

January 2, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

James Gibson, Road Supervisor, and Curt Storlie, Road Operator stopped in to give an update. The Road Department will finish spot graveling in the Lustre area this week. All the gravel will be used up until spring or summer, after more is crushed. Curt Storlie wanted clarification on how to proceed with selling scrap iron. Commissioner Armstrong advised that they make sure they get weight tickets and receipts and that two County employees should sign the receipt and also make sure they get paid by check, not cash, then take it to the Treasurer's office to be deposited into the Road Fund.

Commissioner Fahlgren went to the BLM office to correct County lease acres and AUM numbers for the Willow Creek Grazing District.

Commissioner Fahlgren received a call from Kris, representative for Valley Sand and Gravel out of Helena, Montana, regarding questions concerning the call for bids for gravel crushing. Commissioner Fahlgren explained to him how to get the information off the Valley County website.

Colleen Pankratz came in to discuss a personnel issue.

Chairman Armstrong attended a Two Rivers Growth meeting at noon.

Autumn Holman, Great West Engineering, called the Commissioners to discuss the telecom on Thursday this week with North Valley County Water and Sewer District (NVCWSD). The purpose of the meeting is to get NVCWSD to get their paperwork requirements submitted to allow for CBDG reimbursement. They still need signature certification form, site title opinion and Chris Helland to sign meeting minutes where they selected Great West as their on-call engineering firm. Great West did receive insurance certificates.

Autumn will email forms for the County to sign for the CDBG grant administration for the current NVCWSD project. Of the grants sponsored by Valley County, the amount left to spend from the ARPA grant is \$35,769; the amount left to spend from the CDBG grant is \$325K.

Levi Capdeville came into ask Commissioner Tweten for mill values to use in a grant application.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST:

Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 3, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren, and Recording Secretary Ruth Dowell present.

James Gibson, Road Supervisor, dropped by to introduce Steve Nickels, a new Road Crew employee.

At 9:30 am, Chairman Armstrong opened the public hearing on the proposed abandonment of a portion of Park Grove Drive in a platted subdivision. Park Grove Drive is in Rhode's Park Grove Subdivision. The legal description of the subdivision is: SE1/4 SE1/4 of Section 5, Township 26 North, Range 41 East, P.M.M., Valley County Montana.

Attendees included Commissioners Armstrong and Tweten, Valley County Planner Casey Burke and Steve Carney, who requested the abandonment.

Casey described the portion of the street requested for abandonment. It is 20 feet wide and about 120 feet long, located on the west boundary of Lots 13 and 14, owned by Stephen J. Carney within the Park Grove Subdivision. Total area is 2,066 Sq. Ft. (0.05 Ac.).

Commissioner Armstrong asked for public comment. Mr. Carney stated that he accesses his property on the north side and never enters from the west side. He further stated that the road abandonment will impact no one else.

The public hearing ended at 9:45 am.

Pursuant to the Call for Bids published in the local newspaper, at 10:00 a.m., Ann Fauth, Deputy Clerk and Recorder, opened bids for the 1969 Ford F250 that Long Run published for sale. Three bids were received as follows:

Dan Taylor	\$ 5,650
Wesley David Burson/Diana Burson, Little Rock Arkansas	\$12,501
Sam Knodel	\$ 8,399

The Commissioners will award the bid at Discussion and Decision today.

Chairman Armstrong began Discussion and Decision at 10:30 a.m. In attendance were Casey Burke, Valley County Planner, and Mark Arneson.

There were no additions/deletions to the agenda, and no public comment on agenda items.

The first actionable item on the agenda was employment/termination notices.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve the Termination Notice Calvin Kiehne as a Mower effective 12/24/2023, and the Employment Notice for Steve Nickels as Gravel Crew for the Road Department effective 01/03/2024 Commissioner Fahlgren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was awarding the bid for the 1969 Ford F250 that Long Run published for sale.

Pursuant to the Call for Bids published in the local newspaper, at 10:00 a.m., Ann Fauth, Deputy Clerk and Recorder, opened bids for the 1969 Ford F250 that Long Run published for sale. The high bid was \$12,501 from Wesley David Burson/Diana Burson.

Commissioner Fahlgren moved to accept the bid from Wesley David Burson and Diana Burson from Little Rock Arkansas in the amount of \$12,501. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tweten and passed unanimously.

Action on the abandonment of a portion of Park Grove Lane Road was next on the agenda. Casey Burke, Valley County Planner, approves of the abandonment of this road and stated that it will not affect any other landowners. There was a public hearing concerning the matter and no one spoke against the abandonment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve signing the abandonment of a portion of Park Grove Lane Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fahlgren and passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was action on awarding Refuse District #1 CIP and Rate Study to Great West Engineering for the amount of \$35,000 (Task Order 4A). The Commissioners previously applied for a MSEP grant, but there has been a delay in the awarding of the MSEP grants. They would like to move ahead with the rate study regardless of the delay in possible additional funding. There has been controversy about how fair the current rate system is with different rates being charged on accounts that appear the same or remarkably similar. The last rate study was done in 1987. Questions have come p concerning business and residential billing. Currently we rely on T&R Trucking for an estimate on the volume of garbage generated by various businesses.

Tony Fast joined the meeting.

Chairman Armstrong asked for input from the public on the CIP and Rate study.

There were several questions related to the prior contract that was signed with Great West Engineering for engineering services for the Refuse District for calendar year 2024 including how much the district would be charged for the methane test apparatus and the cost for engineers to come to the district for unplanned issues.

Chairman Armstrong stated that the subject was on the agenda of a prior meeting and did not relate to this particular agenda item. This agenda item was specific to the award of a task order to perform a CIP and rate study for Refuse District #1.

Mark Arneson stated that it is too much money for what is being done and what has already been done. He stated that if the average taxpayer knew what this was they would not vote for it.

Tony Fast commented that he is against the rate study.

Commissioner Fahlgren moved to approve awarding Refuse District #1 CIP and Rate Study to Great West Engineering for the amount of \$35,000 (Task Order 4A), Commissioner Tweten seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Armstrong asked for public comment on non-agenda items. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Joseph Tihlarik, Valley County Deputy, and Joleen Cotton were in to discuss upgrading the exercise room. The cost of the painting would be approximately \$1,500, \$2,500 for ¼" rubber flooring, and \$500 for new lights. Deputy Tihlarik asked if the Commissioners would be willing to help pay for all, or some of it from another fund other than the Sheriff's budget. Deputy Tihlarik also asked if getting the exercise room cleaned by a contractor was an option.

Commissioner Tweten and Fahlgren discussed different options. Commissioner Tweten said Commissioner Armstrong is over helping at the Council on Aging and when she returned they would discuss it with her and get back to them.

Joy Guttenberg stopped into to visit with the Commissioners regarding the Town of Nashua budget and town council meetings. She has filed a complaint with the State over the management processes that are in place in the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

ATTEST:

Marie Pippin, Clerk

ATTEST:

Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 4, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office today.

Commissioner Tweten called Wesley David Burson to let him know he had the winning bid for the 1969 Ford F250 for \$12,501 dollars. Wesley David Burson said some things came up since he put in the bid and wouldn't be able to follow through, so he is withdrawing his bid.

Commissioner Fahlgren made a motion to award the 1969 Ford F 250 to Sam Knodel for \$8,399.00, which was the next highest bidder. Commissioner Tweten seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tweten notified Sam Knodel that due to the high bidder dropping out, he now was high bidder for the 1969 Ford F 250 pickup.

January 5, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office today.

January 8, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

James Gibson, Valley County Road Supervisor, stopped in to give an update on the Road Department. One more new motor grader should be in by the end of this week.

Sam Knodel called Commissioner Tweten on Friday the 5th to back out of the bid he won for Long Run ford F-250 pickup.

Commissioner Tweten made a motion to award the bid to Dan Tayler for Long Run's Ford F-250 Ford pickup for \$5,650, Commissioner Fahlgren seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dan Tayler stopped in to drop off a check for \$5,650 for the Long Runs Ford F-250 Pickup.

Sheriff Tom Boyer came into the Commissioner office to introduce Will Charbonneau and Kyle Goddard, new sheriff deputies recently hired.

Joe Yeoman, Fort Peck Rural Water District, dropped in to ask about the County's personnel policy. The District is updating their policy. Commissioner Armstrong will send an electronic version of the County's personnel policy to the District administrative assistant.

Dylan Collins came in to ask if he could plug in his electric car during cold weather to keep the battery warm. After discussion, the Commissioners approved his use since the electrical use would be comparable to plugging in a head bolt heater for conventional vehicles.

At 2:00 pm, Commissioner Armstrong attended an online State Workforce Innovation Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST: 
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Commissioner Fahlgren worked on Montana Natural Resources Coalition business in the morning.

Kim Opsahl, K&K Aggregate, dropped off a bid for gravel crushing at 9:05 am.

James Gibson, Valley County Road Supervisor; Curt Storlie, Valley County Road Dept; Kim Opsahl, K&K Aggregate;. Chris Smith, Valley Sand and Gravel (telephone) met in the Commission Office to attend the 10:00 am bid opening for crushing gravel.

Pursuant to the Call for Bids published in the local newspaper, at 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Fahlgren opened sealed bids for the crushing gravel for the Coppenhaver Pit (67,500 tons) and Reddig Pit (94,500).

Four bids were received as follows:

K&K Aggregate: \$748,500

Valley Sand and Gravel: \$882,900

James Carney Construction: \$618,300

Fike Crushing: \$492,075

The Commissioners will consider the bids at the Discussion and Decision meeting tomorrow at 10:30 am.

Curt Storlie, Road Dept, advised that Sletten Construction contacted him to ask if they can stage their crane on County land adjacent to their project on the Cherry Creek Bridge on Highway 24. The Commissioners agreed that we should support their efforts to replace the bridge and approved their request.

At 11:00 am, Pam Walling, MACO Health Care Trust, visited with the Commissioners regarding the trust. She advised that they have just changed to Hartford as their provider for life insurance. Through the National Association of Counties, better rates have been negotiated for the coverage, reducing them by more than 40%. Pam also noted that they have been working on pharmacy coverage rates because they have increased significantly.

Jeff Pattison dropped into the Commission office in the afternoon.

At 4:00 pm, Melanie Blount-Cole, Mike Cole and Sheriff Tom Boyer came into the Commission office. Melanie advised that her superintendent contract for Frazer Schools was not renewed at last night's Frazer School Board meeting. She also advised the Sheriff and the Commissioners that the current agreement that Frazer School has with the Sheriff's Office may be revisited by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Marie Pippin, Clerk

ATTEST: 
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 10, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren, and Recording Secretary Ruth Dowell present.

Chairman Armstrong began Discussion and Decision at 10:30 a.m. In attendance were Michelle Bigelbach, Glasgow Courier, Mark and Char Arneson, James Gibson, Tom Boyer, Valley County Sheriff, Valley County Road Supervisor, and Curt Storlie, Road Crew.

Added to the agenda was action on Long Run Volunteer Fireman Authorization, Bryon Messig.

The first actionable item on the agenda was employment/termination notices.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve the Accounting Change Notice for Tory Marks Campbell as a Deputy Clerk going to full time at \$19.10 per hour effective 01/02/2024, and the Employment Notice for Danika Soper as a temporary part-time Justice Court Clerk for the period of 60 days while the Justice of Peace continues to advertise the position. Commissioner Fahlgren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was action on appointing Bryon Messig to the Long Run/Pines Fire Department upon the recommendation of Sara Bryan, Long Run Chief.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fahlgren, seconded by Commissioner Tweten, and passed unanimously to appoint Bryon Messig to the Long Run/Pines Fire Department.

Action on Valley County Transit Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Plan, per MDT requirement was next on the agenda. The Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Plan covers equipment, not vehicles. Vehicles are on a separate plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten, seconded by Commissioner Fahlgren, and passed unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Plan.

Next on the agenda was action on gravel crushing bids for 67,500 tons from Coppenhaver Pit and 94,500 tons from Reddig Pit.

Pursuant to the Call for Bids published in the local newspaper, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Commissioner Fahlgren opened four bids for gravel crushing for 67,500 tons from Coppenhaver Pit and 94,500 tons from Reddig Pit. The lowest bid was from Fike Construction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fahlgren to accept the bids from Fike Construction for crushing 94,500 tons of 7/8" minus crushed gravel to be produced from the Reddig Pit at \$3.10 per ton and 67,500 ton of 7/8" minus crushed gravel to be produced from the Copenhaver Pit at \$2.95 per ton for a grand total of \$492,075. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tweten and passed unanimously.

Tony Fast joined the meeting.

Next on the agenda was discussion on the email from Matt Pierce, President, Mapping and Planning Specialists, Inc. (MaPS, INC.) suggesting that when new utilities are requested, customers are required to get a physical address for their property prior to service connection. Sheriff Tom Boyer outlined the concern that emergency services will not be able to respond to areas that do not have a physical address associated with the property. Mr. Pierce suggested that the Commissioners send a request letter to NorVal, who does not require an address for hook-up at this time, to ensure that physical addresses are issued prior to installing utilities.

Sheriff Boyer advised that he was in contact with NorVal representative Nick Dulaney regarding the issue. Nick was receptive and advised that the NorVal Board of Directors would need to approve the address requirement.


Chairman Armstrong requested public comment on non-agenda items. Hearing none, the Discussion and Decision meeting was adjourned.

Sheriff Tom Boyer conducted the swearing in of two new sheriff deputies, Will Charbonneau and Kyle Goodman, in the Commission Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST: 
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 11, 2024

Commissioners Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office in the morning.

Road Supervisor James Gibson was in to advise that he had purchased a used V-plow for a road grader from RDO for \$3500. All eight graders now have V-plows.

Dan Taylor was in to inform that he would not be moving the Long Run pickup he had purchased, as it needs mechanical work, and he won't be able to get that done for a couple weeks.

Commissioner Fahlgren participated in a Zoom call with MtNRC Directors, Coalition of New Mexico and Arizona Counties and James Carlson, Boundary Line Foundation. The purpose of the call was for Carlson to brief participants on the document his team has prepared to address a major new Forest Service policy. Fahlgren later signed the transmittal letter on behalf of MtNRC and forwarded it for signature by Howard Hutchinson, Executive Director off the Arizona and New Mexico Counties Coalition .

Keith Beil of Hinsdale was in to have FSA paperwork signed for his grazing lease. He also mentioned his road was in serious need of blading.

January 12, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office today.

Wayne Waarvick , RDO representative, was in to visit with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tweten filed copies of required paperwork for the gravel crushing contracts.

Commissioner Armstrong worked with new COA Administrator, Ruth Dowell, at the Senior Center; training her on budget and reporting procedures.

Commissioner Fahlgren reviewed the Boundary Line Foundation report on the US Forest Service Adaptive Management policy. He also prepared a draft letter to NorVal Electric asking that new residential service hook-ups require addresses be obtained from the county prior to the service hook-up.

January 15, 2024

The Courthouse was closed today for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 16, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten and John Fahlgren attending.

Joe Yeoman stopped in the discuss public meeting requirements for subcommittees of water boards.

Due to power outages over the weekend, one of the UPS that supports the computing system had to be replaced in the Treasurers office. As a result of the outage, internet was unavailable. Several access issues were discovered associated with the door security system that will be addressed.

Kelly Orahoad stopped in to get her lease agreement signature notarized, and to pay her grazing lease. There was no public notary available in the Courthouse so Commissioner Armstrong suggested she bring it back after its notarized, and she can make her payment then.

Rick Seiler, Temporary DES Coordinator, stopped in to recommend that Ed Malone, DES Coordinator starting in March, be sent to the MACO conference to go to the DES meetings. Mr. Seiler said it would be valuable for Mr. Malone.

Commissioner Fahlgren went to the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at noon.

Brian Fuhrman stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

Stan Sonsteng stopped in the give Commissioner Tweten some paperwork.

The Commissioners went to the Refuse District Meeting at 3:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST: Marie L. Pippin
Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST: Mary Armstrong
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 17, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren, and Recording Secretary Ruth Dowell present.

Chairman Armstrong began Discussion and Decision at 10:30 a.m. There was no public in attendance.

There were no employment/termination notices.

The first actionable item on the agenda was action on letter to NorVal requesting that new customers get an address for new home construction prior to service connection to support EMS response. The letter is as follows:

1/17/2024

Norval Board of Directors
PO Box 951
54091 Highway 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230

Dear NorVal Board of Directors,

The Valley County Commissioners are writing to ask for a change in NorVal's requirements for new residential hook-ups. Would you be willing to require that applications for new residential hook-ups include the address of the site?

Applicants would have to get an address through the Clerk and Recorder's office prior to a new service hook-up. Sheriff Boyer has discussed this with Nick Dulaney. The purpose of this change is to facilitate emergency response for ambulance, fire, and law enforcement.

Currently, if an emergency happens at a home construction site that has no assigned address, there are no GPS coordinates for the site, making effective response difficult. The county has a contractor who periodically travels the county looking for new construction and getting the owners to apply for an address. This change would be much more effective and provide greater safety to property owners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mary Armstrong

Paul Tweten

John Fahlgren

cc: Sheriff Tom Boyer

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve sending the letter to NorVal requesting that new customers get an address for new home construction prior to service connection to support EMS. Commissioner Fahlgren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

The Discussion and Decision meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Commissioner Armstrong attended the Library Board meeting at 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Fahlgren worked on the MTNRC comments to the SEC's proposed Natural Asset Company Rule and submitted them to the SEC portal.

Commissioner Tweten worked on Refuse District business.

Commissioner Armstrong went to Opportunity Bank to get a bank signature required for CDBG funds to be transferred to Valley County Treasurer checking account for the NVCW&S District water system project.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

ATTEST:


Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST:


Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 18, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten, and Fahlgren were in the office today.

Commissioner Fahlgren participated in a Zoom call with MtNRC Directors; agenda included planning interview with Executive Director candidate, financial report, status of corporate documents, and agenda outline for the February 28 meeting at Great Falls.

Commissioner Tweten collaborated with the Treasurer to correct two Refuse District assessments.

Commissioner Armstrong worked from home with COA Coordinator Ruth Dowell on Commodity program administration via telecom.

January 19, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office today.

Commissioner Tweten called Senator Tester's Washington office to ask for assistance in collecting Refuse District fees from Border Patrol / INS for the six homes and Customs building at the Opheim border station.

Lucas Locke, Airport Manager reported on his trip to Helena to an MDT Aeronautics Board grant hearing. The airport's application for \$25,200 for the electrical vault was approved.

Safety Coordinator Levi Capdeville came in to get a copy of an incident report concerning Valley County Transit.

Commissioner Armstrong worked on minutes and other administrative tasks in the absence of the Administrative Assistant.

January 22, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Dan Taylor dropped in to visit with the Commissioners.

Joy Guttenberg and Jody Novak came into the Commission office to discuss the Town of Nashua governance.

Commissioner Tweten worked on the gravel crushing contracts that were awarded to Fike Crushing.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST:  ATTEST: 
 Marie Pippin, Clerk Mary Armstrong, Chairman


 January 23, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Commissioner Fahlgren attended a telecom interview for MTNRC executive director.

The Commissioners sent out an email reminding the departments heads of the upcoming audit by Olness and Associates.

Commissioner Armstrong worked on collecting information needed by the auditors for Council on Aging and ARPA funding.

Matt Earls came into the Commissioner's office to get information on the road abandonment request by Dean Jensen. Commissioner Armstrong called Commissioner Tweten to get more information. Commissioner Tweten said that he would provide a map showing the subject road to Mr. Earls when he came into the office on Wednesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST:  ATTEST: 
 Marie Pippin, Clerk Mary Armstrong, Chairman


 January 24, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Matt Earls came into the Commissioners office to get a map of the location of the requested road abandonment by Dean Jensen.

Lucas Locke, Airport Manager, dropped in to update the Commissioners on airport operations.

Chairman Armstrong began Discussion and Decision at 10:30 a.m.

There was no public in attendance.

The first item on the agenda was employment/termination notices.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve the Termination Notices for Alan Sheldon and Jamie Rennick as Detention Officers, effective 1/17/2024. Commissioner Fahlgren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was action on Resolution 8- 2024 A Resolution Amending the Mill Levy for the State Equalization, County High School Equalization and County Elementary Equalization Mill levy Authority for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION 8-2024

A Resolution Amending The Mill Levy For The State Equalization, County High School Equalization And County Elementary Equalization Mill Levy Authority For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, And Ending June 30, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Department of Revenue has indicated the number of mills that the board of county commissioners shall levy upon all property in the state and has determined that the ad valorem tax for Fiscal Year 2024 for the State Equalization Aid is 40.00 mills, the County Elementary Equalization Levy is 33.00 mills, and the High School Equalization Levy is 22.00 mills; and,

WHEREAS, Section 15-10-420(8), MCA states The department shall calculate, on a statewide basis, the number of mills to be imposed for purposes of 15-10-109, 20-9-331, 20-9-333, 20-9-360, and 20-25-439. However, the number of mills calculated by the department may not exceed the mill levy limits established in those sections. The mill calculation must be established in tenths of mills. If the mill levy calculation does not result in an even tenth of a mill, then the calculation must be rounded up to the nearest tenth of a mill; and,

WHEREAS, The Montana Department of Revenue performed the calculation under 15-10-420, MCA, and reported that the levy authority for FY2024 is 77.89 mills; and

WHEREAS the Montana Supreme Court issued an Order stating that the Department of Revenue may continue to determine statewide mills by carrying forward any mills exceeding the cap in one year and require counties to apply those mills to reach the cap; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners must modify the levy to comply with the court order of the Montana Supreme Court and to comply with the State of Montana/Department of Revenue's request to levy 95 statewide mills.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Valley County Board of County Commissioners that an additional 17.1 additional mills must be fixed for the State Equalization Aid Levy for a total of 95 mills, as determined by the Montana Department of Revenue, for Fiscal Year 2024 are hereby fixed.

DATED this 24th day of January 2024

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
VALLEY COUNTY, MONTANA



Mary Armstrong
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

Paul Tweten
Paul Tweten, Member

John Fahlgren
John Fahlgren, Member

ATTEST:

Marie L. Pippin
Marie Pippin, Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Fahlgren and seconded by Commissioner Tweten to sign Resolution 8-2024 Amending The Mill Levy For The State Equalization, County High School Equalization And County Elementary Equalization Mill Levy Authority For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, And Ending June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

The Discussion and Decision meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Paul Jensen dropped in to talk with Commissioner Fahlgren.

Rick Seiler met with the Commissioners to discuss MACO meeting agenda and itinerary for DES coordinator and office space for new DES coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST: Marie L. Pippin
Marie Pippin, Clerk

ATTEST: Mary Armstrong
Mary Armstrong, Chairman



Commissioners Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office and Commissioner Armstrong was working from home.

Commissioner Armstrong attended the Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center Board meeting online at 10:00am and the Region 1 opioid settlement governance structure meeting at 1:00 pm.

The Commissioners were informed by the Department of Commerce that the MCEF Grant for the rate study and capital improvement plan for the Refuse District has been approved in the amount of \$28,000.

Buildings Manager Joleen Cotton reported that Dale Plumbing would be in this morning to work on an air handler issue.

County Attorney Jensen provided a draft resolution that will be required to adopt the new precinct boundaries as directed by the State.

Dean Jensen was in to discuss his proposed street closure at Hinsdale. Commissioner Tweten and County Planner Casey Burke met with Mr. Jensen.

James Gibson and Nathan Lierow gave a quick update on Road Department plans. They plan to haul the oversized material on BLM land at the Fisher Pit (on BLM ground) to private land belonging to Korman Ranch next week if conditions allow. This will complete the process of abandoning this gravel pit.

Commissioner Fahlgren was called by Todd Devlin, new MtNRC Executive Director, concerning plans for a congressional hearing in Washington, DC on February 13.

January 26, 2024

Commissioners Armstrong, Tweten and Fahlgren were in the office today.

Autumn Holman, Great West Engineering grant coordinator called to clarify North Valley Water and Sewer ARPA grant issues.

Sheriff Boyer was in to discuss various issues with which he is dealing. He outlined some ideas he has for managing the increase in mental health issues among the population in the Detention Center. He is sending a new officer to spend a week with the Gallatin County Sheriff office to gain experience.

Commissioner Armstrong reported on the online meeting she participated in yesterday concerning the opioid settlement governance structure being set up in the 17-county eastern zone.

Commissioner Armstrong worked on preparation of ARPA and CDBG grant files for the auditors visit on February 5.

Commissioner Armstrong called COA Coordinator Ruth Dowell concerning a Home Delivered Meal question.

Rick Seiler, DES Coordinator, came in with paperwork for full-time hire of Ed Malone.

January 29, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Road Supervisor James Gibson was in to brief the Commissioners. The warm weather will postpone moving over-size material from the Fisher Pit site. The bridge crew will be re-decking Baylor Road bridge this week. The road will be closed, and traffic detoured through Fuhrman Road.

Kyle Humbert dropped off an application for Road Dept. equipment operator.

The Commissioners discussed the Hinsdale Ambulance Service issue raised by Kaylou Rogenes Friday. They reviewed the contract with FMDH and the agreement with Hinsdale Ambulance concerning payment of utilities for the Hinsdale Ambulance building. The agreement with FMDH does not direct how the \$ 33,600 + CPI provided by the county to FMDH is spent. The agreement with Hinsdale Ambulance specifies that Valley County and Hinsdale Ambulance each pay \$600 toward utilities. At some point, FMDH apparently started paying the full utility bill.

Commissioner Armstong worked on ARPA sewer and water grant files in preparation for auditors visit next week. She contacted John Bach, Interstate Engineering concerning the status of the Hinsdale and Fort Peck projects and Greg Lukasik with Great West Engineering concerning the Opheim project.

Nadine Elmore, Montana Health Network, called Commissioner Armstrong concerning the status of mental health services in eastern Montana. She wants to hold a listening session for people and organizations who are impacted by mental health issues. She will follow up and suggest a date in March.

Commissioner Tweten prepared the agenda for Wednesday D&D meeting.

Commissioner Armstrong finalized the Refuse District meeting minutes.

Commissioner Fahlgren had several calls on MtNRC business.

Nadine Elmore called concerning date/time for the mental health listening session. Commissioner Tweten scheduled the meeting for March 6 at 1:00 PM in the Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Marie Pippin, Clerk



ATTEST:

Mary Armstrong, Chairman

January 30, 2024

The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, and members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren present.

Road Superintendent James Gibson reported that the bridge crew had stripped the deck off of the Baylor Rd. bridge and would begin decking it tomorrow.

County Attorney Dylan Jensen discussed the Resolution Establishing Revised Precinct Boundaries with Commissioners Armstong and Tweten.

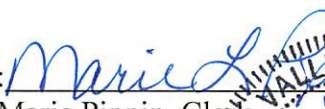
Commissioner Fahlgren attended a ZOOM call with MtNRC Directors.

Stacy Zinn, candidate for Congress, was in to meet with the Commissioners.

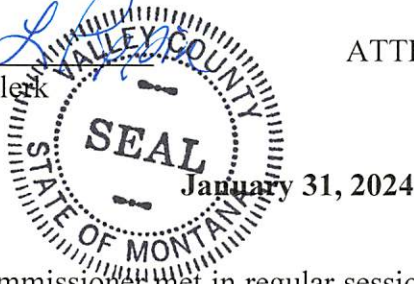
Jamie Mix from Hinsdale was in to see the map of the proposed street closure in Hinsdale.

Ruth Dowell, Council on Aging Coordinator, dropped off the meal donation box and other revenue received by the Council on Aging.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Marie Pippin, Clerk

ATTEST: 
Mary Armstrong, Chairman



The Board of County Commissioner met in regular session in the office of the Commission with Chairman Mary Armstrong, members Paul Tweten, and John Fahlgren and recording Secretary Ruth Dowell present.

There was a public hearing scheduled for 9:30 am. for the review of Dean Jensen's request to abandon a street in a platted subdivision.

In attendance were Casey Burke, Valley County Planner, Russell Leader, Russell Dahl, and Dean Jensen.

Casey Burke, Valley County Planner, stated The street was created with the Fifth Addition to the Town of Hinsdale (on file at the Valley County Courthouse, LP179B Pocket 2 Folder 2). The street does not provide physical access to anyone other than to Mr. Jensen’s land, abandoning the street will not close access to any public lands.

Both Russell Leader and Russell Dahl attended the public hearing to make sure they still have access to the airport.

Commissioner Fahlgren stated that the airport borders County property so there will still be access to the airport.

Russell Leader advised that if access to the airport is on County roads, you will have to drive across the runway to get to the hanger.

Dean Jensen stated that he does not intend to block any public access to the airport. His future plans are to pass the property on to his children.

The public hearing adjourned at 9:36 am.

Pursuant to the Call for Bids published in the local newspaper, at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Armstrong opened sealed bids for the Courthouse Carpet Project. There was only one bid as follows:

Commercial Contracting and Maintenance/Town and Country Furniture

<u>Lobby Halls</u>	
Moving, tear out, surface prep, leveling:	\$4,000
Rolled Carpet	\$21,700
Carpet Tile	\$26, 500

Total for rolled carpet	\$25,490
Total for carpet tiles	\$30,990

<u>Treasurer’s Office</u>	
Moving, tear out, surface prep, leveling	\$1820
Rolled Carpet	\$6730
Carpet Tile	\$9030

Total for rolled carpet	\$8550
Total for carpet time	\$10,850

<u>Community Room</u>	
Moving, tear out, surface prep, leveling	\$870
Rolled carpet	\$2520
Carpet tile	\$3980
Resilient Floor (LVT #1)	\$1290
Resilient Floor (LVT #2)	\$1750
Cove base	\$900
Total rolled carpet	\$3390
Total carpet tile	\$4850
Resilient Floor (LVT #1)	\$3060
Resilient Floor (LVT #2)	\$3520
Total carpet tiles and LVT#2 flooring	\$50,210

The Commissioners will act on the bids at the Discussion and Decision meeting today.

Jeff Pattison dropped in to discuss Hinsdale airport access.

Chairman Armstrong began Discussion and Decision at 10:30 a.m. In attendance were Mark and Char Arneson, Jeff Pattison and Marie Pippin, Valley County Clerk and Recorder.

Added to the agenda was the appointment of Levi Capdeville replacing Alyssa Kuka term ending 12/31/25 and Emma Mix as student rep for one year term ending 12/31/24, both to the Fair Board.

Commissioner Armstrong asked for public comment on agenda items. There were no comments.

Action on employment/termination notices was the next item on the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten to approve the employment notice for Eddie Malone as part time permanent DES Coordinator at \$25.00 per hour from January 2, 2024, through February 29, 2024, when he will move to fulltime, and the employment notice for Raymond Campus as permanent fulltime Airport Operator at \$17.00 per hour, effective February 5, 2024. Commissioner Fahlgren seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was approval of Resolution 9-2024 Resolution Establishing Revised Precinct Boundaries in Valley County. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2024

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REVISED PRECINCT BOUNDARIES IN VALLEY COUNTY

WHEREAS § 13-3-102(1), MCA, requires a governing body to change the boundaries of precincts when such changes are required to a changed districting and apportionment plan; and

WHEREAS the final legislative redistricting plan was filed on February 23, 2023, and

WHEREAS this Board has considered the issue of conforming the current precinct boundaries to conform with those set forth in the final redistricting plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners:

1. The precinct boundaries are hereby defined and identified and numbered as indicated on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A, the contents of which are incorporated in full by reference herein.

DATED this 31st day of January 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
VALLEY COUNTY, MONTANA


Mary Armstrong, Chair


Paul Tweten, Member


John Fahlgren, Member

Attest:


Marie Pippin, Clerk



Marie Pippin, Clerk and Recorder, explained that every 10 years the Montana State legislature completes a redistricting plan. As a result of the plan established by the Legislature on February 23, 2023, voting precincts in Valley County expanded from three to four and the associated boundaries of the precincts changed. The new boundaries are shown in the map provided by the State Library, and to the resolution as Exhibit A.

Jeff Pattison asked if the Commissioner Districts and the House and Senate Districts are aligned. Commissioner Fahlgren advised that they are not the same. After the 2020 census, the Commissioner Districts were revised very slightly in 2023 to reflect population changes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fahlgren and seconded by Commissioner Tweten to sign Resolution No. 9-2024 Resolution Establishing Revised Precinct Boundaries in Valley County. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was consideration of accepting bids for the courthouse carpeting project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tweten and seconded by Commissioner Fahlgren to accept the carpet bid from Commercial Contracting and Maintenance/Town and Country Furniture for new carpet in the Courthouse lobby, halls, Treasurer's office and Community Room which includes the carpet tile option in all areas and the resilient floor (LVT#2) option for the Community Room kitchen area, for a total cost of \$50,210 out of option tax, contingent upon approval by the architect. The motion passed unanimously.

Fair board appointments were next on the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fahlgren and seconded by Commissioner Tweten to appoint Justin Fuhrmann to an additional three-year term ending 12/31/26, appoint Levi Capdeville to complete Alyssa Kuka's term ending 12/31/25, appoint Emma Mix as student representative for a one-year term ending 12/31/24, to the Fair Board.

The student representative is a full voting member of the Fair Board and serves for a one-year term.

Chairman Armstrong asked for public comment on non-agenda items. Hearing none, the Discussion and Decision meeting adjourned at 10:44.

At 2:00 pm, Commissioners Tweten and Armstrong and Clerk and Recorder Marie Pippin attended an online meeting with Alisha Oellerman, Dept of Commerce, Bob Church and Autumn

Holman, Great West Engineering, to discuss the administrative requirements for the \$28,000 MCEP Grant that was received by Valley County for a Refuse District #1 rate study and capital improvement plan. Valley County’s grant match is \$7,000.

Alisha advised that she is in the process of drafting the contract and will forward the contract number when completed. She went over a list of documentation that Valley County must provide to receive the grant. Autumn will provide the documents for the County to process.

The grant contract started on January 19, 2024, and will end on October 31, 2024, based on Great West’s commitment to complete the study by July 1, 2024. All invoices will be required to be submitted to the Dept of Commerce by July 31, 2024, in order that they be processed by the contract end date. The Commissioners advised that they would submit one draw request to the Dept of Commerce at the completion of the project.

Claim Fund claims for the month of January 2024 were approved as follows:

Vendor	Claim #	Amount
5496 ADVANCED SOLUTION CONCEPTS	83893	4,545.00
	83968	3,420.00
1798 AGLAND CO-OP	83969	24.30
2853 ALL SEASON HOME CENTER	83784	271.96
	83898	62.99
6050 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CANINE TRAINERS INTE	83785	165.00
184 AMERICAN WELDING & GAS INC	83786	361.30
5347 AMY GOLTZ	83874	1,660.50
5441 ARCSEARCH LLC	83899	1,930.00
558 ARCH'S TIRE, LLC	83787	202.00
	83900	3,348.00
5911 AT&T	83901	444.65
75 BIG VALLEY WATER	83789	33.00
	83902	14.00
6148 BRETT ARENSMEYER	83790	6.00
6149 BRYCE GRANBOIS	83791	3.00
4427 BS CENTRAL INC	83788	152.00
	83903	670.00
6153 BYRON HALLOCK	83904	69.50
5341 C&B OPERATIONS, LLC	83896	10.90
	83909	1,589.36
5984 CANDACE ROBERTS	83897	35.00
182 CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	83792	706.14
	83905	1,001.08
5752 CENTER FOR DISEASE DETECTION-16456	83906	79.68
4761 CENTURY LINK	83797	129.96
3360 CENTURY LINK ACCT 407878239	83798	756.27
6131 CHANCE BOYD	83794	33.00
5051 CHARM-TEX INC	83793	1,396.28
	83907	74.90
677 CITY OF GLASGOW	83795	3,530.54
4723 CITYSERVICEVALCON	83796	71,198.38
6154 CORD SCHNEIDER	83908	1,450.00
36 COTTONWOOD INN, INC	83799	6,729.50
225 D & G SPORTS & WESTERN	83910	86.00
3157 DACOTAH PAPER CO	83911	1,328.40
39 DALE PLUMBING & HEATING INC	83800	2,007.65
	83912	8.20
6124 DARLENE KOLCZAK	83801	437.20
6088 DEFY	83802	200.00
4573 DIAGNOSTIC PEST SOLUTIONS	83803	157.50
	83913	61.25
5894 DIGITAL CONCEPTS & MARKETING	83914	500.00
6155 DIVIDE COUNTY ROAD DEPT	83915	4,000.00
6150 DORIS OZARK	83804	1,141.25
5663 DOWL LLC	83916	8,963.85
2724 ECOLAB	83805	233.04
	83917	233.04
6086 EMCMHC	83806	917.35
4827 ESTOP BUSINESS LICENSES	83807	636.00
812 EZZIE'S WHOLESALE INC	83808	42,184.52
	83918	2,447.28
289 FIFTH AVE PHARMACY & GIFT	83809	852.71
1369 FIRST INTERSTATE BANK WM	83919	962.20
452 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH	83810	10.00
57 FOSSUM MATERIALS	83920	35.00
6151 FRONTIER COUNSELING LLC	83811	400.00
6156 GANNETT COLORADO LOCALIQ	83921	40.62

66 GLASGOW AUTO SAFETY CENTER	83812	93.00
1630 GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	83813	300.00
71 GLASGOW COURIER INC	83875	144.00
	83922	231.00
1290 GLASGOW ELKS NO 1922	83814	300.00
5702 GRANITE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS	83815	70.00
	83923	37.27
5037 GRIT	83816	200.00
5960 HEALTHY IS WELLNESS LLC	83924	1,000.00
392 HI LINE FORD INC	83817	9,645.59
5242 HOME CARE SERVICES, LLC	83818	1,057.05
	83925	1,038.16
5714 ION MYSTERY	83819	200.00
5735 IRON STAKE CONSULTING LLC	83820	3,500.00
5977 JEREMY ERTEL	83821	36.00
4883 JOSEPH E REYLING DDS, PC	83822	340.00
6136 JULIE BALBACK	83823	32.00
368 KLTZ/KLAN INC	83824	210.00
	83926	90.00
5520 KRISTIN K MCCOLLY, FNP	83825	6,554.00
2619 L N CURTIS & SONS	83931	11,845.06
5641 LAFF	83826	200.00
99 LAWSON PRODUCTS INC	83827	343.84
4983 LEADER AVIATION LLC	83927	80.00
4623 LEE RIDDICK PLUMBING & HEATING INC	83828	11,266.00
	83928	1,025.00
6118 LEVI CAPDEVILLE	83929	69.50
5669 LINDA BROOKIE AZURE, LLC	83829	1,105.00
3766 LLOYDS APPLIANCE REPAIR	83930	194.00
4725 LUCAS LOCKE	83932	137.50
1271 MACSS TREASURER	83933	250.00
3133 MAPPING & PLANNING SPECIALISTS, INC	83833	5,026.00
101 MARKLE'S INC	83831	1,053.61
	83934	781.35
5367 MARY ARMSTRONG	83832	183.40
6051 MICHELLE OZARK	83834	600.00
4417 MIDWEST LABORATORIES INC	83935	185.20
105 MILK RIVER INC	83835	145.00
3557 MILLER OIL CO	83936	350.42
6130 MODERNA US INC	83836	3,575.04
1293 MONTANA AIRPORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION	83937	150.00
5013 MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	83830	155.00
962 MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION	83837	270.00
969 MONTANA COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION	83838	1,200.00
113 MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	83938	5,100.42
6152 MONTANA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	83839	1,150.00
3820 MONTANA STATE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASS	83939	65.00
6157 MONTANA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION	83940	150.00
239 MSU EXTENSION SERVICE	83840	5,738.42
183 NEMONT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC	83842	4,759.20
5903 NIJO	83841	250.00
121 NORTHERN MONTANA TEXTILES SERVICES	83843	105.30
	83941	108.29
115 NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	83844	909.27
	83942	8,995.80
120 NORVAL ELECTRIC CO-OP INC	83894	1,941.76
4792 OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC	83845	111.94
	83943	26.97
5835 PAMELA SALACUP	83846	1,358.00
5982 PATSY KRAUSE	83944	24.00
129 PETTY CASH	83847	170.00
131 PITNEY BOWES INC	83945	487.89
3238 PROFORCE LAW ENFORCEMENT	83848	966.30
5647 PURCELL TIRE CO	83946	4,742.82
201 QUILL CORPORATION	83849	62.44
	83947	7.22
3900 R & S NORTHEAST LLC	83850	22.70
	83948	1.20
5962 RANDY G. BARNETT	83949	1,249.50
5681 RDO EQUIPMENT CO	83950	1299,000.00
2620 RDO EQUIPMENT TRUST #80-5800	83851	4,399.76
5548 RDT SERVICES LLC	83852	125.00
3056 ROUBIE YOUNKIN	83853	132.60
6122 ROUTEMATCH SOFTWARE, LLC	83854	2,229.34
574 ROY JIMISON DBA	83855	858.55
	83970	4,000.00
3910 SCOTTIE EXPRESS WASH INC	83857	370.00
5389 SEAN HEAVEY	83856	125.00
	83951	150.00
6081 STOWAWAY BAR & GRILL	83952	1,296.00
162 SYSCO MONTANA INC	83858	7,325.00

163 T & R TRUCKING INC	83953	3,779.95
	83859	17,808.63
	83954	54.00
5997 TAYLOR STORAGE	83860	25.00
788 TERRY L LIGHTHIZER	83955	330.08
5732 THE BANCORP	83956	13,118.86
291 THE CHEMNET CONSORTIUM	83861	244.00
2996 THOMPSON & SONS, INC	83862	4,072.97
41 TIRE-RAMA SERVICE CENTER	83957	330.00
4862 TLC APPLIANCE REPAIR, LLC	83864	90.00
5572 TORGERSONS	83863	646.29
	83958	91.70
680 TOWN OF OPHEIM	83959	919.00
174 TRIPLE A GLASS INC	83865	19.39
5955 TYLER THIEVIN	83866	112.66
787 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE/PITNEY BOWES	83961	856.81
627 UNCLE MILT'S BODY SHOP	83867	505.44
	83960	362.50
6022 UNIFORMS2GEAR INC	83868	1,738.76
77 VALLEY BUILDERS GLASGOW, INC	83869	282.03
1827 VALLEY CO 4-H COUNCIL	83962	850.00
852 VALLEY CO REFUSE DISTRICT	83963	29.60
2544 VALLEY CO SEARCH & RESCUE	83870	500.00
614 VALLEY CO TRANSIT	83871	720.00
	83964	91.50
765 VALLEY CO WEED DISTRICT	83965	207.00
5075 VISA 0143/1935/3964	83876	4,726.18
4547 VISA 7644	83877	352.58
5534 VISA 1059	83886	152.47
5485 VISA 1737	83878	643.75
5497 VISA 1745	83879	14.98
5484 VISA 1752/4814	83880	1,596.96
5483 VISA 1794	83891	2,441.05
5577 VISA 1802	83881	132.29
5486 VISA 1836/4301	83882	1,102.07
5481 VISA 1844	83883	1,116.58
5578 VISA 2248	83888	1,421.96
5530 VISA 2412/4880	83887	389.64
3023 VISA 2529	83884	694.59
5482 VISA 2750/4863	83895	1,454.80
5529 VISA 3147/3972	83889	636.33
5517 VISA 3329	83885	2,056.86
5537 VISA 4856	83890	147.36
6023 WESTERN DETENTION	83966	550.00
188 WESTERN DRUG INC	83872	1,485.05
190 WILLS OFFICE WORLD/RADIO SHACK	83873	3,076.85
	83967	252.10

Total: 1669,962.55

Payroll for the month of December 2023 was approved in the amount of \$462,673.47.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST: Marie L Pippin
Marie Pippin, Clerk

ATTEST: Mary Armstrong
Mary Armstrong, Chairman

