

Commission Proceedings
06-12-2023

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met on Monday June 12, 2023, in the Carter County Commission Board Meeting Room of the Carter County Courthouse at 214 Park Street in Ekalaka, Montana. Rod Tauck, Chairman; Mike Watkins, Vice Chairman and Pamela Castleberry, member were present.

Clerk and Recorder Judy Wright stepped into the meeting with Budget Documents.

Commissioner Tauck was present last Friday for the new hospital generator walk through with Don Hotter of Don's Electric.

Tracey Walker Superintendent of Schools presented the resignation of Carter County Educator Drusilla Dye. Tracey will advertise for the position as soon as possible with the understanding that Drusilla will cover the position until it is filled.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp joined the meeting with gravel samples for mining from the Belltower area.

Carl Presented the 2-23-2024 Road and Bridge budget. He increased purchase services to cover the increased cost of major purchases including magnesium chloride, pit stripping and power v plows for 4 trucks and 3 graders.

Attorney Harrington and Shannon Hewson of Brosz Engineering joined the meeting.

Carl presented a final quote for fencing the front of County Road Department yard with chain link at \$21,500.00 from Bruski Fencing. The Commissioners recommended ordering fencing, v-plows, grader, and truck as soon as possible so that these items may be taken out of the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. Carl left the meeting.

Shannon introduced Mike Moore of Brosz Engineering Miles City office. His experience includes roads, bridges, hydrology and GIS mapping services. There are several County projects and Flood plain study that where discussed.

Sheriff Neil Kittlemann and Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator Georgia Bruski joined the meeting.

County Treasurer Jesi Pierson presented Montana Code Annotated 7-4-2503, Salary schedule for certain County Officers- for longevity pay scale and Sheriff's Department. Georgia presented the Disaster and Emergency Services budget with a request to increase the salaries and supplies. She has plans to purchase cots and chairs for evacuations to shelter in town.

Treasurer Jesi Pierson left the meeting, while Attorney Harrington joined the meeting.

Neil presented the Public Safety 2023-2024 budget. Possibility of increase in salary. The Commission and Neil discussed the 911 Dispatch payment to Fallon Co. of \$33,333.00. They agreed the funds will come out of purchase services from a separate line item.

Treasurer Jesi Pierson joined the meeting.

Neil, Jesi and Corbit debated the Undersheriff and Deputies receiving longevity pay and a % of the \$2,000.00 a year Corners Salary that is part of Neil's salary. The Contract with the Town of Ekalaka for law

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enforcement coverage is also used to offset the salaries of the officers. Commissioner Tauck asked if the officers keep track of the hours worked providing law enforcement for the Town. The officers do not track hours worked for the Town.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:35 pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

The Airport Board Troy Fruit, Greg Harris and Steve Summers joined the meeting to present the 2023-2024 Airport Budget.

The Automated Weather Observing system (AWOS) is not in place yet, the FAA has not approved the master plan that includes the AWOS. The County portion of the weather station will be \$40,000. When the plan is approved.

The Board has been pleased with Justin Stieg as the Airport Manager. He is completing his duties, including equipment maintenance.

There is erosion around the cement including a washout near the South end of a hanger. Troy spoke to County Road Supervisor about placing rock in the washout to prevent further erosion. He has also contacted Jespersion Construction about completing the drainage project from 2020.

The airport fuel Spill prevention, Control and Counter program (SPCC) inspection was completed a few weeks ago with no report back at this time. This inspection and report are required by insurance. The Lease agreement with Plu's Flying Service will require the SPCC plan to be part of the contract.

The Airport Board has found that Jet A fuel is highly regulated and it may not be feasible to include at the airport at this time.

The Board has contacted Montana Aeronautics to start the process of installing FFA weather Cameras at the airport with permission from the Commissioners and a signature from the County Attorney. The installation would be completed through Montana Aeronautics. The expense would split the with the County.

Commissioner Castleberry made the motion to apply for, purchase and install 4 heated cameras at 50% cost share with Montana Aeronautics. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The Airport Board left the meeting.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve Resolution 06012023-01 that will establish compensation rates of County Elected Officials and employees. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Justice Court Judge Kathy Rosencranz presented the 2023-2024 Budget for the office of Justice Court. She sees a need to increase salaries in light of the Cost of Living increase and the possibility of longevity pay.

County Extension Agent Amanda Williams stepped into the meeting to introduce Jenna Paul who is an Extension intern through MSU Extension Program. She will intern in numerous Counties in the area this year.

Helen King called about the need for turning lanes on highway 212 at the BJ's convenience Store. The Commission can not make changes to a State Highway but they will contact Montana Department of Transportation to make them aware of the issues Helen mentioned.

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Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the Commissioners Proceedings for May 31, 2023. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Deputy Treasurer Cecile Kuehn joined the meeting to make the commission aware of the fact the EBMS Insurance is denying coverage for an employee. The Commission placed a call to Tyrell Mailloux from EBMS who explained that the employee could be covered under COBRA insurance during the employment gap and the regular policy following Their return to work.

Commissioner Castleberry made the motion to approve the Carter County longevity Policy. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. there was no public comment and the motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

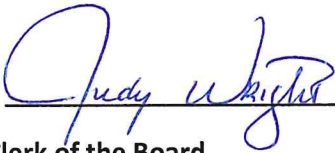
Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana



Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest:



Clerk of the Board