

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

November 12, 2024

Commissioners Scott Miller, Scott Blain, and Bill Bullock, Deputy Clerk Katrina Kruger and Administrative Officer Angela Newell were present.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance.

8:35 Public Comment. Seeing none, Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

8:40 Presiding Officer Scott Miller re-opened the meeting for public comment. Bill Bullock reported on his conference call with Department of Labor (DOL) regarding the Sibanye Stillwater closure and the total number of people laid off. Bullock believes the numbers of laid off employees presented during the call were low. Language used by the DOL during the call was an "employment disaster" due to the number of counties impacted by the closure. Commissioners discussed the possibility of providing property tax breaks to affected employees, where that sort of tax break was permissible under Montana law, and what kind of precedent it may set for other industry layoffs. Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until the next agenda item. Commissioner Bill Bullock excused himself from the meeting for a previously schedule activity.

9:00 Resolution to recreate the Belfry Lighting District Board. Presiding Officer Scott Miller called the meeting to order. Steve Carrington and Randy Black, representing the Belfry Sewer and Water Board, joined the meeting. Blain moved to approve the Resolution 2024-30 Reestablishing the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board and Ratifying all Past Actions of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board, Miller seconded. Miller called for discussion. Blain and Carrington pointed out that several paragraphs contained references to Fair Board or Commission. Newell adjusted the language to read "Belfry Lighting Board." Miller advised that the Water and Sewer Board and the Lighting Board should be completely separate, regardless of whether the board members are the same or not. Carrington and Black agreed. Discussion was held regarding appointments to the Lighting Board. Carrington asked if claims for payments would still be handled through Newell's office. Newell said since the Board is under a Rural Special Improvement District (RSID), claims for payment will come to the Administrative Office. Newell advised the Resolution includes permissive language authorizing the board to negotiate and approve maintenance requests with Northwestern Energy. Carrington and Black pointed out that they are operating under a contract with Northwestern Energy from 1973. It was agreed that new contract negotiations with Northwestern Energy should be opened. Miller called for a vote on the amended Resolution. Motion carried.

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November 12, 2024 (cont.)

9:40 Montana State University Extension Services Agreement. Carrie Guderiahn from the Montana State University Extension Office joined the meeting. Guderiahn presented the agreement. She advised that the employee compensation has been adjusted in line with other county offices. Blain moved to accept the Montana State University Extension Services Agreement, Miller seconded. Miller commended Guderiahn and the entire office for a great job. Motion carried. Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

10:00 GIS/Fire Warden Quarterly Update. Tom Kohley joined the meeting for the quarterly update. Presiding Officer Scott Miller called the meeting to order. Kohley is continuing to work to map school district boundary changes; maintaining address and road approach permit applications and inquiries; as well as reviewing all Group 1 and 2 development permits and subdivision applications.

Kohley attended Fire Department Exchange in South Carolina in October. He felt he was able to bring back good wildland fire mitigation, protection and evacuation plans.

Kohley would like to implement a new burn permit system for 2025. He reported the current State-run system with Tyler Technologies is only being maintained and not improved and is neither user-friendly nor mobile-responsive. Kohley is recommending the County move to the software currently utilized by Gallatin County. It will not have a cost increase to the County or end users and the company is in the process of developing a mobile application. Commissioners authorized Kohley to move forward and Kohley expects to have the new system in place by January 2025.

Kohley reported on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Stillwater, Park and Carbon counties are attempting to coordinate contractual risk assessment for the multiple counties in order to lessen potential risk. Miller asked if the Fire Chief is being asked for input by the Planning Department regarding risk assessment. Kohley hopes the CWPP can help provide a basis for fire protection in relation to subdivisions. Newell advised the review of subdivision applications for fire risk is being proposed as an essential function for the new Fire Warden position. Discussion was held regarding the risks of some of the new subdivision developments.

Kohley received a call from Tim Ryan with Red Lodge Fire requesting Kohley to join in writing a grant for the purchase of new radios for Rural Fire Districts . Discussion was held regarding coverage and gaps in coverage and costs of current technology.

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Kohley reported no new acquisitions for FFP Equipment. Miller asked Kohley to keep an eye out for a bulldozer to be staged at Meeteetse so it is available during fire season if needed.

Kohley and Newell are working on job descriptions to break out the GIS Coordinator from the Fire Warden position.

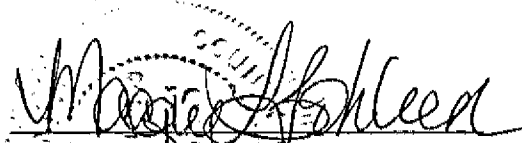
Kohley will be attending a Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network workshop in Dillon November 18-20. Kohley reported that land is still very dry and fuels are susceptible to burning and reported on recent fires in the area. Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

10:30 Consent Agenda Blain moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Minutes of Commissioners' Proceedings from October 22, 2024 and updating signature authorizations for the County's bank accounts. Miller seconded the motion; motion carried. Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

11:00 Airport Board Meeting. Jeff Wise Airport Manager, Mayor Dave Westwood, Steve Smith, Gary Herem, Merrill Pfeifer and Bo Ewald, Barb Krizek attended in person. Lance Bowser with RPA and Denise Rivett joined on-line.

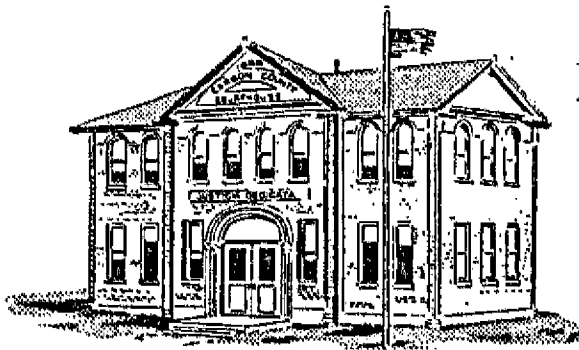
12:00 Adjourned.

ATTEST:


 Clerk & Recorder

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk, Katrina Kruger


 Commission Presiding Officer



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

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RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30

REESTABLISHING THE CARBON COUNTY BELFRY LIGHTING BOARD AND RATIFYING ALL PAST ACTIONS OF THE CARBON COUNTY BELFRY LIGHTING BOARD

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-1-201, MCA, the Carbon County Commissioners may establish an administrative board by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon County Rural Special Improvement District (RSID) No – Belfry Lighting was established by Commissioner Resolution on October 6, 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon County Commissioners desire citizen input into the operations of said lighting district, and

WHEREAS, the historic resolution passed by the Carbon County Commissioners stating the powers and duties of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board could not be located; and

WHEREAS, a de facto Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board has functioned as an administrative board for numerous years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Carbon County Commission hereby reestablishes the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board as an Administrative Board as follows:

1. Establishment. There is hereby established the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board.

2. Ratification. All past acts of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board are hereby ratified.

3. Board Composition: There shall be five (5) voting members of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board all appointed and serving at the pleasure of the Carbon County Commissioners.

A. Terms. Terms of the Board members shall be for three (3) years beginning January 1. The terms shall be staggered.

B. Representation. Board members shall be residents of the Carbon County Rural Special Improvement District for Belfry Lighting. Initial terms expirations shall be as follows:

12/31/2025

12/31/2026

12/31/2026

12/31/2027

12/31/2027

C. Vacancies. All vacancies shall be filled by the Carbon County Commission after the vacant position has been posted for one month prior to filling the vacancy.

D. Salary and Compensation. Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board members shall serve without salary or compensation, but may be entitled to documented expenses for mileage, per diem, and expenses.

E. Qualifications. Belfry Lighting Board members shall be residents of the Belfry Lighting District and shall have lived within the District for more than one year prior to the appointment.

F. Removal of Board Members. Board members serve at the pleasure of the Carbon County Commissioners and may be removed with cause or pursuant to Resolution 2023-05 Procedure to Remove Member of a County Board.

G. Insurance. As an administrative board of Carbon County, all board members and officers are agents of Carbon County for insurance purposes.

4. Meetings

A. Quorum. A majority of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board members constitute a quorum. In the event there is a vacancy within the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board, two-thirds of the members constitute a quorum.

B. Schedule. The Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board shall conduct regular meetings. Meeting times and dates may be adjusted, meetings canceled or rescheduled and additional meetings added as necessary during the calendar year by the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board Chair.

C. Minutes. Minutes are subject to 7-1-204 MCA.

5. Board Powers. Members of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board shall have the following powers, but in no event shall the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board pledge the credit of Carbon County or impose any tax unless specifically authorized by the Carbon County Commission and state law:

A. Administration. Administer programs, establish policy, and adopt administrative and procedural rules that pertain to the Carbon County Carbon County Belfry Lighting District.

B. Property. Operate, maintain, and administer the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board real and personal property in coordination with staff employed by Carbon County and the Carbon County Commissioners' designated Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board liaison.

C. Maintenance. Coordinate with the NorthWestern Energy for regular maintenance and Improvements to lighting facilities in the community of Belfry.

D. By-Laws. Establish and maintain by-laws adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Carbon County Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board and ratified by the Carbon County Commissioners.

E. Budget. Prepare and administer a budget in accordance with Carbon County policies and approval of the Carbon County Commissioners.

F. Improvements. Establish a capital improvement fund in accordance with state law and maintain a capital improvement plan for the expenditure of Capital Fund monies.

G. Procurement. Authorize purchases within the Board's budget authority in accordance with Carbon County Procurement Policies. Present all claims of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board Commission to the Carbon County Finance Office in accordance with Carbon County policies.

H. Rule Making Authority. Establish rules, with the approval of the Carbon County Commissioners, for the preservation, upkeep, care, maintenance, operation, and support of the Carbon County Belfry Lighting District.

6. Amendment This Resolution may be amended upon sixty (60) days' notice by the Carbon County Commissioners. Before any such amendment, the Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board and Carbon County Extension Offices shall submit their comments on the amendments.

7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all past actions of the Carbon County Carbon County Belfry Lighting Board are hereby ratified.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2024.

Carbon County Commissioners


Scott C. Miller
Commissioner Dist. #1


Scott Blain
Commissioner Dist. #2

Bill E Bullock
Commissioner Dist. #3

ATTEST


Macque L. Bohlen, Clerk and Recorder

GIS/Addressing/Fire Warden Quarterly Briefing to County Commissioner November 12, 2024

GIS

- Continue work towards school district modernization

County Permitting

- Maintain address and road approach permit applications and inquiries
- Continue to review all Group 1 and 2 development permits and subdivision applications and provided comments to Planning Dept

Fire Warden

- Attended Fire Department Exchange in October
- New burn permit system for 2025
- Working on multi-county coordination for Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Acquire FFP Equipment
- Begin working with Tim Ryan on multi-department radio grant
- Begin drafting 2025-26 Cooperative Fire Protection Capacity grant
- Drafted new Fire Warden / Rural Fire Chief and GIS & Address Coordinator job descriptions

Miscellaneous

- Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network workshop in Dillon November 18-20