

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

March 1, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, March 1, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

9:00 AM- 10 AM Administrative Business

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

Documents signed. Commissioners signed Comment letter on the new Lolo Forest plan. Reviewed and approved Leave request form from Department head Jenn Donovan for March and April.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$145,201.78 dollars check # 18445 through # 18493 and claim numbers 42925 and 42973. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of February 16, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried

These motions were made at 10:420 AM (see later minutes below)

The minutes of February 23, 2024 were not finished, and will be approved at a future meeting.

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, Anna Marie White-citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

Kelly asked what the meaning of the recent announcement was all about. Kelly read aloud the statement from the county saying: "Do not enter county facilities without first scheduling an appointment". The Chair asked Kelly what was she even talking about, and that the Board had not posted anything stating that to the public. Commissioner Zylawy asked if the board could see what posting she was referring to. It was a photo on her phone that was from the year 2020 during peak of Covid shutdowns across the state, when people had to set appointments for courthouse business to reduce public interaction. Kelly was assured that it was not a current position of the County to keep the public away from the courthouse or its facilities.

10:20 A.M. – Commissioner Zylawy made the motion to approve Claims and the February 16, 2024

minutes. (See above Admin business)

10:35 AM – 10:40 A.M. Request to hire a dispatcher – Undersheriff Cashman- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

Undersheriff Cashman explained that there is a vacancy in dispatch and he would like to advertise for the position and fill it as soon as possible.

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

10:45 AM – 10:55 AM Adopting a Resolution regarding the Local Government Review per MCA 7-3-177 to be placed on the ballot - ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Gaylene Borden-citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer/County Superintendent of Schools

Commissioner Zylawy was asked to explain the MCA code and why this is necessary to be placed on the ballot. He said that every ten years it is a requirement that the people vote upon the question of conducting a local government study review, and to fund the study if it is approved. The government review would help decide on topics such as: whether to operate the county under the General Powers form of government, or to utilize the Charter form. Also, if local elections should be partisan or non-partisan, as well as other questions about local government functions.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution number 3-1-2024 and place the question of a Local Government Study Review on the June ballot. If approved, the study would be funded by up to two mills. All in favor. Motion passed.

11:00 AM- 11:10 AM Accept the St. Regis School district Budget Amendment of 2-21-2024- Presented by Merry Mueller County Superintendent of Schools- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Gaylene Borden-citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer/County Superintendent of Schools

Merry explained how the St. Regis school district experienced a significant increase in enrollment. This increase required the school board to amend the annual budget for St. Regis schools. After review of the school board's resolution to amend the budget, the County Commissioners accepted the Budget Amendment.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve and sign the St. Regis School Board Budget Amendment Resolution of 2-21-2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:10 AM – 11:35 AM Request for a Community Development Block Grant for the planning of the pool to hire an engineer. POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Gaylene Borden-citizen, Trish Donovan-citizen, Karrie Labbe-citizen, Jim Debree-citizen, Emily Park-Economic development and MSU extension, Bessie Spangler-citizen, Kathy Kuhl-citizen.

Emily explained how the pool in the park's engineering study might be able to be funded by a CDBG grant. The County ARPA committee supports the idea that the pool in the park fund their Preliminary architectural report (PAR) through a CDBG grant. The idea is for the application for the grant to go through the county, or the CDBG grant can be given to the city and processed through them. Emily looked into the idea of having Montana State university act as the engineer, except she found that while they could conduct site plans, they could not complete the rest of the work to full completion. In order to finish all aspects of the study, an engineering company would still be needed. Kelly Morrison asked if an engineering report would provide ongoing costs after the pool is done. The board did not take action after the discussion.

11:35 AM- 11:45 AM Request to advertise and hire full time office clerk in County Attorney's office- Debra Jackson-ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Diane Magone-citizen, , Bessie Spangler-citizen, Kathy Kuhl-citizen, Debra Jackson-County Attorney.

Debra advised that Diane would be leaving her clerk position to pursue other endeavors, and that she would like to advertise and fill the position.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the request to advertise and hire a full-time clerk in the County Attorney's office. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:45 AM- 12 Noon Appoint a Fair Board member to one vacancy- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Anna Marie White- citizen, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Diane Magone-citizen, Bessie Spangler-citizen, Kathy Kuhl-citizen.

Commissioner Chair Terrill read aloud the applicants and their narrative about why they wanted to be appointed. The two people that applied for the one vacancy were: Diane Magone, and Kelly Morrison. Commissioner Terrill stated that it is important that the board all works as a team. Commissioner Simons said that discord and conflict has been an issue with the board in the past, and we need stability on the board. We also need a new 4-H building and problem-solving people, not problems, are what is needed. Commissioner Zylawy said that he was concerned that the books be balanced and minutes be kept up. He wants to attract enthusiastic people to be involved in all aspects of the fair. People who enjoyed not only the planning and organizing, but the extra things like raking pine cones and taking out the trash. After some discussion a motion was made.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to appoint Diane Magone to the Mineral County Fair Board. All in Favor. Motion carried.

**Regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, March 8, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**

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

March 8, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, March 8, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons and Commissioner Dawn Terrill. Commissioner Roman Zylawy was absent

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM Administrative Business

Present: Diane Magone- citizen, Tammy Wieweck- citizen, Denley Loge-House District Representative

Documents signed: NONE

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve Payroll in the amount of \$177,007.25 dollars check # 19308 through # 19313 and Electronic payroll check numbers 63145 through 63213, and Liability checks 19314 through 19317 as well as Liability Electronic checks 63143 and 63144. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve the minutes of February 23, 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

10:05 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Diane Magone- citizen, Tammy Wieweck- citizen, Denley Loge-House District 14 Representative

Diane commented on the Rails to Trails planning grant from Butte to the Idaho border. She thanked the County for being a part of this effort. She expects to know more on the trial in Mineral County soon.

Tammy from the Superior Senior Citizen Center reports that things there are going well. Montana foodbank networked and partnered to have a fundraiser selling raffle tickets for 300.00 dollars of mechanic work at Branch Built, and 100 gallons of propane from Mineral Energy. She wants to encourage people to dine in for \$6.00 dollar meals, or take out meals are \$6.50 dollars and lunches are on Tuesdays at 12 noon.

Denley talked about the cleanup efforts at Smurfit Stone mill site in Missoula County and how the slow progress was going. He said that the settling ponds were a focus and to remove the the remaining buildings there. Mineral county being downstream could have an impact on us here and some concern expressed on the effects here. Denley could discuss more with people in the hall after public comment.

11:00 AM – 11:55 AM Resolution to Adopt the amended Mineral County Floodplain Management Regulations- Andy Short- ACTION ITEM

Present: Glen Koepke- citizen, Candis Hampton- Environmental Health and Planning Assistant, Andy Short- Environmental Health and Planning- Andy Short

Commissioner Duane Simons moved, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill seconded to adopt Resolution 3-8-2024: A Resolution adopting the revised Mineral County Floodplain regulations. Motion carried.

~~12 Noon– 12:15 PM Additions and deletions from the current Kayak Ridge HOA CCR’s- ACTION ITEM~~

Present:

1:00 PM- 1:30 PM Decide the ‘Reserved for Future Access’ Public right of way in the Terrace Springs II Subdivision for private access easement onto Robert Harris’ 52 acres in order to access his 80 acres- Bessie Spangler-ACTION ITEM

Present: Shawn Silverman- citizen, Mike Anderson- citizen, Bessie Spangler- Realtor representing client requesting Public right of way use, Rene Woldridge- citizen, Nancy Trout- citizen, Kelly Morrison- citizen Kim and Gary Calvery- visitors, and Robert Harris (property owner requesting action) via phone

Bessie Spangler explained Robert Harris is requesting the use of the 62 ft wide public right of way for access to his property, with no expectation of the county.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Simons requesting a survey of the right of way; the property owner expressed concern over the potential cost of a survey. All agreed that if there are existing survey pins, a survey would not be necessary.

Bessie Spangler agreed to keep the commissioners apprised of the findings.

1:30 PM- 2:00 PM Revisit County Dog Ordinance- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Amy Parks- citizen, Melanie Batt- citizen, Alisha Boyce- citizen, Jenn Dague- citizen, Lorie Stetzel- citizen

Commissioner Terrill advised the group that a dog kennel on county property would not be insured, as stated by the county's liability insurer. Questions were asked that led Commissioner Terrill to offer to call the insurance company to learn if there were any circumstances they would accept, and also that she would attend the city council meeting to ask if they could help, or if they have ideas.

2:00 PM- 2:30 PM Revisit the Recommendation from the ARPA committee to support The Mineral County Pool in the Park by providing 12,500 dollars to be used toward an Engineer for a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the proposed pool to be located in Superior and serving all of Mineral County- ACTION ITEM

Present: Emily Park- Mineral County Economic Development Committee, Ginny Tubbs- citizen, Trish Donovan- citizen, Sharon Patterson- Mineral County Economic Development Committee, and Cheryl Crabb- citizen

Emily Park explained that a new grant was found for money to hire an engineer or licensed architect and instead of needing the original request of \$60,000.00, 12,500.00 would suffice,

Commissioner Duane Simons moved, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill seconded to award \$12,500.00 to The Mineral County Pool in the Park from ARPA funds for the hiring of an engineer or licensed architect. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:00 PM. The next regular meeting will be Friday, March 15, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Dawn Terrill.

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

March 15, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, March 15, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM Administrative Business

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Bessie Spangler-citizen

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM Administrative Business

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen,

Documents signed. Commissioners signed the MACO Health Care trust Renewal plan document for fiscal year 2024-2025

Bessie Spangler enquired on the issue of the access road pins in the Terrace Springs Subdivision and if the Road Foreman had inspected their location. Road foreman McLees said they were adequate and okay for the access issue there.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$79,807.45 dollars check # 18495 through # 18565 and claim numbers 42974 through 43045. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of March 1, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried

Note: The above motions were made at 10:50 AM (see later minutes below)

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

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

10:05 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Cynthia Luce-citizen, Anna Marie white-citizen, Denley Loge-HD 14 State Representative, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy Co. Atty. Debra Jackson-County Attorney

Kelly commented that Commissioner Terrill had said at a recent Fair board meeting, that the shade trees at the fairgrounds were not unsafe to the degree that they needed to be removed. Kelly said that Terrill stated the Commissioners had consulted with tree experts to arrive at that conclusion and she wanted to see the letter or report for herself.

Dr. Cynthia Luce read aloud a letter she drafted and afterwards submitted to the Board. Her letter talked about issues she had ranging from ADA rules and providing microphones and speaker systems for the hearing impaired, to why not hold night time meetings for people working in the daytime. Her list included what she wanted for more transparency and accessibility.

Anna Marie White had arrived late to public comment and wanted to see the letter and read it. Commissioner Zylawy handed her his copy to read.

10:35 AM – 10:40 AM Appoint one member to a single vacancy on Airport Board. And to Re-appoint expired board seats-ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Anna Marie white-citizen, Gordon Hendrick-Airport Board

The Mineral County Airport Board consists of five members, and one person has left leaving a vacancy. The applications received from interested people amounted to one lone applicant. Additionally, the existing four board members were expiring and asked to be re-appointed. The first order of business was to review the new application and fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to appoint the lone applicant, Ron White to the Airport board. With his term valid to 1-1-2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next: Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to re-appoint the existing four board members to new terms. As follows below:

Steve Temple-new valid term to 1-1-2027

Gary Bullock-new term valid to 1-1-2027

Gordon Hendrick-new term valid to 1-1-2027

Don Felstet-new term valid to 1-1-2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:52 AM -11:15 AM Unscheduled visit to discuss an inmate issue. Undersheriff Cashman, Deputy County Attorney Congdon and County Attorney Jackson visited with the Commissioners about a female inmate with serious medical issues. She has a 'Hold for sentencing in Musselshell County as well as felony charges here for an altercation in a bar. She has medical issues and the medical bills will be the responsibility of Mineral County. The Sheriff and Undersheriff ask that the inmate be OR'd until her health can be restored. Debra Jackson said that she has observed four different attempts in front of four different District court Judges to request a bond reduction so the woman can be released from custody. On 12-23-2023 Judge Deschamps said no to the request because he believes that she needs treatment. Again, in January a different Judge said that she must remain in jail. The Public defender tried four times to reduce her bond for OR, and all four district Judges said no. So, it appears the taxpayers will continue to pay for her issues, not for lack of effort though by the County attorney's office. But because the district court has denied the request each and every time.

Regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, March 22, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

March 22, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, March 22, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Documents signed. Commissioners signed Resolution # 3-22-2024 Adoption agreement with Public Retirement System to offer an Employee 457 savings plan.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Gross payroll in the amount of \$179,078.95 dollars check #19318 through #19324 and electronic check numbers #63076

through #63142, and liability check #19325 and #19326 as well as Electronic Liability checks #63074 and #63075. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of March 15, 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

10:05 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen.

Kelly asked who was seated in Commissioner Terrill's office visiting earlier before meeting started. She also wanted to know how the Commissioners determine the health of a county board. She wants a copy of the job description of the Human Resource position, the administrative assistant position, and the Safety coordinator. Kelly said she wants to know what Commissioner Terrill meant when a post on Facebook quoted her as saying-"we want to get a team together for the Fairgrounds". Finally- she asked if the county has considered hiring a full-time grant writer.

10:35 AM – 10:50 AM Treasurer's update – Merry Mueller

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer.

Merry presented handouts with current CD's being brokered with DA Davidson showing the rates of return and the call dates and renewal dates. The finances were reported to be in good condition.

10:50 AM- 11:00 AM Adopt Resolution with PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) for a 457 Savings Plan- Resolution # 3-22-2024- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Frank Magee-West End Fire Chief, Andy Short-County Planner, Jason McLees- Road Foreman

Commissioner Zylawy explained that this is simply an option for County employees to have payroll place a set amount of their pay into the PERS 457 savings plan account. It is not a cost to the county at all, and there is not any kind contribution whatsoever involving the county. It is administered through the Public Retirement system at the request of the employee as an additional 'saving for retirement' option.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Resolution# 3-22-2024 All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00AM-11:20 AM US Forest service added information regarding 'Schedule A' roads- Mike Frawley US Forest service- DISCUSSION

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Frank Magee- West End Fire Chief, Andy Short-County Planner, Jason McLees- Road Foreman, Mike Frawley- US Forest Service.

Mike explained how there were some extra maintenance projects added to some road projects and that back on February 16, 2024 when he was in to present; the Mineral County Road foreman was absent. So today he is bringing the schedule A agreements in for approval. Commissioners' asked Road Foreman McLees if he had reviewed them, and he replied that he had and that things looked good. Commissioner Zylawy noted that the agenda reflects a discussion only, and not any type of action. Therefore the two schedule A road agreements will be posted on next week's agenda for full review and as an action item.

11:20 AM- 11:35 AM West End Fire Department's concern for possible severe fire season, and fuel mitigation plans for Deborgia and surrounding area- Frank Magee- DISCUSSION

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Frank Magee- West End Fire Chief, Christie Carriles-citizen.

Frank intended to make this an action item, but didn't make that clear and it is a discussion. So, Frank read aloud his letter explaining the West End fire department's plan to organize and assist with fire mitigation work in the area. Frank said that many older residents need help clearing their land to be safe from fire, and he would like to ask the Commissioners for some Title III funding to pay for some of the work needed. Frank also explained how a community member is being faced with her Homeowners insurance being cancelled if mitigation work isn't done soon. Frank said he would work with Mineral County Resource manager, Willy Peck, to get contractors to perform the work. The topic will be on next week's agenda as a Action item.

11:35 AM – 11:45 AM Request to hire Short-term part time position at the Health department- April Quinlan- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, April Quinlan -Mineral County Health Department

April said that she is looking for a summer time intern from the College who can work 29 hours a week. The student would shadow the health nurses and assist them with their duties. This position would not pay any benefits and strictly be a Short term part time position for the summer. April explained that the funding would come from two of their existing grants. Commissioner Terrill repeated that this temporary job could be no longer than 90 days to be Short term part time, and that there would not be any benefits with it. April re-affirmed that was correct.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the request of the Health Department to hire a short-term part-time position for up to 90 days, and to be paid from their existing grants. All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, March 29, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA
March 29, 2024**

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, March 29, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Dawn Terrill.

Documents signed. Commissioner Terrill signed Consulting Agreement with Tim Read to perform Inspections for Licensed establishments and sanitation services.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims in the amount of \$62,096.53 dollars check #18566 through #18606 and claim numbers 43046 through 43086. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of March 22, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried

Note: The Above Motions were made at 11:54 AM

10:00- 10:05 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill

10:05 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Gloris Castles-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Leroy Godin-citizen, Ben Mitchell-citizen, Dave Brink-MSU extension/Weed board.

Commission Chair Terrill addressed in Housekeeping some questions from previous week: The Full-Time Grant writer idea has been suggested in the past and the Board continues to give it consideration as a future possibility. Responding to 'What makes a Healthy board', she replied that, one in which people worked as a team and wanting to reach the same goal without animosity. Commissioner Simons replied to the concern that the courthouse security and safety meetings weren't advertised to the public. He said that individuals' rights were often talked about during Safety meetings, and in the Courthouse security meetings, information from Homeland security and strategy made the topic more sensitive. Commissioner Zylawy replied to the concern that Mineral County wasn't ADA compliant. He said that in 1994 when the new annex was added on, the courthouse received an elevator, and new wide stall bathrooms with grab handles and several other upgrades. Also, that the county has not received and requests for accommodations that needed to be met. Additionally, all meetings may be recorded by the public, and that audio video will be starting very soon and available through a link on the website. Fully operational by July 2024. The suggestion that we limit our meetings to two hours is not reasonable because then the voices of people wanting to speak on a subject would be limited and infringed upon.

Kelly Morrison spoke in public comment to say that Commissioner Simons had not answered the question of who he was speaking to in Dawn's office. Simons replied that it was Representative Denley Loge, and that he was quite certain that Kelly knew very well what Denley looked like and that she already knew the answer to her question. Simons further explained how Loge was on his way to a funeral in Frenchtown and didn't have time to stay for the start of public meeting. So he visited about the pooling for overriding veto and other state issues. Kelly implied that anytime Commissioners were together, that they could not visit about anything. Dave Brink added that there is an AG's opinion and a Supreme court ruling allowing Commissioner's to ride together in the same car and talk, as long as they do not discuss County business. Representative Loge was visiting Commissioner Simons about things that were not of consequence in this area of concern.

Arlene Jacovelli spoke about how she returned to Tarkio after being gone many years. She said she is basically a newbie who wants to help out any way she can. She has been attending Chamber meetings as well as Commissioner meetings to know how to better volunteer and find ways to seek grant funding. She said that she is astonished by the divisiveness and acrimony she witnesses happening now in the community, and believes that we still have good people here despite the divisiveness. She ran out of time so submitted the rest of her letter to the Board to read. Letters that are submitted are filed in the Commissioner's office.

10:35 AM- 11:05 AM Set hiring wage for Seasonal Weed assistant position to begin hiring process (position has remained unfilled due to lack of applicants)-Dave Brink- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Gloris Castles-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Leroy Godin-citizen, Ben Mitchell-citizen, Dave Brink-MSU extension/Weed board.

Dave Talked about the previous employee who had worked seasonally since 2003, then retired in 2020. The Weed department received zero applications so had been recalling the previous employee temporarily ever since. The seasonal assistant is the sole employee at the weed district, as Dave is paid my MSU extension. Currently he has been advertising the job at \$15.00 dollars an hour and for 20 – 29 hours a week, but has not received any interest. Dave wants to set a new rate of \$18.00 dollars an hour, and have 600 hours available or 30 weeks of work. His idea is to bring the previous employee back at \$18.00 dollars and train the new employee until July. The New employee would start at \$16.00 hour and then be raised to \$18.00 when the trainer can fully retire. Dave said that his budget has enough money to work this system and recommends the board pass it.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve a budget amendment in the weed fund to allow for two employees until July 1, 2024. The amendment transfers \$ 700.00 dollars from fund # 231 (veh. maint.) into Salaries fund # 110. The new hire starting at \$16.00 dollars per hour and the trainer at \$18.00 dollars. After July 1, 2024 the trainer would fully retire and the new employee move to \$18.00 dollars and hour for up to 600 hours as a seasonal employee. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:10 AM – 11:20 AM U.S. Forest service Schedule A' Road agreements- Mike Frawley- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Gloris Castles-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Frank Magee-West End fire Chief.

From a previous meeting last month, the Schedule A agreements were not officially agreed to and/or signed due to the fact that the County Road Foreman was out of town and unable to review them. Now that the Foreman had reviewed and approved them, the matter was before the Commission to act on them.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the Ward creek pre haul road Schedule A road agreement # 24-RO-11011600-021 and General maintenance and Road blading Agreement # 24-RO-11011600-015. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:25 AM- 12 Noon West End Fire Department request for Title III money for fire mitigation- Fire Chief Frank Magee- ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelly Morrison-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Gloris Castles-citizen, Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Leroy Godin-citizen, Ben Mitchell-citizen, Willy Peck-Mineral Co. Resource manager Frank Magee-West End fire Chief.

Frank spoke about the fire mitigation needs in the West End and the fact that one of his district residents is being threatened with cancelled homeowners' insurance if fuels reduction work isn't performed by summer. Frank ALSO SAID THAT WHEN THE County used Title III funds previously, the West End was not in on the news and had very few projects done there. RC&D has grants also through

Lynee' Mailett that offers 75%- and 25% homeowner paid programs. If Title III funds were able to pay the 25% for homeowners, and the RC&D paid the rest, it would maximize the dollars from the County for more projects. Willy Peck said that he would suggest any work performed complies with the Mineral County Resource Use plan, and incorporate it with WUI (wildland urban interface) plans. The idea of capping or putting a limit on the projects was talked about and being a \$5,000.00 dollar ceiling, and if more was needed on a particular project, they would request more. Currently the Firewise rules say that work can be done out to 200 feet of a home, but not beyond. Leroy Godin did a lot of mitigation work in the past, and the most expensive one he recalls was at \$11,000.00 dollars, and the average was about \$2,500.00 dollars. Bill Mitchell asked that there be a chain of command and a person to control the by products such as firewood decks and post and pole sales. Anna Marie White wanted to offer her perspective and knowledge of permits and contractor requirements saying she is happy to help Willy Peck and Chief Magee. She also wants to know how they will be determining the amount needed for a project. Willy replied that he would better answer that at a later time and back to her on that. Arlene asked that elderly people be made aware of this so that they can have all the resources to help them stay in their homes. Different grants are out there and elderly people don't have the ability to do the work themselves.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Title III funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 dollars be allocated for the West End fire department to utilize on Fire mitigation projects. And to work with Mineral County Resource Manager, Willy Peck, for maximum value of the funding. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:54 AM- The Motions to approve the Claims and the Minutes of March 22, 2024 were made and passed. (See under administrative business heading above)

1:00 PM- 1:30 PM Mineral County Board of Health meeting- (BOH Minutes kept separately in Clerk and Recorder Office)

1:30 PM- 2:30 PM Work Session with Mark Bellon on the Process for RFP and RFQ contractors. Roundtable work session- DISCUSSION

Present: Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Andy Short- Environmental Planner

Mark Bellon said that the first thing the County will need is a PAR (Preliminary Architect Report) because it is required for state and federal funding projects. Addressing the environmental issues, such as sumps, drains and etc. can take 3 months' time. The next available grant for CDBG is June 28, 2024. Whichever contractor we select would be able to get the grant in on time. Emily's list of capital improvements for RFP or RFQ focus on the courthouse, and then expands out to other projects in the county. Mark said he knows of a \$500,000.00 dollar grant that could be done by December for a PAR. So, if we pursue the grants for PAR, it would involve more time to process than if we did our own paid PAR, then pursued

grants for construction portion. Our next step is to put out RFQ for consultant for design and permitting. Mark will draw up a summary to assist us with letting out an RFP, pursue grant for PAR and construction. His team will look at the jail and assess it for longevity and weigh it against the time for a grant process. He will also summarize the next steps after that, and is adamant that the correct protocol be followed for all aspects of the bidding process.

2:30 PM- 3:00 PM Contractor Recommendation for Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core team (Emily Park-Willy Peck-or Amy Parks)- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Arlene Jacovelli-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Jasmine Savage-MSU extension office, Amy Parks-DES coordinator

Amy explained that three bid packets were mailed out to interested contractors, and that two were sent back and bid. Commissioner Terrill asked how the score was based when evaluating. Amy replied that qualifications, Approach, Experience, analysis and location were the categories. Amy then presented the score sheets and the ratings. Next Amy opened the bids. SWCA consultants came in at \$ 74,930.51 dollars and ESA bid was \$74,650.00 dollars. The recommendation from the DES coordinator was to select SWCA based on their evaluation scoring.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to accept the bid from SWCA of \$ 74,930.51 and hire them as the contractor for the Mineral County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). All in favor. Motion carried.

Regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, March 29, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Room Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy