

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

April 11th, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 5:30 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 Galt moved to approve the Minutes from March 21st, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

ACTION #2

Chair Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from April 4th, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

3rd Quarter Budget Review – Dayna Ogle:

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 12:30 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the 3rd Quarter Budget Report. Ogle and the Commissioners discussed budgets 75% or spent at this time. Ogle and the Commissioners discussed unbudgeted revenue/expenses since the adoption of the FY 22.23 Budget.

Airport/USFS Land Use Agreement – Kurt Burns:

Cancelled until April 18th, 2023 meeting.

Monthly Cemetery Board Report:

Cemetery Board Member Kathy Palmer, Cemetery Board Member Rosie Spaulding, and Cemetery Sexton Mike Marion entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Spaulding updated the Commissioners that the Seasonal Cemetery Assistant job has been posted. All present then discussed the necessity of a new truck for the Cemetery Department. Spaulding and Marion stated they spoke with Road Supervisor/Fire Chief Jake Kusek on the possibility of transferring the current Fire Chief Truck to the Cemetery Department. The 1991 Chevy Pickup, currently owned by the department, will be placed out for competitive bids. The following took place.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #95

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to transfer the current Fire Chief truck from the Fire Department to the Cemetery Department. Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

ACTION #4

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #96

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to sell the 1991 Chevy Pickup with a minimum bid of \$500. Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Sealed bids will be opened on May 9th, 2023 at 1:45 p.m.

Discussion then turned to equipment purchases needed for the grounds keeping operations. Spaulding explained the Sexton Marion followed the phone solicitation policy for department purchases under \$8,000 for a zero-turn mower. Three vendors were contacted and the Ariens 52-inch deck zero-turn mower with attachments from Lowe's for \$4,971.89 would best suit the needs of the Mayn Cemetery. Spaulding also stated that the board will allow Marion to repair sprinkler heads as necessary during the irrigating season. The following took place.

ACTION #5

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #97

Chair Brewer moved to purchase the Ariens 52-inch deck zero-turn mower with attachments from Lowe's in the amount of \$4,971.89. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Discussion ended on how the Board has decided to change the winter burial fee dates to end on April 15th instead of April 1st for all future opening and closing costs. The board will communicate the changes to the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

Harmon Investment Update – Jason Jewett & Bill Northey:

US Bank Representatives Jason Jewett and Bill Northey entered the chambers at 1:45p.m. Rob Brandt entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Jewett presented the Commissioners with The Harmon Fund portfolio reports. Jewett and Northey explained the economy's impact on the portfolio since 2019 to February 2023. Currently the portfolio is 1.8 million and has projected earnings of \$39,717 for calendar year 2023. Then the portfolio's history was discussed. Northey stated that the Harmon Investment Portfolio has been handled by US Bank since 1991 and had an original investment of \$450,000. The portfolio's investment abilities were restricted by MCA Title 7 until 2014. In 2014, County Attorney Kimberly Deschene wrote an opinion about how the Harmon donation documents show that the donated funds met the requirement for the definition of public money and can be invested the under broader terms underneath the Meagher County Investment policy passed in 2014. Discussion also took place about the 0% interest rate policies that were in effect since 2008 and how record inflation is affecting investment markets. Commissioners asked about the liquidity of the investment portfolio. Northey stated that the portfolio is very liquid and could be transferred within one (1) to two (2) business days if necessary.

Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with the March 2023 Health Nurse Report. Kerr stated to the Commissioners that the Meagher County Health Department received the Public Health & Emergency Preparedness, Disease Intervention Specialist grant. Funding for this grant is through June 2027. Kerr then updated the Commissioners on Medicaid Renewals that will be affecting an estimated 34% of residents within Meagher County. Kerr is working with multiple parties to ensure assistance is available to residents going through this process. Kerr ended her update on the conferences that the Department Attended earlier in the month.

1st Quarter Board of Health:

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N., and Sanitarian Sean Hill entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m. Mayor Rick Nelson and Board member Sandy Harris were absent.

Kerr presented the 1st Quarter Board of Health Report for January 2023 to March 2023. Kerr stated that there was one (1) dog bite, twenty-three (23) cases of COVID, two (2) cases of Influenza A, four (4) cases of Influenza B. Also, two (2) child lead investigations. Kerr then stated the board needs to review the Pan Flu and the Communicable Disease Plans. Plans were reviewed and signed as presented.

Hill stated the Restaurant/Food Service/Hotel licenses in Meagher County have been reviewed. All present discussed Hill's plans to phase out of contract Sanitarian services with Meagher County within the next year. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that he is working with Kerr and Hill to create a scope of work to present to neighboring Sanitarians that are interested.

Butte Cares MT – Stephanie Michaelson:

Stephanie Michaelson, Justice of the Peace John Lesofski, County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, and Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Michaelson presented the Commissioners with information regarding alcohol prevention programs offered by Butte Cares MT. Michaelson went through the list of presented prevention programs and explained how she is implementing programs within Meagher County. During student teacher conferences Michaelson hosted the "Hidden in Plain Sight" demonstration with Deputy West. The demonstration shows parents how drugs and alcohol can be hidden in plain sight within a room, also different visual variations of drugs. Michaelson explained how she is working on training to become an instructor in the Juvenile Prime for Life program, which would allow her to administer the program within Meagher County as needed. Michaelson ended her presentation with a request that Meagher County designate \$5,000 of the Alcohol Tax Monies. Commissioners asked Justice of the Peace Lesofski on his opinion for the uses of the Alcohol Tax Monies. JP Lesofski stated that he would like to see the Alcohol Tax Monies be designated to programs that would directly benefit the residents of Meagher County. Commissioners thanked Michaelson for her presentation and will contact her when they decide on the Alcohol Tax Monies designation.

Monthly County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:

County Attorney Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with an April 2023 report. County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners on the South-Central Regional Dentation Board

and recommended that the Commission appoint Youth Court Probation Officer Andy Koval to be their representative. The following decision was made.

ACTION #6

Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23 - #98

Commissioner Galt moved to appoint Andy Koval to serve as Meagher County's representative on the South-Central Regional Dentation Board. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to second the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

County Attorney Hurwitz then updated the Commissioners on the civil and criminal cases of the County. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that there is no update on the Trout Unlimited v. DEQ case. County Attorney Hurwitz then requested to place the Grassy Mountain Fire District on the May 9th, 2023 agenda to revisit path. Commissioners agreed to place the Grassy Mountain Fire District on the May 9th, 2023 agenda.

County Attorney Hurwitz ended his update on the Meagher County Housing Board. At their March 29th, 2023 was focused on programs offered through NeighborWorks, Habitat-for-Humanity, Trust Montana, etc. Their third meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 27th, 2023, will be focused on infrastructure with Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs.

Mountainview Medical Center – Hospital Project Update – Rob Brandt:

Mountainview Medical Center CEO Rob Brandt, Hospital Board Member Shane Sereday, Mountainview Medical Center Executive Assistant Jennifer Stidham, Sheriff Jon Lopp, Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N., County Attorney Burt Hurwitz, Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle, City Council Member Patti Berg, City Council Member Rick Ellison, Planning Board Member Jess Secrest, Planning Board Member Dan Rooney, and Planning Board Member Terry Taylor entered the chambers at 4:30 p.m.

Brandt presented the Commissioners with photo renderings of the Hospital from Infusion Architects. Brandt explained that the facility will be 45,000 square feet and one level with multiple entrances. The new facility will have a larger physical therapy room, rooms available for out-patient treatments, house nursing homes patients, and the potential to expand services. Brandt explained the positioning of the facility and access points of the campus. Commissioners asked Brandt if Public Health would be able to be within the new hospital facility. Brandt stated that it was not cost effective for a non-revenue generating office to be located within the new facility. Public Health could possibly reside within the proposed auxiliary building that would sit adjacent to the hospital.

Brandt then explained that the Hospital Board has plans to build an auxiliary building named the Paul R. Hill Learning & Convention Center. Brandt explained that the building will have a meeting space with a capacity limit of 200-250 people and have an estimated four (4) rooms that would be utilized for community education needs. The building would be about 8,000 square feet and cost and estimate three (3) million to construct, architectural drawings are not available as they are still in the first steps of this project. Brandt asked the Commissioners if they would consider a donation some of the Harmon Trust monies towards the Paul R. Hill Learning & Convention Center. County Attorney Hurwitz asked if the Hospital Board would be responsible for the insurance, maintenance, and oversight of the facility. Brandt stated that the Paul R. Hill Learning & Convention Center would be the property and responsibility of the Mountainview Medical Center. Commissioners stated they would consider Brandt's request.

Public questions were asked regarding the annexation process of the hospital campus, if the property needed to go through subdivision review, and how the funding from USDA works during project construction. Brandt stated that if all goes correctly, construction is set to start in July of 2023 with a completion date of January 2025. Once construction begins all funds received will need to be spent in the two (2) year time frame. Minimal discussion took place on the future for the current building that sits on main street.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #60225 through Check #60241 totaling \$12,913.46. 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 18th, 2023.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Rebekah Luchterhand
Distributed April 18th, 2023 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.