

Commission Proceedings

03-12-2024

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 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.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Rod Tauck.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman joined the meeting with an early warrant to pay Moore Mulching. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the early warrant to Moore Mulching for fire mitigation in the amount of \$21,250.00. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Commissioner Tauck spoke to Don Hotter of Don's Electric. Don and his crew as well as TWE are on site at the hospital to complete the generator project.

Discussed Account funds to use for the gravel and fuel used in preparation for the Hospital parking lot project. The commissioners agreed that the Hospital building fund 4101 should be used from the parking lot construction project.

"Fritz" Charlene Redding from Senator Daines office called into the meeting requesting support for the Bison Pipeline.

Dahl Memorial CEO Ryan Tooke and Georgia Bruski Dahl Memorial Board President joined the meeting where Ryan presented the audit report. Dahl Memorial was given a Clean Audit for the year.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to sign the EMPG grant forms for the DIS office. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Carl Knapp, Road and Bridge Department and Deputy Treasurer/ Payroll Clerk Cecile Kuehn joined the meeting to take part in the discussion regarding overtime hours. Commissioner Castelberry questioned overtime hours for trip Carl took to get V Plows and if the crew is working more over time since longevity pay was approved for the County. She is concerned that there will not be enough payroll funds set aside if a Road and Bridge Employee quits or retires if there is too much overtime. Carl defended his overtime with the cost comparison if the County had paid freight on V plows rather than Carl picking them up. He also presented a comparison of the Road and Bridge Department budget form 8 years ago showing the budget is less now than in 2015.

Treasurer Jesi Pierson presented the Commission with Resolution 03122024-02 ordering the Creation of Supplemental 2023 tax bills to collect additional Mills without administrative fees. She requested that the County cover the administrative fees. The Commissioners agreed to pay the administrative fees out of the Commissioners line item. Commissioner Castleberry made the motion to approve Resolution 3122024-02 ordering the creation of Supplemental 2023 tax bills to collect additional Mill without administrative fees. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried. The tax bills will be to cover the difference between the 95 Mills set by the Montana Department of Revenue and 77 mills levied by the County.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:05 and was called to order at 1:00 pm.

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Guests included Sharon Carroll, Land Planning Board, Llane Carroll, Land Resource Committee inductee, and Amanda Williams Fallon / Carter Extension Agent.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the appointment of the following Land Resource Committee Members: Adam Courtney, Sabre Moore, Amanda Williams, J.O. Tooke, Robin Diede, Lee LaBree, Megan Phillipi, and Wayne Yost. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

There was discussion regarding information on setting up a special revenue fund for damages in relation to the land use. Commissioner Castleberry and Sharon will look into a Mitigation fund. Llane and Sharon left the meeting.

Extension Agent Amanda Williams and the commission discussed sick leave and vacation, office equipment, supplies, and software. They also discussed plans for the Homemakers and 4-H programs going forward with Amanda as the Full time Carter County Extension Agent.

The Commission called Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Deputy Director Jason Rittal to request information. There was no answer.

The Commissioners approved Clerk and Recorder Judy Wrights leave of absence as needed for family medical leave.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve Resolution 03122024-01 Terminating the Fallon/Carter Memorandum of Agreement and the Fiscal Budget for Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics Dated December 06, 1933. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman joined the meeting to present the request for a permanent increase in the credit card limit for the Justice of The Peace office. The Commission approved a temporary increase in the limit to cover the cost of rooms for the conferences that the Justice of the Peace and Clerk will attend. Their meals shall be reimbursed by claim and the mileage through the WEX card. The increase in card limits will be made by a request to the Commission as needed.

Commissioner Castleberry made the motion to approve and sign the Congregate Meals form and the Council on Aging agreement. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.


There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:19.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana



Rod Tauck, Chairman

Attest: 

DEPUTY
Clerk of the Board