

Commission Minutes November 2023

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 6, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

James Wangerin was in discussing a shift from centrally assessed tax burden to personal property. He presented multiple documents. He is asking for support to call a special session of the legislature to solve this problem. County Attorney McEnery addressed Mr. Wangerin's questions on budgets. The 2022 audit is complete. The 2023 audit is in progress and nothing can be done until it is complete. Andy Wangerin discussed the ambiguity of the Montana Tax Code. He wants a special session to clarify this as soon as possible instead of with the courts. Attorney McEnery commented that the court should make the determination of the laws. Andy Wangerin thinks the special session would address this in a timelier manner. James Wangerin is hoping that people will realize that the tax burden is shifting to home owners. He wants a special session and/or legislative delegation. He wants to see residential property tax rate reduced from 1.35 to 1.11. In attendance for this meeting was Gavin Roselles, Emily Wood, Luke Ulatowski, Phyllis Thompson, Becky Beard, Ann O'Toole, Katherine Bair, and Jim and Andy Wangerin.

Senator Beard gave an update. She assured everyone they are working on this lawsuit in every way possible. There may likely be an intern legislative committee bill to clarify the 95-mill problem. She assured everyone there will be clarity on the 95 mills.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) update was given. Jennifer Spring presented the financial picture. Heather Quigley expressed concerns about the use of disposable equipment vs reusable supplies. Rand Dickson stated they could do a cost analysis. Dr. Johnson will be the medical director for Helmsville so they can get their certification. Call volume is up about one hundred calls from last year. Commissioner Mannix questioned the use of a proportional amount of funds that is supposed to go to ambulance services providers who respond in the north end of the county. Tony Pfaff says they will do that if the hospital ever quits losing money and the hospital will not give any money at this time. The only thing on their expense sheet is direct expenses, not any overhead for administration. In attendance was Heather Quigley, Gavin Roselles, Kathryn McEnery, Tony Pfaff, Jennifer Spring, and Rand Dickson.

Heather Quigley also requested a correction of the July 17, 2023 minutes that read "*Becky Beard, Mandy Montgomery, Brian Quigley and Heather Quigley were in to discuss Ambulance services*" be changed from ambulance services to ambulance levies.

The bid for electrical updates at the fairgrounds was opened. Only one bid was received and it was from Desilva Electric of \$75,360. Commissioner Mannix moved and Commissioner Koehler seconded the motion to accept the bid. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sager reported on the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge working group meeting in Butte and on the MT Forest Collaboration Network annual meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 7, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Heather Gregory was in to discuss options for deputy coroners.

Closed session at 2:07 p.m. for litigation strategy.

Back into open session at 3:10 p.m.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 8, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Member Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Commissioner Koehler is attending a fair conference in Idaho.

Jody Walker, Clerk and Recorder, presented the correspondence.

Commissioner Sager reported on Deer Lodge Disposal District board meeting held Monday night.

Claims against the County were examined, approved and ordered paid by the Board of Commissioners for the month of November 2023, warrant #70713 - #70806 were issued and a record of such is on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder.

Rody Holman from Marsh-McLennan Agency stopped in and gave us a check from the Montana State Fund for our Workman's Comp. The rebate check was for \$20,081.76.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 20, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Jody Walker, Clerk and Recorder, presented the correspondence.

Commissioner Koehler reported on the fair conference she attended last week.

Commissioner Sager attended the City Planning and Airport Board meetings.

Clerk and Recorder Walker was in the Canvass the 2023 General Municipal Election.

Ambrel McKetchnie was in to discuss HSA policy. The county needs to update the policy regarding HSA payments to employees. Commissioner Sager will work with WeStaff to get a complete review of the policy manual.

Sue Shockley, Marion Barton, Kaehl Berg, Amanda Cooley, Kelley Knight were in for a discussion about a rodeo committee.

There was discussion about the makeup of the fairgrounds board and potential rodeo committee. Commissioner Mannix reaffirms his desire for the fairgrounds board and the fair board need to be two separate entities with two different separate sets of board members. Sue Shockley gave a clear and concise description of how the fairgrounds in Bozeman is run, with an overall fair board in charge of all events on the fairgrounds, with a fair committee to run the fair, and a rodeo committee to run the rodeo and various other committees as needed.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 21, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Claims against the County were examined, approved and ordered paid by the Board of Commissioners for the month of November 2023, warrant #70807 - #70860 were issued and a record of such is on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder.

Commissioner Koehler moved and Commissioner Mannix seconded the motion to accept the bid proposal for engineering services from Great West Engineering.

Commissioner Koehler went to the fair grounds to meet the Mosaic Architect for the preliminary discussion on the grandstand.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 22, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Member Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Kyla Johnson, Airport Board Secretary, and County Attorney Kathryn McEnery were in to discuss airport pasture leases. The lease agreements should be updated so Kathryn and Kyla will work on them and present to City and County for approval.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 27, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Kelley Knight, Deputy Clerk and Recorder, presented the correspondence.

The drawing of salary warrants #24115 - #24136 for Officers, Deputies, Foremen, Clerks and Appointees from various accounts for the month of November 2023, were approved and a record of such is on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder.

Commissioner Sager attended the Council on Aging Meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 28, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder

Deer Lodge, Montana

November 29, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for Powell County, Montana, met in regular session at 9:00 o'clock A.M. Present: Presiding Officer Daniel G. Sager and Members Ruth E. Koehler and Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.

Jody Walker, Clerk and Recorder, presented the correspondence.

County Attorney McEnery and Treasurer Reighard were in to discuss 95 mill issue. There was discussion about if and when we will be sending additional tax bills out. We will wait a while longer to see what plays out at the state level.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

Dan Sager, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Jody Walker, Clerk & Recorder