

BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

121 3rd St W
Room 301
Hardin, MT 59034



BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES May 31, 2022 9:00 AM

Members

Sidney Fitzpatrick, Chairman
George Real Bird III, Member
Larry Vandersloot, Member

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sidney Fitzpatrick.

2. Roll Call

Sidney Fitzpatrick; George Real Bird III; Larry Vandersloot

3. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

4. Claim Approval

Report from Human Resources

5. Old Business

Ambulance Barn

Lance Pederson received an email from Robie Culver who referenced a form that the county does not have. The form is Exhibit 6A, a link to the form that is unavailable. Mike Opie expressed that the longer documents with G.M.P. numbers are not signed. There is the risk of prices changing and affecting G.M.P numbers. The Commissioners want all the documents complete and ready to sign so that the documents are ready for the final decision and signing.

Decision on Treasurer's clerk wages

Lindsey Fox recommended that Treasurer's Clerk 2 Wage be set at \$16/hr base and be negotiable. Larry Vandersloot made the motion to approve these base wages.

6. New Business

BIG HORN COUNTY CORNFED BAGGERS - FAIR GROUNDS USE AGREEMENT

Lance Pederson mentioned that the document is not ready because additional changes were made to the agreement. These changes include adding Tuesday just in case Thursday is not available. A Cornhole tournament was requested for a Saturday that is available. An agreement was also talked about in which the Cornhole league would go on year around. Rent price was discussed, and a rent price of \$65 per month would be set, regardless, if some days the facility is not in use, rather than \$15 a season for each use only. It was decided to keep it at the set of \$65 per month. The league has their own insurance to cover any damage that may occur, if any. Commissioner Fitzpatrick, after

hearing about their insurance, said to strike out the \$500 damage deposit and to leave at \$15 a session, which totals \$65 a month in case there is a week that the league can not use it. The set \$65 price still remains the same. The league will work with the extension office on scheduling. A 2nd and 3rd in charge were designated in case the league leader can not be present.

Mayor Purcel, Drew Lehr, and Jacy Head Goal Setting With Tina Toyne, Economic Development

Economic development strategies and goals were discussed for Big Horn County. Jacy Head and Mayor Joe Purcel attended to discuss potential economic development. Jacy Head discussed Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (BRCD) proposal in which the BRCD would provide capacity building and technical assistance to the newly hired economic developer of Big Horn County. A Train the Trainer concept would be used to help the Economic Developer. Seeking assistance from USDA Rural Housing Development, Montana Department of Commerce housing Division, and Red Lodge Area Community Foundation was discussed. These are resources that would help in housing development, which is a big need in Big Horn County. Larry Vandersloot mentioned he would like to see development in the Industrial part by Love's Truck Stop. The infrastructure is there for both small and large businesses. Housing can also be accommodated for medium to low income families. Mike Opie mentioned that if housing is built, Big Horn County could compete in the housing market for those who would live in Hardin and commute to Billings. Larry Vandersloot brought up the idea of establishing a housing authority. Affordable housing would attract more people to move to Big Horn County. George Real Bird asked if a small Walmart could be built here and Mayor Purcel said they have been contacted but have not received a response. Tina Toyne and Jacy Head mentioned that different community leaders should be invited to discuss their ideas and opportunities that are available for Big Horn County. Tina and Jacy will attend the Coal Board meeting to further get information. Tina mentioned an annual housing conference on the 15th and 16th of June, 2022. Jacy said EDA is mainly viable for anything that is economical. EDA can be used in development for preliminary market studies that could be for community housing development. Larry Vandersloot mentioned the idea of an EDA grant being used to clean up the old hospital building and build a new housing complex on that site.

7. Public Comments

8. Discussion

9. Adjourn

Sidney Fitzpatrick motioned for adjournment. Motion passed,