

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

Friday, September 3, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, September 3, 2021. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill. Videotaping the meeting was Mary Furlong.

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

Sheriff Toth:

Present: Mike Toth- Sheriff, Mile Raether- citizen

Mike-

discuss lead dispatch wage –

- an error was made on the Salary Schedule for Tifani Amberson; Tifani should be receiving a \$1.65 raise as agreed on during the July 16, 2021 meeting
- Commissioner Zylawy read and relied on the minutes from July 16, 2021, to verify and grant this increase.

Commissioner Zylawy stated a new job description for the two dispatchers splitting the supervisory duties (thus the increased wage) previously held by Brandon Church. Commissioner Zylawy included that the two dispatchers perform the duties of a supervisor but do not have that title.

jail update and needs for the jail:

- stated the need for digital cameras and additional cameras
- stated the need for a keyless entry system for employees (into the sheriff's department); under \$20,000 00 for purchase and installation; COVID money will be used
- informed that the feds are putting together a three-year contract for \$78.00 or \$79.00 per day per inmate

Commissioner Johnston asked when the contract would be ready for review by the county attorney/Response- soon

printer lease discussion:

- stated he understood that the IT department was supposed to order printers, evidently, this was a misunderstanding
- wants to order a commercial type printer for \$113.00 per month with a cost per page

update on 911 system installation

- training on Sept 14

shift differential remediation discussion:

- Commissioner Zylawy stated that the commissioners put this topic on the agenda
 - the time cards are being completed incorrectly every week because of shift differential
 - Commissioner Johnston spends up to five hours every pay period reviewing and fixing errors that would lead to financial errors against the county and sometimes against the employee
- Commissioner Zylawy suggested to take the two differentials and average them- so it'd be a straight .60/per hour whether it's swing or graveyard- this would include deputies
 - Kelann averaged and got .62 or .63- we could round up or down
- Commissioner Zylawy stated that too much time is being spent on payroll with swing and graveyard- if employees want to get it right the first time, then we don't have a problem with it

Sheriff Toth will talk to his employees

Year in review of how the department is and where it still needs to go:

- states they've done very well since taking over; morale is high

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM FUNDS RESOLUTION # 9-3-2021- (BARSA)

Present: Mike Raether- citizen

Commissioner Zylawy read Resolution #9-3-2021 aloud

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve RESOLUTION # 9-3-2021, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING DISTRIBUTION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM FUNDS. Motion carried unanimously.

School Budgets FY22- Mary Yarnall

Present: Mary Yarnall- Superintendent of Schools, Mike Raether- citizen, Jim DeBree

Mary-

- Superior mills went down 31.69; lowered per advice from OPI; total amount for budget is \$4,262,000
- Alberton mills went down 30.36- taxable value went up, amount to be levied for transportation went down; total amount for budget is 2,746,000
- St Regis- went up 1.83 mills; total for budget is 3,340,000

Commissioner Simons moved and Commissioner Johnston seconded to approve the recommended school budgets for St Regis, Superior, and Alberton for the year 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Request for approval of the amended contract with Western Montana Specialty Foods to approve a loan in the amount of \$21,793.85 -Emily Park-Economic Development Agent

Present: Jim DeBree- citizen, Mary Yarnall- citizen, Emily Park- Economic Development Agent, Ellen Donohue- County Attorney

Jim DeBree moved and Mary Yarnall seconded to approve an additional loan of \$21,793.85 to Western Montana Foods. Motion carried unanimously.

Emily tells that the business is going national and the interest rate will be at 6%. Emily also states that this business owner has always paid the loans off early.

- Discussion ensued regarding the Revolving Fund meetings and if any privacy issues are being violated/Response (Ellen) likely not, but she will check into it

Public Comment

Present: George Bailey- citizen, Denley Loge- Montana State Legislator, Emily Park-

Denley asks if there is any discussion from the commissioners regarding the closure of the local (St Regis) sawmill, Idaho Forest Group

The commissioners acknowledge the economically devastating effect of the closure and listen as Denley suggests reminding IFG the county helped them and now the county would like IFG to contribute to helping the displaced workers; Mineral County needs to find jobs to keep them in the county.

The Human Resources Department, the Undersheriff, and Detention Sergeant will all attend the job fair in St Regis to encourage applications for the openings within the county.

Emily tells that she is working with the Department of Labor and Industry
George expresses his hope that IFG reconsiders.

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims paid on September 3, 2021, for the amount of \$97,924.03 with claim numbers 38933 through 39000 and warrant numbers 14445 through 14512. Claim number 38988/warrant number 14500 disallowed and void due to overpayment.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Johnston seconded to approve minutes of August 27, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston reviewed JVs and the income statement for June and July FY 20-21

Documents signed:

There were no documents signed

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, September 10, 2021, in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

Minutes were taken by

Dawn Terrill

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

Friday, September 10, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, September 10, 2021. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy. Commissioner Laurie Johnston, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill. Videotaping the meeting was Mary Furlong.

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

Sheriff ~~Toth~~ Undersheriff Wayne Cashman

Present: Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Shawn Visintin- deputy, Randy Mitchell- citizen, Kim Mitchell- citizen

Wayne-

- stated he is aware of the issues with the present shift differential and payroll

The commissioners decided under administrative business to end all the confusion. The 50-cent swing shift and 75 cent graveyard shift will be averaged out and entered for both swing and graveyard to remedy things. The average on a calculator is .625 cents and the commissioners decided to give benefit to the employee and pay .65 cents for dispatchers, detention officers, and deputies.

Request to approve and accept funding from the American Rescue Plan Act for a full-time nurse position: Jenn Donovan-Health Department

Present: Randy Mitchell- citizen, Kim Mitchell- citizen. Via Teleconference was Jenn Donovan- Mineral County Health Department Director

Jenn-

- told of a fully - funded two-year grant award from the American Rescue Plan Act
 - the grant is a 130,000.00 grant, 65,000.00 for each year
 - the grant will allow for a clinical investigator/contract tracer
- asked the commissioners to approve acceptance of the grant by the health department

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve and accept the American Rescue Plan Act for a clinical investigator/contract tracer for the Health Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Explain reasoning Mineral County should petition to become a member of the Big Sky Rail Authority. St. Regis Resort Board and Mineral County Community Foundation will be in attendance, also, or have a letter of endorsement to become members - Monte Turner

Present: Monte Turner- citizen, Randy Mitchell- citizen, Kim Mitchell-citizen, Jerry McDonald- Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) Treasurer, Jim DeBree- citizen, Carol Young- MCEDC and MCRC, Dan Fultz- MCEDC, Liz Gupton- MCCF, Sheelia Miller- MCCF, Jake Santee- Representative for Senator Daines, and via teleconference was Diane Magone- citizen

- Monte introduces his purpose- to advocate for support from the commissioners for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA)- and those in attendance, then shows a four-minute video explaining the benefits of supporting the BSPRA.
 - explained that there is a lot of money available and the real goal is to join BSRA and work toward bringing it through Mineral County
- discussion with the public ensued with all comments supporting the quest for the Mineral County Commissioners to join in the support for BSPRA by making a resolution Requesting To Join the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, Established for the Purpose of Providing for the Preservation and Improvement of Abandoned Rail Service in Southern Montana.

Jake-

- told that Senator Daines supports the feasibility study to determine the impact on Montana

Commissioner Zylawy states they are willing to entertain the idea of the resolution as long as there will be no costs to the county.

Commissioner Simons voices his discontent with this country spending billions of dollars, that they don't have, for projects such as this.

There is no disagreement with having Monte move forward with advertising for a public meeting on September 23, 2021, with a resolution to follow on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Public Comment

No public comments were taken

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll paid on September 10, 2021, for the amount of \$182,809.61 with check numbers 18391 through 18406 with electronic check numbers 67732 through 67800. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve minutes of September 3, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Documents signed:

TASK ORDER 22-25-5-0-1-031-0 TO MINERAL COUNTY UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MASTER CONTRACT THAT COVERS THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2026 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM. Signed through DocuSign by Dawn Terrill for Commissioner Roman Zylawy

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, September 17, 2021, 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, September 17, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, September 17, 2021. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill. Videotaping the meeting was Mary Furlong.

Commissioner Roman Zylawy called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

MTDOT discussion about 4 way stop in St Regis and guard rail from Mullan Rd to Tarkio

Present: Denley Loge-MT State Representative Scott Kinney- Superior School Superintendent, Alan Labbe- Superior School bus driver, Bob Vosen- MDT D1 Administrator, and Jacquelyn Smith-MDT D1 Preconstruction Engineer. Jim DeBree arrived late

Scott –

- told that he previously wrote Bob Vosen a letter and came to this meeting to share his concerns about the need for a guard rail due to present deterioration on Mullan Rd E

Alan-

- as a bus driver, he attested to the dangers on this stretch of road during winter weather

Commissioner Zylawy stated support for the concerns and added that there is no shoulder and a very steep decline making the survivability of an accident nearly impossible; Commissioner Johnston added that with the influx of the out of state population, there will be much more traffic and inexperienced winter drivers along that stretch of road

Bob-

- explained that funding is the challenge, especially because Mullan Rd is not a main road but an X- route making it a state- funded project
 - projects are funded based on several factors which are data - driven; the number one driving force is crash trends and this area doesn't have that factor
- agreed to look into COVID money but is pretty sure that money is already assigned to projects

Denley segued into the St Regis discussion of the 4 -Way Stop

- iterated the traffic issues at this stop- traffic back up on the interstate

discussion ensued regarding possibilities, one of which is an oval - shaped 'a bout' rather than round a bout

Commissioner Johnston again voiced her concern about the Superior east bound on-ramp and the near misses and accidents from the semis coming from the Town Pump.

Jacquelyn told that to start a process for any project, a written request must be sent to Glenn Cameron, via email, with herself copied in on that request.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Overview

Present: Billie Lee- Mission West, Emily Park- MCED, Jim DeBree-citizen

Billie and Emily told about existing ARPA funds and how the funds could be used and requested that the Mineral County Economic Development Corporation take the lead on filtering proposed projects and funds management. The commissioners are in favor of this request.

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims paid on September 17, 2021, for the amount of \$116,704.08 with claim numbers 39001 through 39047 with warrant numbers 14513 through 14560. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve minutes of September 10, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Documents signed:

Agreement No 21-RO-11011600-036. Road Project Agreement between Mineral County & USDA Forest Service, Lolo National Forest, Little Joe Road #282 Resurfacing, drainage, and safety repair not to exceed \$1,410,000.00 Signed by Commissioners Johnston, Simons, and Zylawy.

MACo Conflict of Interest, signed by Commissioner Zylawy

Amendment #1 to grant Agreement #LGA-20-006 between Mineral County and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forestry Division, signed by Commissioner Zylawy.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, September 24, 2021, 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, September 24, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, September 24, 2021. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Laurie Johnston, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Terrill. Videotaping the meeting was Patti Curtin.

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

Consider and vote on: RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-2021 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO JOIN THE BIG SKY PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY, ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ABANDONED RAIL SERVICE IN SOUTHERN MONTANA- Action Item

Present: Monte Turner- resident, Denley Loge- State Representative, Carole Johnson- Superior Forest Service District Ranger

Commissioner Zylawy summarized the public meetings regarding support for joining the feasibility study to determine the potential success (or not) of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, with hopes of having the route run through Mineral County. There has been no opposition to supporting the feasibility study and there is no financial cost to the county, therefore, recommends signing the Resolution. Commissioner Zylawy iterates that the commissioners are endorsing only the feasibility study.

Monte recommends Commissioner Zylawy be on the board for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, and Commissioner Zylawy agrees to sit on their board.

Commissioner Simons moved and Commissioner Johnston seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-2021 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO JOIN THE BIG SKY PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY, ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ABANDONED RAIL SERVICE IN SOUTHERN MONTANA. Motion passed unanimously.

Forest Service Update- Carole Johnson

Present: Carole Johnson- Superior Forest Service District Ranger

Carole-

- told that all campgrounds are now closed
- units are being laid out for tree planting
- fire crews are still out- one crew is in Wisdom MT
- there's been a cell tower placement request for Cruz Anne

The Commissioners will meet with Carolyn Upton on October 29th, 2021, eliminating the need for an update in November.

Sheriff Toth

Present:

1. federal contract for inmates in our jail-

- \$78.00 per day and \$21.00 per transport (covers costs plus regular employee wage)
- The County Attorney has looked at the contract and asked for two or three clarifications- he will get back to her on those, including the wording 'inside jail' for medical coverage and the acronym VTC

2. New door electric locks

- The bid for three doors, evidence room, back door, and sheriff's entry door, is about \$9450.00 and will be paid from the Sheriff's Office COVID money

Commissioner Simons moved and Commissioner Johnston seconded to approve the access control system through DIS for \$9450.00. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Idea for maybe how to get applications for employment

- Shared the idea of a \$1000.00 bonus sign on for his department and a \$200.00 referral bonus to employees who refer and end up with a new hire from the referral

4. Verizon tower update

- Waiting for the old contract from Verizon- the tower has been sold

5. Cad system maybe dropping ADSI and going with New World

- He told he is putting in a grant for a new CAD system

Possible tax recertifications because of IFG-- Jessica Connolly

Present: Mary Yarnall- Treasurer, Emily Park-MSU Extension Agent

Jessica-

- Explained that the lowered valuation of IFG property is not due to IFG's closure
 - Last year IFG had a personal property tax of 8.5 million dollars; it was revalued this year at 23 million dollars
 - IFG negotiated with the Department of Revenue and the tax was dropped to 10 million
- Explained that this loss cannot be recouped so there would be no reason to recertify; her recommendation is to leave things the way they are and suggested the option of reworking the budget through a budget amendment.

Emily-

- suggested that ARPA money could be used to offset the loss to the budget

Jessica pointed out that with the application process for ARPA funds being lengthy a better route remains reworking the budget and cutting as needed.

Commissioner Simons moved and Commissioner Johnston seconded not to recertify the new Taxable Valuation for 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no comments received.

Elk Run II at St Regis Minor Subdivision Final Plat Approval- Andy Short

Present: Andy Short- Environmental Health and Planning Director, Candis Hampton- Environmental Health and Planning Assistant, Judy Stang- citizen

Commissioner Johnston moved and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the Elk Run II at St Regis Minor Subdivision Final Plat. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Business

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll paid on September 24, 2021, for the amount of \$111,867.65 with check numbers 18407 through 18421 with electronic check numbers 67665 through 67730. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnston moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve minutes of September 17, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Documents signed:

Contract for Services by and between Mineral County & Mineral County Economic Development Corporation, the authorized representative of the county is Commissioner Zylawy and the authorized representative of the contract is Emily Park, signed by Commissioner Zylawy.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, October 1, 2021, in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

Minutes were taken by

Dawn Terrill

Mineral County Commissioners' Assistant

