

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

Friday, December 18, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in regular session on Friday, December 18, 2020. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill.

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

Sheriff Toth and Lance Jasper- Jail Update

Present: via teleconference were Lance Jasper- citizen and Ellen Donohue- County Attorney

Lance

- informs that he knows the Missoula Sheriff well; in conversation with the sheriff of Missoula County he learns that they are sitting on about 8 or 9 million dollars in Cares Act money and they would be interested in renting the entire jail and operate it for at least one year, likely two.
 - the jail would be operated and manned by Missoula and Mineral County Detention Officers, all expenses paid by Missoula County (including payment for leasing the jail)
 - the result would be that when the lease is over, the detention officers will have been trained and all equipment will have been upgraded at no cost to Mineral County
 - after the lease with Missoula County, the jail manager would have the experience to run it
 - medical issues/costs would be covered by Missoula County

Commissioner Zylawy asks if Lance, as a lawyer, if there are any gotchas in the plan or if it's all good
Response:

- the good thing is that it's Missoula County that will shoulder the liability; they're MACo as well, though it doesn't mean Mineral County wouldn't be named in a lawsuit
- ultimately, the indemnity comes back to the contract agreement

- the benefit to our county is the “derivative value is what I see as so important here”; Mineral County could now get Federal prisoners again, and could also get Missoula’s overflow once Missoula leaves the jail

Mike-

- informs that he had a security company come in and give prices on replacing all cameras in the building and changing to pass through locks to replace key locks and it’s not affordable, but, if Missoula County is willing to pay for the upgrade it’d be a great help

Lance-

- informs Mike that not long ago he had Missoula come through the detention facility and they were impressed
- you get a contract to feed the prisoners and that may save one of the Mineral County businesses
- Mineral County detention employees will get a higher wage because they will be Missoula employees while under the leasing contract
- the hospital will have more business and will be paid by Missoula; they will need to hire more employees; Darlow’s will see more business as will S&S
- states he is more than willing to facilitate the agreement and Rick from his office is the guru when it comes to contracts and then the county attorney can approve it
- states that having an open jail could be something big

Commissioner Simons states that the plan Lance is bringing forward all sounds wonderful except for the part of taking COVID prisoners. Commissioner Simons expresses that a COVID only jail could be a big issue medically and convincing the public that taking on COVID prisoners is a good thing is going to be very tough/ Response- maybe and maybe not; it doesn’t matter where you stand politically Mineral County is poor and ultimately it is the three commissioners that decide. COVID is here and the jail is isolated.

Discussion ensues with Commissioner Simons pointing out that isolated jails are having massive COVID outbreaks; Lance states that if you have a jail you’re going to have COVID. Inmates are on the list after those first in line for the vaccine.

Lance states agreement COVID is an issue to be discussed with the community, but the money is available to Missoula and must be spent before it is lost, and doesn’t believe the Mineral County jail would end up being a COVID center.

Mike reminds everyone that with staffing out of Missoula there is no place for them to live in Mineral County and they would need to commute

Mike and Lance have decided to talk in the evening

A framework will be worked up to present later on another week

Mike-

- updates on events with the door
 - the door guys came and greased the doors; the locks were faulty
 - a new lock was ordered for the holding cell door and the maintenance director was shown how installation procedures
 - jail doors should all be fine now
 - detention guys are all getting trained on fingerprinting and book and release, conceal carry weapon
 - Dispatch Supervisor position has been offered to and accepted by Brandon Church; Brandon will start January 4, 2021; Commissioner Johnston asks if he will be reviewing time cards
 - states his opinion that the union is coming back to Mineral County
 - new dispatcher Breann is doing very well
 - Desert Snow training is coming up and would like to send four deputies- will need Ellen's signature to use drug forfeiture money to pay for the training; Ellen states she has attended the training and it's great
 - states he told the deputies he might be able to get them a little more as sergeant if someone would put in for it
 - informs his office will be getting a seven thousand dollar check as payback from the city for one of the patrol cars
 - two cars are down and at the shop on Diamond; wants an estimate before fixing, maybe they won't fix them- depends on the cost

Commissioner Zylawy explains the pay for deputies and the extra dollars given to them (clothing allowance, cert pay, etc.)

Board of Health

See Commissioners' Assistant for minutes

Appoint Weed Board Trustee

postponed

MACo Town Hall Meeting

Present: Denley Loge (R) - HD14- and Mike Curtin- citizen

Public Comment

Denley Loge (R) - HD14- and Mike Curtin- citizen

Denley

- Inquires about the passenger trains- 13 billion dollars to upgrade the tracks

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve payroll paid on December 18, 2020, for the amount of \$ 96,108.39 with check numbers 18060 through 18073 and electronic check numbers 69020 through 69082. Check number 18062 void for the wrong amount. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Zylawy moved and Commissioner Johnston seconded to approve minutes of December 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously

The Commissioners have been made aware and acknowledge that due to the pandemic the Treasurer's Office has been temporarily closed with business being routed to the Clerk and Recorder's Office. The Clerk and Recorder's Office will take property taxes, date stamp them, and receipt all payments. Signs have been posted on the Treasurer's Office door and all entrances giving instructions for tax payments and giving the phone number of the Treasurer in case of urgent business.

Documents signed:

Final Report Certificate of Compliance between Mineral County and DNRC-CARDD- Grant Agreement # RITP-20-0167 signed by Commissioner Zylawy

Letter of Support for forest policy reform to Senators Daines and Feingold, signed by Commissioner Zylawy and signature stamped for Commissioners Johnston and Simons

**Commissioner Simons excused himself from the meeting at 12:05 PM
The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM**

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 24, 2020, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room

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