

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

July 7, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana met in a regular session on Friday, July 7, 2023. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Administrative Business

Present: Tom Heacock -citizen, Jason Mclees- County road Foreman

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$362, 558.63 with warrant numbers 17355 through 17408 and claim numbers 41838 through 418191. Motion carried unanimously.

10:00 AM- 10:05

Break

10:05AM Call Meeting to order; Recite Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order

Pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

10:05 AM to 10:35 Public Comment

Present: Tom Heacock-citizen, Jason Mclees- Road Foreman,

Tom Heacock spoke to the prevalence of fireworks going off in St. Regis. He asked if the County should consider a resolution restricting them there. Dogs, military veterans and others are bothered by the loud noise and Mr. Heacock thinks it is getting to be too much.

10:35 AM ACTION ITEM- Bid opening for a new County snowplow truck

Present: Steve Temple- citizen, Jeannie "Shiffy" Wellborn- citizen, Glenn Koepke- citizen, Jason McLees- Road Foreman

The Road foreman brought forward the sole bid that was submitted. The truck bid for a single axel dump truck without the plow set up, was submitted by I State Truck Center. Their bid for a Freightliner truck was: \$ 97,916.00 dollars.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to award the bid to I State Truck Center in the amount of \$97,916.00 as recommended by Jason McLees. Motion carried unanimously.

10:50-11:50 ACTION ITEM- Airport Board request to have KLJ Engineering start new Hangar plans using FAA Grant Monies

Present: Steve Temple- Airport Board Chair, Jeannie “Shiffy” Wellborn-citizen, Glenn Koepke-citizen.

Steve Temple explained how the FAA has new regulations and has also required more trees be removed from area in and around the airport. The engineering requirements have also forestalled the start of a new hangar until later. There is a request from the airport board to sign a contract with KLJ engineering for plans in the amount of \$ 142,900.00 dollars with 95 % percent being paid by the FAA.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to sign the contract with KLJ for the amount of \$ 142,900.00 dollars with 95 % percent being paid by the FAA. Motion carried unanimously.

Next; Mr. Temple updated the Commissioners on the plan to begin tearing down the very old hangars, (some with dirt floors) and start the process to replace them. The airport board plans to have a staggered system in which the old leases expire, and then replace them with modern hangars that can accommodate a King Air sized aircraft. Six leases are considered older buildings and set to expire. The plan is to replace them over the course of ten years. This staggered plan would also allow for the FAA grants to be timed correctly on the grant cycles.

“Shiffy” Wellborn is a current owner of one of the hangars and wants to sell it, but her prospective buyer would want the lease for longer than ten years to make his purchase worthwhile. Ms. Wellborn is asking that her hangar have longer than the ten- year mark before a replacement be implemented for her building. She would like a 15 or 20 year stay on her hangar. Mr. Temple said he would present the request to the Airport Board meeting in August.

Mr. Temple also informed the Commissioners of a single hangar that is divided in two. On one side is Museum of Mountain flying, which is willing to let lease go now. And the other side is occupied by Dr. Park who does not want to let it go. Temple gave an update on plans to work with both sides. Despite the fact that lease agreements signed in the past explain the expiration dates, more negotiating and explaining will be needed.

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Mandatory Department Head/Elected officials Meeting

Present: Norm Naef-Maintenance, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Barb Jasper – Health department, Amy Lommen-Health Dept. and DES, Merry Mueller- Treasurer, Dave Brink- MSU extension and Weed Dept., Emily Park- Extension and Economic Development, Jaime Talbot- Clerk of District Court, Kelann McClees- Clerk and Recorder, Jason McClees- Road Foreman, Andy Short- Sanitarian and Planner, Debra Jackson- County Attorney.

Sheriff Funke said that the Jail has passed U.S. Marshalls inspection and they’re next contract will be up in July 2024. There has been one applicant for detention officer. He just purchased a \$20,000.00 back-up generator for the jail. Has new Interlocal law enforcement agreements with the two towns in Mineral county. Presented an award to a local St. Regis citizen for his act of Valor during the March shooting incident there. He closed with the request that he can raise the pay in his department.

Jason McLees reported on recent progress his crew has been making in maintenance of roads. Pulling ditches, dust abatement, sweeping and also removing unused area cattleguards.

Andy Short updated on his office and all the recent permits, 34 site evaluations, 76 septic permits, and 85 new addresses issued. Total fees collected= \$ 20,182.54

Additionally, 18 certificates of survey have been submitted and ongoing planning board meetings and subdivision review.

Barb Jasper reported that vaping has been increasing in all three schools in the county. The department is focusing on health promotion and mental health wellness also. Parenting classes and issuing and installing child safety seats have increased recently too.

Amy Lommen talked about how Public Health Emergency Preparedness and DES duties often overlap. The COVID emergency has officially been declared over

Merry Mueller said that her office has been issuing a lot of Special Mobile registrations and RPO plates with the summer construction season upon us. She reports that the Investment committee has recommended moving all the CD's from UBS and Raymond James into the brokers at DA Davidson.

Jaime Talbot said that she has been busy processing jury questionnaires for a larger 2500-person District court jury pool. And the 53.00-dollar marriage licenses here have been up as many people chose to be married in our county.

Kelann McLees reports that her vacancy has been filled by Melissa Wickham who decided to return to work there after leaving several months ago. She is being trained now on the new Statewide Voter system.

DOR agent Dan Lapan came to her office to assist if needed with the new Tax appraisals that went out. The Taxable values numbers come out in the first week of August.

Dave Brink said that Mike Lee is still working and currently spraying county roads from airport to Tarkio. He is also gearing up for the mineral county fair and Extensions involvement there.

Emily Park talked about the ARPA money having a balance of \$614,000.00 dollars and how her committee has been prioritizing projects. The Mineral county revolving loan fund now has seven new requests. Five of which are new Businesses.

Debra Jackson advised that her office is down two employees as she and Wally Congdon continue to clean up loose ends regarding the Brady stuff. They are also dealing with the Water compact court and water rights trying to mediate with the Tribe.

Norm Naef said he will try to paint the parking lot stripes after regular work hours when lot is vacant. He also said that he has been busy replacing light bulbs in the jail and trying to replace drywall and carpet for the sheriff. So far, the jail AC system is working Okay.

2:05 PM ACTION ITEMS- ARPA committee recommendations to fund. 1-Alberton Hank Roat Park Project and 2- St. Regis Community Broadband internet equipment project

Present: Kathleen Brown-citizen, Sharon Patterson-citizen, Jim Debree-citizen, Glenn Koepke-citizen, Tyler Cheeseman-citizen, George Bailey-citizen, Jaimie Odell-citizen, Derek Larson-citizen.

Jamie Odell from Alberton gave a brief presentation on what the ARPA money would fund and how it would improve the Alberton Park. Jamie has raised money through the local PEAK community group to make improvements, but since the initial 2020 quote from contractors; the bid has now tripled. Jamie is asking for \$98,000.00 dollars to supplement the PEAK organization money. The request would pay for an improved trail network in the town, as well as for new tennis courts and park maintenance.

Based on the recommendation of the five-person ARPA committee, this project is being supported.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the Alberton Park Project in the amount of \$98,000.00 (ARPA money) to supplement the PEAK organization money. Motion carried unanimously.

The Next Proposal was presented by George Bailey. He summarized the need in St. Regis for improved broadband and how it could support a Rapid Training center in the St. Regis community center building. A rapid training center could benefit all types of business opportunities in St. Regis as well as people. The request is for \$86,345.00 dollars of ARPA money to go to the St. Regis Community council for the St. Regis community Rapid Training center. The ARPA committee supports this request.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to expand broadband and create a Rapid Training Center in St Regis with \$86,345.00 dollars of ARPA money. Motion carried unanimously.

2:50 PM ACTION ITEM- to renew Superintendent contract. Merry Mueller Treasurer

Merry stated that the County Superintendent of Schools contract with Donald Paul Almquist needs to be re-authorized.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to re-authorize the contract for Paul Almquist for the amount of \$3300.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, July 14, 2023, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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July 14, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, July 14, 2023. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Preliminary Budget Meetings -Scheduled for entire day 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Administrative Business: Approve Payroll in amount of \$224,768.43 check numbers 19067 through 19077 and Electronic Draws numbers 64405 to 64334. VOID check numbers were 19077 through 19079.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons moved to approve minutes of June 28,2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Letter of Support for Superior Meats, signed by all commissioners

Vender Invoice DNRC – CARDD

GIS Professional Services Support

8:00 AM Preliminary Budget Meetings:

The Board met with the Department Heads and Elected Officials to discuss the Preliminary Budgets for FY 2022/2023.

Present:, Jason McLees- Road Foreman, Debra Jackson- County Attorney, Jenn Donovan- Mineral County Health Department, Emily Park-MSU Extension, Dave Brink-Weed/Extension, Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder/Elections, Kim Taron- Justice of the Peace, Guna Chaberek- Library, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Norm Naef- Maintenance, Jaime Talbot- District Court, Merry Mueller- Treasurer, Andy Short- Environmental Health and Planning, Maura Johnson- Fair Board, Anna Marie- Fair Board. Each Department presented a proposal for their upcoming budgets; department proposals were discussed and will be considered with the final budget after review.

11:30 AM PUBLIC COMMENT

Present: Andy Short, Anna Marie White, Bill Woodford

Andy Short commented on how a Planning Process for how a new building is put up on Fairgrounds would greatly help the entire on the ground plan.

Anna Marie White commented that she is very concerned about some weakened and dying trees that need to be removed for safety. Total of six trees.

Bill Woodford commented that things at Fairgrounds are scary. Many things need attention. We should set aside money every year to replace and maintain Fair

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, July 21, 2023, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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July 21, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, July 21, 2023. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill. Commissioner Roman Zylawy was absent.

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Administrative Business

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$85,685.25 with claim numbers 041892 through 041959 and warrant numbers 17409 through 17476

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve minutes of July 7, 2023. Motion carried unanimously

10:00 AM- 10:05 Break

10:05AM Call Meeting to order; Recite Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order

Pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

10:05 AM to 10:35 Public Comment

Present: Denley Loge- MT State Representative, George Bailey- citizen, AnnaMarie White- citizen

Denley suggested asking the sheriff about all of the buses with out of state license plates at Taft- they're potential revenue for the county; suggested talking to the Forest Service about PILT (Payment in lieu of taxes) money for Route of the Olympian off the trails of the Hiawatha

10:35AM-11:00AM Provide update on MT Department of Transportation related projects that are occurring or upcoming for Mineral County

Present: Bob Vossen- Montana Department of Transportation, John Schmitt- Montana Department of

Transportation, Joel Marks- Montana Department of Transportation

Bob, John and Joel briefly discussed upcoming projects which included Cyr Bridge deck and some railing and Daigle Lane, and chip sealing.

Bob has not been able to find funding for a guard rail on Mullan Rd E, but will continue to look for funding opportunities.

11:00AM-11:30AM Final Plat approval for Brockway Orchard Homes II Subdivision- Action Item

Present: Candis Hampton- Environmental Health and Planning Assistant, Alan Brockway- Subdivision Owner, Jane Brockway- Subdivision Owner, Lori Fillo- citizen

Candis informed the Commissioners that all conditions have been met and recommended approval for the final plat approval.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve the Final Plat for Brockway Orchard Homes II Subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

11:30AM- 11:35 AM Request to advertise and fill fulltime vacant clerk position Action Item

Present: Kim Taron- Justice of the Peace, Wendie Richards- Justice Court Clerk

Kim asked approval to advertise and fill a full-time vacancy

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve advertising and filling the full-time position for justice Court Clerk. Motion Carried unanimously.

11:35AM- 11:45AM Resolution to create an account with DA Davidson to transfer investment funds Action Item

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded tabling this Resolution until Merry Mueller could be present. Motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM- 11:55 AM Conflict Council Contract to hire a special prosecutor and Resolution

Present: Wally Congdon- Deputy County Attorney

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve Resolution 7-21-2023, a Resolution authorizing Prosecutorial Assistance in District Court, Justice Court and Town Court Cases. Motion carried unanimously.

11:55AM- 12:00PM

Request to apply for a full-service community school grant Action Item

Present: April Quinlan- Parents as Partners Supervisor, Jess Schaak- Parents as Partners Teacher

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve applying for the full-service community school grant, which is a matching in-kind grant shared by the health Department and Mineral County Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

1:15 PM Request to keep Ethan Atkin in his full-time position as a deputy-Action Item

Present: Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Lisa Denn- citizen, Ken Verley- citizen, Patti Curtin- citizen, Gordon Hendrick- citizen

Wayne requested keeping Deputy Ethan Atkin as a deputy with the end of his grant funded position. Upon further discussion, it was learned that the actual request is to add the deputy position that was previously paid by a grant.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to table the request until the budget could be researched, hopefully for next week. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 4, 2023, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Minutes were taken by Dawn Terrill

