

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday
April 16th, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 April 9th, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 12:20 p.m.

Wahlstrom informed the commissioners that she and co-director Shannon Washburn will be attending the 2024 Montana Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place from Wednesday 4/17 through Saturday 4/20 in Butte.

Wahlstrom has indicated that Story Time for the Season will conclude at the end of May, and the library will transition to its summer reading program.

Wahlstrom relayed to the commissioners, she is closely monitoring the legislature's progress on HB91, which pertains to state funding for libraries. This legislation is expected to enhance funding for various library services, including Hoopla Audio services, hotspots, and other essential programs. On the morning of April 17, 2024, Wahlstrom and Washburn will join other library directors from across the state in meeting with the State Library Commissioners. They have already submitted a letter outlining how this increased funding would impact the Meagher County City Library.

Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer Kusek presented the Commissioners with the new quarterly report from US Bank. Kusek also presented the Commissioners with the March Treasurer Cash sheet for signature.

Cemetery Report – Angie Evans & Kathy Palmer

Cemetery Board Member Kathy Palmer entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Palmer informed the Commissioners that the board has hired an interim Cemetery Sexton. Palmer gave the Commissioners a letter of interest from Tamra Bears for the Cemetery Board.

Document # 150546 Page: 1 of 4

Recorded at 4:45 PM on 5/7/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By_____

Palmer informed the Commissioners the board has received three proposals for removing the dead trees in the cemetery.

Resolution FY23.24 #85

Commissioner Galt moved to appoint Tamra Bears to the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Grassy Mountain ROA Taxes – Anthony Perrone

Anthony Perrone and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chamber at 1:50 p.m.

Perrone informed the Commissioners about the increase of property taxes on the residents of Grassy Mountain in the last couple of years. Perrone appealed to the Commissioner on behalf of the Grassy Mountain Residents, requesting that the County maintain all roads in the Grassy Mountain Subdivision. However, the Commissioners unanimously declined the request, emphasizing that when the subdivision was established, it was explicitly communicated that Meagher County would not be able to provide substantial services in such a remote location. Perrone stated there is 2.3 acres owned by the Grassy Mountain Ranch Owners Association (GMRA) that he is proposing be donated to the County for the purpose of constructing a Fire Building. Attorney Hurwitz stated he is working with the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Although a board exists, they have yet to hold a meeting. Furthermore, the funds in the Grassy Mountain Fire Fund cannot be accessed until the Fire District convenes and determines how to allocate the money.

Area IV Agency on Aging – Gordon Doig

Gordon Doig and Beth Hunt entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Doig informed the Commissioners that he has stepped down from his position at the Area IV Agency on Aging. However, he will continue to volunteer as a driver. Hunt highlighted the numerous programs funded by the Area IV Agency on Aging. Representatives from Manhattan and Livingston are scheduled to visit at the end of the month to assess the operations of the Senior Center. The White Sulphur Springs Senior Center stands out as an exception. It Operates as a nonprofit, privately run facility. Hunt acknowledged that financial resources are stretched thin. She emphasized the need to prioritize services for the aging population in Meagher County. There is growing apprehension among seniors about driving out of town for groceries and appointments, it is crucial to address their needs. Notably, within the town itself, 21% of the population is aged 65 and over.

2nd Public Hearing Subdivision Regulations

No Public Comment

Resolution FY23.24 #86

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Subdivision Regulations. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Southwestern Montana Insurance Center – Julie Blockey

Julie Blockey attended via Zoom

Blockey presented the Commissioners with a proposal from United Health Care. The United Health Care proposal has similar plans to what our current provider offers with lower premiums and deductibles. United Health Care also has a Good Health Incentive Program, that will reward employees for engaging in health activities.

Election Camera Discussion – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 3:25 p.m.

Commissioners inquired whether the Cameras were on at all times. West clarified that the cameras record only when there is movement. West's concern with turning off the cameras is if an incident occurs and the cameras are off, questions will arise about why they were not in use.

Clerk of District Court, Candi Richardson informed the Commissioners that the Department of Justice will be assessing statewide courthouse security. Justice of the Peace, John Lesofski highlighted several instances where the cameras were beneficial.

Commissioner Galt believes the head of each office should decide when the cameras are active in their room, except during elections. Both Commissioner Galt and Commissioner Brewer agree that a comprehensive camera policy for the building is necessary. West stated she will work on a policy.

Tintina – Joe Candrian

Candrian Engineering, Joe Candrian and VP of Communications, Nancy Schlepp entered the chambers at 3:55 p.m.

Joe Candrian, Engineering Technologist with Black Butte Copper, presented the Commissioners with the fourth annual Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan Monitoring Report. This report aims to ensure that the impact on local government remains minimal. The operating permit for the Black Butte Copper Mine was initially received in 2020, but it faced delays until the Supreme Court recently reinstated it. The estimated construction timeline for the mine is late 2025, although it may be slightly delayed. Nancy Schlepp, Vice President of Communications and Government Relations, mentioned that Tintina (whose parent company is Sandfire Resources America Inc.) still has several studies to conduct. Schlepp inquired whether Meagher County requires anything from Tintina and whether the mine is affecting the county in any way. Commissioner Galt indicated that the Commissioners would appreciate advanced notice when Tintina begins mine construction. Schlepp shared that the Board Chairman for Sandfire America will visit in May, providing more insight into the fiscal year plan for 2025. Sandfire is planning a construction camp during the construction phase, although the specifics are not yet clear. Temporary housing options are being explored, and Tintina is actively seeking quotes from construction companies. This allows Tintina time to address long-term housing needs.

MACo Health Care Trust – Pam Walling

Pam Walling entered the chambers at 4:25 p.m.

Pam Walling from the MACo Healthcare Trust presented the Commissioners with MACo HCT rates. Walling stated this year the Health Care Trust rates are about 12% over what Meagher County's current rates are, this is the most significant rate increase in 14-15 years. Walling agreed that switching to MACo HCT is not in the best interest for the County and thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #61340 through Check #61364 totaling \$30,399.83 and electronic Checks #-99944 through #-99942 totaling \$858.16. All checks were signed as presented.

Document # 150546 Page: 3 of 4

Recorded at 4:45 PM on 5/7/2024 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By_____

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 7th, 2024.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed May 7th, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West

