

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BROADWATER COUNTY, STATE OF MONTANA**

**LOCATION:** 416 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

**DATE:** September 20, 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 introduced Mike Mugas journalist from the Philippines. Michael John Mugas from Philippines, studying at the University of Montana Mansfield Center, commented.

10:03 AM Public Hearing, Budget Amendment for FY 2022-2023

10:03 AM Broadwater County Finance Officer Debbie Kelley presented Resolution for Budget Amendment FY 2022-2023.

10:12 AM Public Hearing closed. Regular Commission meeting opened. Commissioner Folkvord moved to adopt FY 2022/2023 Expenditure & Revenue Budget Amendments Resolution 2023-16 expenditure revenue budgets for 2022-2023. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded. County Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki commented. Motion carried.

10:16 AM Captain Mark Wood, Broadwater County Sheriff Captain Mark Wood presented purchase of 4 New Patrol Vehicles. Vehicles requesting to replace 2018 Expedition 88k miles, 2014 F-150 88k miles. The other two will be for a School Resource Officer (SRO) and more police presence in South end of the County. CIP will pay for all four vehicles. Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve the purchase of four new patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Office: two new admin vehicles, as well as the upfit for those admin vehicles, and two patrol vehicles and approval to trade in the older two older vehicles. Commissioner Folkvord seconded and carried.

10:37 AM Broadwater County Public Health Director Ruby Taylor presented updates on COVID/Flu cases. There has been a statewide spike in COVID cases. Broadwater last month reported 15-20 cases. Symptoms have been mild. One hospitalization and no deaths. The new COVID vaccine is approved for 2023-2024 formulation. The state is no longer providing those, it is going through private sector insurance now. Updated recommendation is that anyone 6 months

and older should update to this current new COVID vaccine. If you test positive for COVID it is recommended to take 5 days of total isolation, then after that you can go out with a mask for 5 days. Flu shots are available and there are no flu cases in the county.

10:50 AM Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board Chair Vic Sample presented an update to the Commissioners. The goal of the Board is to learn about federal and state funding programs to help build a fiber infrastructure throughout the county. The Broadband Board is currently working on the following the state roll-out of the Federal BEAD program. Montana received \$628,000,000, but this amount leaves a considerable shortfall in funds to accomplish the goal of statewide fiber-to-the-home. It is approximately 25% of what is needed across the state. Broadwater County is the only county that has formed an action group to work with the State Department of Administration and attends all the state meetings regarding the BEAD rollout. ISP partnerships are critical and the Board is working with several companies on possibilities. The state's BEAD scoring rubric favors partnerships. Soft, or in-kind matching would be a major contribution from the county to any partnership. The BEAD application and bidding process is expensive and resource-intensive. The Broadband Board sees the increasing need for third-party involvement to perform a feasibility and engineering study and assist with constructing partnerships. Commissioner Richtmyer commented that the BEAD program goal is to get fiber internet, not satellite, not fixed internet. The state Communications Advisory Commission (CAC) expects it will be four years before any work begins.

11:20 AM Victor Sample represented the Broadband Advisory Board. The recommendation of the Broadband Advisory Board is to appoint Spencer Sellay to fill the open board position. Commissioner Richtmyer moved to appoint Spencer Sellay to fill the Broadwater Broadband Advisory Board for the remainder of the term to end December 20, 2025. Commissioner Folkvord seconded and carried.

11:23 AM Broadwater County Attorney Cory Swanson presented the contract term for the Department of Revenue to lease from Broadwater County. Swanson recommends to continue the lease. Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve First Amendment to Lease # 5935, Contract between Department of Revenue and Broadwater County expires June 20, 2024. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

11:30 AM Broadwater County Attorney Cory Swanson presented Interlocal Agreement for City of Townsend Prosecution Services. Swanson gave the background regarding the City County Attorney. Effective October 1, 2023 - July 1, 2024 will automatically renew unless notified ahead of time. The city will agree to pay the county \$1,525 per month on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. No separate entity is created. This position will not be the city attorney, but rather would be a Deputy City Attorney. Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder will record Interlocal Agreement for City Prosecution Services and will file said document at the Montana Secretary of State's Office. Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve Interlocal Agreement for City of Townsend Prosecution Services. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

11:38 AM Broadwater County Public Works Director TJ Graveley presented Winston Walk-in Canister Closure and Gate Relocation Public Meeting Notices. Director Graveley read into the record a written concern from August 27, 2023, Solid Waste public meeting. Director Graveley is

requesting the walk-in can to be closed and a new entrance. Winston canister sites hours are Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. as well as Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Details will be added to the website. Commissioner Folkvord moved to approve closing walk in, move the gate closer to highway, give the residents additional hours and days of operation. Commissioner Richtmyer seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve the September 13, 2023, Minutes. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve the September 6, 2023, Minutes. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve the August 1, 2023, Minutes. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve claims in the amount of \$40,808.77. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve payroll claims in the amount of \$39,701.26. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve payroll claims in the amount of \$282,197.20. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer moved to approve claims in the amount of \$36,256.41. Commissioner Randolph seconded and carried.

NO COMMISSION MEETING NEXT WEEK, September 27, 2023, DUE TO MACO CONFERENCE.

#### 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 on October 12, 2023 at the Flynn Building.

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

Communications received: FY 2022/2023 Expenditure & Revenue Budget Amendments Resolution 2023-16, Email to the Commission from Broadband Advisory Board to recommend Spencer Sella, First Amendment to Lease # 5935, Contract between Department of Revenue and Broadwater County, Interlocal Agreement for City of Townsend Prosecution Services.

Present at the meeting were: Nancy Marks with MT43News, Victor Sample, Al Christopherson, Broadwater County Chief Administrative Officer Bill Jarocki, Townsend City Attorney Peter

Simon and Michael John Mugas from Philippines is studying at the University of Montana Mansfield Center.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next regular Commissioner Meeting will be held October 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Angie Paulsen", written over a horizontal line.

Attest:

ANGIE PAULSEN  
Clerk and Recorder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Debra Randolph", written over a horizontal line.

DEBRA RANDOLPH  
Commissioner Chairwoman