County Shop. After discussion the Commissioners and Smith all agree that they would like to have Bob Anderson, PG from Hydrometrics, Inc. perform the fall sampling as soon as possible. The Commissioners verbalized that they would like to have County Attorney Deschene follow up with Anderson.

Minutes:

Changes to the minutes were discussed for the November 17, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the minutes with the changes discussed. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Lopp came in and presented the Commissioners with a proposed schedule and compensation for the Deputies.

EXHIBIT A

12 hours shifts

8 work hours

4 on call hours

12 Backup hours

\$4 per hour for on call - \$12 per shift

\$2 per hour for back up - \$24 per shift

19 shifts per month - \$684 per month = \$8,208 per year per deputy

For two deputies it will be \$16,416 per year

Coroner has been the same for 20 years – currently \$300 per month (\$3,600 per year), raise to \$700 per month, \$4,800 per year

Total coroner would be \$8,400 per year

Clothing allowance hasn't been raised for 20 years – currently \$500 per year, raise to \$750 per year

This proposed shift/wages would reduce overtime and reduce the overall Sheriff budget by approximately \$62,000.00 per year. Lopp is requesting a trial of the scheduling for a period of four (4) months. The wages for separating the shifts, adding to the clothing allowance and coroner pay will be significantly less money than the total cost of replacing Deputy Slingsby. The Commissioners discussed the details of the proposal with Lopp. After discussion, the Commissioners all agreed that they approve of the proposal for a 4 month trial period.

Commissioner Hurwitz inquired about which vehicle would be sold in light of the reduced Deputy's. Lopp updated the Commissioners that he would like to sell the 2002 Chevy 2500 diesel pickup truck. The Commissioners all agreed that would be good.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with specs and approximate cost for a new sheriff vehicle to replace the Explorer he currently drives. Ford makes a Police Interceptor that is AWD and already has the wiring harnesses needed for equipment in addition to having a bigger alternator to keep batteries charged. Lopp estimated the total cost for the vehicle, light bar and decals would be around \$32,000.00. The Commissioners all agreed to approve the purchase of a new vehicle; the sale of the extra Chevy truck and Explorer will go towards the new Interceptor.

Kimberly Deschene entered the meeting.

Action #1

RESOLUTION 2015 - #88

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the purchase of a Ford Interceptor for the Sheriff Department. The sale of the 2002 Chevy 2500 and 2010 Ford Explorer will be applied to the budget for the purchase of the new vehicle. Commissioner Hurwitz Seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Action #2

RESOLUTION 2015 - #89

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the proposal for shift changes as presented in **Exhibit A** for a period of 4 months. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

EXHIBIT A

Resolution 2015 - #89

12 hours shifts

8 work hours

4 on call hours

12 Backup hours

\$4 per hour for on call - \$12 per shift

\$2 per hour for back up - \$24 per shift

19 shifts per month - \$684 per month = \$8,208 per year per deputy

For two deputies it will be \$16,416 per year

Coroner has been the same for 20 years – currently \$300 per month (\$3,600 per year), raise to \$700 per month, \$4,800 per year

Total coroner would be \$8,400 per year

Clothing allowance hasn't been raised for 20 years – currently \$500 per year, raise to \$750 per year

Effective November 27, 2015 for a trial period
of 4 (four) months.

County Attorney Report – Kimberly Deschene:

County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene, provided the Commissioners with a legal memo regarding the deconsolidation of the County Superintendent of Schools and the Clerk & Records office. The main point of discussion from Deschene is that deconsolidation's have not been done appropriately in the past. Deschene state that an office can be deconsolidated in the middle of a term, but cannot reconsolidated because there must be an election. Lengthy discussion conducted regarding how to proceed from here. Deschene is advising that there is a small likelihood of issues arising from this situation, however she feels that the Commissioners should be mindful to do it correctly and "clean it up" from this point forward. The Commissioners all agreed.

Clerk and Recorder, Dayna Ogle and Deputy Treasurer, Shauna Porter entered the meeting.

Deschene updated Ogle and Porter regarding what she had found pertaining to the consolidation of the Superintendent of Schools with the Treasurer's Office. Deschene verified with Ogle that Helen Hanson was not an elected official during her time as Superintendent of Schools. Ogle reported that Hanson was not elected, Ogle carried the title and Hanson had been an employee assigned to the duties.

Deschene told everyone that she thinks perhaps it should be its own position and become another Elected Officials position. After discussion amongst everyone, the Commissioners, Ogle and Porter all feel that the position should be consolidated with the Treasurer's Office at the next election. During the interim time, the "duties" have been transferred by resolution to the Treasurer's Office.

The next topic addressed was Grassy Mountain Ranch Home Owners Association (GMROA). Deschene asked Ogle to repeat what questions needed to be answered. Ogle reiterated the points of concern are what happens to the roads, perimeter fence and the weeds. Deschene said it would all be treated the same way everywhere else in the County. The Commissioners would like her to verify the County wouldn't be liable for anything if the Homeowners Association is dissolved. Ogle asked Deschene if she could write a legal memo with a very clear statement regarding the situation. Deschene agreed she will look into it a little further and draft a memo.

Deschene updated the Commissioners about the request from DEQ that we do another set of sampling at the County Shop. The Commissioners agreed they would like to have this sampling done. Deschene stated she will contact Bob Anderson to schedule the sampling as soon as possible.

Jim McDanel - IT Department

McDanel came in to speak with the Commissioners per their request about the bill for internet and email. Currently the state provides the service for internet and email for the county. The state also hosts our website for free. McDanel updated the Commissioners that it would cost approximately \$5,000.00 - \$6,000.00 to start up our own server for the website. He will have to get more estimates to figure out how much it would cost entirely.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Christmas Party:

Commissioner Hurwitz asked the other Commissioners how they feel about the Fire, EMS and Sheriff Department's Christmas Party being hosted on county property with an invitation to "bring your own bottle". All the Commissioners agreed they would like to ask Attorney Deschene if this is an unwise proposition.

Deschene was contacted via telephone and placed on speaker phone. Deschene advised the Commissioners that there truly needs to be a licensed server hired for the festivities. This way the county would be covered by the servers insurance if anything should occur. Or at a very minimum the County's insurance carrier would need to be contacted to request a onetime, extra "event coverage". The Commissioners will speak with the person coordinating the party and advise them that they need to have the alcohol catered by a licensed server.

Commissioners Hurwitz contacted Maebeth Seidlitz and notified her of the Commissioners concern regarding the alcohol at the Christmas party being brought personally onto county property. Seidlitz told Commissioner Hurwitz that the bid for the food had gone to one of the businesses without a liquor license so they had just thought to supply their own alcohol.

However, now that it was brought to her attention of the legal concern, she will select and hire a licensed alcohol server to cater the drinks.

Horse Trailer for Recycling:

Penny Plachy came up to discuss selling her used horse trailer to the county for staging the cardboard at Castle Mountain Grocery. Plachy tentatively agreed that she and her husband will sell the horse trailer to the county for \$500.00 however, she would like to verify that it's okay with her husband for sure.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #51034 through Check #51055 totaling \$5,041.49. Voided Check #51014 totaling \$75.00. Additionally, the Commissioners had been presented with Liability and Payroll Check #11536 through Check #11559 totaling \$43,628.61. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed December 8, 2015 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

December 8, 2015

8:50 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Herb Townsend, Commissioner Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz.

Minutes:

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Phelan:

Treasurer, Sue Phelan came up to present the Commissioners with the monthly Treasurer's Hand Cash Balance sheet. The Commissioners all reviewed and signed the document.

Phelan updated the Commissioners that the School Bond has been fully funded and the money is in the School's account.

Phelan inquired about the proposal from Jim McDanel, of switching to our own internet and email servers instead of going through the state. The Commissioners updated Phelan that it was not likely to happen because it was determined the cost to start up our own wouldn't merit the workload and issues of running our own. Phelan expressed relief because she feels the issues that could arise from having our own system would not be beneficial in the end.

Forest Revision Plan – Jess Secret:

Jess Secret came in to speak with the Commissioners about the draft Forest Revision Plan. Secret updated the Commissioners that the document he is presenting for discussion is a "picture" of what the Forest Service wants the forest to look like in the future. The Planning team at Helena Lewis & Clark region wrote the document.

Secret feels that some of the language needs to be stiffened and more specific. In addition, specific numbers cause him to feel hesitant because the Forest Plan is sometimes not revised every ten years, and specific numbers can become obsolete and cripple the ability to manage the forest effectively later on.

The Commissioners briefly reviewed the document and feel they would like to add stronger language for noxious weed control and being in favor of logging mature forest timber. Secret will also ask Carol Hatfield to give the Commissioners an updated map of where they are planning on obliterating roads. The Commissioners agreed they would like an update and would like the Forest Revision Plan to reflect road obliterating as a minor priority.

Secret asked the Commissioners if they would approve of him drafting a response letter for their review and submittal. The Commissioners all expressed that they would greatly appreciate his

continued expertise on the matter and drafting a letter in response. Secrest will return after the first of January 2016, with the drafted response for the Commissioners to review and sign.

Secrest also updated that the Forest Service is asking for feedback on a few specific areas of river that they would like to designate as “Wild and Scenic”. Commissioner Brewer asked Secrest if there would be an effect on Tintina receiving their licensing if the Smith River were to be designated as a Wild and Scenic river. Secrest expressed that he was unsure, but it is a very good question to ask.

School District 8 Superintendent of Schools, Larry Markuson - Property Exchange:

Larry Markuson came in to propose a property exchange with the county. According to Markuson, there is a portion of School property that has county buildings on it west of the jail where the old ambulance barn is located. Markuson proposed moving the west boundary of school property down closer to the Sheriff’s Office to allow more space between the new School building and the county jail in trade for the school property that has county buildings on in. The Commissioners agreed they would consider a property exchange once more definitive details are determined. Markuson stated he will discuss it in detail with the School Board and return with a final proposal.

County Attorney Kimberly Deschene entered the meeting:

Deschene came in to present the Commissioners with a memo listing the results of her research regarding the dissolution of Grassy Mountain Ranch Home Owners Association. Based on what Deschene has found, the Commissioners didn’t need to have given approval in the beginning nor give their approval to dissolve now.

Attorney Deschene advised the Commissioners there would not be any changes or effect on the county if the Home Owners disband. The roads would become the individual property owner’s responsibility to maintain because the property lines all go to the center of the road. As far as weed control, Weed Supervisor, Otto Ohlson would have to work with all of the landowners for permission to access property. The perimeter fencing would be treated as it always is; any land that borders Forest Service is responsible for fencing **OUT**.

Fire & DES Report – Rick Seidlitz:

Fire Chief, Rick Seidlitz came in to present the Commissioners with his monthly report. Seidlitz reported there was a great turn out for the Volunteers’ Christmas Party.

Seidlitz updated the Commissioners as part of the “communication” solution, he has ordered a couple more handheld radios for the fire department. The radios can be programed by a trained operator. These will be purchased with a generous donation from the Rocking C’s Ranch.

The lighting system out at the Airport building has been repaired instead of replaced. The cost for replacement would have been over \$2,000.00 as opposed to the \$700.00 that was spent to repair the lights. Seidlitz also reiterated that the large doors will need to be replaced at some point. It would be good to add on about 20’ and put in regular overhead doors. The greatest concern is that the airplane doors may be more likely to have mechanical failures.

The Commissioners and Seidlitz discussed hiring an engineer to draw plans for a building in Ringling and extend the building out at the Airport. This will enable Seidlitz to get cost estimates for these two proposed projects.

Health Nurse – Eva Kerr, RN:

Health Nurse, Eva Kerr came up to give the Commissioners her monthly report. Also present for the meeting were Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle and Deputy, Penny Plachy. Kerr updated that there were two EMT's and one employee from Mountain View Medical Center that certified in Helena to operate and train others on the Lucas device. The rest of the Ambulance crew is going to complete the training tonight for operating the device to perform one man CPR. Everything else has been going smoothly for Kerr in all the duties that she carries out.

Kerr updated the Commissioner that she had recently spoken with Dean Pomeroy regarding his resignation status. Kerr asked him to write a formal resignation to go along with the verbal resignation Pomeroy had given to the Commissioners, Kerr and the staff at the Clerk & Recorder's Office. Pomeroy told Kerr that he is now unsure if he wants to resign. Based on this new statement from Pomeroy, Kerr would like to verbalize to the Commissioners some issues that she and the Clerk & Recorder's Office have been having with Pomeroy.

Kerr expressed that she hasn't had too many issues directly with the work that Pomeroy does; however it has at times been difficult to get him motivated to finish a task. Ogle spoke, updating the Commissioners that it has been extremely difficult to get the information they need for the septic permitting process. Penny Plachy expressed that she has been trying to get administrative things caught up with Pomeroy but he fails to show up when scheduled.

The Commissioners are all in agreement that Dean Pomeroy needs to step up and do his work right or they will be faced with completing formal disciplinary action. Commissioner Hurwitz asked Ogle, Plachy and Kerr to put their issues in writing for the Commissioners review and compilation into a letter to Pomeroy notifying him of the deficiencies and deadline for remedying his performance shortfalls.

There is a company in Belgrade called Y.E.S. that has a licensed Sanitarian that is eager to provide services to Meagher County. Kerr's only concern is to ensure that the contracted Sanitarian out of Belgrade would meet all the criteria for her to continue receiving federal grants. Kerr will call and get information to answer this question for sure.

Lunch:

Commissioners broke for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and returned at 1:18.

Absaroka Energy – Carl Borgquist and Eli Bailey:

Carl Borgquist and Eli Bailey with Absaroka Energy came in to follow up with the Commissioners regarding the potential issue with the water supply to Martinsdale when the excavating begins for the Gordon Butte Pumped Hydro Park.

Bailey addressed the Commissioners and began by explaining why there is concern from FERC regarding this matter. There are currently two (2) functioning springs that fill the cistern and redistribution system in Martinsdale. Lower Johnson Spring and Boxcar Springs are recharged in the area that the GB Pumped Hydro project will excavate. There is potential that this could contaminate, decrease or worst case, completely dry up the springs. The likelihood of any of these happening is really quite limited; however, the hydrologist recommended that a plan be put in place should anything go wrong.

Borgquist and Bailey provided the Commissioners all with a copy of the Box Car Springs Water Monitoring Program proposed by Absaroka Energy. The proposal outlines the monitoring plan and what GB Energy Park LLC is willing to deploy to remedy any problems should they arise.

After discussion and having specific questions answered the Commissioners were all fully satisfied with the Monitoring Plan as proposed. They are all in agreement to sign the letter drafted and presented by Borgquist to respond to FERC.

Administrative Assistant, Kate Jones placed the letter on Commissioner Letterhead and presented it for signatures. A copy was kept and the original was given to Borgquist. The Monitoring Plan will be kept on file in the Clerk & Records Office. Bailey also provided a thumb drive of the documents to be kept of file.

Commissioner Townsend expressed concern regarding the plan for the workforce during construction and maintenance phases. Specifically focusing on water supply and sewer. Borgquist told the Commissioners that the workforce plan is the next point in the planning phase that is going to be addressed. However the tentative plan is that very few will live close by, most will be bussed in from larger towns in the surrounding area. Borgquist reiterated that they will do whatever is needed to preserve the primary water source for Martinsdale.

Borgquist scheduled to be on the agenda, returning in January with the workforce plan to present to the Commissioners.

Budget Updates – Dayna Ogle:

Ogle updated the Commissioners on the distribution of the fees collected from the Video Gambling Machines. There is a claim to reimburse the city from an overpayment to the county. The error was from the state level.

Ogle presented a budget update to the Commissioners. There were some minor changes made to the budget in light of new information that was given to Ogle regarding generating reports. Ogle went through every item that was changed and reconciled each adjustment with the Commissioners.

DEQ, Water Shed Assessment Project – Jordan Tollefson:

Members of the Watershed Planning Board from DEQ present for the meeting were Jordan Tollefson, Kristy Fortman, Steve Fernandes and Katie Makarowski. The DEQ came in to update the Commissioners on the Water-wide Assessment Projects in Meagher County.

Tollefson briefed the Commissioner on what they are currently working on in the Musselshell and Sheep Creek watershed areas. Tollefson provided the Commissioners with a handout that outlined the projects along with the rationale. Sheep Creek and Musselshell drainages are being assessed for baseline data. The DEQ is assessing 6-8 watershed areas across the state over the next couple of years. The focus of these assessments is to look for both natural and land use caused pollutants in the watershed systems, such as E.coli and iron.

Katie Makarowski spoke about why these areas have been selected. In Summary, these two areas have been identified as near future target areas as well as the fact they haven't been assessed in a long time. Musselshell is a large area that has had a large increase in development and land use since last being assessed. Sheep Creek watershed is of heightened concern largely due to Tintina's Copper Mine Project. In addition to the fact that the DEQ has been primarily focused on the Western Regions on the other side of the divide because of lawsuits; now that the DEQ's resources can be redirected they can focus on new areas.

DEQ is collecting data in many locations along Sheep Creek for the purpose of documentation and having the most knowledge possible in light of the mine. The DEQ is looking at the big picture so that they can provide quality documentation and "take-home" messages to the

community members that have questions. Based on findings they release source assessments for problems and possible solutions.

Commissioner Townsend inquired about the politics that can become involved with matters like this. Makarowski reiterated that the DEQ is a neutral and scientific entity and do their utmost to keep the assessments factual.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked how much work the DEQ is doing with Tintina. Tollefson stated they are only sharing data at this point and so far Tintina has been great to work with. Kristy Fortman updated that the goals and objectives of DEQ in the process of these assessments would be a working landscape, not landscape returned to pristine condition of non-use.

Makarowski told the Commissioners that they will be happy to provide updates for the Commissioners periodically throughout the assessment process. Because of the differing sizes of the watershed areas the progress will move at different speeds.

Public Comment:

Ethan Lula and Jay Kolbe, Biologists from Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks came in to update the Commissioners on the progress of the Antlerless Elk Shoulder Season in Meagher County. Lula addressed the situation as being a national spectacle at this point. The "Hunt Coordinator" has been receiving over 500 calls per day from hunters seeking guidance. The call volume was so great that it crashed the phone system in Great Falls the Monday after regular season closed.

The Hunt Coordinator is supposed to help those individuals that want to hunt but do not have a relationship or contact with private landowners. There has been a lot of confusion about what the shoulder season allows. There is a hope the mass confusion will tide soon and the Hunt Coordinator and staff at MFWP can better assist people.

Commissioner Hurwitz inquired why the Shoulder Season had not been opened to Federal Land when Meagher County is roughly a third federally owned land. Lula updated that during the MFWP Commission review and hearing process the public commented they didn't want public land to be a part. The rationale was to target to the areas that have the greatest impact for private landowners. Commissioner Brewer inquired about the possibility this is pushing the elk back onto public land. Kolbe stated that this is a likely possibility; however since this isn't a one year fix, this is also considered a help to private land owners to avoid damage to their property from large herds of elk. Lula spoke to the fact that winter weather will push them back down to the lands where they can be harvested. The season will run until February 15th, 2015, hopefully allowing additional numbers of elk to be harvested.

Lula stated there is an objective of 700 Elk and we currently have 1700. The main point to remember is this was a pilot program and there will be many changes made from what has been learned already in the process. Meagher County has received tremendous pressure because it is the only county for this year that a general tag can be used.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked what they may need in support of this effort from the Commissioners. Kolbe expressed all they need is their continued support and likely feedback when the Shoulder Season is over. So far it has been received well from the landowners and there has been a lot of cooperation.

City Mayor - Julian Theriault:

Theriault came in to talk with the Commissioners about the cardboard disposal issue. Theriault said that after speaking with Shane Sereday it was expressed that Castle Mountain Grocery

would not be ok with a horse trailer being parked near the cardboard bin. They would however be ok with a shipping container.

Commissioner Brewer stated that all of the Commissioners are strongly considering ‘washing their hands’ of the cardboard issue because it is really a problem for the businesses to solve on their own. The Mayor echoed a similar feeling.

Commissioner Townsend addressed concern over the real issue was that the paper bin was being stuffed full of cardboard. The solution to this problem will have to be considered and revisited later on. The Mayor and the Commissioners want it to be done right to prevent issues with the recycling location.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #51056 through Check #51090 totaling \$25,948.48. The Commissioners were also presented with Payroll and Liability Check#11560 through Check#11562 totaling \$3,382.54. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed December 15, 2015 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday
December 15, 2015
8:50 a.m. to 8:50
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Chairman, Herb Townsend, called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Herb Townsend, Commissioner Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz.

Approve Growth Policy:

Brian Obert with MBAC and Nico Cantalupo representing the Meagher County Planning Board were present to answer any final questions regarding the Growth Policy Plan. Cantalupo stated that the first step would be to approve the final draft of the Growth Policy Plan. After the Commissioners approve the Growth Policy, then the next step would be to approve the previous invoice that has been pending since Chris Shove was representing MBAC. Obert and Cantalupo also went over the MBAC invoice with the Commissioners.

Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle entered the meeting.

Cantalupo advised the Commissioners that there were no comments received during the 30-day comment period which was now over. The draft Growth Policy can now be approved by the Commissioners and a final document printed by MBAC for distribution through the Clerk & Recorder's Office. The Commissioners are pleased with the final document submitted by the Planning Board, Great West Engineering and MBAC.

Because of the issues with Chris Shove, the total invoice would be more than the \$30,000.00 grant award; however, Obert assured the Commissioners it would be no additional cost to the County, and stated there would be no money out-of-pocket.

Action #1:

RESOLUTION - 2015 #90

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Growth Policy Plan presented to the Commissioners by the Planning Board in final draft form. Vice Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved unanimously. It is therefore resolved.

There was discussion regarding who would benefit from this type of document and how it was good for 7 years and then after that, it would probably only need updating. Obert advised that they have this document on a pdf file and on word, and it was also on the County website, so if there are any changes, they can easily be made. Clerk & Recorder Ogle asked for a digital copy as well.

Cantalupo stated that Jerry Grebenc of Great West Engineering had requested that Meagher County be a reference for him through Great West, so Cantalupo wanted to ask the Commissioners if they were alright in him saying yes. Cantalupo told the Commissioners about his experience with them, and that he felt comfortable in giving a recommendation. The Commissioners gave their approval.

Cantalupo also informed the Commissioners that as of today, he was giving his resignation from the Planning Board. He feels that before the Planning Board looks at the next phase, which is capital _____ (penny - ask NICO) project and subdivision regulations, it would be better if he stepped down so the next person could begin that project from the beginning rather than stepping into the middle of it. His recommendation as a replacement would be Jesse Secrest. Commissioner Townsend also believed the next extension agent should be a part of Planning Board and it should just be part of the job.

Cantalupo and Brian Obert also agreed that the final financial part of this endeavor can be worked out between MBAC and Clerk & Recorder Ogle with regard to the CSBG grant from the Department of Commerce. The Commissioners asked who the Planning Board had been working with at the Department of Commerce and Cantalupo told them it was Dave Cochran and Alison Mouch.

Minutes:

Action #2:

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Open Bids for CTEP Landscaping:

Commissioner Townsend opened up the only CTEP bid received. It was discussed that this was not an actual Call for Bid placed by the Clerk & Recorder’s office like usual, this was done by Brian Obert who referenced a call for bid in an article printed in the Meagher County News with regard to a CTEP grant provided to the City of White Sulphur Springs and Meagher County on beautification.

The rough estimates provided by the Garden Shop were as follows:

Joanna’s Park	\$ 7,450.00 - \$11,950.00
Courthouse	\$17,680.00 - \$24,300.00
Springs Park	\$20,898.00 - \$24,410.00
Radar Park	\$28,786.00 - \$32,854.00
Depot Park	\$12,610.00 - \$14,430.00

For a total of approximately \$87,424.00 - \$107,944.00.

The Commissioners called Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle, up to discuss the bid and requirements and why the County would be involved in this process. She explained the County was involved since this was CTEP funds awarded to the City of White Sulphur and Meagher County combined. However, since it was not put out as a Call for Bid, and these estimates total over the \$80,000.00 threshold; it was her suggestion that this be tabled until more information could be ascertained.

Action #3:

RESOLUTION – 2015 #91

Commissioner Townsend moved that the estimates from the Garden Shop be tabled until more information can be gathered. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and approved unanimously. It is therefore resolved.

Conference Call with Harold Blattie:

Chair Townsend called Harold Blattie for a conference call regarding a memo received from the Legislative Interim Committee. The memo set forth two specific questions:

- 1) Would you support the concept of having agricultural land that is taken out of production agriculture being taxed at market value, rather than productive value as agricultural land currently is taxed:

This issue and a few scenarios were discussed.

- 2) Would you support raising the current \$1,500 gross income threshold of production for small tracts to be taxed as agricultural land, or eliminating the ag exemption for all 20 acres unless it is part of a larger ag operations?

Discussion regarding being taxed for productivity versus market value was discussed at length and how it would affect taxes. Mr. Blattie said so far there have been mixed responses and the biggest issue is irrigated land versus dry land.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked Mr. Blattie at this time if the question still has to go through legislature and Mr. Blattie responded yes. They all thought it was a good debate item for the legislature to have.

Commissioner Townsend then brought up the question of taxation between counties and the fact that when counties get taxed equally, but the irrigated county has a better productivity than the dry land county. The mill levy was also discussed and how these items affect the taxes.

Destruction of Checks – Dayna Ogle:

Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Penny Plachy, informed the Commissioners that the checks from the Lennep School that is now closed were destroyed by shredding with items shredded from the Clerk & Recorder’s Office last week. These checks were #7701 through #9700.

Public Comment – Claims Approved:

The letter from Kimberly Deschene to the Grassy Mountain Fire District was discussed with Clerk & Recorder Ogle regarding why we needed a letter. Ogle explained that the letter is needed because the Commissioners gave the Fire District a time period which has passed to be up and running with offices in place, terms in place and their by-laws established or the Commissioners would move forward with disbanding the Fire District. It is up to the Commissioners to verify that these items are in place, or disband the Fire District.

They rejected the letter the County Attorney wrote stating they would like a stronger language informing them of such, rather than one that sounds like they were merely interested in what is going on.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check # 51091 in the amount of \$2,050.00. They were also presented with checks #51092 through #51128 in the amount of \$40,426.32. All checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

NOTE: Minutes taken by Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Penny J. Plachy
Distributed January 5, 2016 to Chairman Townsend, Vice-Chairman Brewer, Commissioner Hurwitz and Clerk & Recorder