

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

May 3, 10 & 31,

2016

Tuesday

May 3, 2016

8:30 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Road Report – Bruce Smith:

Road Supervisor Bruce Smith, came in to give the Commissioners an update on the results from the testing done at the Meagher County Shop by Hydrometric in the new test wells. The resulting recommendation is that the contaminated soil will need to be dug out and hauled to Great Falls for disposal. Anderson has told Smith that he will be sending a formal letter detailing all of the results soon.

The Commissioners would like to look into it more to see if there is any other option besides hauling the bad soil all the way to Great Falls. Smith said as far as he was told from Anderson the cost of handling it ourselves would be far greater than hauling it away.

Smith also updated the Commissioners that the City had dumped more road fill with pieces of asphalt on the end of the County's pile. But of most concern is that the contaminated soil from digging the test wells and perk holes was ordered to be placed on the asphalt pad at the pit, which is what the Road crew did. It is concluded that someone from the City took it upon themselves to move the contaminated soil over to the same pile that was used to dump the road fill. Anderson has told Smith that it is imperative that the bad soil be put back onto the pad ASAP.

Based on this and other past experiences the Commissioners would like to have a meeting with the Mayor and the City road crew to discuss the issue of using the County pit without permission first.

Bishop Inc. has moved in their equipment to County Pit #2 and will start crushing gravel soon. The Road crew has already pushed up the gravel and mixed asphalt into the pile. Bruce

expressed that the gravel at County Pit #2 will have fines that need to be sifted out. Shane Bishop was given the LTAP specs for the gravel. Bruce also stated that while crushing is happening he plans to go inspect the final product.

Commissioner Hurwitz inquired about the Voldseth pit near Martinsdale. The equipment that Sierra Rock & Dirt had left has all been removed now. The gravel was decent, however Smith told the Commissioners he feels that there is not any gravel left worth getting from that pit at this point.

Smith suggested advertising the old building at the County Shop to be sold as salvage to be taken down by the buyer. All of the Commissioners agreed that is a good option to consider.

Southwestern Montana Financial Center – New Health Insurance Rates:

Julie Blockey with SW Financial came in to present the Commissioners with the final renewal rates for the County's Health Insurance. Also present for the meeting was Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Penny Plachy and Treasurer Sue Phelan.

Blockey provided a detailed explanation and comparison of rates for Pacific Source and BCBS. Based on the difference in benefits versus premium costs Blockey stated that she feels Pacific Source is the best choice for the County to continue with because they offer accidental coverage, preventative RX and a FY deductible/Out of Pocket. Everyone also agreed that PS seems to be the best choice.

There is an option for the County to choose a different Pacific Source plans that have a narrower Provider Network so the premium rates are lower. Choosing a plan like this would exclude care from certain providers or even nonprofit hospitals, however enable some employees to move up to more benefits with a lower cost.

The Commissioners and Blockey discussed the issue with Air Ambulance companies in the State of Montana. Currently the Legislature is taking a close look at how to resolve the issue of Montana residents needing care and then the resulting financial hardship that often occurs. The Commissioners specifically asked Blockey about Air Medicare. It isn't a guarantee that Air Medicare would pick up for Meagher County 100% of the time, however it's a pretty wise choice on behalf of the residents of Meagher County.

Blockey also presented a new vision plan for the County. It will have coverage for an eye exam and lenses every 12 months and frames every 24 months. This plan seems to be a much better benefit and is through Guardian, which is the same as our Dental Insurance carrier.

Blockey stated that she will be in touch with Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle to set up a day for open enrollment in Meagher County.

Transfer of Funds – Dayna Ogle:

Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle updated that the Health Nurse, Eva Kerr needs to have \$1,941.00 moved from fund 2378 to fund 2980 for a local match on the Home Healthcare Grant.

ACTION #1:

RESOLUTION 2016 - # 27

Commissioner Brewer moved to transfer \$1,941.00 from 2378 to 2980 for the local match of the Health Departments Home Healthcare Grant. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A Vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Lunch:

Commissioners broke for lunch at 11:20 and returned at 12:45.

Minutes Approved:

Action #2:

Chair Herb Townsend moved to approve minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting. Vice Chair Rod Brewer seconded. A vote taken and approved unanimously.

MACo Property & Casualty/Workers' Comp Insurance Renewal – Shannon Shanholtzer & Jodi Tierney:

Shannon Shanholtzer from MACo and Jodi Tierney from Mid Montana Insurance were in attendance to present the Commissioners with Insurance renewal rates for the County's Liability and Workers Comp Insurance. Also present for the meeting was Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle and Safety Coordinator Maura Kusek.

Shanholtzer provided the Commissioners with a handout detailing the rate renewal meeting agenda for this year. The Trust as a whole had several catastrophic losses over \$500,000 this year. Because of these incidents, the MACo Board of Trustee's decided to increase the Liability Loss Fund by 7.8% for all counties in the trust. Along with loss ratio adjustments the County's PLF (Property Loss Fund) premium uses calculations with a 5 year average loss ratio. There are a couple of incidents that are still effecting Meagher County's score specifically for Insurance rates.

The bond payments are set to be completely paid off in 2023. Also, cyber Liability went down this year. Excel is the Company chosen this year because to coverage has gone up and the premium went down. With all factors and changes discussed there will be an overall increase of 9.4% for Meagher County this year.

The Liability side of the Trustees have decided to stop giving Loss Control Credits to Counties that attend all the scheduled training. At this point, it is not required to send County employees

to scheduled trainings, however it is highly recommended to send as many employees as possible for training.

There will be a Human Rights training conducted nearby for the County to participate in. They had typically been doing HR training on an as needed basis; however, there have been enough issues come up lately that there will be a class held with the intent of broad attendance.

Commissioner Hurwitz inquired if the Safety Program trainings are still in effect to help reduce premiums for Workers Comp. Shanholtzer updated the Commissioners that the Workers Comp side of the Trustees chose to KEEP the loss control credit for safety training. There was discussion regarding the Safety Program and the Commissioners expressed how hopeless it feels considering claims stay on as factors for 5 years. Shanholtzer feel's that the safety program is helpful and useful.

The Mod Factor for Meagher County went up from 0.92 to 1.25 this year because of losses totaling over \$250,000.

The final item discussed was Workman's' Comp for the Volunteer Firefighter's. The County must complete a roster in June listing all of the volunteers and pay the premium during the 1st quarter of the Fiscal Year in order for them to have coverage. Commissioner Hurwitz inquired about when we get new recruits, especially when there is a bad fire season. The new Fireman need to be added to the roster and then pay the premium immediately in order to be covered.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Lopp came in to present the Commissioners with his written monthly report. The Commissioners and Lopp reviewed and discussed the report.

Lopp also presented a contract from Century Link for phone service provided for the 911 Dispatch at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Townsend signed the agreement and a copy was taken for the file in the Clerk & Records Office.

Lopp also updated the Commissioners that the City apparently had another meeting after they had agreed to give the County the money from citations and now decided not to. Lopp would like to have another meeting with City Councilman, City Attorney and one of the Commissioners to discuss how to go forward.

The 2010 Ford Explorer is ready to be placed up for bid. After discussion the Commissioners all agreed to set the minimum bid at \$10,000. Lopp will notify Clerk & Recorder to post the call for bid.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #51582 through Check #51607 totaling \$38,364.41. The Commissioners were also presented with Payroll & Liability Check #11716 through Check #11739 totaling \$37,740.65. Previously the Commissioners had been presented with Payroll & Liability checks for March, 2016, Check #11692 through Check #11715 totaling \$46,859.75. All checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

VICE CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

NOTE: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed May 10, 2016 to Chairman Herb Townsend, Vice Chairman Rod Brewer, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz and Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle

Tuesday
May 10, 2016
8:30 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Treasurer's Report – Sue Phelan:

Treasurer Sue Phelan came up to present the Commissioners with the Hand Cash Balance sheet for review and signatures. The Commissioners discussed the balance with Phelan and signed the sheet.

Commissioners and Phelan discussed the temporary clerk working over at the school. Phelan updated that the gentleman filling in is helping out a lot and there have not been any issues.

Minutes Approved:

ACTION #1:

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Townsend seconded. A vote was taken and approved.

Patrick Webb from Senator Daines Office:

Field Representative Patrick Webb from Senator Daines' office stopped by to check in with the Commissioners and see if everything was going well for Meagher County. The Commissioners and Webb discussed the Forest Plan revision specifically regarding wilderness areas in Meagher County as well as road obliteration and timber sales.

The Commissioners would like to have Webb find out more details on the newly passed bonding regulations to protest timber sales. Webb stated that he will have to do some research and get back to them on that subject.

Webb asked the Commissioners if they have heard of any armed government agencies like BLM or Fish & Game being in confrontational situations with residents of Meagher County. The Commissioners are not aware of any confrontations.

Commissioners and Webb discussed the status of the mine. Webb updated the Commissioners that he has taken the tour and personally feels like Tintina is being very cognizant of all issues and potential hazards. Commissioner Hurwitz asked Webb what Senator Daines' stance is regarding the mine. Webb stated that everyone in Senator Daines' office are all advocates of boosting local economy.

County Attorney Report – Kimberly Deschene:

Spoke briefly to the Commissioners regarding the grant application to clean up the bad soil over at the County Shop. The Commissioners would like to speak with Bob Anderson regarding the funding and the process of clean up itself. Deschene stated that she would have to come back later in the meeting after setting up a conference call with Anderson.

Jim Berghorn, White Sulphur Springs resident, entered the meeting.

Health Nurse – Eva Kerr:

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr came in for presentation of her monthly report to the Commissioners. The Commissioners reviewed the report and conducted particular discussion regarding the safety the Data Loggers on the vaccine refrigerators provide in keeping track of the temperatures the vaccines are kept at.

Kerr highlighted that the Health Department received another Bair Grant this year. The Commissioners and Kerr all expressed how grateful they are for the community support from the Bair Family Trust.

There was discussion regarding Kerr purchasing a non-invasive Hemoglobin machine. This is largely due to the times when Kerr checks 30-40 Hemoglobin levels out at the Colonies. Kerr is hoping that she can use the remainder of the CSBG Grant to purchase one.

The Jurisdiction for Child Protective Services has changed once again. Meagher County has been consolidated with 4 other counties. Kerr updated that the only concern she has regarding the change is the high case load that puts on the case worker and the fear a situation could be missed. Kerr updated that she has been attending the monthly CPS meetings for Meagher County and feels like the information and knowledge is very helpful, however noted that it is heart wrenching and sad to listen to most of the time.

Updated that there is a newly graduated counselor that would like to start doing mental health work in Meagher County.

AirMedCare - David Stinar:

David Stinar with AirMedCare Network came in to do a follow up presentation to the Commissioners regarding signing Meagher County up for a membership. Also present for the meeting was Mountain View Medical Center's CEO Rob Brant, County Health Nurse Eva Kerr and WSS resident Jim Berghorn.

Stinar updated the Commissioners that he had attended the Health Fair in WSS at the end of April and had received great interest from the public. Stinar also clarified that AirMedCare is a corporate business that has 4 different flight companies within the network and the one that services Meagher County is called REACH.

The Commissioners asked Brant to tell them what he thinks of the opportunity to sign Meagher County up for a membership. Brant expressed that he feels it would be a great service to the community. The Commissioners inquired how the Hospital decides what Air Ambulance to call. That is based on several factors, the main ones being the level and location of the care needed for the patient. Brant told the Commissioners that he cannot make a blanket policy that REACH is always called first because that would be telling providers how to provide patient care. However there is education that would be done to ensure the providers are cognizant of the membership with REACH if it were to occur.

Brant stated that Mercy Flight is generally who gets called if the transfer is going to Benefis Hospital in Great Falls because it's their own Air Ambulance. However there is nothing limiting that only Mercy Flight may transfer into their facility, it can be other air ambulances as well. Stinar spoke up stating that there are many occasions when Mercy Flight and REACH interchange calls. REACH has two rotary wing ambulances, one is located in Belgrade and one in Great Falls. They also have one fixed wing ambulance located in Helena for longer transfers.

As long as the call originates in Meagher County and the patient needs a consecutive transfer of care it would be covered by the membership with REACH. If the person does not have insurance they will be billed at the Medicare rate.

Ellen Stinar – AirMedCare Program Manager entered the meeting.

Stinar also stated that if the County has a membership, for an addition \$35.00/yer per household, the individual residents can be fully covered for the entire state and region covered by AirMedCare. This membership would otherwise cost \$65.00.

Kerr spoke up stating that from her perspective as a Healthcare professional at Mountain View Medical Center and a community member, she is very in favor of the County obtaining a membership.

Jim Berghorn also wanted to voice to the Commissioners his support and wish that the County would become a member with AirMedCare. Jim had spoken with Stinar at the Health Expo in White Sulphur and was enthusiastic to come to the Commissioners in support of this opportunity.

The Commissioners all agreed that they would like to enroll Meagher County; however, it will have to wait until after the budget is completed in July. Stinar stated he fully understands the need to have it in the budget and will follow up in mid-June. The coverage starts once the check is dated and a mailer will be done once the Counties membership is completed, notifying the residents of the service and the opportunity for additional coverage.

Fire/DES Report:

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz came in to present the Commissioners with the written monthly report.

Also present for the meeting was John Huston and Andy Burgoyne from DNRC. The Commissioners and Seidlitz discussed the opportunity that Meagher County has to purchase the brush truck from the DNRC County Co-op program that has been staged for use in Meagher County up until now. There will be a newer brush truck sent to Meagher County and we will purchase and add the other one to the County's truck inventory.

Huston spoke up stating that he and Burgoyne came in today to re-acquaint themselves with the Commissioners and re-emphasize the services given to the County in exchange for Meagher County Fire protecting the public lands not otherwise covered by the Forest Protection Plan. Meagher County was the first County to participate in the DNRC County Co-Op program. Seidlitz and Huston recall it started back in the 1970's.

The Commissioners and Seidlitz discussed following up on the plans for the Ringling Fire Building. Seidlitz stated he will get in touch with the engineer working on the plans.

Lunch:

Commissioners broke for lunch at 11:20 and returned at 12:45.

Senior Center – Beth Hunt:

Beth Hunt came in to speak with the Commissioners and present an annual report. Hunt updated the Commissioners that the Area Agency for Aging, traditionally has had 1 Commissioner from each county in the jurisdiction sitting on the board. Jamie Doggett had previously sat on the board and continued to even after her employment with Meagher County. Doggett is resigning from her seat on the Area Agency for Aging, which means the Board of Commissioners will need to re-appoint someone or one of them volunteer to take the open seat. With that in mind, Hunt has asked Gordon Doig to attend the meeting today.

Gordon Doig entered the meeting.

The Commissioners asked Doig what he thought about being on the Area Agency Board. Doig stated that he is willing to attend one meeting to see if it is something he is able to take care of. After attending the next meeting Doig will follow up with Hunt and the Commissioners.

The next Area Aging Board meeting is going to be held in Meagher County. The Counties in the jurisdiction together are Meagher, Park, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Gallatin. When Hunt applies for grants, Meagher County is competing against these four other counties.

Hunt sees nutrition and transportation as the most important need for the elderly in our community. There have been some slight changes in the transportation services that are offered. The Senior Center now charges \$0.32 per mile for transports.

Hunt continues to organize many fundraising events throughout the year. The fundraising events from the past year have been in the effort to replace the furnace at the Center. There have been

many energy efficiency improvements done to the building and once the new furnace is in the utilities will be substantially reduced.

Even after all of Hunts close budgeting, fundraising and grants, the Senior Center is still in need of support from the county. Hunt presented the Commissioners with a request of \$10,000.00 for the F.Y. 16/17. The Commissioners all agreed that they want to continue support of the Senior Center in Meagher County.

ACTION #2

RESOLUTION 2016 - #28

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the \$10,000.00 be paid to the Senior Center of White Sulphur Springs, Meagher County. Commissioner Brewer Seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Public Comment:

Sara Hamlen:

Hamlen came in to discuss details of the EDO (Economic Development Organization) with the Commissioners. The Commissioners updated that the Extension Agent is not specifically being designated to devote a portion of time towards the EDO. It they find that there is time available from a personal point of view the Commissioners are okay with that. The Commissioners also expressed that they do not want the EDO routed through the County Commission unless it's required for applying for grants.

Hamlen updated the Commissioners that at this point the EDO is beginning to write Bylaws so there was a need to touch base with the Commissioners to find out what connection they wanted and intended for the EDO. As stated previously, the Commissioners expressed that they do not want to be connected unless it directly impacts the EDO's ability to receive grants.

The Commissioners asked Hamlen if she could please find if or what the ties are to the County currently and typically how the EDO functions in other Counties. The Commissioners would also like to know what the relationship is between the County Planning Board and the EDO. Finally, what the source of funding is going to be going forward in the future.

David Stinar:

Stiner returned to present a proposal for prorated coverage to the County. The fee from May 15th – July 15th would be \$1,363.00. Then the full year could be paid after budget time. That would get coverage to Meagher County as soon as possible.

ACTION #3

RESOLUTION 2016 - #29

Chairman Townsend moved to pay the prorated contract with AirMedcare in the amount of \$1,363.00. The County will then renew the contract with AirMedcare on July 15, 2016. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

Road Department - Bruce Smith:

Road Supervisor Smith came in to follow up with the Commissioners regarding the mag chloride to apply for dust control and road stabilizing. Smith updated the Commissioners that he has been thinking about getting a stationary tank and mixing it themselves then use the County's water truck to apply it. Smith will look into the cost of a tank and if it can be stored over the winter. The Commissioners all agreed that would be fine.

Smith also updated that he had spoken with members of the City Road Crew and clarified the incident when the contaminated soil was moved off the asphalt slab.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #51608 through Check #51638 totaling \$12,280.25. All checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

VICE CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

NOTE: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed May 31, 2016 to Chairman Herb Townsend, Vice Chairman Rod Brewer, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz and Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle

Tuesday
May 31, 2016
8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice Chair Rod Brewer.
Commissioner Ben Hurwitz was absent from the meeting.

Road Report – Road Department Foreman, Tim Collins:

Collins came in to present the Commissioners with a quote and proposal for a tank to hold mag chloride. A new tank would cost \$8,302.00 and a used fracking tank would cost almost that much once the price of shipping is added in. Collins also updated the Commissioners that the location of Smith River Road makes it not feasible to apply mag chloride ourselves because the turnaround time would take too long.

The Commissioners asked if Collins knew how the cost broke down from the contractor in labor and material. Collins stated he did not have those figures. The Commissioners would like to know the break down to calculate the savings before approving the purchase of a tank and delivery of mag chloride.

The Commissioners and Collins discussed two road complaints. First was a complaint from Emil Nygard, who owns a cabin on the far north end of the county very near the Cascade county line. This is the second time Mr. Nygard has expressed feeling disappointed in the road condition. The second was from Kevin Flynn Regarding Hay Creek Road to Battle Creek Road. The consensus remains that both the roads in question are for seasonal use and not on the high priority list for new material in the near future. The constant issue for these remotely located roads in the lack of gravel nearby to put on the roads.

Minutes Approved:

ACTION #1:

Chair Townsend moved to approve the minutes as presented in draft form. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and approved.

Special Deputy County Attorney – Kent Sipe:

Attorney Sipe came in to present a new Resolution for the Commissioners to review and approve later in the meeting. The Commissioners stated that they were happy to have Sipe make his presentation now. Sipe continued stating that he is requesting the Commissioners pass a Resolution appointing Robert Spoja from Yellowstone County, as co-counsel for the case that is set for Jury Trial next week in Meagher County. Sipe stated that he has just been appointed as County Attorney for Fergus County and is a little busy with all of the transitions and case load going on right now.

Commissioner Brewer asked if Sipe feels Spoja will do a good job representing the county on this matter. Sipe expressed that he feels very confident that Spoja will do a very good job for Meagher County. Commissioner Brewer also asked if there would be any cost to the County for these services. Sipe updated that there is a small potential for some travel costs; however, that should be all.

The Commissioners both agreed to pass the resolution.

ACTION #2

RESOLUTION 2016 - #30

Chair Townsend moved to approve the Resolution appointing Kent Sipe and Robert Spoja both as Special Deputy Attorneys for Meagher County in cases that are a conflict of interest for Meagher County Attorney Deschene. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. It is therefore resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. 30

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING
SPECIAL DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY**

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance arising from cases that initiate from the employment, patronage, affiliation and/or connection to the Bar 47; and

WHEREAS, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a special deputy county attorney be appointed for further investigation and prosecution of the matters surrounding the aforementioned cases.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

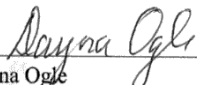
That Kent Sipe, of the Musselshell / Golden Valley County Attorney's Office, and Robert Spoja, Deputy Yellowstone County Attorney, are appointed as special deputy county attorney of Meagher County for the purpose of investigation and prosecution as deemed appropriate and necessary regarding the aforementioned cases.

This appointment shall remain in effect so long as the conflict is present for the Meagher County Attorney relationship with Bar 47.

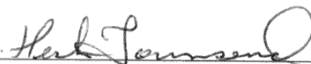
Further, Meagher County recognizes there may be costs associated with travel for the Special Deputy County Attorneys to represent them in these matters.

DATED this 31 day of May, 2016.

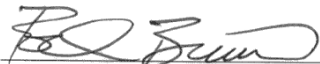
**BOARD OF MEAGHER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



Dayna Ogle
Meagher County Clerk and Recorder



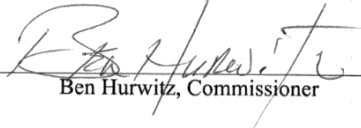
Herb Townsend, Commissioner Chair



Rod Brewer, Commission Vice Chair

FORM APPROVED:

Kimberly Deschene
Meagher County Attorney



Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner

Sheriff Jon Lopp – Opening Bids for 2010 Ford Explorer:

There were no bids received for the Sheriff Departments 2010 Ford Expedition.

The Commissioners and Lopp agreed to lower the minimum bid to \$7,500.00 and see if there are any bids at that price.

Jason Boggess – Department of Revenue:

Boggess came in today to introduce himself as the new Regional Manager for Meagher County. His office is out of Great Falls and he has taken over all of the counties that Rocky Harolson had. Harolson is retiring at the end of June. Boggess updated that he now has 17 counties that he oversees in Montana.

Boggess told the Commissioners that he would like to hear their feedback regarding how everything is going in Meagher County with connection to the Department of Revenue.

Commissioner Townsend asked Boggess if he could look into how the Irrigated / Tillable ground is taxed in Meagher County. Commissioner Townsend stated that to his knowledge, Meagher County's tillable ground is taxed the same as Broadwater County's. This seems questionable to Commissioner Townsend because Broadwater County has a longer growing season and generally have better yields on crops grown there. Townsend continued stating that he has been told that the tax for irrigated land is set at the Federal minimum for both counties. Boggess stated that there is a Federal minimum that they must follow; Boggess will check into the inquiry and follow up with the Commissioners.

Moving forward the office hours that were set for one day per week will stay the same, however they are considering adding in one field day for the Assessor to be here in Meagher County. Raymond Massey has been hired to fill the position for Meagher & Broadwater County. Previously it had been June Pack; she has moved to another position with DOR. Massey is from White Sulphur Springs.

Boggess updated the Commissioners that his goal is to send a team down to recanvas Meagher County entirely. Anything that has not been looked at in the recent past will be done. This is being done to ensure everyone is be fairly and equally taxed. Boggess stated that he will be back in roughly a month to update the Commissioners on the progress of the appraisal sweep.

Road Supervisor – Bruce Smith:

Discussed the topic of mag chloride for road stabilization on the high traffic roads in the county. There are still many details needed before a final decision can be reached. Bottom line is that it would not be feasible with the equipment the county currently has to apply the mag chloride to Smith River Road ourselves: however, it still could be a worthwhile option for the roads closer to town.

Discussed the road complaints from previously in the meeting again.

Auto Mark Public Test – Clerk & Recorder, Dayna Ogle:

The Commissioners, Clerk & Recorder Ogle & Administrative Assistant Kate Jones conducted a public test of Meagher County Election Office’s Auto Mark Voting Machine. Testing completed, no malfunctions identified.

Public Hearing – Health Insurance Update/Sick Leave Grants, Dayna Ogle:

Clerk & Recorder Ogle updated the Commissioners that she had been in correspondence with Pacific Source regarding a proposal to make some changes regarding the county employees that are eligible for Health Insurance coverage. Pacific Source notified Ogle that the changes were not possible at this time.

Ogle also presented a request allowing her to put notice out to all county employees for giving sick leave to an employee that may be running out of sick leave soon. The Commissioners all agreed that they are fine with that.

Public Comment:

No public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #51640 through Check #51706 totaling \$63,802.24. Additionally presented with Check #51707 totaling \$46,900.00. All checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

VICE CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

NOTE: Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant to Clerk & Recorder, Kate Jones
Distributed June 14, 2016 to Chairman Herb Townsend, Vice Chairman Rod Brewer, Commissioner Ben Hurwitz and Clerk & Recorder Dayna Ogle