

# **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**MISSOULA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 199 WEST PINE STREET, ADMIN ROOM 206**

**March 4, 2022**

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Josh Slotnick, Dave Strohmaier, Juanita Vero, Brian West, Chris Lounsbury, Anne Hughes, Mel Fisher, Allison Franz, Sarah Bell, Andrew Czorny, Jason Emery

**Other attendees:** Violet Plummer, Kyla Lehnerz, Erik Dickson, Sindie Kennedy, Emmie Bristow, Jamar Galbreath, Roberta Smith, Matt Leow, Susan Kohler, Katjana Stutzer, John Firehammer, MCAT

## **I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Moved:</b>  | David Strohmaier                    |
| <b>Second:</b> | Josh Slotnick                       |
| <b>Motion:</b> | Move to approve the consent agenda. |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0            |

**Contract/Project Begin Date:**

**Contract/Project End Date:**

**1. Request board approve and authorize Jason Emery to sign and renew the Infotech subscription.**  
Agreement filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1072 Page 849. Electronically sent to Jason Emery, Office of Internal Services.

**2. Request board approve chair to sign a revised commitment letter for a second round ARPA application for improvements to the Sunset West Water District (RSID #8925).**  
Letter 2022-097 JV signed electronically sent to Erik Dickson, Public Works.

**3. Request board approve chair to sign a revised commitment letter for a second round ARPA application for improvements to the Lolo Water System (RSID #8901).**  
Letter 2022-096 JV signed electronically sent to Erik Dickson, Public Works.

## **III. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Request board approve chair to sign resolution to authorize submission of CDBG Application to the State of Montana Department of Commerce for a grant to partially fund the Poverello Center Veteran Housing Project.**

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Presenter:</b>       | Sindie Kennedy           |
| <b>Moved:</b>           | Josh Slotnick            |
| <b>Second:</b>          | David Strohmaier         |
| <b>Motion:</b>          | Motion passed as written |
| <b>Vote:</b>            | Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0 |
| <b>Additional Info:</b> |                          |

**Contract/Project Begin Date:**

**Contract/Project End Date:**

Resolution 2022-014 filed with Clerk and Recorder/Treasurer's Office: Book 1072 Page 818.

Electronically sent to Sindie Kennedy, Community and Planning Services.

**2. Request board approve chair to sign a CDBG Certification for Application to the State of Montana Department of Commerce for a \$600,000 grant to partially fund the Poverello Center Veteran Housing Project.**

**Presenter:**

Sindie Kennedy

**Moved:**

Josh Slotnick

**Second:**

David Strohmaier

**Motion:**

Motion passed as written.

**Vote:**

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

**Additional Info:**

**Contract/Project Begin Date:**

**Contract/Project End Date:**

Electronically sent to Sindie Kennedy, Community and Planning Services.

**3. Request board approve chair to sign the Application for Standard Opencut Mining Permit for the Hendricksen Site gravel pit development, located 2 miles west of the Wye on Highway 10 West.**

**Presenter:**

Erik Dickson

**Moved:**

David Strohmaier

**Second:**

Josh Slotnick

**Motion:**

Motion passed as written.

**Vote:**

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

**Additional Info:**

**Contract/Project Begin Date:**

6/1/2021

**Contract/Project End Date:**

5/6/2022

Electronically sent to Erik Dickson, Public Works.

**4. Request board appoint Paige Vinton to fill the vacant seat through Dec. 31, 2023 on the Animal Control Board.**

**Presenter:**

Kyla Lehnerz

**Moved:**

Josh Slotnick

**Second:**

David Strohmaier

**Motion:**

Motion passed as written.

**Vote:**

Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

**Additional Info:**

**Contract/Project Begin Date:**

**Contract/Project End Date:**

Letter 2022-090 BCC signed to Vinton. Electronically sent to Kyla Lehnerz, Commissioners' Office.

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### **1. Missoula Aging Service Mill Levy Ballot Request**

Roberta Smith, Missoula Aging Services Governing Board Chair, we are here to make a special request to the Board of County Commissioners to place a 4 mill Missoula Aging Services levy on the June 7th, 2022 primary election ballot. This levy will allow Missoula county voters to make a decision on a modest increase in funding that will allow Missoula Aging Services to meet the growing demand for their services, such as Meals on Wheels. As our elderly needs and population continue to grow. Missoula county commissioners established Missoula Aging Services in 1982. The population of older adults in Missoula county has grown 40% from 2010 - 2014 and the population of those aged 75 and older has grown an additional 22% during that same time frame. It is expected by 2030 that 22% of Montana's population will be the age of 60 and older. The levy for Aging Services has not changed since 2007. A flat rate of \$350,000 was established at that point with no adjustment for inflation or the growing population growth. The Board of Missoula Aging Services unanimously support this request for additional levy. A letter of support of this levy will be submitted for your review, signed by the community.

Susan Kohler, Missoula Aging Services CEO, talked about the history of Missoula Aging Services creation. In the late 90's, Ravalli County joined the Missoula County Aging Services, but this levy is only for Missoula County. We help people navigate through how to choose the correct assistant living homes, Medicare, social security and end of life documents. Help citizens identify reduced cost programs they may qualify for health and tax. This year we have assisted in putting back over \$400,000 in the pocket of older adults with these reduced-cost programs. Over the last decade, we have been seeing people live a lot longer into their 80, 90 and even 100's. We have started a new program for patients with alzheimer's and/or dementia as those numbers are increasing. We are working on trying to help them stay longer in their homes as their condition progresses. The meals on wheels program increased dramatically from the pre-pandemic to the current pandemic. For example, in January we had 54 new people sign up for services and another 35 in February. With that increase in participants and the rise in food costs, we have to try and find those resources to be able to continue to serve all that are eligible for the program. Another important part of our program is recognizing the value and expertise of older adults to help solve community problems by advising and serving programs such as food banks or museums. There are about 65 other non-profits and volunteer programs that we help place that expertise of older adults that want to give back to the community. We do not rely solely on Missoula county for funding. We do get diversified funding and some has increased slightly but, for the most part, have held steadily. We would like the opportunity for this to go to a public meeting and a vote. In 2007 when we recognized the growth of an aging population, we came to the board asking for 2 mills. Unfortunately, during this time, the legislature changed from mills to a dollar amount. So this would ask that we repeal and replace it, meaning that we are asking the voters to repeal the \$350,000 and replace it with 4 mills.

Commissioner Slotnick asked if the 2EC program is a property tax relief program?

Susan Kohler, Missoula Aging Services CEO, said people can come in and get a rebate on what they pay on their taxes if eligible. This does include renters.

Commissioner Slotnick asked, Do you feel that the dollar requirements for this is reasonable?

Susan Kohler, Missoula Aging Services CEO said I do, but the other issue is the tax programs that have helped with people's taxes need to raise the bar as they are not keeping up with the raised costs.

Commissioner Strohmaier clarified that putting this before the voters is not risking what Missoula Aging Services have now. If voters did not vote in favor, Missoula Aging Services would not lose what they are

currently getting.

Susan Kohler, Missoula Aging Services CEO explained that if passed it would not raise the cost by 4 mills, it would be raised by an additional 2 mills because what is already in place is 2 mills = \$350,000.

Andrew Czorny, Chief Financial Officer explained that on a \$500,000 home, this would increase taxes by approximately \$18.46 annually or \$1.54 a month.

The Board expressed their support of this proposal. This will go to a public meeting for comment and for the board to vote.

#### **VI. UPCOMING EVENTS AND INVITATIONS**

None

#### **VII. SIGNING OF ITEMS APPROVED AT PUBLIC MEETING**

None

#### **VIII. OTHER COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS**

None