

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 8, 2022 9:00 AM

Members

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

1. Staff Updates and Claim Approvals

Tina Toyne gave an update on her progress regarding Economic Development.

2. Call to Order

Commissioner Chair Sidney Fitzpatrick

3. Roll Call

Sidney Fitzpatrick

Larry Uffleman

George Real Bird was absent, he is currently at a meeting in Helena.

4. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

5. Old Business

Union Negotiations - Sheriff's Office

Teamster Union Negotiations with Jim Soumas & Rhonda Johnson. Present from the Sheriffs office is Sheriff Lawrence P. Big Hair, Undersheriff Leroy Not Afraid and Captain Colvin.

Jim Soumas discussed payroll and overtime. He wanted to know what the response was regarding wages to incentivize people to stay on longer at the Sheriff's Office as police officers.

The sheriff was not opposed to it and the undersheriff added that it's a budget question for accountant Mike Opie and the Commissioners. A question was asked if raising the deputies' wages would be enough to retain deputies. Commissioner Fitzpatrick mentioned that sustainability is very important. The sheriff said we do need to give the deputies raises, but he needs to know if this is possible with the budget.

Next item brought up was the spending allowance on attire and equipment. Sometimes, deputies spend more than their allowance on equipment and uniforms. The union proposed \$700 to \$900 increase on spending allowance.

Jim Soumas asked the Commission what their thoughts were about the 75 cents to one dollar increase for FTO's. The sheriff's office is fine with it, the union is fine with it, the accountant is fine with it and the commissioners are fine with it.

The need to purchase new patrol cars was discussed. Three vehicles were ordered but it all depends on how fast those orders are processed and the new vehicles are produced. Michael Opie also

hopes more funding comes in the future to add more patrol vehicles. Maintenance and mileage issues were also discussed regarding current patrol vehicles.

Union also talked about the language changes in sections where they added the working lunch, replacing damaged uniforms, how to put in for sick leave with dispatch administrator and the change in language from jump kit to first aid kits which is a more understanding term.

6. New Business

Union Negotiations - Road Department @ 1:00pm

The Union representative, Ted Hafemann and AJ Espinoza were present for the Roads Dept. Union update. They discussed proposed wage increases for roads employees. Starting pay for a new employee is currently \$19.00 and with progressive increase it would go up to \$23 an hour. Cost of living and rising prices was a big factor in proposed wage increase by union. Wages would be kept at current percentage and then following year would increase by 3% each additional year to be kept up to market. Provides for advancement. Language on document was also discussed and an additional \$100 was proposed for clothing allowance due to rising costs. Also Larry Vandersloot asked Ted Hafemann about different roads which needed repairs done.

7. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

8. Discussion

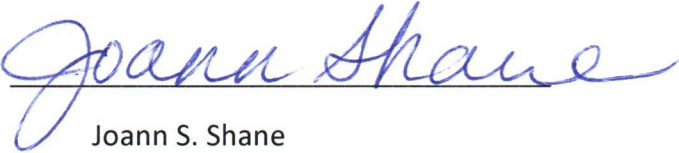
Closed door discussion with Commissioner's attorney Lance Pedersen.

9. Adjourn

Sidney Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting.

Approved : 

Sidney Fitzpatrick,
Chairman

Attest : 

Joann S. Shane
Deputy Clerk of County