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**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

February 6, 2025

Commissioners Scott Miller, Scott Blain, and Bill Bullock, Deputy Clerk Katrina Kruger and Human Resource Specialist Kate Asbury were present.

8:30 Pledge of Allegiance.

8:35 Public Comment. Seeing none, Presiding Officer Scott Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item. Presiding Officer Blain re-opened the meeting for review with Finance Coordinator Piney Helmuth on property insurance and insured values. Presiding Officer Scott Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

9:00 Public Health Quarterly Update. Public Health Coordinator Erin Cross joined the meeting. Cross reported the Public Health Nurse position had been filled and training has commenced. Cross expressed concerns regarding the Mental Health Center's hours. Cross noted Carbon County Public Health is provided an hour or less per week with a Mental Health Provider. The Mental Health Center Provider is currently booked through March and most clients are being referred externally. Cross advised Public Health handles scheduling for clients with the outside providers. Discussion was held regarding telehealth options, availability of outside therapists, and challenges to funding Mental Health Services. Cross has been working on the expansion of Mental Health Programs and Reproductive and Body Change lessons in schools. Cross reported Public Health had been awarded CDG grant; \$350,000 awarded for infrastructure for new building; \$542,135.07 total award for staffing, training, building of crisis system to be spread over Fiscal Years 25, 26, & 27; Total Awarded: \$892,135.07 and funds must be expended by end of Fiscal Year 2027. DPHHS had contacted Cross regarding Cigar Lane's Mobile Cigar Lounge Trailer and potential violations of the Indoor Clean Air Act. Cross noted the Act lacks a definition as to a Private Membership Club. However, if the Mobile Lounge is being rented out for events and weddings, it may not be in compliance with the Indoor Clean Air Act.

**Employee Time Status Review**

9:30 City of Red Lodge. Mayor Dave Westwood joined the meeting. Cross asked Westwood to schedule a time to meet regarding Cigar Lane's Mobile Cigar Lounge Trailer and the DPHHS concerns. Westwood advised he understood the trailer was not being operated as planned. Westwood stated City Inspector Brian Hanna had not located statutes regarding a Mobile Membership Club outside of brick-and-mortar structure and the Commercial Use of the trailer had not been approved. Westwood and Cross agreed to meet to discuss DPHHS concerns. Deputy Election Administrator Crystal

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

February 6, 2025 (cont.)

Roascio joined the meeting to discuss potential changes to Voting Wards and Precincts. Roascio noted Wards must have similar voting populations under statute and been working with the City on adjusting Ward Boundaries. Roascio would like to adjust Precinct Boundaries in order to keep the Wards and Precincts aligned. Westwood and Roascio advised public notice of the proposed changes must be mailed to affected voters and two public hearings must be held. Roascio noted there are funds available for the mailing of the public notices. Roascio noted one Elected Official will be affected by the change, but will continue as representative of the Ward he was elected to until the end of his term. Miller clarified for the record the shift was not being proposed in order to force out an elected official. Westwood requested Roascio schedule a meeting with the City's Administration to review the process. Roascio left the meeting. Westwood reported on the City's involvement with CPACE; Bullock advised the County would be requesting reimbursement from the City of Red Lodge if CPACE is approved by the City and there were any implementation costs for tax billing. Westwood discussed proposed legislation regarding TIF Districts. Westwood highlighted conversations regarding the Cedarwood project and the Conditional Use Approval process; he indicated City of Red Lodge staff had agreed that demolition will not require Planning Board Approval. Bullock requested an update or timeline on the Airport Agreement; Westwood could not commit to a timeline. Westwood reported the City is looking to separate prosecutorial duties from legal counsel duties and outlined his goal to separate the City Judge duties from the City Court Clerk duties. Westwood noted he plans on posting a position for Deputy Administrative Officer for the City. Following his discussions, Mayor Westwood excused himself from the meeting.

10:00 County Attorney. County Attorney Alex Nixon joined the meeting. Nixon discussed the Prosecutorial Assistance Resolution 2025-05, which is contained in the Consent Agenda. Miller opened discussion about a claim for a Veteran Burial to be approved during the Consent Agenda. Nixon noted the Conservation District Board approved limited representation by his office, but has not approved the sending of the cease-and-desist letter to Stillwater County until outstanding issues have been resolved.

10:05 Bullock moved to close the meeting to discuss litigation strategy. Blain seconded. Motion carried. Presiding officer Scott Blain closed meeting to discuss litigation strategy.

10:15 Presiding Officer Blain re-opened the Public Meeting. County Attorney Alex Nixon left the meeting. Presiding Officer Scott Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

February 6, 2025 (cont.)

10:30 Consent Agenda. Finance Specialist Piney Helmuth joined the meeting. Bullock moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of MACO Property Casualty Insurance Renewal; Resolution 2025-04 Calling Special Purpose District Elections; Resolution 2025-05 Prosecutorial Assistance – Prosecution of KP; Purchase Request for 911 Radio System Frequency Coordinator Fees in the amount of \$4,930.00 to APCO from the Sheriff's Department; Grant Reimbursement Request to DNRC for \$3,075.75 for Engineering Services; Minutes of Commissioners' Proceedings dated January 16, 21 and 23, 2025, Claim Approval for Accounting Period 1/25 in the amount of 489,636.56. Miller seconded. Helmuth advised she had finalized insurance figures and will submit to HUB Insurance for final submittal to MACO upon Board Approval. Motion carried. Presiding Officer Blain recessed the meeting until the next agenda item.

11:00 DES Coordinator – Quarterly Update. DES Coordinator Cyrina Allen joined the meeting. Allen has been working on 2022 Flooding Project closeouts and reimbursements. Allen discussed the 2023 Bridger Road District Damages. Grove Creek and Meeteetse are being combined and are in the bid process. The SNOTEL System is operational and the Yellowstone Basin is reporting precipitation amounts in the 91% range. Allen reported on the Emergency Management Planning Grants (EMPG) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Allen is working with State DES for BRIC and FMA grant applications for North Tuttle Lane Bridge. State DES advised to continuing to submit requests as they will be considered if the funding freeze is lifted. Allen noted the 911 Communications Trunking Equipment has been ordered and expected to be received Fall 2025. Allen discussed the Annual Search and Rescue Evacuations Exercise scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and asked for suggestions for training locations. Bullock suggested Eagle Point Subdivision and Blain suggested East Fromberg. Allen noted the Weather Service has provided weather alerts for events in the past and has volunteered on-site personnel for events such as the Home of Champions Rodeo at no-cost if requested by local law enforcement or government officials. Allen and Miller testified regarding HB 334 funding for DES disaster relief. Allen also reported on the Storm Ready Grant Program to assist with Hazard Plans and Storm Preparedness Plans, the LEPC Winter Weather Exercise Structural Roof Collapse Emergency Exercise, and being selected as the FEMA Public Assistance Officer for Region 8. Options for the prior DES Pickup Truck were discussed.

11:30 Jenna McKinney from the Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance joined the meeting to introduce herself to the Board and discuss the role of the Department.

**COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**

February 6, 2025 (cont.)

Emergency Management Performance Grant Application. Allen reviewed Grant Award amounts for previous years. Allen proposed a Grant Application in the amount of \$50,000 to be allocated to salary, benefits, and the CodeRed System. Bullock moved to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant Application. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

11:37 Presiding Officer Scott Blain adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk & Recorder

  
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Commission Presiding Officer

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk, Katrina Kruger