

**ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
6 P.M. TUESDAY, October 3, 2023
COURTHOUSE COURTROOM**

Present: District 1 Commissioner Mike Beausoleil, District 2 Commissioner Steve Gates, District 3 Commissioner Kevin Hart (Chair), District 4 Commissioner Tom Gallagher, District 5 Commissioner Mike Huotte, (Vice-Chair), CEO Bill Everett, County Attorney Ben Krakowka, and Clerk of Commission Seanna Zacher

Members of the Press: James Rosien, Anaconda Leader

Members of the Public: Per Sign-In Sheet

Commissioner Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hart explained the Commission rules of procedure.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Commission meeting of September 19, 2023; and the Commission Work Session of September 26, 2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Beausoleil to take action to approve the Minutes from the Commission meeting of September 19, 2023; and the Commission Work Session Meeting of September 26, 2023; Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher.

Motion Carried 5-0

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Commissioner Huotte to take action to authorize the payment of claims numbered 143042 through 143136 in the amount of \$419,340.68; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 5-0

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

- **Commissioner Huotte** – Nothing to Report.
- **Commissioner Gates** – Yesterday I attended a Head Start Policy Council training for the new members. We have a fresh bunch of members and I think we are on the right track.
- **Commissioner Gallagher** – Nothing to Report.
- **Commissioner Beausoleil** – Today Lauren Bolton and I were in Bozeman today to attend DPHHS Conference on Crisis Intervention and mental health and the new 988 crisis hotline for the counties. There were two commissioners there to represent the State.
- **Commissioner Hart** – Nothing to Report.
- **CEO Everett** – The States authorization for billing education millage, there is some disagreement on how many mills the State is able to put on our local property taxes. Ninety-five mills have been the standard for some time, with the huge increase in the valuations across the State of Montana, it's being questioned as far as is it millage or the amount of dollars that they are able to raise. What we are seeing is the local

commissions of some counties are voting to only put seventy-seven mills on the personal property taxes as opposed to the ninety-five. They are doing this without the authorization of the Legislature, the Governor or concurrence from the Attorney General. I don't believe this is wise thing to do, they are going against the higher authority and there will be a backlash for those communities. I have spent a lot of time researching this, as much as I would like to lower the

millage, I don't think it's prudent. I think there is a good chance that the State will come back and mandate a lawsuit, we would get sued if we lowered the millage. It would be tied up in court for years and I am afraid we would have to come up with a supplemental tax to our residents. If MACO is successful in lowering these mills, I believe that we would get that credit for our residents. I don't see anything to gain here, I see a lot to risk, this is why it is not on the agenda. If anyone has questions, I would be happy to answer them.

- **Sandi Wenger** – I saw a headline today that said they were going to court.
- **CEO Everett** – It is, Missoula is the front runner and it's going to be interesting.
- **CA Ben Krakowka** – I attended an ACI Meeting today to plan some upcoming events to encourage our youth to stay out of trouble. There is a Junior High dance this Friday where I will be chaperoning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Request for Anaconda County Courthouse Additional Concrete Sidewalk Stone

CEO Everett – As you can see, we have got a new parking lot out here and we have put new concrete up against the Courthouse. As we moved forward with these projects, we realized we couldn't put new concrete against the old stone. It was the opportune time to have the stone repaired so we had to move quickly on this one. I think it's an extra \$28,000.00, but it is necessary. We now have all the water from the parking lot being directed away from the Courthouse and I am hopeful that will preserve the structure of the Courthouse.

- **Commissioner Hart** – The request is for \$25,000.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Request for Anaconda County Courthouse Additional Concrete Sidewalk Stone; Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher.

Motion Carried 5-0

Amended Plat, Lot 13, Lots 19-22, and Lot 25, Block 10 Old Georgetown Townsite

Motion made by Commissioner Huotte to take action to approve the Amended Plat, Lot 13, Lots 19-22, and Lot 25, Block 10 Old Georgetown Townsite; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 5-0

Amended A-DLC Special Events Permit Application

Commissioner Beausoleil – Are we going to take out the violators portion of the permit?

- **Commissioner Hart** – The permit was amended, and they took out the fine for violators.

Motion made by Commissioner Beausoleil to take action to approve the Amended A-DLC Special Events Permit Application; Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher.

Motion Carried 5-0

Annual Agreement between Locality Media and The Anaconda Fire Department

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Annual Agreement between Locality Media and The Anaconda Fire Department; Seconded by Commissioner Beausoleil.

Motion Carried 5-0

Agreement between A-DLC Public Health Department and Montana Health Network to Provide Title X Services

Motion made by Commissioner Beausoleil to take action to approve the Agreement between A-DLC Public Health Department and Montana Health Network to Provide Title X Services; Seconded by Commissioner Huotte.

Motion Carried 4-1
Commissioner Gallagher – Dissenting Vote

Fiscal Year 2023– 2024 Budget Request from Anaconda Adult Learning Center in the amount of\$3,500.00

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Request from Anaconda Adult Learning Center in the amount of \$3500.00; Seconded by Commissioner Huotte.

Motion Carried 5-0

Fiscal Year 2023– 2024 Budget Request from CCCS Inc. Discovery House in the amount of \$3,500.00

Motion made by Commissioner Gallagher to take action to approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Request from CCCS Inc. Discovery House in the amount of \$3500.00; Seconded by Commissioner Beausoleil.

Motion Carried 5-0

Request for Reappointment to the Planning Board by Annette Smith(Letter Attached)

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Request for Reappointment to the Planning Board by Annette Smith; Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher.

Motion Carried 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement between The Montana Tax Appeal Board and A-DLC to Cooperate in the Employment of a Secretary to the A-DLC Tax Appeal Board

Seanna Zacher, Clerk of Commission – This is just an agreement so the county can get reimbursed for any time I incur working as the Secretary for the Tax Appeal Board when we do the appeals.

- **CA Krakowka** – Thank you Seanna for that information, it made it more apparent.

Motion made by Commissioner Gallagher to take action to approve the Interlocal Agreement between The Montana Tax Appeal Board and A-DLC to Cooperate in the Employment of a Secretary to the A-DLC Tax Appeal Board; Seconded by Commissioner Beausoleil.

Motion Carried 5-0

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Commissioner Huotte** – No Miscellaneous.
- **Commissioner Gates** – This is Commissioner Huotte’s last meeting, and I would like to thank him for his service and everything he has contributed to the community.
- **Commissioner Gallagher** – No Miscellaneous.
- **Commissioner Beausoleil** – No Miscellaneous.
- **Commissioner Hart** – I would like to thank Commissioner Huotte as well, he has been on the Commission for five years. I wish him well at his new job.
- **CEO Everett** – It will be sad to see Commissioner Huotte go but Mike has been hired to be the CFO for the county, so he won’t be going far. He does a heck of a job, his background with government and the county is fantastic, he is a CPA, he has strong knowledge as to what we are trying to accomplish here as a local government. I really enjoy working with Mike, he will be a great asset to the team.
- **CA Ben Krakowka** – Commissioner Huotte I have enjoyed working with you and I look forward to working with you in your new position.

Commissioner Hart – Can I assume that Commissioner Beaudette has done all of his paperwork and been sworn in and such?

- **Commissioner Beaudette** – I cannot be sworn in until tomorrow, but I have completed the rest of the paperwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose Nyman – I would also like to thank Commissioner Huotte for his service to A-DLC, he always followed up when I contacted him. I think he will do very well. May I address Commissioner Beausoleil? At the mental health conference did they identify who will have the hotline?

- **Commissioner Beausoleil** – No, they did not. There was talk about someone out of Bozeman.
- **Rose Nyman** – Western Montana Mental Health is headquartered in Missoula, so there is a change. Thank you.

Colleen Riley – Good evening. I would like to commend you all on the condition of our Parks. As for the new park that’s being put together in Washoe Park, I think it’s really important that the community know how much you support the youth in our community. As we are going into winter we don’t look around and see what we can do outside but I would like you to take stalk of what you could be doing as spring emerges again. It has been really nice to have the trails cleaned up and the play equipment in the parks is in really good condition. Our parks are well used, this is a community where people go out and enjoy it. The emphasis on youth in our community, they need a place to go. I want to commend you on making that a priority, if you didn’t think about it as a priority, please put it there. Thank you.


ADLC MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Commissioner Hart - Read the meeting dates and times.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24 p.m.


Seanna Zacher
Clerk of Commission


Kevin Hart
Commission Chair