

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA**

Friday, August 7, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana met in regular session on Friday, August 7, 2020. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill.

Commissioner Roman Zylawy called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM

Camels Hump Road Discussion

Present: Jason McLees- Road Department Foreman, Glenn Koepke- citizen, George Bailey- citizen, and Carol Yong- citizen

Commissioner Simons:

- discusses the need for repairs on portions of Camels Hump Road

Jason-

- suggests hiring a right of way specialist to research the right of way
- will put patches on the really bad area

TV District

Present: Gordon Hendrick, TV District Board, Tim Read- TV District Board

Tim-

- reports the TV District needs to Borrow \$14,800 for to update the TV tower
- suggests borrowing from the county fund and have the accountant provide an amortization schedule for the loan at 3% interest for three years

The loan will be an action item on August 14, 2020 with the amortization schedule and a contract drawn up by the County Attorney

Public Comment

No public comment was received

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims paid on August 7, 2020, for the amount of \$63,098.15 with claim numbers 37099 through 37140 and warrant numbers 12596 through 12637. Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 14, 2020, in the Commissioners Meeting Room

**Minutes were taken by
Dawn Terrill
Mineral County Commissioners' Assistant**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA**

Friday, August 14, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana met in regular session on Friday, August 14, 2020. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill.

Commissioner Roman Zylawy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Sheriff Toth- jail, patrol cars, and wages- possible action item:

Present: Glenn Koepke- citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, (arriving at 9:30 AM) , via videoconferencing were Kathleen Brown- District Court, Diane Magone- citizen, Ellen Donohue- County Attorney, Melanie Batt- County Attorney Administrative Assistant, Alisha Boyce- citizen, M.E- citizen

Sheriff Toth-

- states six detention officers will be needed
- emphasizes that the jail must be opened
- requests being able to order the patrol car that has money earmarked now as it takes a while to get them after placing the order
- inquires about equitable sharing money
- is looking for money to buy bodycams and tasers- eight new cams will be \$14,000 and cost \$5700.00 each year; the bodycams will load directly into the cloud, saving time and the possibility of deletion; tells that bodycams will be required on during all conversations with citizens
- the county attorney will check on existing fund money she may have for a contribution and money from the drug fund could be used as well
- discusses the Cares Act money and needing the help of the Clerk and Recorder's office to provide numbers
- reports that Stonegarden grant will provide two new patrol cars fully equipped, with all necessary items, that can be used ONLY on the interstate for the first three years, then becoming the property of the sheriff's department

The Sheriff is actively looking for ways to fund the needs of his department and will return after the final budget meeting

Board of Health

See Commissioners' Assistant for minutes

TV District Resolution- Action Item

Present: Tim Read- TV Board, Gordon Hendrick- TV Board

The TV District signed off on the Loan Summary and Payment Schedule and will sign the loan agreement once the County Attorney has it drawn up

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve a loan to the Superior TV District for \$14,800 with 3% interest rate three years with a total payment of \$15,246.71. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No comment was received

Request to conduct the November General Election Held on November 3, 2020, as a Mail Ballot Election per Governor Bullock's directive dated August 6, 2020- ACTION ITEM

Present:

Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator, Denley Loge- House Representative, Glenn Koepke- citizen, Jess Schaak- CVA, Peggy Stevens-citizen, Minty Ruthford- citizen, and Dale Magone- Justice of the Peace. Present via videoconferencing was Sharon Patterson- citizen, Jaime Talbot- District Court Clerk, Linda Ankerman Forest, Kathleen Brown- District Court, Alisha Boyce- citizen, Diane Magone- citizen, Cathy Reich- citizen, Brandy Taylor – citizen

Kelann-

- the directive from the governor allows each county to decide to hold a mail ballot election or a polling place election
- here to gain approval and present a resolution to hold a mail ballot election
- explains mail ballot:
 - every provisional and registered voter gets a ballot sent to them- they can vote at home, mail it to the voter registration office, drop it off in the office or even vote it in the office
 - is hoping to have a polling place open for mail in ballot drop off in West End, St Regis, and Alberton from 7:00 AM to 8 PM. The courthouse in Superior will also be a drop - off point
- has a concern regarding the age of the judges and the sanitizing factor if not a mail ballot election
- trying to minimize direct contact
- the multi-purpose room is not available as a polling place for this election
- explains how signatures are verified and that all signatures are verified
- 48% of Mineral County is absentee voting

Questions asked and comments received from citizens:

What is the point of mail in ballot election?

Social Distancing is done by virtue of the voting booth

It's too chaotic to suddenly implement a mail in election

The Primary Election ran smoothly with no glitches

suggests holding off deciding so soon

If schools, bars, and restaurants can figure out the social distancing and sanitizing, certainly this event can as well

Mail in ballot is a fair process

The local post office is confident that it can get the mail ballots in and out in time

Many in the community want to exercise their right to vote in person at a polling place

Support for and against the main vote was voiced throughout the meeting. Community members in support of polling place sites will canvass the community for people interested in training to become an election judge to be on stand by and used as needed.

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to revisit this issue on August 21.

Health Department New Hire Request - Action Item

Present: Jenn Donovan- Mineral County Health Department Director

Jenn-

- requests permission to hire a full-time school nurse, with full benefits, and another nurse for COVID related action for this fiscal year
- will contact Jessica to explain the needs of the Health Department
- requests permission to re-advertise for the COVID position as is/Response-- yes
- advertise 20 hours for school nurse

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll paid on August 14, 2020, for the amount of \$ 122,325.14 with check numbers 17928 through 17944 and electronic check numbers 69574 through 69628. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve minutes of July 28th and 31st, 2020, with said changes. Motion carried unanimously

July 24th and August 7th minutes are not available at this time; the Commissioners' Assistant continues working to complete the minutes from those dates.

Documents signed:

There were no documents signed

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 21, 2020, in the Commissioners Meeting Room

**Minutes were taken by
Dawn Terrill
Mineral County Commissioners' Assistant**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA**

Friday, August 21, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana met in regular session on Friday, August 21, 2020. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill.

Commissioner Roman Zylawy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Request to conduct the November General Election held on November 3rd, 2020 as a mail ballot election per Governor Bullocks directive dated August 6th, 2020-Resolution-Action Item

Present:

Brandon Holloran, citizen, Denley Loge- State Representative, Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator, Scott VanTasel- business owner, Carol Young- citizen, and Patti Curtin-CVA. Via videoconferencing were MC, AB, D, LF, JT, TK, A, JS and C. Due to technical difficulties, video conferencing was not available until 9:15 AM

Kelann-

- eight volunteers have reached out for helping with the election
- extras are needed for sanitizing and social distancing will still need to be maintained
- in an emergency situation, you do not have to live in the district to help
- continues to support mail-in ballot election; feels it is the safest

Carol-

- voices her desire to keep polling places open
- states concern about working around the right to vote at polling placed

Representative Loge-

- tells he has received as many in favor of polls as in favor of mail -in ballots

Commissioner Johnston-

- states most of the calls she receives have been in support of voting at the polls

Brandon-

- brings forth a quote from Thomas Jefferson to make his point that the majority will suffer because a few are in fear (of the COVID 19 Virus); supports the right to vote at the polls
- let the people choose

Diane-

- voices discomfort with poll workers (possibly) not wearing a mask

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to stick with in person voting at the polls. Motion carried unanimously

BARSAA Resolution BARSAA Resolution: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM FUNDS-Action Item- Road Department

Present: Kasey Feasel-Road Foreman Administrative Assistant

Commissioner Zylawy moved and Commissioners Simons seconded: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM FUNDS Motion carried unanimously

Forest Service Update

Present: Eric Tomasik, Ninemile District Ranger, Carole Johnson, Superior District Ranger

Eric-

- 14 fires started this year- all have been contained
- Crew of five- Bear Creek Fire
- Crew of two-Seeley
- Sawmill Petty-EA out in week to ten days
- Sawmill prescriptions on track
- Soldier Butler-working with FWP on grizzly issues
- West Fork Fish Creek swinging bridge set to start in 2021
- Crews working on state line trails
- Discusses an article published in the Missoulian that had misinformation

Carole-

- five fire starts as of yesterday
- reports on the quick response on Boyd Mtn fire
- spotter plane saw smoke in 7 mile- people burning debris
- old burn pile from this spring started back up in the Haugan/DeBorgia area

- Quartz Campground -Peninsula campground full-Diamond Lake and Heart Lake - extremely busy
- Great American Outdoors Act-had to provide a list of projects-under \$250,000 and greater than \$250,000-need to be NEPA ready - benefit to the community
- Projects for Superior-new concrete toilets

Planning-

- do fields review of Redd Bull-public comment ends this month
- discussion out on CruzAnne next week
- Superior North is next project-will try and have field trip in September
- Cruzanne Timber sale hopes to have it sold in 2021
- 12 active sales
- New bridge on South Fork of Little Joe

The next Forest Service update will be September 25, 2020, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Abandoned Car Discussion

Present: Sheriff Mike Toth, Claudia Boyer-Treasurer's Deputy, Ken Verley- citizen, Kathy Verley-citizen and via teleconferencing was Deb Jackson, Deputy County Attorney

Deb Jackson-

- reports the status of the work being done to bring the abandoned cars to auction
- tells the process of getting the vehicles ready
 - finding the last known owner of the vehicle
 - finding addresses for the last known owners
 - notices delivered have a 30-day response time
 - responses can be either for a court hearing, destruction or disposal by the county

The auction, date, time and location will be publicly announced once it has been decided

Public Comment

Present: Ken Verley- citizen, Kathy Verley- citizen, Denley Loge- State Representative, and Glenn Koepke-citizen

Denley-

- tells of a visit to IFG by Senator Daines

Ken-

- suggests we support the sheriff's department and find funding to get the jail running
- forest service coalition might be able to help; will bring it up

This is budget day, so the monies will be discussed with the accountant

Glenn-

- interstate patrol and funding

Kathy-

- upticks in revenue from appraisals
- suggests a Public Safety Levy

Discussion ensues about a safety levy

Sheriff's Department - final budget meeting

Budget adjustments were made to better meet the needs of the department

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve claims paid on August 21, 2020, for the amount of \$99,926.46 with claim numbers 37141 through 37205 and warrant numbers 12638 through 12702. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve minutes of July 24th, August 7, and August 14, 2020 with said changes. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Duane Simons excused himself from the meeting at @ 2:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 28, 2020, in the Commissioners Meeting Room

**Minutes were taken by
Dawn Terrill
Mineral County Commissioners' Assistant**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA**

Friday, August 28, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana met in regular session on Friday, August 28, 2020. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill.

Commissioner Roman Zylawy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Approving and Adopting the Budget and Salary Schedule

Present: Jessica Connolly- CPA

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to adopt the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget for Mineral County Resolution 8-28-2020 A Resolution Adopting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and Mill Levy Requirements for Mineral County. Motion carried unanimously

Adopt Salary Resolution 8-28-2020 B

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Mineral County Salary Resolution 8-28-2020 B. Motion carried unanimously

Salary Schedule A can be viewed in the Clerk and Recorder's Office or with the Commissioners' Assistant

Final Budget Approval for District Schools Action Item

Present- Mary Yarnall- Superintendent of Schools

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to adopt the 2020-2021 School Budgets for Superior, Alberton, and St Regis. Motion carried unanimously

Wage Discussion Action Item

Present: via teleconferencing was Ellen Donohue-County Attorney; in attendance was Mary Yarnall Treasurer

Mary:

- requests new full-time employee, also a returning employee, have a wage higher than when she left her position in the treasurer's office
- reasons that the employee now has experience and should receive a higher wage

Discussion from the County Attorney and Commissioner Johnston disputed a higher wage, citing many reasons why this position should remain at \$11.00 per hour; many employees have worked long and

hard hours and have not received a large financial compensation such as the one the treasurer is requesting. Both voice concern at the drop in morale should a former employee return to employment with an increase in wage.

Commissioner Zylawy asks about the employee's experience and the hourly wage

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to allow Mary Yarnall, Treasurer, to hire Jill Betts back at \$11.00/per hour, the wage at which she left. Motion carries unanimously.

Touching base with Mineral County-Senator Tester's Regional Director-Deb Frandsen

Present: Deb Frandsen Regional Director for John Tester, Denley Loge- House Representative

Deb has scheduled this time to check in with the commissioners on behalf of senator John Tester; discussion of the effects of coronavirus in the state

Discuss entering into a contract for an MHP for Involuntary Commitments

Present: Ellen Donohue- County Attorney, Kiki Radamacher- LCSW, Certified Mental Health Worker, Charlee Thompson- Choices for Change Counseling

Ellen –

- updates the county regarding the need for a list of several mental health professionals that we could contract for services performed when re-evaluations are needed
- reviews the present program and the requirement for reevaluation after a restrictive stay at a mental health center
- sometimes, not often, the clerk of court is scrambling to find a counselor, thus this conversation to have have a list of mental health providers on hand

Roman

- clarifies his understanding: Ellen is sharing a plan for a mental health contract with one or more mental health professionals for services provided when needed
- asks if they are to decide if we want to do this, then look at the particulars of a contract Response- yes, but we're just discussing it now, we're not quite ready for contracts

Public Comment

No public comment was received

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve payroll paid on August 28, 2020, for the amount of \$ 93,560.36 with check numbers 17945 through 17955 and electronic check numbers 69514 through 6969572. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve minutes of August 21, 2020, with said changes. Motion carried unanimously

Documents signed:

JV Report for July FY 2020-2021, signed by Commissioner Zylawy

The Commissioners hired Norman Naef as the new Maintenance Director. Commissioners Johnston, Simons and Zylawy agreed on Re -Organization for the department, making the position return to 40 hours per week (presently 32 hours per week), and the part-time position returning to 20 hours per week (presently 30 hours per week). The Commissioners have decided to continue paying health insurance for the part -time position/employee until it is vacated.

Documents signed:

JV Report for July FY 2020-2021, signed by Commissioner Zylawy

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM

Commissioner Simons excused himself from the meeting at 2:05 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, Septmber4, 2020, in the Commissioners Meeting Room

**Minutes were taken by
Dawn Terrill
Mineral County Commissioners' Assistant**

