

BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

121 3rd St W
Room 301
Hardin, MT 59034



BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES June 24, 2022 9:00 AM

Members

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

1. Employee Updates and Claim Approvals - 9:00am

Accounting

2. Call to Order - 9:30am

3. Roll Call

4. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

5. Old Business

AJ Espinoza

AJ Espinoza discussed with the commissioners if he will continue to do fires. Commissioner Vandersloot explains that with fire season coming up he will continue to do fires this year and the hours spent on overtime for fires will be considered and worked into his salary. AJ asks in what capacity he will be working on fires, as a fire chief, or continue to run his own crew? The commissioners encouraged AJ to make that decision, since it will be his department. The commission expressed to AJ that he can make those types of decisions and the commissioners are available if he needs help or advice, but don't see the need to micromanage. They also informed him of his weekly updates on Tuesday mornings. AJ exits the meeting.

Lindsey Fox, Human Resources

Lindsey Fox, Human Resources, presents the extension agreement to the commission. Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve the extension agreement . The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick and passed unanimously. Lindsey presented the wage recommendation for the clerk II position from Denise Rios, Treasurer for her experience. Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to Approve the wage recommendation . The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzpatrick and passed unanimously.

6. New Business

DES Brian Mischel

Brian Mischel, DES, came in to discuss his wage request letter. Commissioners will consider and work with him on a more reasonable increase so that it is sustainable and discuss it at a later date.

Lance Pederson, Legal Counsel

Lance Pedersen, Legal Counsel, Mayor Purcell, and Mr. Ness join meeting to discuss Mr. Ness is putting a laundromat at 303 N Center Ave and would like to put double doors on the side of the building that would open up to the park. Lance points out that if the park is altered in any way, it reverts back to the county. Mayor Purcell suggests the city deed the area back to the county so the county can then sell the park to Mr. Ness. That would give Mr. Ness the freedom to make any and all changes as he sees fit. Commissioner Vandersloot gives background on how the park came to be and everything that was planned. Mr. Ness explains he owns a Laundromat in Billings and noticed that many of his customers are Hardin residents sometimes traveling in severe winter conditions to do laundry. Noticing the need in our area, he then began researching possible locations, ultimately deciding on the location downtown. The commissioners will order an appraisal and start the process of gaining ownership and selling the property to Mr. Ness. Mayor Purcell and Mr. Ness exit meeting.

7. Public Comments

8. Discussion

Dr. Shaw came in and gave the commissioners an update on his Ft. Smith sewer project. Dr. Shaw expresses he still has interest in the ARAP MAG funds. Commissioner Fitzpatrick says they'll look over applicants when they meet with Gus Byrom and Robie Culver, so they can rate and rank the projects to distribute the funds. Dr. Shaw is concerned over some of the applicants who applied for funding from both the county funds and tribal funds. He is concerned, as it does not seem fair for them to apply for both. Commisioner Fitzpatrcik affirms they will look at everything with Gus.

9. Adjourn

Approved: _____
Sidney Fitzpatrick
Chairman

Attest: _____
Peri Schenderline
Deputy Clerk & Recorder