

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

May 5, 12, 19, 2009

TUESDAY
May 5, 2009

Commissioners Present: Herb Townsend, Bernie Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz.

Commissioners read and approved the previous meeting minutes.

MACo Health Insurance Trust:

Owen Voigt from MACo Health Insurance gave a lengthy report on issues affecting the cost of our health insurance.

Meagher County Sheriff:

Sheriff Siedlitz discussed several issues that included:

- Department of Emergency Services update.
- The sheriff will find out the cost of covering volunteer fireman with workman's comp.
- Bowman Williams Fire was discussed – Mr. Williams agreed to pay for all helicopter time on the Williams fire.
- DNRC fire trucks are covered with insurance used on wild lands fire.
- 911 issues: Meagher County needs to spend \$170,000 to replace our antiquated phone system in the dispatch center and mapping. The stat of Montana will contribute \$85,000. To the project in addition to the \$90,000 already in the 911 budget that came from the quarterly payments of \$26,5000 from the state.

Meagher County Weed Supervisor:

Otto Olson County Weed Supervisor reported on a \$22,000 grant Meagher County will receive from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

Golf Course Board:

Helen Hanson, Golf Course Board Member, requested permission to use block grant money to hire two summer employees, Kane Shapard and Levi Burlson, to work at the golf course. The cost will be approximately \$6000. The board has hired Glen Brandt to replace Brian Stidham as greens keeper at \$10.00 per hour. Lefty Kaldor will assist part time. Mrs. Hanson asked the commissioners if Meagher County would help with expenses if they have a cash short fall. The commissioners want to look over their 2009 budget as well as their 2008 profit and loss before agreeing to help with any 2009 cash short fall.

Meagher County Sheriff:

Sheriff Rick Seidlitz tendered his resignation effective June 30, 2009. The commissioners thanked Mr. Seidlitz for his many years of dedicated service to Meagher County and accepted his resignation.

Mr. Seidlitz, Effective July 1, 2009 will be employed to accomplish the requirements under Title II and Title III secure Rural Schools Federal Money. Mr. Seidlitz will be paid out of Title III money at the rate of \$25,000 per year. The employment will be for (4) four years. Other duties Mr. Seidlitz will continue to accomplish include Rural Fire Chief, DES Coordinator and Rural Addressing.

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Commissioners read and approved the previous meeting minutes.

Meagher County Road Department:

Ray Ringer, County Road Supervisor reported on the ongoing gravel crushing. We also discuss the need to replace a bridge over the Martinsdale canal. The commission has requested our county attorney's office to find out who owns a railroad bridge nearby and is it for sale?

Resource Advisory Committee:

All three-commission members attended a meeting at the Roadhouse to learn how to form a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Said committee, once formed, will provide ideas on how to spend Title II money.

The meeting chaired by Jerry Thompson a RAC Coordinator from Missoula assisted by Rose Davis Assistant RAC Coordinator Dave Cunningham USFS and Cathy Bushnell from Helena National Forest. High points of the discussion are as follows:

1. Only Title II money must be approved by RAC
2. Meagher County can form their own RAC or failing that, can join with a RAC from another county.
3. Meagher County can opt out of using Title II money if we chose not to participate.
4. The amount of Title II money available to Meagher County for this fiscal year is \$62,694. This sum will come to Meagher County for a total of 4 years decreasing by 10% per year.
5. Meagher County can carry over any or all money not spent in any given fiscal year. Fiscal years end September 30th.
6. Meagher County could accumulate 4 years money to spend on one large project.
7. In order for money to be held it must be committed; Money not committed will go back to the Federal Government.
8. For the most part, Title II money must be spent on Federal Lands.
9. However; spraying weeds near Federal Land could qualify for a bridge leading to Federal Lands may qualify.
10. Majority rules on decisions made by the 15 members RAC Committee.
11. A quorum must be present to vote.
12. Unused money rolls over automatically if some or all is not used in a given year.
13. The RAC is for ideas not implementations.
14. The Forest Service often kicks in money on a shared project.
15. The RAC can hire anyone to do projects; even county employees and equipment can be hired.

Meeting Adjourned

TUESDAY
May 19, 2009

Commissioners Present: Bernie Lucas, and Ben Hurwitz.

Commissioners read and approved the previous meeting minutes.

Meagher County Under-Sheriff:

Jon Lopp, Meagher County Under- Sheriff reported - we won't know if we have been successful in obtaining the COPS grant until September 2009.

Meagher County Sheriff:

Rick Seidlitz, Meagher County Sheriff, reported issues concerning our Voluntary Rural Fire Department. Commissioner Hurwitz inquired how much liability exposure Meagher County would have if structures burned? Did Meagher County renew the original agreement with Grassy Mountain **Subdivision for Fire Prevention and Suppression?** What is the difference for Meagher County if we go from being a **Wildland Fire District** to a **Rural Fire District?**

Mountainview Medical Center:

Aaron Rogers, Mountainview Medical Center Administrator, asked the Commissioners to formally accept MACO as the health care provider for the Mountainview Medical Center. Mr. Rogers stated Mountainview Medical Center would be willing to take over the job of County Health Nurse if the Commissioners so chose. It was left that the Commission would discuss it at our June 2, 2009 meeting and then get back to Mr. Rogers.

Meagher County IT Department:

Jake Odom, Meagher County IT Department, was asked to meet with the Commission and all the personnel from the Clerk & Records Office, The Treasurers Office, and Linda Hickman and Wally Congdon from the County Attorneys Office. Many issues were covered in a 45-minute discussion. Mr. Odom was asked to clarify his role as to repair, maintenance and purchase of the courthouse computers and phone system. It was agreed to meet as often as necessary to get our computers up and running smoothly. The need for an outside payroll audit was discussed. The Commissioners will discuss this further on June 2,2009.

Meagher County Attorney:

Wally Congdon, Deputy County Attorney, and Linda Hickman, County Attorney, reported to the Commissioners that Tammy Thomas and Paula Polizzi have finally been officially terminated. Mrs. Polizzi was Paid **\$10,759.59** in wages and **\$3253.91** in benefits, total amount of **\$14013.50**, while on administrative leave, which lasted from February 9, 2009 to May 22, 2009. To date Mrs. Polizzi has repaid **\$6100.00** to Meagher County. Mrs. Thomas was paid **\$5132.66** in wages and **\$2032.87** in benefits, for a total of **\$7165.53**, during her administrative leave which started February 9, 2009 and ended when she was terminated April 15, 2009. Both women received their full benefit package during their administrative leave; Mrs. Thomas has to date, repaid nothing. Mrs. Walker, who resigned February 24, 2009, has to date, repaid Meagher County **\$10,279.63**. County Attorney Linda Hickman stated her handling of the criminal end of the case cannot move forward until the Attorney Generals Office completes their investigation into allegations Walker, Polizzi, and Thomas took unauthorized draws from Meagher County.

Meagher county Emergency Services:

Jack Berg, Meagher County Emergency Services, ask the Commission to declare this week as EMS Week to recognize the many wonderful tasks our EMS Volunteers perform each year.

Meagher County Deputy Clerk and Recorder:

Becky Hurwitz-Leger presented the claims for payment; all claims were accepted and paid as authorized.

Meeting Adjourned

CLERK

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER