

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROADWATER COUNTY, STATE OF MONTANA

LOCATION: 416 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

DATE: October 11, 2023

Commissioner Debi Randolph called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners Darrel Folkvord and Lindsey Richtmyer were also present.

Public Comment: Nancy Marks MT43News.

10:02 AM Broadwater County Public Works Supervisor TJ Graveley stated Rockwell Scales in Great Falls completed the scale installation at the Transfer Station and should be fully functional next week. There will be a reader for credit card payments only. The transfer station will no longer accept cash or check. All loads over 3 cubic yards will need to utilize this scale. Winston site walk-in canister is closed and the gates have moved up closer to the highway. Additional hours of service are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. subject to change when daylight hours diminish. Cameras will be installed and violators will be turned over to the Sheriff's Office. Solid Waste needs a new refuse trailer. A proposal has been provided to the Commissioners. Broadwater County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki commented.

10:13 AM Broadwater County Sheriff Nick Rauser provided an update. Current stats to date for this year: 15,842 calls, 1,200 traffic stops, 482 cases (482 total last year), 42 DUI's, 28 Partner Family Member Assault, 51 felonies filed with the County Attorney and 23 deaths. The Sheriff's Office has one opening for dispatch and one opening with the Detention Center. Johnnie Spurlock was promoted to Jail Commander. Zach Morris was promoted to Detention Sergeant. Townsend School Board Chairman Jason Noyes commented.

10:22 AM Montana Lineman Rodeo Committee Member Tim Newman requested to move their rodeo to the Townsend Fairgrounds to help promote local apprenticeship. Wynn Meehan commented. Broadwater County MSU Extension Agent Allison Kosto commented. Broadwater County Fair Manager/MSU Extension Admin. Assistant Jessica Erickson stated she will contact the Fair Board to get this on the agenda. Broadwater County/City of Townsend Parks & Recreation Chairman Adam Six commented. Commissioner Randolph asked about insurance. Newman will research the insurance details. Northwestern Energy representative Howard Skjervem commented. Meehan commented. Broadwater County Attorney Cory Swanson asked a couple clarifying questions. Commissioner Folkvord commented. Approval from fair board and more information on insurance is needed. Commissioners tabled decision.

10:39 AM Commissioner Folkvord presented the new Airport Lease Agreement for Brian and Theresa Foster to build a hangar at the Townsend Airport. Folkvord commented that the Airport Board and the City of Townsend have approved the lease. Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve the Airport Lease Agreement for Brian and Theresa Foster. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

10:41 AM Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (MT DNRC) and State Water Projects Bureau (SWPB) representative Mark McNearney presented the Floodplain Development Permit, MT DNRC – Toston Reservoir Revetment, Permit # 23-FP-2 which is a cooperative between the MT DNRC and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). MT DNRC owns and operates the Broadwater Power Project also known as the Toston Dam; adjacent to the Broadwater Power Project, BLM operates the upper Toston recreation area which is a day use site. Commissioner Randolph asked the timeframe for this. McNearney responded the timeframe would be this fall. Commissioner Richtmyer asked if this is above the recreational area and below the irrigation. McNearney responded yes. Commissioner Richtmyer commented. County Attorney Swanson asked if they had to go to the Conservation District for a 3-10 permit. McNearney stated no since they are a state agency but they do need to secure construction permits. Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve the Floodplain Development Permit, MT DNRC – Toston Reservoir Revetment, Permit # 23-FP-2. Commissioner Folkvord seconded and carried.

10:47 AM Broadwater County Attorney Cory Swanson presented Market Wage Adjustments for Deputy County Attorneys with City Prosecution Services. Swanson stated they are trying to recruit another Deputy County Attorney with little success hence bringing forth a market wage adjustment to increase the pay due to competing with market of surrounding counties specifically Lewis & Clark County and Jefferson County. During the time they did targeted recruiting, they found out that we are not keeping pace with the market. Since then the department has taken over the prosecution for the City of Townsend misdemeanors that went into effect October 1st; City of Townsend is paying Broadwater County \$18,300 a year for this. Swanson's proposal is utilizing the revenue to help recruit and retain a Deputy County Attorney. Swanson is recommending to change the Market Wage Adjustment the Commission approved, the top range for an experienced Deputy was \$85,000 to \$93,500, change this to \$87,000 to \$95,000 and for the inexperienced or beginner Deputy was \$74,000 to \$80,500 change this to \$74,000 to \$87,000. Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve the Market Wage Adjustments for Deputy County Attorney with City Prosecution Services. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

10:03 AM Broadwater County Attorney Swanson presented on Imposing/Paying State Property Tax Revenue of 95 Mills or Lesser Amount. Swanson stated there is a mechanism in law that determines how we calculate and then impose property taxes. The controversy has centered on state-wide property taxes imposed for education. Montana Code Annotated (MCA) § 15-10-420 is the Procedure for Calculating Levy that addresses how local governments are limited in the increase of the property taxes they assess. Swanson's recommendation is the county stay with the current position, which is that the county already certified the 95 mills. Commissioner Folkvord commented. Swanson commented. Broadwater County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki asked a question. Swanson commented. Commissioner Richtmyer asked a question. Broadwater county Treasurer Melissa Franks commented. Swanson commented. Commissioner Richtmyer asked a question. Swanson commented. Broadwater County Treasurer Melissa Franks commented. Swanson commented. Commissioner Folkvord moved to mill the 95 and the county would retain the balance between 77.89 and 95 mills and either send that balance to the state or refund it to the taxpayers after this litigation case is decided. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded. Townsend School Board Trustee Jason Noyes commented. Motion carried. Commissioner Randolph

commented. Administrative Officer Jarocki commented. Swanson Commented. MT43 News Reporter Nancy Marks asked a question. Swanson commented. Jarocki commented. Motion carried. Commissioner Folkvord asked Attorney Swanson if he could draft the resolution language for this decision to be presented at a later date.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve claims in the amount of \$83,142.42. Commissioner Folkvord seconded and carried.

Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve claims in the amount of \$27,556.88. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

Thursday, October 12, 2023

10:00 AM Weekly Working Meeting with Jania Hatfield, Deputy County Attorney, in the Commission Office regarding projects and deadlines.

Public Meeting Notices

6:00 PM Oct. 11th Southern Broadwater County: (CTAP*) Meeting at Bridger Brewing

6:00 PM Oct. 12th Northern Broadwater County: (CTAP*) Meeting at the Flynn Building

6:00 PM Nov. 8th Southern Broadwater County: (CTAP*) Meeting at Bridger Brewing

6:00 PM Nov. 14th Northern Broadwater County: (CTAP*) Meeting at the Flynn Building

**Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP): Discussion Regarding Future Growth in Broadwater County*

Communications received: Western Trailers bid, Donovan bid, City-County Airport Lease Agreement, Broadwater County Floodplain Development permit, Upper Toston Recreation Area Shoreline Stabilization Project.


Present at meeting were: Nancy Marks with MT43News, Mark McNearney with MT DNRC, Jason Noyes with Townsend Schools, Wynn Meehan with Broadwater Rodeo Association.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM. The next regular Commissioner Meeting will be held October 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM.



Attest:

ANGIE PAULSEN
Clerk and Recorder


DEBRA RANDOLPH
Commissioner Chairwoman