

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

**July 5, 2024**

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

**9:00 AM- 10 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners**

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

Meeting was called to order; Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Terrill  
Approve minutes of June 28, and Claims for July 5, 2024

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve minutes of June 28, 2024. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve claims for \$339,929.68 dollars with check numbers 19009 through 19112 and claim numbers 43488 through 43591. Several claims are being held until Department Heads have signed their approval. Motion carried.**

**10:10 AM-10:30 AM Public Comment** – public comment is intended for items not on the agenda but under the jurisdiction of the board of commission, Five-minute speaking time, one trip to the podium; **questions from attendees only**

**Present-** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley- citizen, Arne Thompson- citizen

**No comments were received**

**10:30 AM- 10:45 AM Resolution Defining pay period and overtime for dispatchers- Amy Parks, DES and dispatch manager- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

Amy presented a change in scheduling for the dispatchers that would save the county money (\$7,000.) in overtime hours. She would like to define the pay period as 80 hours – which might look like 36 hours one week and 44 the next week and no overtime; only Public Safety is allowed to make the pay period changes Amy requests.

Commissioner Simons stated he'd like a week to look into this change and bring it back as an action item next week. Amy and Commissioner Terrill agree.

**10:45 AM-11:15 AM - Opportunity to ask questions regarding the SMART grant proposal- Arne Thompson and Emily Park- DISCUSSION**

**Present:** Arne Thompson- citizen, Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley- citizen

Arne Thompson presented the request to re-submit the SMART grant. Arne and others will return next week to make this request as an ACTION ITEM.

**11:15 AM- 11:30 AM Request to Advertise and hire a dispatcher-Amy Parks-DES and dispatch Manager- ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley- citizen

Amy Parks requested advertising and hiring for a dispatch vacancy.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve advertising and hiring a dispatcher for the current vacancy. Motion carried.**

**The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 1:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, July 12, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room Minutes were taken by Dawn Terrill**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA  
July 12, 2024**

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

**9:00 AM- 10 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners**

**Documents signed:** Commission Chair signed the Interlocal agreement with City of Superior for Justice court services. Chair also signed the Search and Rescue of Mineral County MOU with the Sheriff. Chair signed the Federal SMART Grant Program application form # SF-424.

**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- 10:10 AM Approve minutes of June 28, 2024 and to approve Payroll for July 12, 2024**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen.

**Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Payroll in the amount of \$185,836.99 dollars. Check numbers 19412 through 19421, electronic checks numbers 62503 through 62571 and liability checks numbers 19422, 19424 and 19426. Voiding # 19423 due to printer error. And electronic liability check numbers 62501 and 62502. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of June 28, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**10:10 AM- 10:30 AM Public Comment:** No Comments were received.

**10:35 AM – 11:00 AM Forest Service updates- Abby Lane and Chris Gauger- DISCUSSION**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Emily Park-Mineral County Economic Development Corp., George Bailey-citizen, Abby Lane- District Ranger superior, Chris Gauger- District Ranger 9-Mile, Gordon Hendrick- citizen, Patti Curtin-dispatcher.

Abby talked about the Joe Road and that the closures had started now for the culvert and bridge work. She said that the Red Bull II sale went through the NEPA process but is awaiting approval from the Federal Fish Wildlife Service. The Two Fish logging sale went No-Bid. This project is in the Two-Mile area south of St. Regis. Another project sale goes up for bids next week. Chris said that his 9-Mile district has work being done up Fish Creek, and they are also still working through the Soldier-Butler sale that was delayed. The Sawmill Gulch sale was let, but received No Bids.

**11:00 AM- 11:15 AM Possible appointment of Planning board member- Andy Short- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Andy Short-Environmental Planning office, Amy Parks-DES coordinator, Gordon Hendrick-citizen.

Andy spoke to the vacancy on the board and there was an upcoming meeting where a new member might be needed. Two applications were received, Ron White of Crystal Springs area, and Jason Cataldo of Fish creek road. Both had similar backgrounds and seemed equally qualified. One person currently sits on two boards, and the other is new.

**Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to appoint Jason Cataldo to the Mineral County Planning Board. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**11:15 pm-11:30 pm Resolution # 7-12-2024 A Resolution Regarding Department of Emergency Services Dispatchers pay Period and Overtime compensation-Amy Parks, Director-POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney, Amy Parks-DES coordinator, Gordon Hendrick-citizen.

Amy talked about the 12-hour schedule they have set up in a 2-2-3 cycle that would be easier for everyone if the overtime was less by going to the 80 hours pay period instead of the 40 hour a week for overtime. Amy said all of the employees like the schedule which gives them more days off. The payroll department is fine with the change too.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution # 7-12-2024. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**11:30 AM – 11:45 AM Search and Rescue Update and MOU acceptance/signature-Scott Dodd- ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney, Amy Parks-DES coordinator, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Scott Dodd-Superior Fire Chief, Dan Hollenback-citizen, Ryan Funke-Sheriff.

Scott and the Sheriff talked about how the old search and rescue group has been inactive and out of date with their training requirements. The Fire Chief wants to start a new group with a slightly different name. Dan says that his old group has good equipment, vehicles and land in the 501 C-3 name. It would be a shame to not use all the resources available and try to reorganize the old group and get them trained up. Scott said that he has a strong volunteer group started with 20 members and they are trained at the fire hall. The Sheriff spoke that he has confidence in the new group and will not call out the old one. He also said that it is his decision alone who is summoned, and that he only brought the MOU forward to the Commissioners make everyone aware of the new Memorandum of understanding.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the new MOU with Search and Rescue of Mineral County. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**MINERAL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING ARE NOW REQUIRED TO BE VIDEO RECORDED PER NEW STATE LAW -THEREFORE, ITS SCHEDULED-ON COMMISSIONER MEETING DAY WITH COINCIDING MINUTES AND VIDEO RECORDING**

**1:00 pm-2:00 pm Mineral County Board of Health-Quarterly Meeting- Commissioner Simons**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Jennifer Donovan- County Health Department Director, Andy Short-Environmental Health and Planning office, Amy Parks-Health Dept. and DES coordinator, Peggy Temple-Board of Health, Gloris Castles -Board of Health.

**Call To Order:** Commissioner Simons opened the meeting.

**Minutes Review:** From last meeting on 3-29-2024. **Commissioner Terrill moved, and Gloris castles seconded to approve the minutes of March 29, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business:** Jenn talked about the interest in following up placing Narcan somewhere in the courthouse. It seems to make the most sense to have it available initially in the Health department where they can order the product , set up the training for it and then disseminate to Deputies and other trained people.

**Peggy Temple moved and Gloris Castles seconded to move forward with the Health department overseeing the orders and training for Narcan so later it can be available in the courthouse. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment:** Commissioner Terrill talked about the new vicious dog ordinance. Jenn talked about the Opiod settlement and how the amount for Mineral County would be approximately 15 Percent of the State’s total award. We are in Region Five along with Sanders and Lincoln County

**New Business:** Review of Emergency operations plan and will need signatures once approved. Amy wants more organization of the categories in the plan. She said we need to update the mass fatality plan and volunteer management plan. After the exercise in June out at the airport with LEPC, we need to agree on protocol.

Andy updated on the Little River motel and their failing septic/sewer situation. They are supposed to be ready and able to connect with the St. Regis sewer system in September. If they haven’t hooked up by the fall, further action may be required. Amy reads Janet Smith’s update on tobacco and vaping use in the schools. She also mentioned the St. Regis school health fair that took place in May, and in April for Superior, the ‘Hidden in Plain sight program.

**Set Next Quarterly Meeting:** It was decided to schedule October 11 2024 at 1:00 PM for the next meeting.

**Peggy Temple moved, and Amy Parks seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 PM . All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**

**2:10 PM -2:40 PM Second Public Hearing/reading and adoption of Vicious dog Ordinance -ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Melanie Batt-Health Dept., Monte Turner-citizen, Bessie Spangler-citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy Co. Atty.

Melanie and Bessie talked about some possible changes and additions. Wally spoke to the pros and cons of changing the document which would then require a longer public review and delay the ordinance more.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to adopt the Mineral County Vicious Dog Ordinance. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**2:40 PM- 3:15 PM Request for financial contribution to the Big Sky Rail Authority- Diane Magone-POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Monte Turner-citizen, Diane Magone-Big Sky Rail representative, Glen Koepke-citizen, Sharon Patterson-citizen, Dan Bucks- Big Sky Rail secretary on TEAMS Meeting video on-line.

Diane spoke about the progress of the rail authority and how they are asking for any amount of money to be contributed by Mineral County. She presented a letter from Chairman Dave Strohmaier from Missoula County and then had Dan Bucks speak to the recent events with the authority. Currently there are 19 counties which have joined the authority since its inception 3 ½ years ago.

Commissioner Zylawy said that when the County joined, it was with the express understanding that no tax payer money would be spent towards the large endeavor of passenger service, which might not even come through Mineral County. The preferred route looks like north of Missoula and through Sanders County. Private people and businesses are still welcome to contribute if they want to, it's just not something that Mineral County Commissioners feel is economical at this time.

Diane Magone said she understood but wanted to come in and ask anyway.

**The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, July 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**

**July 19, 2024**

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

**Documents signed: Official** Vicious Dog Ordinance that was passed last week (July 12,2024) Stage II Fire Restrictions Resolution # 7-19-2024. Journal Vouchers reviewed and signed 3-24, 4-24, and 5-24 FY 23-24.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa-citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Andy Short- Land Planner

**8:00 AM Road Department-** Jason McLees presented basically the same numbers from his prior budget year. His only real request was in the area of raises, where he was asking for \$1.50 dollar more per hour for everyone. And one employee he wanted \$2.00 dollars.

**8:30 AM Health Department-** Jenn Donovan anticipates less grant funding in future years, but now her department is 80% grant funded and 20% from the General fund. She has raised the school health nurse contracts by 3% over last years. She is asking for \$1.00 dollar hour raise, except for on employee- she wants \$3.00 dollars.

**9:00 AM Weed/Extension-** Dave Brink says that he plans to charge more for gravel pit inspections as well as Hay inspections. His office has one part time employee who works 640 hours a year spraying the weeds on county roads. Dave's budget is going up very minimally from last year to cover increased chemical spray costs and a raise for the employee.

**9:30 Maintenance-** Norm Naef has a similar budget to last year.

**10:00 AM- Library-** Guna Chabarek said that her library board would like to raise all employees to \$15.00 dollars an hour. She has increases for computers, books and the website manager. She said the website is very good and worth the money.

**10:30 District Court-** Jaime Talbot - presents similar budget as last years with some increase for postage , jurors and 1.00 dollar hour raise.

**11:00 Am-** Deputy Treasurer Claudia Boyer sits in for Treasurer who is on vacation. Claudia said that her office has increases in revenue from the local option registration tax, the marijuana tax, and the video gaming tax.

**11:30 AM PUBLIC COMMENT-**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa-citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Andy Short- Land Planner, George Bailey-citizen.

George commented on the St. Regis Solar program that a manufacturing company believes can be used to power a factory and bring in 75 new jobs. Housing would of course be an issue, as it is everywhere. A new Lego type construction can build 1200 square foot homes and is being used in Europe.

**12:00 PM – 12:40 PM LUNCH BREAK**

**12:40- 1:00 PM Commission to Declare Stage II Fire Restrictions – Resolution # 7-19-2024- Mineral County Fire Warden, Mary Jo Lommen- ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa-citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy Co. Attorney, Mary Jo Lommen-Mineral County Fire Warden, Jerry Doktor- St. Regis Fire Chief, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Amy Parks-DES coordinator, Ryan Funke-Sheriff .

Mary Jo **talked** about how the Lolo Forest has been monitoring the recent heat wave and is recommending most western counties enact stage II fire restrictions. The restrictions would ban outdoor smoking and open flames of any kind. No campfires or mowing the lawn after 1:00 pm each day.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the Resolution # 7-19-2024 enacting Stage II fire restrictions in Mineral County. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Present:** Ginny Tubbs-Fair Board, Andy Short-Sanitarian and Planner, Jessica Connelly-Finance Officer, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen.

**1:00 PM Clerk and Recorder-** Similar budget as last year. But she would like to increase her part time position to a full-time position. Kasey also said that the Data processing portion will need an increase for computers and technology.

**1:30 PM Environmental Health and Planning-** Andy Short said that things are basically the same, except that we will need an updated Growth policy that might cost approximately \$10,000.00 dollars. But that is just a guess.

**Present:** Ginny Tubbs-Fair Board, Andy Short-Sanitarian and Planner, Jessica Connelly-Finance Officer, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Bob Kroupa-citizen, Mary Jo Berry- Fair Board, Shaia Maturino-citizen.

**2:00 PM Fair-** Fair Treasurer Ginny Tubbs said that with inflationary costs, they were hoping to get an extra \$5,000.00 dollars for the budget. Jessica asked about their line items and coding of the funds, with supplies and contract services being over spent. Ginny said that they were paying more attention to that and were asking for a new added line to distinguish between rentals for weddings versus vendor rentals and revenues from donations.

**2:30 PM Justice Court-** Judge Kim Taron expecting one of her clerks to retire next month and she is asking to advertise for two part time 30 hour per week employees. She wants the one 40-hour person and the part time vacancy to become two-part time with enough hours to qualify for health insurance to better attract applicants.



**3:00 PM County Attorney-** Deb Jackson has several requests and additions she wants for her office. She would like an 8-to-10.00-dollar hour raise for her Deputy County attorney, as well as hiring another deputy county attorney for approximately 70,000 dollars a year. She said she would also need more computers and equipment for an expanded office and possibly more hours for a para legal or secretary.

**Present:** Amy Parks-DES Director, Andy Short-Sanitarian and Planner, Scott Dodd-Superior Fire Chief, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen.

**3:20 PM Sheriff/Care of Prisoners-**Sheriff would like the .65 cent shift differential for Deputies be rolled in to their base salary. He thinks that would make it more attractive for new hires when it's included in the advertised rate of pay. Commissioner Zylawy wonders if it might then conflict with the state statute tying the deputy pay to 90 percent of sheriff pay. It might also impact the sheriff retirement contribution. The 4.1 % COLA being proposed by the county, would equate to approximately one dollar for employees. The Sheriff would like 7 % increase so that the deputy pau can be brought up to \$1.02 dollar more per hour.

**4:15 PM Dispatch under DES-Amy Parks-** Amy is asking for additional \$7,000 dollars for the civil defense emergency planning policy. She also needs to hire a dispatcher because one has resigned.

**The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, July 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**

**July 25, 2024**

#### **SPECIAL NO-NOTICE EMERGENCY MEETING DUE TO COUNTY-WIDE POWER OUTAGE**

**Documents signed:** Emergency Declaration Resolution # 7-25-2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met telephonically Thursday July 25, 2024 at 12:45 pm. The phone meeting was arranged by Mineral County Disaster and Emergency Services Director Amy Parks. Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Dawn Terrill and Commissioner Roman Zylawy were briefed on the crisis in which both electric companies that serve the County were scrambling to restore power after the Wednesday night wind storm that brought 81 mph winds at the Missoula airport. Amy said that power was severely strained as many power poles were

down and the main feed line was experiencing brown outs and transformer/substation issues. Missoula county had already declared an emergency to start the process of state funding and the emergency 2 mill levy. Amy thought Mineral County should do it also to dovetail along with the resources that could assist, primarily the town of Alberton and the east end of the county. Alberton has generator to use for water and sewer function, but their generators were failing and fuel was hard to replace even at the Wye outside of Missoula. The power companies communicated to Amy Parks that they really did not know when power might be restored. They said that it could be three or four days.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Terrill seconded to approve Resolution number 7-25-2024 and declare an emergency and authorize the two-mill emergency levy. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA  
July 26, 2024**

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

**9:00 AM- 10 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners**

**Documents signed:** Commission Chair Terrill signed the Promissory note for Verde Creek trucking in the amount of \$25,000 Dollars for the Mineral County Economic Development Revolving loan fund.

**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- 10:10 AM Approve minutes of July 12 and July 19, 2024 and to approve the previous claims of 7-19-24 and Payroll for July 26, 2024**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Mel Bird-citizen, Kat Thompson-citizen, Christina Cobbaert-citizen, Jeremy Ratzlif-citizen, Ron and Lisa Denn-citizens, Christina Scott-citizen, Tyler Cheeseman-citizen, Mary Murphy-Kellis-citizen, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Kelly Morrison-citizen, Julie Praeter-citizen, Ken Verley-citizen, Mike Galloway-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Wayne Cashman-Undersheriff, Ryan Funke-Sheriff, Ethan Atkin-Deputy, Eric Lindauer-Deputy, Jack Hughes-Deputy, Amy Parks-DES director, Monte Turner-citizen, Patti Curtin-citizen, Kathleen Brown-citizen.

The Minutes of July 12 were not completed, so will be approved next meeting on August 2, 2024.

The Claims for July 19 were approved during the budget meetings on July 19, but were approved again in the regular proceedings meeting of today.

**Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the claims from 7-19-2024 in the amount of \$615,611.27 dollars, check numbers 19114 through 19196 and claim numbers 43592 through 43674. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Payroll in the amount of \$173,164.01 dollars for check numbers 19429 through 19432 and electronic checks 62432 through 62500 and liability checks 19433 through 19435 including electronic liability checks 62429 through 62431. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**10:10 AM- 10:30 AM Public Comment:**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Mel Bird-citizen, Kat Thompson-citizen, Christina Cobbaert-citizen, Jeremy Ratzlif-citizen, Ron and Lisa Denn-citizens, Christina Scott-citizen, Tyler Cheeseman-citizen, Mary Murphy-Kellis-citizen, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Kelly Morrison-citizen, Julie Praeter-citizen, Ken Verley-citizen, Mike Galloway-citizen, Anna Marie White-citizen, Shaia Maturino-citizen, Wayne Cashman-Undersheriff, Ryan Funke-Sheriff, Ethan Atkin-Deputy, Eric Lindauer-Deputy, Jack Hughes-Deputy, Amy Parks-DES director, Monte Turner-citizen, Patti Curtin-citizen, Kathleen Brown-citizen.

Sheriff Funke- Spoke about law enforcement across the nation having difficulty recruiting and retaining officers. He feels that the County needs to provide for a large raise to improve the situation for Deputies in Mineral County. The last advertised vacancy garnered just two applicants. He said Mineral County now has big city problems and that he himself has worked over a hundred days in a row without a day off. Funke said that calls are up 40 % from 2020.

Ken Verley- said that the County is growing and that having I-90 go through here brings more crimes.

Gordon Hendrick- People need to support Law Enforcement financially, physically and mentally.

Julie Prater- Also supports law enforcement and sees a change in crime here. She wants people to have a living wage and believes that spending money is about choices.

Eric Lindauer-Says that he has to have a second job to live in Mineral County. Wants a change so that he can afford to live here.

Jack Hughes- he moved to Mineral County and paid \$500,000.00 dollars to buy a home. It's difficult for him to buy groceries. Now has two credit cards to buy things with. He says that his electric bill is outrageous and has been in two shootings. He watched the County Attorney budget meeting where the

County Attorney was giving her ideas of wanting more money in her budget, and he thought it was exorbitant compared to the Sheriff's budget increase requests.

Shawn Smalley- He has worked with and knows the Sheriff very well; he believes he is the most capable of any Sheriff. He said that no other elected official is on call. He needs support or he will burn out.

Wayne Cashman- says that he is speaking as a private citizen. He has worked in law enforcement for 32 years and has never seen this level of crime as he sees now. I will use the word the beg; we need more pay. We give all our heart and soul to this job.

#### **10:35 AM- 10:50 AM Treasurer Update- Merry Mueller- DISCUSSION**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Julie Praeter-citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer, Amy Parks-DES Director, Patti Curtin-citizen, Mary Murphy-Kellis- citizen, Kathleen Brown-citizen, Monte Turner-citizen.

Merry said that the May Taxes continue to stream in, everything seems to be on track. There is 5.3 million dollars in the Sweep account at Trail West Bank. A CD for 5.3% just matured to term and she renewed it for 4.7% with Federal Savings bank until 2028. She will have a meeting very soon with the D.A. Davidson broker regarding all investments.

#### **10:50 AM- 11:05 AM Request to hire 1 Full-time dispatcher and 2 Part-Time. Amy Parks-DES Director of Emergency services. ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer, Amy Parks-DES Director, Patti Curtin-citizen, Mary Murphy-Kellis- citizen, Lis Denn- dispatcher.

Amy says that there are two Full-time vacancies in dispatch, and that she would like to take one full time slot and make it into two part-time positions. They would be less than 29 hours a week and therefore no paid health insurance.

**Commissioner Simons moved and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the advertising for One Full time dispatcher and two part-time dispatchers. All in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **11:10 AM- 11:30 AM County Superintendent of Schools Agreement-Contract Renewal- Merry Mueller- ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Merry Mueller-Treasurer, Mary Murphy-Kellis- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen.

The County Superintendent of schools' contract is up for renewal with the man who has served in the past. Donald Paul Almquist has the education and degree required by the State to oversee hearings and appeals within the schools should an issue arise. He will also act as Chair of the school transportation meeting. The amount for the contract remains the same as last year, \$3,300.00 dollars.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the contract with Donald Paul Almquist for \$3,300.00 dollars to perform the job of Superintendent of schools for Mineral County. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 2, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room**

**Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA  
August 2, 2024**

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Friday, August 2, 2024. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons, Commissioner Dawn Terrill and Commissioner Roman Zylawy.

**9:00 AM- 10 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners**

**Documents signed:** Commission Chair Terrill signed the Real Property Lease for MR TMA vehicle storage and South side Transportation Demand Management Facilities. Agreement with Lessee Lyn Hellegard, Chair of Mineral County Pioneer Council. All Commissioners signed Resolution # 8-2-2024,

**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- 10:10 AM Approve minutes of July 12 and July 19, 2024 and to approve claims of 8-2-24**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Kelly Morrison-citizen.

The Minutes of July 19 were not completed, so will be approved next meeting on August 9, 2024.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of July 12, 2024 with minor spelling changes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the claims of 8-2-2024 in the amount of \$143,626.62 dollars, check numbers 19198 through 19253 and claim numbers 43676 through 43731. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**10:10 AM- 10:35 AM Public Comment:**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Kelly Morrison-citizen.

Kelly read aloud a letter about her feelings on the fair board and why she thinks they are mismanaging the fair funds. She thinks too much money is spent on the adult music entertainment and there should be more spent on families and kid entertainment activities.

**10:40 AM – 11:00 AM Resolution to Rescind/Nullify the Power Outage Emergency Declaration:  
Resolution # 8-2-2024 – ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Bob Kroupa- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Kelly Morrison-citizen.

There was a severe storm that knocked out power in Missoula and Mineral Counties that was believed to be a several days long outage. The power companies and the DES Director believed it met the criteria of an emergency declaration. On 7-25-24 Mineral County passed an emergency declaration resolution, only to have the good fortune of power being restored that same afternoon. Therefore, the resolution before the Board today is one to rescind the emergency.

**Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution # 8-2-2024 that rescinds the previous week emergency. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Mullan Bench Subdivision Road surface -Request from developer to deviate and use Roto-millings instead. – Clay Jensen- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM**

**Present:** Dorie Cook- citizen, Shawn Smalley-citizen, Andy Short-County Planner, Wally Congdon-Deputy Co. Attorney, Dave Jensen-Mullan Bench developer, Clay Jensen-Mullan Bench developer, Candis Hampton-County assistant planner, Jason McLees-County Road Foreman.

Clay explains how the original subdivision from 2007 called for the road to have either asphalt or a double shot chip seal surface. Clay said that he has been recently searching for a contractor for the project, but finds they are either too busy or very expensive. Clay is asking to deviate from those two options and add a third possibility, using roto mill off the highway projects. Andy points out that the road was required to be completed many years ago after the final phase of subdivision, and now nearly all the lots have been sold and have houses built. To change the agreement with people who purchased based on asphalt or chip seal, could hold the county liable. The road is 2,000 feet in length and costs have gone up substantially from just a few years ago, Clay would like to keep the dust down and use the roto mill contractor soon. Commissioners explained that the best route would be through the Homeowners association there, and that if they voted to allow the roto mill instead of the chip seal or

asphalt, then it could be a consideration. The meeting ended with no action, except for the Jensen's to work with Homeowner association to implement any changes to the agreement on the plats.

**Meetings adjourned at 1:32 PM for the Commissioners**

**The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM. Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Friday, August 9, 2024, in the Commissioners Meeting Room**

**Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy**