

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

January 5, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, January 5, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen

Documents signed: Commissioner Chair Dawn Terrill signed the Stahly Engineers Professional Services agreement for examining land surveyor reviews.

Claims were reviewed and approved at 1:28 p.m.

10: 10:05 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

1005 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen.

Kelly asked how much has been paid to the Court appointed Court Supervisor to date? Also: where is the formal process in writing for a person to follow when submitting a claim. Where can county job descriptions be found, and where is the county employee formal complaint process in writing. Kelly also asked. When will the county employee handbook manual be rewritten? And who will be writing it. She asked specifically, when will Commissioner Terrill's term expire on the library board of Trustees. Lastly, Kelly said that someone had given her a statement to read, but she decided she would not read the statements of others.

10:35 AM- 1:00 PM Break-Recess. To allow attendance at the St. Regis Funeral service of Frank Smith

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM New Radio Console in dispatch- Sheriff Funke- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Amy Parks- DES coordinator, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Mistydawn Holyoak-Dispatcher.

Mistydawn talked about the great need for the new console because the old one is so outdated; they can no longer acquire parts for it. She would like to receive \$ 60,000 dollars for new console and

additional \$140,000 dollars to start on repeater upgrades. The repeater work would not include fire and ambulance upgrades, but would make the Sheriff's office able to adequately communicate until full upgrade could happen. Mistydawn said she spoke with Emily who suggested they look at using Title III funds for the entire \$200,000 dollars. There is an issue however, as to whether title III funds are allowed for that type of expenditure. Sheriff Funke said that we should be able to state this is an emergency and bypass some of the normal procedures in the procurement process. And if ARPA funds are used, the process can be lengthy. Commissioner Simons asked about the status of using the SMART grant monies. Mistydawn said that Emily told her it would be about two weeks before knowing anything there. The Sheriff would like to start with fixing the console, and then make incremental improvements from there.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the new console and repeater upgrade with \$ 200,000 dollars coming from the ARPA fund, contingent upon Emily Parks approving the procurement procedure for the Sheriff to follow.

1:28 p.m. The Claims for the week were reviewed and ready to approve. ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$ 350,190.85 dollars. Check numbers 18200 through 18275, and claim numbers 42683 through 42757. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:35 PM – 2:35 PM Adopt 2024 Annual County resolutions- ACTION ITEMS

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen.

Resolution # 1-8-2024 (a) Establishing re-organization of the Board of County Commissioners, Mineral County.

The Commissioners discussed their other assigned boards and which ones had remained the same or were to be added to the list. Commissioner Zylawy advised that the BREDD (Bitterroot Economic development) board was no longer active and to remove that listing.

Also, as part of organizing the Board: selecting a chairperson. Commissioner Simons liked the job being done by Commissioner Terrill and thought she should do it another year. In addition to the approving of the respective boards assigned to Commissioners, he recommended Commissioner Terrill be the Chairperson for 2024.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 1-8-2024 (a). All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Resolution #1-8-2024 (b) Providing for Public Participation and Establishing Regular Meeting Dates and Times of The Board of Mineral County Commissioners for Calendar Year 2024**

The Commissioners discussed changing the regular meeting day from a Friday to a Thursday. For the last 12 years it has been on a Friday and the clerk and recorder office thought approving payroll on Thursdays instead would be more practical. There were some scheduling conflicts with Commissioner Simons having HRC meetings on Thursdays, and Commissioner Terrill having Hospital board on Thursdays also. So, then the day of Wednesday was discussed. All were leaning towards selecting Wednesdays until Commissioner Simons checked with the payroll and claims office. Getting those tasks completed by a Wednesday meeting day deadline was deemed too difficult. So the meeting day of Friday became the best.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 1-8-2024 (b). All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Resolution # 1-8-2024 (c) Setting the Daily Rate for Payment of Costs for use of the Mineral County Detention Center**

Sheriff Funke had analyzed the actual cost of housing inmates for 2024 and arrived at the daily rate of \$130.00 dollars per day. That is up from 2023 which was set at \$ 100.00 dollars per day.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Resolution number 1-8-2024 (c). All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Resolution # 1-8-2024 (d) To Establish Travel, Meals and Lodging Rates for Calendar year 2024.**

The Travel, Meals and Lodging rates established by the State of Montana are the recommended rates for Counties.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 1-8-2024 (d). All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Resolution # 1-8-2024 (e) To Set Official Holidays for Calendar year 2024**

The State recognized Holidays for the State of Montana are recommended each year for Counties.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 1-8-2024 (e). All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, January 12, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

January 12, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, January 12, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Present: No people present

Documents signed. No Documents signed

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve gross payroll and liabilities in the amount of \$180,643.47 dollars Check numbers 19257 through 19263 and electronic payroll checks numbered 63425 through 63494, and Liability check number 19264 through 19269 and Electronic Liability check number 63423 through 63424. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of December 29, 2023 and of January 6, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

10: 10:05 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

1005 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Nobody

House keeping comments from the Chair. There will only be comments accepted from the public in attendance. No longer can 'Anonymous comments be accepted by people. If an individual wants a comment made, stand behind the words and state them in person.

10:35 AM- 11:15 AM Forest Service update- Superior Ranger Abby Lane and Nine mile Ranger Chris Gauger.

Present: Abby Lane- Superior Ranger, Chris Gauger-9-Mile Range.

Ranger Gauger spoke about the prescribed burns performed successfully last fall and the ones planned in the Spring. He said that the 9-mile district has a full staff of fire crew and also a new Wildlife biologist. The Great American Outdoor Act has funding that will be used for water systems projects in places like

Savennac and other campground sites. And Fish creek road is being improved with new gravel and roadwork. The Sawmill/Petty sale has four different sub-sales with separate funding and roadwork packages. The Soldier Butler sale now has a FWS opinion and recommendation that can hopefully go back to court with and release the injunction against them. The 188 stock mules and horses that are boarded at 9-mile are still there, 31 of those belong to the 9-mile district. Ranger Gauger also mentioned that the Rocky Mountain Elk foundation is interested in brokering a land purchase of several thousand acres in Mineral County, and then having Forest service acquire it as public land. Next: Ranger Abby Lane from Superior District spoke. She said that the RAC (Resource advisory committee) was approved to have a charter and begin meeting. Since they have been inactive for a few years, they now have \$300,000.00 dollars to start with. Abby also talked about the status of several timber sales like Redd Bull, Superior North, and Two Fish. A newly hired Fish Biologist is also now in Superior. The North Fork of the Little Joe Road will have major roadwork done this summer and will be closed for approximately six weeks for a bridge/culvert replacement. The Lolo Forest plan release date and proposed action will be out sometime next month.

11:15 AM – 12 Noon Request to approve Petition to vacate an alley located in block 6: lots 1-6 of Mayo's addition to Deborgia book of Townsites- ACTION ITEM- Andy Short, Environmental and Planning office.

Present: Brooke Lincoln-citizen, Andy Short- Environmental and Planning, Mark and Mary Devine-citizens, Mark Veilleux-citizen, Sharon Fuhrman-citizen, Christopher Colon-citizen, Candis Hampton-Environmental Planning office, Wally Congdon- Mineral County Deputy Attorney, Sean Cielke-citizen, Amy English-citizen.

And Short started out by saying how after receiving public comment and has findings of facts regarding the petition. It was signed by several area landowners who would like to vacate the alley in Deborgia; they include- Mark Veilleux, Christopher Colon, Victor Colon and Sharon Fuhrman. The Public notice of the Petition was posted on 9-27-2023 and on 1-3-2024. The townsites and alleys were platted in 1912 and this particular spot has never been developed as an alley. There was a protest received from an attorney Nelson Swanson, representing Sean Cielke of Deborgia. Sharon Swanson spoke about how she purchased the land in 2008 from Brooke Lincoln and thought that the alley had already been vacated then. Brooke spoke how she owned the lots east and across the road and had vacated that alley in early 200's. Apparently she believed it included the alley west of the street as well. Today, Sharon Fuhrman's water lines run under and across the alley, and she put it there thinking the alley was closed. Sean Cielke spoke how he wants the alley to remain open because he occasionally uses it to access his property. And if it's a public alleyway, then he has the right to do so. Even though today it looks like part of people's land, yard and property, Cielke says he would voluntarily use his own equipment to transform it into a street worthy alley complete with gravel/dirt material for a road surface. Mary Devine asks: after all of these years, what is the purpose of making it an open alley now? Christopher Colon stated that it Dead ends right in front of his cabin and there is no need for it to be open. Mark Devine said that he found and old rusty horse bit that was probably from early 1900's, thereby proving that it hasn't really been used as it was intended. Wally Congdon wants time to research other letters to vacate in the Deborgia townsites, as well as documents and old surveys.

Commissioners Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to table the decision to allow time to better research the subject. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:00 PM- 1:15 PM Request to approve Resolution to appoint Special Deputy prosecutor- Debra Jackson, Mineral County Attorney- ACTION ITEM

Present: Wally Congdon- Deputy County Attorney, Debra Jackson- Mineral County Attorney, Willy Peck- Natural Resource Advisor, Candis Hampton-Environmental planning office, Amy Parks- DES coordinator.

Debra Jackson said that there was a case coming up where the Attorney Generals office was better equipped to prosecute and in fact wanted to assist with. The case is known as case number CR-2022-04-0882. No fee will be charged to Mineral County for this assistance. However, normal costs such as witness fees will still apply.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 1-12-2024 to grant assistance request from Prosecution Services Bureau of the State Department of Justice. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:15 PM- 1:35 PM Adopt Amendment to the resource Use part of the County Growth Policy regarding the WUI (wildlife Urban Interface)- Wally Congdon- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Wally Congdon- Deputy County Attorney, Willy Peck- Natural Resource Advisor, Candis Hampton-Environmental planning office, Amy Parks- DES coordinator.

Wally talks about the three portions he wants to Amend; the resource use part of the growth policy, the WUI, and the Threatened and endangered species act. Some of these categories didn't exist when the growth policy and resource use policy was developed. Now, the resource use plan is part of the Growth policy and therefore the amendments are needed. After discussing the proposed changes and hearing from Willy Peck also, it was decided to move forward with the amendments.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to adopt the amendments-(Add Resource use plan into growth policy-add language for the WUI- add language regarding threatened and endangered species)- into the growth policy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM

The next regular meeting will be Friday, January 19, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

January 19, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, January 19, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Present: No people present

Documents signed. Vendor Invoice for WGM group on the St. Regis sewer Grant. \$ 107,749.54 dollars. Grant agreement # AM-23-0230 for the sewer force 'Main' replacement project.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$188,348.22 dollars Check numbers 18276 through 18332 and electronic checks numbered 42758 through 42814. And voiding check number 18332 in amount of \$47.50 dollars, claim # 42814 due to incorrect travel per diem claimed. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of January 12, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

10: 10:05 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

1005 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Kelley Durbin-Williams- citizen, Denley Loge- citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Wally Congdon- Deputy Co. Atty.

Denley spoke about how important it is to have a natural resource advisor working for the county. Denley believes it is the smartest thing we did given the happenings going on now within the forest, such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, timber sales and the Lolo Forest plan revision. He also talked about highway 135 and a need for a study for the St. Regis four-way stop and increased traffic on the Cutoff Road. And regarding the court decision that Governor Gianforte must allow his veto of SB 442 to be considered for an override through polling of legislators, he believes it will be overridden.

10:35 AM- 10:50 AM Re-visiting Continuing the Mineral County Resource Advisor position, and to fund it from Titl III- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelley Durbin-Williams- citizen, Denley Loge- citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Wally Congdon- Deputy Co. Atty.

Wally talked about the importance of the job and how it is improving relations with the Forest service and encouraging work in our forest. The timber sales, work in the WUI and with the Forest plan are all reasons to continue the position.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to continue to fund the position from Title III funds for at least another year, and re-visit again then. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:50 AM- 11:00 AM Mineral County Jail Food Service Contract- Bid Opening- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelley Durbin-Williams- citizen, Denley Loge- citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Wally Congdon- Deputy Co. Atty., Lisa Denn- Dispatcher.

Undersheriff Cashman opened the lone bid for the contract. The bid was for a total of \$ 18.00 dollars per day, per inmate. There was a small increase for food from the previous 2021 bid, but discussion was that the rate was still reasonable.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to award the jail contract to Riverside Soup and Sandz in the amount of \$18.00 dollars per day, per inmate (\$5 dollars breakfast- \$6 dollars lunch- \$7 dollars dinner). Contingent upon showing of a current inspection certificate. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM- 11:15 AM Request to apply for State Homeland Security Grant-No Match required- ACTION ITEM. DES coordinator Amy Parks

Present: Kelley Durbin-Williams- citizen, Denley Loge- citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Wally Congdon- Deputy Co. Atty., Lisa Denn- Dispatcher, Amy Parks- DES Coordinator.

Amy said that she is interested to apply for the grant that is project based, not population based. The grant will be awarded to the best applicant and is due 3-15-2024. It could be used towards reducing vulnerabilities at government buildings and to better protect county employees inside. It is a 12 month grant with no match required.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the application for the State Homeland Security Grant- with No match required. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:00 PM—1:30 PM Request for Mineral County to pass a vicious dog and animal at large ordinance, including cruelty to animals. Presentation of microchip scanner and animal issues in county- Bessie Spangler- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelley Durbin-Williams- citizen, Denley Loge- citizen, Wally Congdon- Deputy Co. Atty., Lisa Denn- Dispatcher, Bessie Spangler-citizen, Bill Woodford-citizen, Patti Curtin-dispatcher, Lori Stetzel-citizen, Don Zinnino-citizen, Ron Hillman-citizen.

Bessie spoke on the need for animal care of abandoned dogs and cats, and how a cement pad kennel near the county shop or somewhere central would be helpful. Currently it is all volunteers who take in and care for abandoned animals. In 2018 the County did pass a resolution to address vicious dogs in the county, but the County Attorney at the time did not ever complete the enforcing ordinance to finish the process. So today, we still don't have any regulations for animals other than what exists in State law. Wally said that every animal must have a rabies shot and suggests that dogs be chipped so current vaccination records can be quickly obtained when there is an incident. Bessie said that she has two microchip scanners purchased through a Go Fund me drive, and wants to have one available at the Sheriff's office for the Deputies and dispatch. Bessie also suggests that for people arrested with an animal, that they should be billed a daily rate for the care of their animal while in jail. The discussion was long and some issues were complicated, so it was decided that a committee be formed to fine tune the ordinance before adopting. No action was taken pending the committee recommendations.

1:30 PM- 2:20 PM Discussion with Reep, Bell and Jasper, pursuant to claim. CANCELLED- due to schedule conflict with attorneys.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM

**The next regular meeting will be Friday, January 26, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**

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

January 26, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, January 26, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Present: No people present

Documents signed. Board Chair Commissioner Terrill signed the Interlocal Agreement between five Counties-(Silver Bow-Powell-Granite-Missoula and Mineral)- The Agreement between Mineral Co. Montana Rails to Trails Grant, with the \$1,000 dollar contribution being paid by the USFS.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Gross Payroll in the amount of \$180,673.81 dollars Check numbers 19270 through 19279 and electronic checks numbered 63422 through 63356. Liability checks number 19280 through 19285 along with Electronic Liability checks numbered 63354 and 63355. And voiding check number 19284 due to incorrect amount entered. Re-issued as check number 19285. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of January 19, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

10: 10:05 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

1005 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Anna Marie White-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli- citizen

Arlene spoke about her interest in trying to revive the Superior Chamber of Commerce. She said that she has spent \$ 1,500 dollars of her own money signing up for trainings and conferences to learn as much as she can on organizing an efficient Local Chamber. Including a recent conference where she met the Governor. She is building a list of businesses in the area and will be holding a meeting in St. Regis visitor center on February 7,2024 at 5:30 for any who are interested.

Anna Marie said she wanted to see the official minutes where it was decided to ask IMEG engineering to assess and report on the County infrastructure. She asked why a local engineering company wasn't selected. She also asked if replies to questions were still being answered in the housekeeping responses. Also: she asked, when was it decided that during public comment, only people present in the room could comment. She makes comments a lot on behalf of other anonymous people, and would like to see the minutes regarding that policy change. Lastly: when did the Board decide to Cancel the IMEG meeting that was on Tentative agenda for January 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.?

10:35 AM – 10:50 AM Request to advertise and fill dispatcher position- Sheriff Funke- ACTION ITEM

Present: Anna Marie White-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli- citizen, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Patti Curtin- Dispatcher.

Sheriff Funke said that the dispatchers have been working a lot of extra shifts to cover an absent employee. Now the absent position will become officially vacant and he would like to advertise to fill.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the request to advertise and fill a full-time dispatcher position. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM – 12 Noon IMEG Engineering- discuss their findings in the field of their assessment on county infrastructure. – CANCELLED BY IMEG DUE TO SCHEDULING ISSUE. NOW SCHEDULED for February 2, 2024

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM Mineral County Rail to Trails Interlocal agreement with five other Counties- ACTION ITEM – Diane Magone

Present: Arlene Jacovelli- citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Diane Magone- Citizen, Bill Woodford-citizen, Andy Short-Environmental Planner, Monte Turner-Citizen, Dave Wilcox-citizen

Diane talked about the RARE (Rebuilding America's Infrastructure Sustainability Equity) grant and how it ties together a rail to trails path to the west coast. The Interlocal agreement with five other counties will

work to address completion in the western part of Montana. The Interlocal agreement is with Butte Silver Bow, Powell, Granite, Missoula and Mineral Counties. The grant does require a \$1,000.00 dollar contribution, and Heather Burman with the Forest service has agreed to provide the funding for that. So this would be a zero dollar contribution from Mineral County. The portion of the trail that they are focusing on is a two-mile section between Crystal Springs and Tarkio through some DNRC property. And they have rules regarding motorized use for permitted projects on their land. There was some discussion about electric bikes and electric wheelchairs, and whether they might be allowed. The Grant will pay 100 percent for the preliminary engineering report that is required.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the Rail to Trails Interlocal agreement with Five other counties for the Grant. All in favor. Motion carried.

2:00 PM- 3:00 PM Discussion with Reep, Bell and Jasper- Pursuant to claim- Discussion-

Present: Arlene Jacovelli- citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Diane Magone- Citizen, Bill Woodford-citizen, Andy Short-Environmental Planner, Monte Turner-Citizen, Dave Wilcox-citizen, Ken and Kathy Verley-citizens, Anna Marie White-citizen, Patti Curtin-citizen, Kat Thompson-citizen, Lance Jasper- Attorney, Kathy Sanderlin-citizen, Debra Jackson- Mineral Co. Atty., Andy Short-citizen, Denley Loge-citizen, Wally Congdon- Mineral co. Deputy Atty.

Lance presented copies of the Settlement agreement regarding the Writ of Mandamus filed against the Sheriffs Office and the County Attorney's office. He also presented a copy of the Court Supervisor's report written by Bob Long. Additionally, Lance submitted an invoice itemizing telephone conversations, e mails, time reviewing and finalizing reports that he said could also be considered by the court for further payment. The total of his itemized invoice # 24461, came to a total of \$20,817.90 dollars. All of the new Invoice charges occurred after the May 26, 2023 Settlement agreement and have not yet been turned in to the court for consideration. Lance said that he believes the charges are necessary due to ongoing obstinance from the County attorney in cooperating and working with attorneys on Mineral County cases and requests for speedy trials. Lance said that even the Court Supervisor was having difficulty getting cooperation from the County attorney. He said that the public defender's office has asked him to take over their cases, so they could be expedited. He said that there is still friction between the Sheriff's office and County Attorney's office and it is interfering in cases that need to be resolved. Not every case needs to go to trial. Some can be plea bargained and taken care of that way. The County having to spend an extra \$ 20,000 dollars due to no cooperation is something that is unnecessary. Lance said he is going to ask the Judge to award the new fees and is thinking about donating the money towards the Pool in the Park project. Lance refereed to a 4-step process outlined by Bob Long to have County Attorney better disclose on unqualified law enforcement, employ better qualified people, reduce the workload by accepting some plea offers, and making sure the two offices stay in their respective lanes regarding the duties of their own offices. Lance also believes that there is still some retaliation happening in regards to Deputy Micah Allard, and that it needs to stop. Diane Magone asked what exactly was the writ's purpose, and did it do any good. Lance replied, the \$ 20,000 dollar invoice is primarily for follow up with his clients, and the writs were necessary to get both offices into compliance of their correct job duties. He said that things are basically 95% good now, but with 10% still needing work. Wally spoke and said that he thought that the Writ was done by ambush. He also wanted to know what things had the office not yet done exactly, that need to be done. He said that the County

attorney's office had not had any communication with Lance and feels blindsided. The county attorney's office is playing by the rules, but it's not always being done by the other side. We have not shredded any evidence, he said. Deb Jackson said she would very much like to comment on things, but she feels she is too angry at the moment. She said she can better express herself when not so upset. She wants to schedule a public meeting on the agenda for her response at a future date. Anna Marie white asked what the amount was for the Court Supervisor. Commissioner Terrill replied: \$ 14,000 dollars. Ken Verley asked for the total cost so far. Commissioner Zylawy responded to the question with: \$100,000.00 dollars to Lance Jasper's Firm. \$30,000.00 dollars to Sheriff Funke's attorney, Paul Leisher. And \$14,00.00 dollars for Bob Long, the Court appointed Court Supervisor.

3:00 PM-3:30 PM Bid Opening for Dispatch Console- ACTION ITEM- Sheriff Funke

Present: Arlene Jacovelli- citizen, Patti Curtin-dispatcher, Kat Thompson-citizen, Denley Loge-citizen, MistyDawn Holyoak-dispatcher, Ryan Funke-Sheriff.

MistyDawn said that four bids were submitted responding to the advertised request for new console and some radio repeater/tower work. She said that the four companies submitting were:

- 1- Dunne Communications, Anaconda MT for \$188,877.64 dollars
- 2- Valence from Spokane WA. For \$146,926.18 dollars
- 3- Redtail Communications, Missoula MT. for \$141,164.00 dollars
- 4- GCS (Gold Communication Services) Kalispell MT. for 199,654.79 dollars.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the bids and comparing their differences addressing warranty, the cost for training dispatch personnel on new console, as well as the brand of the radio equipment and past response time of companies to emergent needs during radio failures. After talking about the bids with the Sheriff and his lead dispatcher for an hour, there was a recommendation from the Sheriff and a motion from the board. Commissioner Zylawy reminded the Sheriff that the previously approved ARPA funds for the radio was in the amount of up to \$200,000.00 dollars. And that should the bidder exceed that amount, there wouldn't be enough to cover the project. The Sheriff understood and stated that if there was an overage amount exceeding the ARPA approved amount of \$200,000.00, that he would use his remaining CARES ACT money to cover it.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to award the bid to GCS from Kalispell MT. for \$199,654.79 dollars. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

**The next regular meeting will be Friday, February 2, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**

