

COMMISSIONER MEETING

515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

March 4, 2020

Commissioner Darrel Folkvord called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Mike Delger was also present.

All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

Darrel Folkvord requested public comment. There was no comment from the public.

Wynn Meehan, Broadwater County Sheriff, presented copies of the **RESOLUTION NO. 20-5**: **BROADWATER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BALLOT VOTE FOR UP TO 39.93 MILLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING JAIL OPERATION, DISPATCH AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES WITHIN BROADWATER COUNTY.** Wynn Meehan also provided results from the public survey, with percentages indicating a majority of the community is in favor of supporting safety services within Broadwater County. There was heavy emphasis on the need for funding, to support the Detention Center, Deputies and Dispatch Center.

Brandon Harris, Undersheriff, stated the Cops Grant is in process. The deadline is March 11, 2020.

Darrel Folkvord expressed the importance of this Levy. He assured that the funding stays within the community.

Wynn Meehan noted that if the Levy passes, it is important to notify the public of the funds.

Darrel Folkvord introduced Helen Coleman to read **RESOLUTION NO. 20-5** to the Public.

Wynn Meehan noted that the requested increase of 39.93 mills can be reduced, if need be.

Mike Delger made motion to adopt the Levy.

Darrel Folkvord seconded the motion to adopt the 39.93 mills for the purpose of funding jail operation, dispatch and public safety services within Broadwater County.

Cory Swanson, County Attorney, noted the population growth and increasing demand for services. Due to the dramatic increase in crime and drug activity throughout Broadwater County, there is a need for more man power. The Jail is affected by the lack of Revenue,

causing a decrease in the holding of inmates. He expressed the crucial need for our own Jail and Dispatch. Without the Levy, Our Public Safety Services will not be available.

Public Comment:

Ross Johnson stated the effect of Public Safety on the County. It affects Businesses, the Roads, etc.

Tim Ravndal noted that the Public Safety Department has been struggling with Funds. There is no cash reserve. If this Levy passes, he requests more clarification to the public. It is important to provide numbers to the citizens of this county. Ranchers share concern about taxes.

Wynn Meehan responded, stating if the Mills increase, the cash increases. Wynn noted the need for Reserve Deputies, to assist with Activities. This would allow for keeping the other Deputies full time.

Darrel Folkvord noted the Department of Revenue was contacted to determine if there is a specific formula to help large land owners better compute their levy obligation. It was difficult to develop a specific blanket type formula because of the many different land classifications. A different formula needs to be applied to each specific land classification.

David Clause, Broadwater County resident, suggested that cash reserves will disappear due to lack of revenue. He hopes the public responds.

No further comment from the Public.

Darrel Folkvord noted to the public that he encourages input.

Darrel Folkvord and Mike Delger voted in favor to adopt Resolution No 20-5, "Authorizing ballot vote for up to 39.9 Mills for the purpose of funding jail operation, dispatch and public safety services within Broadwater County."

The motion passes.

The **RESOLUTION NO. 20-5** was signed by Commissioners Mike Delger and Darrel Folkvord. Commissioner Laura Obert was in Washington D.C. and not present to sign the resolution.

Final Comment, by Tim Ravndal: This Resolution will be placed on a Ballot for Vote. Public Vote will be open until June. There will be an Absentee Ballot.

Darrel Folkvord adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

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Darrel Folkvord, Vice-Chair

Attest:

Ann Rauser, Deputy Clerk and Recorder