

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

**Friday, May 21, 2021**

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, May 21, 2021. 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.

**Forest Service Update**

**Present:** Carole Johnson- Superior District Ranger, Tammy Fletcher- Ninemile District Ranger

Carole updates on the happenings in  
Recreation and Trails:

- campgrounds will be open for Memorial Day weekend
- Quartz Flat campground will be challenging with the rest area construction
- national trail Day is June 5 and the new trail, Murphy Creek will host a trail dedication and celebration to Roger Hearst at 10:00 AM
- more garbage than usual-appliances, furniture, abandoned vehicles, etc., on forest service ground

Timber:

- shows active hauling on a map
- marking crews still marking Cruz Anne
- working on accessible blowdown

Silviculture

- it's very dry; many seedlings could be lost
- active Doug Fir beetles

Planning

- Redd Bull- resolution meeting is completed
- commercial harvest in the Marble Point Inventory Roadless area

Fire

- pretty much finished the burning
- three people on the HELA National Forest in New Mexico- returning today
- working on fire preparedness
- no burn permits after June 1

Engineering

- blading and brushing contracts
- the regional engineer went to Big Jam looking at built roads- commented on a job well done

Lands

- silver exploration project approved through Fish and Wildlife consultation
- five requests for road access into isolated parcels, four were approved by Fish and Wildlife
- conveyance of Quartz Guard Station- an update will be Tuesday

Tammy –

- filling in for Erik Tomasik

#### Recreation

- Iowa State University will develop interpretive signs for the Clearwater Crossing
- West Fork Stock Bridge at Clearwater Crossing is scheduled to be installed this summer
- RTP grant funded the MCC crew
- Ninemile received a trails challenge funding the two trails contracts- North Fork Fish Creek and West Fork Fish Creek Trails
- Mountain Man Rendezvous is coming Memorial Weekend

#### Roads and Engineering

- Great American Outdoors Act: Fish Creek Road resurfacing going as far as they can with the funding they have

#### Timber

- Saw Mill Petty objection period completed
  - Working on a few SawMill sales-
    - Southgarden marking going on now
    - SawMill- strike team is marking now; a little bit of trouble getting access
    - PepperCorral for Fiscal Year 2022

#### Fuels and Fire

- as soon as the Jam Cracker sale goes through they can burn that area
- the Burdette area should be ready for burning next spring

The next scheduled update is Friday, June 25, 2021, at 9:00 AM

### **Wage Discussion- Environmental Health and Planning**

**Present: Andy Short-** Environmental Health and Planning Director

Andy-

- reviews his budget aloud and explains his needs for the full- time position being advertised
- discusses options for employment his department
- states some ideas for an hourly wage

Discussion ensues, ending with the idea that it's best to continue running the ad with Depending on Experience and deciding on the wage after learning the qualifications of applicants

## **Replacing (not renovating) the parking lots Discussion**

**Present:** Norm Naef- Maintenance Director/Safety Committee, Jason McLees- Road Department Foreman

Norm-

- tells the state of the present parking lots and the need to do an actual replacement
  - there have many patch jobs and the lots have dangerously uneven surfaces
  - expresses that the back lot is the most needed, though both will need to be replaced
  - tells about the Safety Committee working with insurance, State Fund, on analyzing losses and the parking lot is the county's greatest liability
  - informs that most reports are in seasons other than winter, though winter reports do occur

Jason-

- gives a \$119,00 estimate to replace both parking lot
- states a willingness to contribute to the cost, but opposes using his budget to finance the entire project

Further discussion and Action to follow at a later time

## **MACo HD (High Deductible)- HSA (Health Savings Account)**

**Present:** via teleconference were Pam Walling- MACo and Joanne Romasko- MACo Health Care Trust Administrator, Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder

Pam-

- explains the difference between the county contribution and the High Deductible plan is not mandated to go into the HSA, but typically that is an incentive
- asks if the intention is to put the difference into an HSA and if so, Kelann will choose a vendor to manage the accounts; paperwork is handled by the vendor
- the insured can be responsible for the (minimal) monthly fee charged by the vendor
- interest can be earned on the account- it just depends on the vendor and the interest they pay
- recommends picking a vendor who watches closely enough that abuses for the money don't occur, but it is an individual's responsibility

Joanne-

- at age 65 the money in the HSA belongs to the person holding the account to be spent as they choose

Kelann-

- verifies that the county does not have to offer the HSA- the employee could be responsible for getting their own account

Employees Changes to the HD can be made before June 15, 2021.

Kelann will research vendors and this will be a discussion/action item at another time

### **Public Comment**

There were no comments taken

### **Administrative Business**

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve payroll paid on May 21, 2021, for the amount of \$97,565.99 with check numbers 18252 through 18267 and electronic check numbers 68289-68354. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the claim for Superior Meats out of the Revolving Loan Fund paid on May 21, 2021, for the amount of \$50,000.00 with claim number 38432 and warrant number 13876. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve minutes of May 14, 2021, with said change. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Documents signed:**

Letter to Steven Kimbell of DNRC requesting the use of grant monies for equipment used for Mineral County Resource Coalition and refreshments for the grand opening of the Murphy Creek Trail, signed by Commissioner Johnston.

Commissioner Simons excused himself from the meeting at 2:45 PM

### **Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM**

**The next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 27, 2021, in the Commissioners Meeting Room.**

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