

015

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

January 30, 2025

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. Finance Coordinator Piney Helmuth joined the meeting to present updated insurance figures to the Commissioners for review. Helmuth advised there may need to be a conversation about whether some values could be moved to liability only. Blain questioned the amounts allocated to replacement values and found them to be high. Helmuth has contacted the MACO representative for assistance in determining coverage requirements. Discussion was held regarding insurance coverages and possible deficiencies. Helmuth also asked Commissioners to identify any equipment that can be sold and taken off the books. Helmuth thanked the Board and left the meeting.

9:00 Clarification of Deputy Election Administrator Appointment. Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator Macque Bohleen and Deputy Clerk/Deputy Election Administrator Crystal Roascio joined the meeting. Newell advised Election Duties were transferred from Bohleen to Roascio in 2022. Although the intent of the job description of the Deputy Elections Administrator was for the Deputy to answer to the Clerk and Recorder, there has been a perception across the State that the position was moved out of the Clerk and Recorder's purview and is its own department. Newell requested clarification for the record that the Clerk and Recorder is the Elections Administrator and has delegated duties to a Deputy in the Clerk and Recorder office. Bullock moved to clarify the Clerk and Recorder remain the Elections Administrator for the County, although many of the duties have been delegated to a Deputy as outlined in the Deputy Elections Administrator Job Description. Miller seconded. Discussion was held regarding the hiring process in the event of a vacancy. Roascio voiced concerns regarding losing the Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders' (MACR) membership as she would not be listed as the Elections Administrator on official paperwork and would lose training and voting rights through the MACR organization. Bullock asked Bohleen to clarify MACR membership with the organization. Motion carried.

Employee Time Status Review.

9:30 City of Red Lodge. Mayor Dave Westwood, City Building Inspector Brian Hanna, and Tim Jager Project Manager for ARETE Design Group joined the meeting. Westwood and Roascio have been working on the boundary and precinct changes, shifting areas to the North and East of Red Lodge to Ward 2 to more equally distribute the population between the Red Lodge Wards.

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

January 30, 2025 (cont.)

Commissioners reported on building and zoning matters regarding the Cedarwood construction project; phased development of the project, and City requirements for design. Hanna and Westwood noted only one Conditional Approval Permit would be required, even if the project is to be completed under multiple phases. Bullock noted the Cedarwood Project could be a multiple-year project and the final facility will be substantial. Phase I will most likely include demolition and preparing the site. Hanna advised demolition does not require Planning Department review. Regardless, Newell suggested a Preliminary Plan be announced to the public prior to demolition in order to appease public perception and avoid rumors. Discussion was held regarding phasing, design renderings and timing of public announcements. Bullock and Jager offered to meet with City Council on March 11, 2025 to present the initial plan. Presiding Officer Scott Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

10:10 County Attorney Alex Nixon joined the meeting. Blain and Nixon discussed the ongoing sign theft case. Nixon reported no updates regarding the Matriarch and Bennett cases. Nixon and the Commissioners discussed the background of the Carbon County Conservation District and the authority, or lack thereof, of Sharon Flemetis from Stillwater County Conservation District to administer programs on behalf of the Carbon Conservation District. Presiding Officer Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

10:30 Clarks Fork Rural Fire District – Request for Funding: Security Cameras. Steve Fendler, Fire Chief, Scott Griswold, Board Chairman, Mark Huller Board Member, and DES Coordinator Cyrina Allen joined the meeting. Huller presented the request to install a new security system in the Bridger Fire Hall. Bridger Town Council has approved the replacement of the security system. Bullock moved to approve the installation of the new security system utilizing Wind Impact Money. Miller seconded. Huller advised the previous system was approximately 30 years old when it quit functioning. Maintenance will be provided by the Clarks Fork Rural Fire District or at the District's expense if technical assistance is required from Mountain Alarm. Fendler noted the system is transferable and would be property of the Clarks Fork Rural Fire District, and if a new Fire Hall is constructed, the system would be moved to the new Fire Hall. Discussion was held regarding funding options and whether the Fire District had been impacted by Emergency Service requests in the Wind Farm Area. Fendler advised a Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted between the City of Bridger and the Fire District. Newell noted the grant request would need to be approved by Resolution if Wind Impact Fees were being requested. Bullock moved to withdraw his motion and Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

January 30, 2025 (cont.)

Miller moved to approve Resolution 2025-03 Allocation of Wind Impact Fee Funds to the Bridger Fire District #2 for Alarm/Security System, Bullock seconded. Newell advised recipients of other Wind Impact Fee grants had funded a portion of their projects and asked if a dollar amount of the grant should be included in the motion. Miller moved to amend his motion to add the dollar amount of the full cost of the system, \$18,304.12. Bullock seconded. Miller noted the Rural EMS services would be negatively impacted if the Fire District were required to allocate resources to the security system purchase. Motion to amend carried. Blain called for the vote on the amended motion. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda consisting of Invoice from Affordable Construction Equipment for \$10,000.00 for a 2020 330G Skidsteer and applicable Asset Disposal Forms for Trade In Equipment; Purchase Request Forms for 911 Computer Equipment – Dispatch Workstations in the amounts of \$16,608.45 and \$9,639.56 for the Sheriff's Department; Procurement Policy Variance Request for Jake's Collision & Paint for Body Repairs in the amount of \$6,572.28 received after the 25th of the month; Minutes of Commissioners' Proceedings from January 7th and 9th, 2025; and Approval for Out of State Travel for Cyrina Allen, DES Coordinator to attend an All-Hazards Incident Management Team Conference. Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Blain seconded. Motion carried.

11:00 Public Hearing – Establish Office Hours. Justice of the Peace Jeff Schmalz, Sanitarian Barbara Krizek, District Court Clerk Rochelle Loyning, County Attorney Alex Nixon, and Deputy County Attorney Bob Spoja joined the meeting. Bullock moved to open a Public Hearing regarding Office Hours for Carbon County Offices; Miller seconded. Motion carried. Bullock proposed removing the term "Elected Offices" from the current Office Hours Resolution. Newell noted some County Offices are one-person offices and are not always staffed due to employee leave or work-related travel. Bullock and Blain noted the Sheriff's Office and Road Offices always have staff on-call and are available to the public at any time. Discussion was held regarding whether the public is being served, by offices if they are not open to the public every day of the week. A question was raised regarding the budgetary impacts of requiring all County Offices to be open to the public daily. Newell advised there may be impacts if staff must be available on their scheduled time off. Schedule variances, staffing flexibility, and authorizations to make changes to the schedules were discussed. Miller stated each department provides a different service and a different perception of acceptable staffing levels and feels a resolution should address specific hours for each department. Loyning offered the opinion that County Offices should be open to the public 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day of the week regardless of traffic.


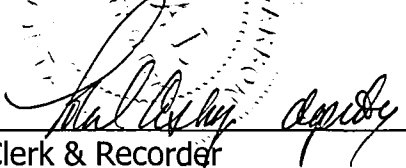
COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

January 30, 2025 (cont.)

Bullock noted offering a 4-day-a-week, 10-hour-per-day schedule is a good hiring and retention incentive, but feels remote work schedules are unnecessary. Nixon voiced disagreement with prohibiting remote work unilaterally and feels the opportunity to work outside the office should be available in limited applications. Krizek agreed, highlighting the time required for required training and certification purposes. The Public Hearing was continued until the 13th of February with input from the Department Heads meeting on February 11, 2025. Presiding Officer Scott Miller recessed the meeting until 12:15.

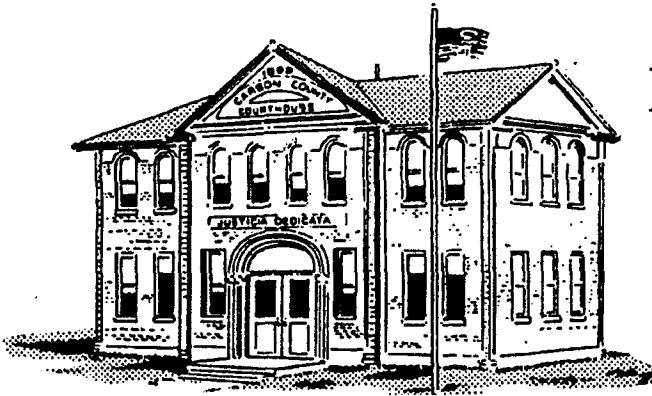
12:15 Senator Tim Sheehy's Representative, Brooke Metrione, met with Commissioners. They discussed recovery from 2022 and 2023 flood events, the Federal and permitting red tape the delayed reconstruction, the bank stabilization measures that were required by permitting agencies and have failed with subsequent high water. Also discussed were challenges with jail availability and hopes for possible federal partnerships to increase government efficiency.

ATTEST:



Clerk & Recorder


Commission Presiding Officer

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk, Katrina Kruger



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

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RESOLUTION 2025-03 A RESOLUTION ALLOCATING WIND IMPACT FEE FUNDS TO THE BRIDGER RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #2

WHEREAS, the Alarm/Security System – Clarks Fork Rural Fire District #2 needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the Pryor Mountain Wind Farm has had a direct impact on emergency response in the area; and

WHEREAS, Fire Services are a critical service and the cost of replacing the system would take away resources for critical response items; and


WHEREAS, the Carbon County Board of Commissioners issued Resolution 2020-09 Wind Impact Fee Use Plan specifying that the Road and Bridge Preparation Fee be reserved for use in the Bridger Road District for maintenance of the 26 miles of County roads that access the Pryor Mountain Wind Project; and

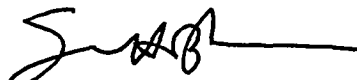
WHEREAS, Carbon County has received approximately \$207,226 in interest earnings from the county's portion of the Impact Fee.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Carbon County Board of Commissioners hereby allocates up to \$18,304.12 of Wind Impact Fee funds for the replacement of the Alarm/Security System for Clarks Fork Rural Fire District #2.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2025

Carbon County Commissioners


Scott C. Miller
Commissioner Dist.#1


Scott Blain
Commissioner Dist. #2


Bill E Bullock
Commissioner Dist. #3

ATTEST

Macque L. Bohlen

Macque L. Bohlen, Clerk and Recorder

