

GALLATIN AND BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

DATE: April 20, 2022

LOCATION: 2 E Hickory Street, Three Forks, MT

RE: Three Forks Area

ATTENDEES: Gallatin County Commissioners Joe Skinner, Scott MacFarlane and Zach Brown. Broadwater County Commissioners Darrel Folkvord, Mike Delger and Debi Randolph.

Gallatin County Commissioner Chairman Joe Skinner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Gallatin County Commissioner Zach Brown gave an update regarding ambulance and fire district. Commissioner Folkvord commented regarding information from survey that was completed by area residents in February 2022 to help guide the future direction of services in the south end of the county. Fire protection is provided by interlocal agreement by Broadwater County and Gallatin County. Gallatin County Chairman Skinner offered comments regarding the timeline. Theresa Jenkins offered public comment. Barbara Mutter, Three Forks Ambulance Board member offered comments regarding EMT's and emergency services in Broadwater County. A member of the public offered comments regarding taxes in the southern county. Response regarding 80% of taxes go to school and other part goes to the other county services. A member of the rural fire district offered public comment regarding the rural fire fighters in Three Forks do not have any paid firemen. Gallatin County Commissioner Fire District, Ambulance and the City willing to contribute some money.

Broadwater County Undersheriff Brandon Harris discussed grant to get two more officers assigned to Three Forks area. Deputies cannot afford to live in Three Forks with a single income but drive down to Three Forks. Investigating crimes requires interview rooms and that is currently located in Townsend. All of Broadwater County is growing. Captain Nick Rauser offered comments regarding more deputies spending more time in Wheatland area. Calls for service in Wheatland are sky rocketing, along with all of Broadwater County. Gallatin County has responded to several scenes in Wheatland. Broadwater County collaborates with Gallatin County for services in the Three Forks area. Undersheriff Harris offered comments regarding an office in the rest stop. The Broadwater County Commissioners are working toward a building (Emergency Services Building) that Broadwater County deputies can have an office location. Gallatin County Commissioner commented equity balanced with the cost of services but will keep responding to calls.

Public Comment: Steve Kurk offered comments stating that he has seen Broadwater County Sheriff's patrolling Broadwater County. Elizabeth Barton offered comments that Broadwater County's Sheriff's vehicles are more present in the Three Forks area. Undersheriff Harris offered comments regarding a small reserve class training. Roland Deane offered public comment.

Old Town Bridge Replacement discussion regarding two Old Town bridges that need to be replaced in Gallatin County but they are also being used by Broadwater County residents and would like to replace both of those bridges. Each County can apply for grants of 750k for each

bridge. If a county applies for two bridges to be replaced and the grant is only for \$500k per bridge. Both grants require county matches. Jamie Grabinski, Gallatin County Grants Coordinator offered comments that Gallatin would apply for the eastern bridge, and Broadwater would apply for the western bridge. The deadline is May 19, 2022, and then wait a full year to see if awarded.

Acronyms that were mentioned are TSEP, Treasure State Endowment Program, funded out of the coal and MSEP, Montana State Endowment Program.

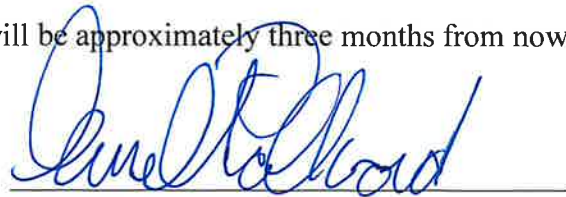
Meridian Bridge update presented by Jamie Grabinski, Gallatin County Grants Coordinator Gallatin County, Broadwater County, and Jefferson County are paying a portion of the bridge. Planning for fall construction. Gallatin County Commissioner offered comments regarding bridges that allow for emergency response vehicles.

Gallatin County Sheriff Dan Springer offered comments regarding the Three Forks Bridge and other bridges. Gallatin Sheriff's office helps in the Southern end of Broadwater County and work together help out when someone is in the area and Broadwater helps Gallatin too. Gallatin has more deputies living out in the Three Forks area, so it is easier for them to respond. Undersheriff Harris commented that resident Deputies cannot find affordable housing in the area. When there is an issue requiring law enforcement, Gallatin County may be the first on the scene, but Broadwater County Sheriff's Office does the investigation and paperwork follow up. Broadwater helps with the fires in the Gallatin side as well. Highway Patrol have access to Gallatin Co's office. Gallatin County is working with the Montana Highway Patrol to have a patrolman assigned to Three Forks location.

Broadwater County Public Works Supervisor Josh Obert offered comments regarding the roads being maintained in Broadwater County. Broadwater County is experiencing 19% growth rate annually. Improved roads resulted in less calls. Same improvement to rolling Glenn Rd. will occur this summer. Broadwater County is planning significant improvement to roads on the south end of the district.

Gallatin County Grants Coordinators Jamie Grabinski and Kathy Thompson of Stahley Engineering were present at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. Next meeting will be approximately three months from now.



DARREL FOLKVORD

Broadwater County Commissioner Chair



Attest:

ANGIE PAULSEN

Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder