

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

November 3, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 12:47 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting and closed session of the Commissioners on October 20th, 2015. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Road Report – Tim Collins:

County Road Department Foreman, Tim Collins, came in to give the monthly road report. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how things were going, specifically how the new semi was working out. Collins reported that the new semi is functioning very well, however he personally hasn't been the one driving; Jake Kusek has been the one operating it. So far they have had absolutely no issues and successfully hauling 4-5 loads of gravel a day.

Commissioner Hurwitz expressed that he continues to be impressed by the Walk 'N Roll Compactor. Collins agrees that it is a very effective and efficient to use. As this subject was brought up, Collins updated that Smith wanted him to inquire about purchasing a Walk & Roll for Meagher County. Time is of the essence to get one to use in the spring because it takes six months to get one in. The cost comparison in buying verses renting, makes purchasing one the most beneficial choice. The Commissioners would like to find out what is remaining in the Road Outlay fund before officially approving the purchase.

Collins reported an issue with a landowner because the road hadn't been mowed along his property this year. The landowner had come into the county shop in a confrontational manner. Collins expressed that he did his best to disarm hostility and told the landowner that unfortunately there is no way to mow it now because the mower has been removed from the Motor-grader for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Hurwitz advised Collins to inform the landowner there will be an opportunity to nicely request it be done in the spring, and that there are many portions of county road systems that don't always get mowed.

Collins updated the Commissioners on the Smith River road vehicle count. It was discussed for the month of October in comparison with previous months. Collins explained that every time he drove his semi across the counter it registers as 3 vehicles each time, the total of which comes to 30 that can be subtracted from the total count. The portable vehicle counter has been removed now to prevent it from getting in the way of plowing snow.

Collins inquired if the Commissioners had heard any more about resolving the ground water sampling by the County Shop. Commissioner Hurwitz stated that he had not heard any more on the matter, but will follow up on it.

Sheriff's Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Lopp came in to present his monthly report to the Commissioners. Lopp handed out his monthly report for September and October to all the Commissioners for their review and discussion.

Discussion conducted over the recent issues specifically associated with hunting season being open. Lopp reported that there have been some incidents with lost hunters as well as hunting violations.

Commissioner Brewer inquired about Meagher County receiving the funds from citations that have in the past gone to the City of White Sulphur Springs. Lopp stated that he hasn't heard any more about it. The City Council members were supposed to discuss it at the council meeting on November 2, 2015. Lopp stated that he will follow up with the city later this week.

Sheriff Lopp also reported that the City has dismissed the employee whom held the position of Dog Catcher. Lopp feels that the duties of "Dog Catcher" is one arena that he thinks the Sheriff's Office should not take on. The Commissioners all agreed that it should not be taken over by the Sheriff's Department and the City needs to be responsible for providing that public service.

Lopp notified the Commissioners that Deputy Brian Slingsby has applied and interviewed for a position down in Gallatin County. The Commissioners asked how long Deputy Slingsby will remain with Meagher County before moving. Lopp stated that Slingsby won't know if he receives a position for up to six months.

The Commissioners inquired about the overtime for the month of October and the entire year prior. Lopp told the Commissioners that the overtime for the past month was mostly due to training and some vacation. Commissioner Hurwitz inquired about the possibility of not scheduling the deputies for all 40 hours in a week, that way there would be time left if there is an emergency. Lopp replied that one of the major factors of law enforcement is to have a large presence of patrolling in the public eye. Scheduling was discussed and everyone agreed to search for a way to minimize the overtime. Lopp reiterated that hiring one more Deputy would greatly minimize, if not almost eliminating overtime. The Commissioners feel that isn't the right solution at this time. Lopp stated he will look into the possibility of making the Deputies a Salary Position.

Lopp then updated that he has received statements of great concern from all the Deputies in regards to the Commissioner Support of Law Enforcement. Lopp stated that the Deputies and he feel that whenever an issue comes up, the law enforcement officers are assumed to be in the wrong or at fault, and the only way to "clear their names" is by providing video to prove it. Lopp told the Commissioners he believes it is one of the major reasons Slingsby has applied elsewhere. In addition to the fact that there is a substantial difference in pay in Gallatin County.

Lopp continued, stating that the Deputies have expressed feeling frustrated with the way things operate in Meagher County, especially regarding matters involving the County Attorney. The Deputies voiced to Lopp that they don't see the point it making stops and investigating cases when the County Attorney won't prosecute. Lopp told the Commissioners he has given all of the Deputies a verbal warning that if he hears it again then he will be putting a formal letter of reprimand into their files. That it is their duty and obligation to continue enforcing the law when it is violated. The Commissioners all agreed with Sheriff Lopp's course of action. Additionally Commissioner Hurwitz voiced that the Commission does support the law enforcement and appreciates the work that they do. Commissioner Townsend and Commissioner Brewer agreed with Commissioner Hurwitz's statement.

Otto Ohlson entered the meeting.

Open Bids – Polaris Ranger:

Commissioner Townsend opened the two (2) sealed bids for the Polaris Ranger.

- Jim Lind, bidding \$7,650.00 for the 2012 Polaris Ranger.
- West River Land Management, LLC, bidding \$7,750.00 for the 2012 Polaris Ranger.

The Commissioners discussed the bids with Weed Supervisor, Otto Ohlson. It was decided to award the bid to the higher bid from West River Land Management, LLC.

ACTION #1

RESOLUTION 2015 #83

Commissioner Brewer moved to accept the highest bid for the 2012 6x6 Polaris Ranger Vin number: 4XAGR76A5C4723977 in the amount of \$7,750.00. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Open Bids – ATV Trailer:

No bids were submitted.

Ohlson updated the Commissioners that he feels it may be time to start training someone for his replacement. He would like to work full time through next fall. He hasn't told of the Weed Board member's yet, this is a very early heads up. The Commissioners all agreed they would like him to overlap his time left with the County while training his replacement.

County Superintendent of Schools – Helen Hanson:

County Superintendent of Schools and Meagher County Safety Officer, Helen Hanson, provided the Commissioners with a formal letter of resignation. Also present for the meeting was County Treasurer, Sue Phelan. Hanson will officially resign from the County as Superintendent of Schools and Meagher County Safety Officer as of November 26th, 2015.

Hanson then updated that she had met with Treasurer's Office and Clerk and Records Office and discussed the details and possibility of transferring the duties of County Superintendent of Schools and Safety Office to the Treasurer's Office. The two offices would like to express their approval via Hanson that this merge be formally adopted by the Commissioners. Hanson advised the Commissioners that she had looked in to how many other County's like Meagher County are handling this position, and it is typically part of the Treasurer's Office. All of the Commissioners agreed that it is a good idea to do the transfer.

ACTION #2

RESOLUTION 2015 #84

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to transfer the duties of County Superintendent and Meagher County Safety Officer to the Treasurer's Office. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Based on this transfer of duties to the Treasurers' Office, Phelan is requesting that Maura Kusek be moved to a full time position within the Treasurer's Office to cover these duties. Kusek will move to a full time status as of November 30, 2015.

ACTION #3

RESOLUTION 2015 #85

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve Maura Kusek be moved to full time status as of November 30, 2015. Commissioner Townsend seconded. Commissioner Brewer abstained from the vote. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Justice of the Peace, Paula Wildman entered the meeting:

Wildman updated the Commissioners on a case that was run through Justice Court.

Center for Mental Health – Sidney Blair:

Sidney Blair came in to talk with the Commissioners about the services that the Center for Mental Health is providing to Meagher County. She handed out a chart to all of the Commissioners that detailed the services provided to Meagher County in comparison to neighboring counties.

Her concern is that the dwindling services provided in Meagher County is largely in part due to the fact that there is no Center for Mental Health Office in White Sulphur Springs. This came about because a satellite office simply was not sustainable anymore. There was discussion about using a room downstairs in the basement of the Courthouse; however, Blair is greatly concerned about the lack of privacy that would provide.

Blair updated that at this point, the needs for Mental Health Services in smaller rural communities will be moved towards doing hub type services. This entails having resources available to individuals in crisis through trained personnel in the Community and then being connected with care in Helena.

Commissioner Townsend asked about what the cost is to a patient to be seen at Center for Mental Health. Blair informed the Commissioners that the Center for Mental Health is a 'Fee for Services' organization. This means they will charge an individual's health insurance when available. If the patient has no insurance or can't afford to pay then it is most typically written off. There is a small amount of funding that State set aside money from general fund for Clinical Treatment of Mental Health issues, There is also a 72 Hour Fund. These resources are not directly available to the Center for Mental Health

Blair reiterated that the best source for care in Meagher County will likely be hub services with the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) from Lewis & Clark County. This team would come out on an as needed basis. This is still in the planning phase and not officially put together yet for implantation at some point in 2016. It is likely that the MCT could come as far as Broadwater County. The Benefit would be the ability to get them back on track as early as possible. The first 24 hours is the most critical and would indicate if the mentally ill can be released or need to be committed. There is now a facility available in Helena that can admit an individual with a mental health crisis for approximately half the cost of a regular admission if law enforcement or healthcare provider deems the individual unsafe to themselves or others.

Blair also updated that they will have websites going very soon for trained individuals to use for the purposes of intervention and referral. The Center for Mental Health would like to set up a two day training for law enforcement, nurses and school employees, to teach them about the warning signs of mental illness, who to refer and how. This is the best way to provide the area with knowledge and resources regarding what to do. The Commissioners all agreed they would

like to see this happen for Meagher County. Blair stated she would get in touch with the Health Nurse, Eva Kerr and make arrangements.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #50970 through Check #50969 totaling \$58,377.60. Commissioners were previously resented with Payroll and Liability Check #11510 through Check #11535 totaling \$37,192.64. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed November 10, 2015 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

November 10, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Bruce Smith - Road Supervisor:

Smith came in early to drop off a quote for the Walk 'N Rolls for the Commissioners to review.

Minutes:

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2015 regularly scheduled meeting with the changes as discussed. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Phelan:

County Treasurer, Sue Phelan entered the meeting and provided the Commissioners with the monthly Treasurer's Hand Cash Balance sheet for the Commissioners to review and sign.

Discussion conducted regarding the response and questions the property owners in Meagher County are having in light of the tax bills received for the second half of taxes in 2015. The Commissioner's and Phelan decided that the Treasurer's Office should draft and publish a letter in the Meagher County News, explaining where the changes in taxes are from, and whom they need to contact with questions. The Commissioners and Phelan would like to clearly inform the public about the changes that have occurred.

Commissioner Discussion:

- The Commissioners all discussed the Road Departments Budget and what funds are available for purchasing two Walk 'N' Roll packer/roller for the Road Department. The Commissioners discussed it with Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle and everyone decided the Outlay fund should be used for purchasing this new equipment.

ACTION #1

RESOLUTION 2015 - #86

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the purchase of two (2) Walk 'N' Roll packer/roller's for the Road Department. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Health Nurse – Eva Kerr:

Eva Kerr, Health Nurse came in to present the Commissioners with her monthly report. Kerr provided everyone with a handout for review and discussion. Kerr reported having a good month. The school year to this point has been successfully lice free. Continued education and hygiene classes seem to be working well.

Kerr updated the Commissioners about a new CPR machine that Meagher County has received a grant for. The only requirement is that Meagher County send personnel to complete training in Helena. The device is much smaller and will be able to be carried into remote locations if need be. Kerr is optimistic and excited to see something like this be added to the available resources for EMS in our area. There are two Volunteer EMT's from the Ambulance and two personnel from Mountain View Medical Center going to the training this month. All of this is part of a new program call Cardiac Readiness, which also involves educating the public to respond promptly and properly to a cardiac arrest.

Discussion regarding the reality of county Sanitarian Deen Pomeroy resigning. The Commissioners agreed with Kerr that it would be good to inquire about hiring Broadwater County's if they are willing and available. The Commissioners asked if Kerr would be willing to look into the details, she stated she would gladly do it. Kerr expressed increasing difficulty with accomplishing needed tasks with Pomeroy for the last several months.

The Homemaker program continues to do well and provide a much needed service to elderly in need of help to stay in their homes. Kerr reported that the newest employee Betsy Hamman, is doing excellent.

Kerr expressed her thanks to have the room downstairs almost completely cleared out for the WIC and Child Protective Services to use when they come to White Sulphur Springs.

Lastly she has annual training in Billings at the end of the month. The training has been highly recommended for Health Nurse's that are fairly new at working for a county.

Road Department – Bruce Smith:

Road Department Supervisor, Bruce Smith and Employee, Jim Gregory came in to speak with the Commissioners about Gregory's 'return to work' status. The Physicians have released Gregory with very limited and light activities. Gregory reported that he is scheduled to follow up with his surgeon on November 20, 2015 and they are projecting his work restrictions will be significantly reduced.

Commissioner Hurwitz expressed that the Commissioners are all in agreement that it is unwise to have Gregory return to work partially recovered and risk re-injuring himself. Commissioner Brewer stated that they **DO** want him back, but would like him back whole and completely recovered. The Commissioners inquired if Gregory was able to maintain life with his workers comp and do okay. Gregory replied that he is doing ok financially and has enough vacation to supplement for the time being; however he is anxious to return to work as soon as possible. The Commissioners reassured Gregory that they are sincerely looking forward to having him back once he is fully recovered.

The Commissioners updated Smith that they had approved the purchase of the Walk 'N' Rolls and would like to wait to purchase another semi until they see what new funds may be coming in from Secure Rural Schools.

Fire/DES Report – Rick Seidlitz:

Fire Chief, Rick Seidlitz presented the Commissioners with his monthly report handout.

A recent fire was discussed. Seidlitz also updated that most of the trucks have been winterized. The building out at the airport is very full now with the new ladder truck. Additionally, Seidlitz updated the Commissioners that in the near future the large doors on the airport building need to be replaced.

Seidlitz mentioned having gone for a drive in the firetruck out at Two Creeks and stated that it is in great need of replacement. Commissioner Hurwitz asked about the possibility of selling the old fire truck on the state online auction. Seidlitz doesn't feel it is probably worth anything, but will investigate the option.

Clerk & Recorder – Employee Review:

Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle came up to present the Commissioners with her employee review. Administrative Assistant, Kate Jones has reached the end of her 6 month probation period. Ogle updated the Commissioners that Jones has satisfactorily met the expectations of the job. Stating that Jones is willing to do the tasks asked of her and Ogle is pleased with her performance and interactions with other staff members and customers. Ogle asked for the Commissioners verification that Jones' work related performance has also been to their satisfaction also. The Commissioners all agreed with Ogle that Jones is doing great with the minutes and other tasks.

Therefore, Ogle is recommending that Jones be taken off probation and would like to request Jones be granted a \$1.00/ hour raise to \$13.36/hour effective October 27th, 2015. The Commissioners all agreed.

ACTION #2

RESOLUTION 2015 - #87

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the raise for Administrative Assistant, Kate Jones of \$1.00 per hour for a total of \$13.36 per hour effective October 27, 2015. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Ogle then presented the Commissioners with the list of Volunteer EMT's Ambulance call incentive compensation for the calendar year of 2015. The Commissioners all approved and initialed the payment of the Volunteer EMT's incentive pay.

CTEP Lighting Project – Kelly Huffield:

Huffield came in to update the Commissioners on the Main Street Lighting project. Huffield is one of the Chamber members working on the project for the City of White Sulphur Springs to put in 29 decorative street lights. The State will put in the required Cobra lights at intersections and they are willing to paint the towers of the Cobra lights black to match the Carriage lights the Chamber has selected to put in between businesses.

Huffield stated that it is a big savings in the end for the City to put it their own lights on meters; otherwise they would have to continue paying royalties to North Western Energy for the lifetime of lights they put in. The Chamber is in the process of raising \$48,000. Part of the plan to raise funds is to apply for a Bair grant. Additionally, there is a sign tracking the fundraiser currently down at Joanna's Park, however, Huffield would like permission to move it to the Meagher County Court House lawn. The Commissioners all approved of the sign being at the Courthouse.

Lastly, Huffield updated the Commissioner's that the City had donated the funds they received from the DOT for Right-Of-Way property for the Main Street Improvement Project. She asked

the Commissioners if they are willing to do the same. The Commissioners all agree to this and asked Administrative Assistant, Kate Jones to look into the funds if there were any and get them to the Chamber for the lighting project.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #50970 through Check #50992 totaling \$21,505.10. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed November 17th, 2015 to Chairman Townsend, Commissioner Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Ogle.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

November 17, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

County Attorney – Kimberly Deschene:

Attorney Deschene stopped in to check in with the Commissioners and let them know she is unable to stay for the meeting today because she has a hearing to attend.

Deschene commented that she was contacted by the president of Grassy Mountain Ranch Owners Association (GMROA), Dayna Ogle, regarding their desire to disband the homeowners association. After discussion, Deschene advised the Commissioners not to make any decisions until she can look into it further. Since she will be not be able to attend, she asked Administrative Assistant, Kate Jones, to take notes for her and forward any specific concerns the Commissioners have.

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:49 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

Minor corrections for the minutes from the November 10, 2015 regularly scheduled meeting were discussed. Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes with the changes noted. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Election Administrator – Canvas General Municipal Election:

Dayna Ogle, Election Administrator, presented the Commissioners with the official tally sheets to canvas the City General Municipal Election. All the Commissioners verified the tallies were correct and signed the appropriate documents.

Commissioner Brewer inquired with Ogle about the Grassy Mountain Ranch Owners Association; whether or not there was a rule stating that the homeowners association had a stipulation or requirement from the County Commission when the subdivision was built. Ogle replied that she wasn't sure, but she would look into it. Commissioner Hurwitz asked how the money was collected for the Association. There was a time when "dues" were paid yearly by landowners and the rest was collected from grazing fees.

Recycling – Betsy Hamann & Dave with 4 Corners Recycling:

Those present for the meeting were Melinda Vennard, Betsy Hamann, and Dave Leverett with 4 Corners Recycling, Julian Theriault, City Mayor and George Kirkwood, City Councilman.

Dave Leverett presented the options for bailing or compacting our own cardboard and the initial cost he estimated to be just under \$20,000.00. Bailing it would have a greater return for the commodity versus compacting it.

Betsy Hamann spoke, stating that she had met with Shane Sereday, owner of Castle Mountain Grocery, and discussed the possibility of the community being able to use the cardboard bin at Castle Mountain Grocery. Steel Inc. comes out of Great Falls and hauls it away when they are notified the bin is full. There is no money given to Castle Mountain Grocery for the cardboard, in fact, if the weight is unsatisfactory to the hauler, there is a fuel charge. Currently Castle Mountain Grocery has been allowing a few local people to use it. However, the Seredays prefer people ask for permission first and ensure they take great care to flatten boxes very well. Hamann stated they have been reluctant to open it up to the general public for concern that it won't be taken care of properly.

Hamann is suggesting a separate place to hold the cardboard and then be transferred and properly flattened prior to being put in the large rollaway bin. Hamann and Vennard both expressed they are willing to volunteer their time to help however they don't want to be solely responsible for all the work related to this. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if a covered horse trailer would be adequate. Everyone agreed that it would be the most economical choice if the Seredays are ok with it being parked near the large bin. The Mayor stated he will speak with Sereday and ask for permission to do so. The Commissioners all agreed the county will purchase an old horse trailer for the purpose of staging cardboard.

The Commissioners and Hamann agree it would be good to find a way to compensate Castle Mountain Grocery, even though they are not asking for any. Leverett is also still going to get quotes for both a new and used down stroke compactor that could be hooked to single phase power.

Leverett updated the Commissioners and everyone else present, that as far as the rest of the recycling is concerned it has been going well. One change coming into effect after the first of the year is the plastics. Type 3-7 will no longer be taken for recycling and asked to be sent to the landfill. Type 1 & 2 plastics will continue to be recycled. The bins in White Sulphur Springs will be relabeled and some public education completed to notify the public about the change. Overall the commodity markets are at low and will likely stay that way for some time.

Nico Cantalupo entered the Meeting.

Hamann stated she will put an article in the paper with all the changes for handling cardboard in our area as soon as plans are finalized.

GMROA – Dayna Ogle:

Present for the meeting was GMROA president, Dayna Ogle and Angie Evans, attending for County Attorney, Kimberly Deschene to take notes. Ogle provided the outline of steps to dissolve the Homeowners Association to the Commissioners. Ogle updated that one of the steps is for the Commissioners to grant their permission. The Commissioners expressed prior to making a decision they would like to have Attorney Deschene look into it further and make sure there are no legal issues that could arise for the County by dissolving the Association.

Ogle updated the Commissioners that she feels the biggest issues of concern are roads, weeds and perimeter fence. The Commissioners verified that the private landowners must fence out the Forest Service. Ogle stated that one proposal is to take some of the funds from the Association to fix the perimeter fence one time and then turn them over to the landowner.

Angie Evans expressed that every lot would have to be resurveyed and new deeds done for the landowner to handle the roads if the County didn't want to take them over. This would also involve extensive easements. Ogle asked if Evans could estimate the cost of this process. Evans estimated it could easily be over \$10,000.00 to have everything resurveyed and documents

recorded. Evans advised that she feels the best way is to have the County take over the roads. If the property lots went to the middle of the road there would almost certainly be significant issues.

Ogle addressed the consideration of an RIP (Rural Improvement District). This would make the roads part of a special taxing district that would then be maintained with the funds from the RIP. The Commissioners said that is an option worth considering.

Commissioner Hurwitz asked Ogle if there is a way to make the Homeowners Association function. Ogle stated she doesn't feel it will ever function because of the dynamics and chemistry of all the property owners.

Planning Board – Nico Cantalupo:

Planning Board Chairman, Nico Cantalupo provided the Commissioners with copies of the Meagher County Draft Growth Policy that had been approved by the Planning Board after the Public Hearing.

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the meeting.

Cantalupo updated the Commissioners they must take public comment for 30 days from the date it was approved by the Planning Board. There will be a notice posted in the Meagher County News, thanking the public for their participation and the deadline for the public to submit comments to the Commissioners. Cantalupo will bring forward any changes of subsistence to them, anything small like "is, was, the" he will approve of himself. The Department of Commerce has looked at it and the document meets all the statutes and the criteria for closing the grant.

Cantalupo also updated the Commissioners that they will be looking at revising the Subdivision Regulations after the first of the year.

Helen Hanson entered the meeting.

Cantalupo reported that it is on the top of the priority list in light of the projected Pumped Hydro Electric Plant and the Tintina Mine projects. The Subdivision Regulations will be how the County can enforce and handle issues like man camps.

Public Comment:

Sheriff Jon Lopp:

Lopp came in to notify the Commissioners that Brian Slingsby has been hired by Gallatin County and given his resignation to Meagher County. Commissioner Hurwitz inquired if Slingsby had met his contract requirements in exchange for the Law Enforcement Academy training that Meagher County funded. Lopp updated the Commissioners that Slingsby will owe the County approximately \$900.00. The Commissioners asked Lopp if the Sheriff's Office would be okay if they don't hire another deputy right away. This would allow a reduction in the Sheriffs overall budget and perhaps reduce turnover of Deputies in the future. Lopp said it would be worth trying as long as the Commissioners are okay with the fact there will be more overtime.

Commissioner Brewer asked if Lopp truly feels he can cover what he needs to with one less Deputy. Lopp stated they will be able to cover it, it is simply a matter of

overtime, especially for training. By law, all law enforcement personnel is required to complete 40 hours of training every two years. After the training this fall, everyone is current for the next two years. Commissioner Hurwitz asked if Lopp is able to utilize Reserve Deputies for coverage during training. Lopp stated he is trying to use them for vacation days, the issue is they all have full time jobs besides being Reserve Deputies.

Everyone agreed to try it with one less Deputy. Lopp's major concern is what might happen when the copper mine or pumped hydro comes in. The Commissioners expressed they would be willing to hire another if and when the need arises. The wages will have to be increased by other means because they are all based off of the Sheriff and his cannot change as an elected official unless everyone's does.

Helen Hanson:

Hanson came into speak with the Commissioners about an issue that occurred from the Superintendent of School's Office being moved into the Treasurer's Office. Hanson's grievance to the Commissioners is that it was done without her knowledge while she was not here. Commissioner Townsend asked about the apology email that had been sent to Hanson from the other staff members involved. Hanson acknowledged that she had and it only helped a little. Commissioner Townsend continued stating his understanding is it had been an oversight and not an intentional or malicious action from those involved.

Hanson said she was still very upset by it and frankly felt that there needed to be a policy in place for the process of when offices are moved and who is in charge of notifying the appropriate people ahead of time. Most of all she stated she doesn't want it to happen to anyone else in the future. As it is, Hanson maintained that she "has no office" to work in, and updated the Commissioners that she will log hours in November on her final time sheet and then come in to train Maura Kusek once she starts full time. The Commissioners said that would be ok.

George Kirkwood:

Brought in an advertisement for the Commissioners to review for a used horse trailer.

Absaroka Energy – Carl Borgquist:

Mr. Borgquist updated that they have filed the final application with FERC. NIPA has filed their scope and from that an EA document was drafted outlining the environmental impacts. Absaroka Energy has finally resolved all the issues with commenting agencies. They have all responded with letters stating they are satisfied. Borgquist was notified yesterday that they are complete, however there are approximately 40 additional pieces of information that have been requested. One of the reasons for coming in today is that the Commissioners need to participate in the plan for monitoring the spring's water supply.

Borgquist proposed to put in a flow meter to monitor the flows of the spring and if excavating begins to effect the water supply, then Absaroka Energy is willing to drill wells as necessary to offset the impact. The Commissioners agreed that this could be an acceptable plan as long as Borgquist verifies that a well/wells could be drilled.

Borgquist told the Commissioners that he will look into how much demand the spring can handle and how much is currently being used to develop a contingency plan. In

addition to the details, and legality of drilling a well/wells for Martinsdale. Borgquist is going to return with a proposed plan for the Commissioners to approve.

The last two areas that must be addressed for the GB Energy Park to get underway is the license and the sale of complete capacity. Borgquist said once those two things are taken care of, raising the funds to start the project will be easy.

Clerk & Recorder – Dayna Ogle

Ogle updated the Commissioners about an issue with the boiler at the new ambulance barn. There were many issues when they started it for the first time. Rooneys has already been asked to fix the issues and Ogle notified the contractor, Reed Construction. Ogle asked if the Commissioners would like to have Deschene draft a letter questioning the State about how their inspection process works. Since the state passed it and subsequently when the boiler was operated the first time it had many issues. The Commissioners all agreed that they would.

Ogle also presented the Commissioners with a request to reimburse three employees from the Treasurer’s Office for the Coffee Keurig that all of the county employees are using. The Commissioners all agreed to reimburse them.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #50993 through Check #51023 totaling \$16,310.34. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMA

COMMISSIONER