

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

April 9th, 2024

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 Galt moved to approve the minutes from April 2nd, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Law Enforcement Agreement Discussion

Sheriff Jon Lopp, Mayor Rick Nelson, HR Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:10 p.m.

Ogle provided a copy of the current Law Enforcement Agreement, a breakdown of the FY 23.24 cost of the Special Police Fund with projections for FY 24.25. Ogle also presented a spreadsheet with an overview of the taxable values, mills generated by the district, tax revenue generated and the additional financial contribution from the City of White Sulphur Springs. Mayor Nelson and the Commissioners agreed the current agreement does not meet the financial needs of the Special Police District. Nelson suggested increasing the City's contribution to \$100,000, and the possibility of purchasing a deputy vehicle every 4 years. Commissioner Galt suggested implementing an inflation factor or a cost-of-living adjustment into the agreement. Nelson will present the proposal to the City Council at their next regular meeting. Ogle will draft an amendment to the current Law Enforcement agreement for both parties to review at their first meetings in May.

Public Hearing Subdivision Regulations

Planning Board Chairman Jess Secrest and Planning Board Member Terry Taylor entered the chambers at 1:15 p.m.


Secrest and Taylor discussed the Legislative changes made to the Subdivision regulations and were in agreement with the Commissioners approving the corrected Subdivision regulations. Commissioners will hold the second public hearing on April 16th, 2024. at 3:00 p.m.

Non-agenda item – Terry Taylor

HRDC Terry Taylor entered the chambers at 1:15 p.m.

Taylor informed the Commissioners that during the State of Montana's Medicaid review process over 100,00 Montanan's lost their Medicaid and Food Assistance. Approximately 48% of Montanan's were not renewed, many of these were due to bureaucratic issues and applicants not

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Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By 

returning the 19-page application on time. This has negatively affected the elderly and low-income families in Meagher County.

Earmarked Alcohol Tax Discussion

Mayor Rick Nelson, Justice of Peace Judge Jon Lesofski, City Judge Lori Sorenson

Commissioners asked for input on the Earmarked Alcohol Tax designation. Judge Sorenson stated of the 7 defendants that went to Starr Counseling and Addiction Services one defendant transferred to Southwest Chemical Dependency. Judge Lesofski stated he had 6 defendants that all went to Starr. Overall Sorenson and Lesofski preferred the services Starr Counseling provided and recommend Earmarked Alcohol Tax be distributed to Starr Counseling and Addiction Services for FY 24.25.

Resolution FY 23.24 # 83

Commissioner Brewer moved to designate FY 24.25 Earmarked Alcohol Tax to Starr Counseling and Addiction Services. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

P.E.R.S. Retirement Contribution Discussion

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the Chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hurwitz stated the employees who did not have retirement contributions withheld from their paycheck were not shorted any money and therefore it is not the responsibility of the county to pay the employee portion of the owed back contributions. The county will pay the entire amount owed, employee and employer contributions along with any interest owed and the employees can repay the county over time. Ogle stated the back-contribution repayment deduction is setup as a pretax deduction so the employee will receive the benefit of the pre-tax deduction. Ogle had previously made separate agreements for a repayment that was accepted by both employees. Hurwitz wanted to continue with those agreements.

Resolution FY23.24 #84

Commissioner Galt moved to continue with the PERS back contribution repayment agreements. Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Board of Health – Eva Kerr

Mayor Rick Nelson entered the chambers at 2:55 p.m., County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Kerr informed the Commissioners that from January to March Meagher County had 17 Cases of Covid-19, 21 cases of Influenza with 2 hospitalizations. 1 metal exposure (Arsenic). Kerr stated that RSV in young children and older adults this year has increased as well. Kerr informed the Commissioners there have been 7 outbreaks of Measles reported in 18 states across the country for a total of 113 cases. There have not been any in Montana however, she is pushing for children to get vaccinations. Kerr stated she will be going to Martinsdale Colony later in April to update vaccinations.

Kerr stated that Sanitarian Sean Hill is still expressing interest in finishing up as Meagher County's Sanitarian. Kerr stated she has contacted County Attorney Burt Hurwitz regarding where the County is at in the search for a new Sanitarian.

Quarterly Budget Report – Dayna Ogle

Finance officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 2:40 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with 3rd quarter budget expenditure for review.