

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

March 21st, 2023

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from March 14^h, 2023. Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved. Commissioner Galt abstained from voting.

FY 23.24 Health Insurance Renewal Rates – Julie Blockey:

Clerk & Recorder Liv West, Clerk of Court Candi Richardson, and Human Resource Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m. Treasurer Maura Kusek, Deputy Treasurer Shauna Porter, and Julie Blockey attended via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Blockey explained the proposed Fiscal Year 23.24 health insurance renewal rates. Meagher County is seeing between about a 1.5% increase in premium cost. Blockey explained the “Family Glitch” that became available as of January 2023. The “Family Glitch” refers to a 2013 interpretation of the ACA Marketplace. Previously, eligibility for a marketplace subsidy was based on whether there was affordable employer-sponsored insurance (based on employee only premium). The previous regulation did not extend to the dependent cost. The IRS has recently finalized a new regulation that replaces the previous IRS regulation that is called the “Family Glitch”. The new regulation fixes this issue, extending to the dependent premium to deem affordability. This in turn is allowing some dependents to become newly eligible for marketplace premium subsidies. Blockey and Ogle will reach out to employees to educate them on “Family Glitch”.

Search & Rescue Building Improvements – Jake Kusek & Dayna Ogle:

Fire Chief Jake Kusek, Search & Rescue Member Jay Kolbe, and Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Kusek and Kolbe presented the Commissioners with two (2) bids for removal and installation of a new door for the Search & Rescue building located near the Sheriff's Office. The current door was damaged a month ago when removing the UTV Trailer Unit from the garage. Kusek and Kolbe stated that widening the door would allow for more space between the trailer and building when moving the equipment. The following decision was made.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #92

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to accept the bid from Sorenson Construction for \$5,240.00 to remove the current door and replace with a twelve (12) foot by ten (10) foot door. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Monthly Treasurer Report – Burt Hurwitz:

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the February 2023 Cash Sheet. Kusek stated that the STIP interest rate is 4.387% and that the money invested earned about \$25,000 from the interest in February 2023.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom:

Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Wahlstrom updated the Commissioners that the Partner Book Sharing program has increased; the library is loaning about 250 books a week and receiving roughly the same. Also, that the library received six (6) desktop computers as a donation from Triangle Communications. The Library Board has applied for a Bair Grant in the amount of \$12,000 for the installation of a handicap access button to the front doors. Wahlstrom ended her update that the Library and the Stevenson Youth Center will be working together on programs for youth this summer.

Monthly Extension Report – Makayla Paul:

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Paul presented the Commissioners with her March 2023 report. Paul stated that MQS, Inc. is scheduled to deliver materials for the 4H Beef Barn for last week of March 2023. Construction of the building is scheduled for April 2023 but is weather dependent. Paul then stated that 4H Demonstration day is April 16th, 2023 at Stageline Pizza. Paul also stated that she will be continuing her Ag News and Brews programs on May 16th, 2023 and June 20th, 2023; topics to be determined. Paul and Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner scheduled a weed spraying drone demonstration for April 15th, 2023. Paul ended her update on the three (3) part Gardening Workshop Series that starts March 23rd, 2023 and goes through May 2023; anyone interested can contact the Extension Office for more information. Also, how she is partnering with the Meagher County Farm Bureau and Meagher County Cattlewomen on a Farm Fair for local elementary students to introduce them to agriculture. The Farm Fair will be held on May 17th, 2023 at the 4H Buildings.

Spay/Neuter Clinic Request – Marc Pryor:

Mayor Rick Nelson, Animal Control Officer Marc Pryor, and Assistant Clerk Heather Harrington entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Pryor and Mayor Nelson stated to the Commissioners that the City has scheduled a Spay/Neuter on Saturday June 17th, 2023 at the ambulance barn. Pryor stated that the clinic will cost \$2,350 for two spay/neuter teams for one day and that he has secured various donations to help in costs associated with the clinic. Mayor Nelson and Pryor explained the City will set the fee for a spay or neuter and any fees collected during the clinic will be placed towards the overall cost. Mayor Nelson and Pryor requested that the County pay for half of the total cost of the clinic. In

2021 Meagher County agreed to pay up to \$1,500 towards the clinic and actually was billed \$999.13. The following decision was made.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #93

Commissioner Galt moved to pay up to \$1,500 towards the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #60149 through Check #60184 totaling \$30,213.87. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 4th, 2023.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

SEAL



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand Distributed April 4th, 2023 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.