

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 2013**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN: Robert P. Cosgriff

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Jerry L. Coldwell

MEMBER: Teddy R. Robertson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Carla McWilliams

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chairman Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Robertson will be arriving late.

AGENDA

Motion by Coldwell and seconded by Cosgriff to approve agenda as posted 48 hours ago.
Motion carried unanimously.

TIM FOGLE – ROAD SUPERVISOR

The graders and loader are all in the county yards and repairs are being made. The mowers are heading back to town. The roads still needing mowed are the Hell Creek Road, Trumbo place, Ann MacDonald and the Moe place. Discussed signage that needs to be installed on the Hell Creek road. Fogle said he will be taking time off this month as he needs to use vacation time before the end of the year. Cosgriff asked what the plans were if the incoming storm does what it is predicted to do. Fogle said they would just have to wait and see what happens. All cattle guards have been cleaned that Fogle was aware of. Coldwell said the car gate at the Kester School needs cleaned but it can wait until spring. Discussed spraying the roads next year instead of mowing.

JILL CLARK & MEGA MCDONALD – SENIOR CENTER/HOME CHORE

Jill Clark & Mega McDonald met with the Commissioners to discuss the home chore program. McDonald said they have received several complaints that they are getting turned down for home chore assistance. McDonald said there are currently 9 households and this allows 1 and a half hours per household. McDonald said that she and Clark have talked to Wille about what her duties are. A letter is going to be sent to those who are involved with the program and a copy will be sent to the Commissioners.

CLAIMS

Claim Check Nos. 30663 in the amount of \$2,418.23 were approved and paid.

MARTIN DeWITT – GREAT NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Martin DeWitt and Guy Hopkins with Great Northern Development met with Commissioners to let Garfield County know what GND has to offer. Explained the small business program that helps start new businesses or expand exiting businesses. They also have a business plan competition that the local school took part in and were very successful. \$5.3 million is GND lending fund. Explained the different funds that can be used. GND only has a 3% delinquency. They also have a program that assesses hazardous sites and can help with cleaning up the sites. 15% is the match for cleaning the site, which can be matched with labor.

Cosgriff said the old county shop needs to be replaced and there could be issues with hazardous materials. DeWitt said the assessment funds could be used for this. The revolving funds could be used for this and then a subloan could be given for a new building. Great Northern Development offers grant writing services at no charge to the County and would administer the grants.

Also discussed housing plan. The housing survey has been completed. Need to get a committee appointed by the Commissioners to work with the housing plan. The funds can be used for installing energy efficient windows and furnaces.

Hopkins is the planner who will be assisting the counties with their growth policy. Cosgriff said Eric Miller is our planner and Hopkins may want to talk with Miller. DeWitt said Hopkins only assists the local planners for the cities and counties. Eastern Montana Impact Coalition consists of 16 counties and works with growth policies. Cosgriff asked if GND is concentrating more of their work on the eastern border. DeWitt said Bainville and Sidney are requiring a lot but other counties are eligible as well. Discussed the wind farm starting in McCone County. Cosgriff said local businesses are for sale or are closing and the natural resources can't be processed because there is no way to get the resources out. Hopkins said the oil production is having an impact on Garfield County but the locals do not realize any of it. Hopkins said the population has been declining by 10% every decade. Hopkins said if 10 families moved to Jordan it would have a big impact on the water & sewer system, ambulance service and schools. Cosgriff asked if they were getting their information out to the public. DeWitt left some pamphlets and said he was hoping to have some public meetings. Commissioner Robertson joined the meeting.

The state is no longer funding the housing plan because it took too long to complete. Great Northern is going to complete the housing plan and will not charge the County for it. Garfield and Daniels Counties will have the most up to date housing plans. The housing committee needs to work with Hopkins to complete the plan. Hopkins said the City-County Planning board could also be the housing committee. Hopkins said the planning plan is about 80-85% complete. Hopkins said he would like to have one of the Commissioners as a contact person. Robertson said Cosgriff would be the best person. Cosgriff said Eric Miller should be the contact person. DeWitt said the next meeting will be held in Wolf Point on January 9 or 10, 2014.

Recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

Reconvened by Chairman Cosgriff at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Public Safety Committee consisting of Rocky Nelson, Dave Awbery and Colin Murnion, and Sheriff Frank Edwards met with Commissioners and reviewed requests submitted to Commissioners by Edwards for grant proposals. Discussed damage to Sheriff's vehicle. Nelson asked if the County has a grant writer. Robertson said Cathy Byron is our grant writer. Cosgriff said the Sheriff's Department is in the process of signing up for the military surplus equipment. Cosgriff said the surplus equipment received through DNRC is to be used for fire only and if it is gotten through the Sheriff's Department it can be used by any department. The only cost is the freight to get the equipment here. Nelson asked if the grant writer thinks she can get a grant for additional manpower. Edwards said the wages with one of the grants are paid for three years and the County has to pay the wages for one year. The officer can be laid off for 30 days and

rehired on the same basis. Nelson asked if the grant pays for the employee to go to the academy. Cosgriff said the academy is paid for. Nelson asked why the County pays for the training. Cosgriff said anyone attending the academy must be employed by a law enforcement agency. Cosgriff said the grant writer gets her directions from the Commissioners. Murnion said a vehicle seems the most important and Awbery agreed. Edwards looked into special deals through dealers for law enforcement agency. Robertson asked why a used vehicle couldn't be purchased. Edwards and Awbery said the warranty is worth getting a new vehicle for. Sheriff Edwards received a call and had to leave the meeting. Murnion asked if another officer was really needed. Awbery said he didn't have a problem with another officer. Discussed the sheriff's department patrolling the highways instead of the Town of Jordan and the cost of keeping vehicles in the department. Nelson said the Committee's only purpose is to sit in on the hiring process and budgetary issues. Nelson said if the grant writer can get grants for manpower and vehicles he's okay with it. Murnion and Awbery said they agreed with this. Discussed whether or not Cosgriff would be reimbursed for the cow and calf that was hit with the Sheriff's pickup. Discussed what type of vehicle should be purchased if a grant is awarded to the County. If a new vehicle is purchased one of the old pickups needs to be sold.

JORDAN JENSEN – NEW LIGHT HEALTHCARE

Conference call with Todd Biederman with New Light Healthcare. New Light Healthcare works with small medical facilities. Cosgriff explained that our facility is a Critical Access Hospital, nursing home and emergency room. The clinic is privately run by a PAC. Biederman said New Light Healthcare can provide administrative services. Cosgriff said we already have an administrator who works two days a week. Biederman asked if the facility needs financial assistance. Cosgriff said the facility is run with a special mill levy. Biederman asked if the Commissioners would like to have a full-time administrator. Cosgriff said the facility cannot afford to have a full-time administrator. Robertson said the administrator is being paid for a full-time position and asked for suggestions on how to correct this. Biederman said a part-time administrator's annual salary should be between \$40,000 and \$45,000. Cosgriff said our administrator is not very experienced and it may be helpful if he would have access to some assistance. Biederman asked if the Commissioners would like to meet personally to discuss whether or not New Light could be of any assistance at New Light's expense. Cosgriff said the Commissioner's want to make sure that New Light is aware of the size of the facility and the limited funding. Biederman said they are currently working with two hospitals that are in bankruptcy. Cosgriff explained the special mill levy that is run every two years to run the facility. Robertson asked if Biederman felt there was any way of helping our facility after hearing the complete history. Biederman said he would have to take a look at it. The Commissioners said the facility cannot operate without a mill levy. Cosgriff said the Commissioners would talk to the Administrator of the Health Center before making any decision.

HEALTH CENTER ISSUES

Hanz Arnston, Administrator, and Sarah Nordlund, DON gave Commissioners their weekly report on the Health Center. Commissioners discussed New Light Healthcare organization with Arnston. Cosgriff said it appears that New Light is more focused on the financial side of the facility and help our current administrator.

Arnston requested a closed session to discuss personnel issues. Cosgriff stated that if he was going to discuss a specific person that person needs to be present to defend himself. Since the person was not present the meeting remained opened.

There are currently 17 residents. Commissioners reviewed maintenance requests. All electrical work is being done by Judd Gibson. Most of the requests directed to maintenance are either not getting done or not being marked down as being completed. When plumbing needs to be done Murnion wants to call Stephens Brothers, which is very expensive. Robertson asked if Murnion should okay it with the Commissioner's before he subcontracts any of the work. Arnston said a temporary maintenance person might need to be found because Murnion might have to take time off. Murnion will let Arnston know as soon as he can.

Arnston said the facility is now a 5 star facility. There are funds available through the Central Montana Foundation. Avera is reducing the cost of the Red Button \$6,000 per year. The Helmsley Trust and St. Vincent are both still pledging their support. The Helmsley Trust may continue to pledge their support after the three years. The Helmsley Trust is offering a video laryngoscope covered 100% with grant funds. Cosgriff asked if the Red Button is still a ways out. Arnston said it will be spring before it is implemented. The Helmsley Trust is also funding the costs of having the staff of the Health Center as well as the Commissioners go to Sioux Falls, SD to see the eHelm as well as meet the providers.

The plan of correction for the Fire Life Survey has been approved by the State. A general staff meeting was held last week and some issues were addressed that will be helpful in the future. The staff was told to leave the alarms alone. Arnston said the magnets in the door were worn out so the wander alarm system needed replaced anyway.

Nordlund said at the recent Department Head meeting, Pat Murnion suggested that the windows in the Health Center be added to the wish list for the grant writer. Nordlund is going to be doing evaluations soon and wanted to know if a CNA has a good evaluation would they be able to get a raise. Arnston said the CNA's and the workers in the dietary department need to be rewarded for being so dedicated. Cosgriff instructed Nordlund to give her recommendations to Arnston.

MINUTES

Motion by Coldwell, seconded by Robertson to approve November 27, 2013 minutes with corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Robert P. Cosgriff – Chairman

Jerry L. Coldwell – Vice-Chairman

Teddy R. Robertson – Member

ATTEST:

Janet Sherer, Clerk & Recorder