

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS 1

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of Meeting

November 10, 2015

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 9:02 a.m. with Chairman Brian McCracken, Commissioner Laura Teague and Commissioner James Zwetzig in attendance. Chairman Brian McCracken called the meeting to order and asked Morgan County Undersheriff Dave Martin to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Ratify the Board of County Commissioners approval of Minutes dated October 27, 2015
- Ratify the Board of County Commissioners approval of Work Session Minutes for the month of October
- Ratify the Board of County Commissioners approval of Contract 2015 CNT 190, Mettler-Toledo, LLC, Morgan County Solid Waste Management, Term of Contact February 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017
- Ratify Chairman Brian McCracken's signature on Veterans Affairs Monthly Report and Certification for the month of October 2015
- Ratify Chairman Brian McCracken's signature on Morgan County Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2015
- Ratify Chairman Brian McCracken's signature on Agreement to Amend/Extend Contract between Gerald D Carpenter and Deloris E. Carpenter and Morgan County, Colorado dated October 29, 2015
- Ratify Commissioner's Laura Teague's signature on Historical Preservation Certification dated November 5, 2015
- Ratify Chairman Brian McCracken's signature approving the assignment of debt collections to Wakefield and Associates, Client #101901
- Ratify the Board of County Commissioners approval of assignment of debt collections to State Collections, Client #150707, #150778B, #150727, #150631, #150454, #150955, #150595, #150778A, #151035, #151093, #150777, #150853, #150564B, 150566B, #151019, #150274A, #150888, #150997, #151111B, #150976, #150989, #150754, #150642, #151257, #150684A, #150843, #150612 and #150840
- Ratify the Board of County Commissioners approval of In-Kind Service Agreement with American Fidelity for Section 125 Administrative Services, Flexible Spending Accounts and Disability Trust dated November 2, 2015

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Consideration of Approval – RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT 2015 PMT 36 – Century Link, Inc.

Morgan County Road Supervisor John Goodman presented to the Board for approval, Permit 2015 PMT 36 with Century Link, Inc. Mr. Goodman stated this is a permit for the purpose of installing 6 pair phone line in the Right of Way, for the residence located at 25449 Morgan County Road T, starting point, thence west for a distance of 450 feet to pedestal, Morgan County, Colorado. Mr. Goodman stated the fees are attached in the amount of \$95.00 as necessary.

Commissioner Zwetzig made a motion to approve Permit 2015 PMT 36 with Century Link, Inc. as shown on the narrative in permit and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Approval – RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT 2015 PMT 37 – Morgan County Quality Water District

Morgan County Road Supervisor John Goodman presented to the Board for approval, Right of Way Permit 2015 PMT 37 with Morgan County Quality Water District. Mr. Goodman stated this is a permit for the purpose of installation of a new water line, beginning at an existing 8 inch water main in the South Right of Way of Morgan County Road W, west of the southwest corner of the intersection of County Road W and County Road 24, trenching North across County Road W to the North Right of Way of County Road W. (At this location the new line will be placed in private property west of County Road 24 North to a point south of the south property line of a parcel in the described in Book 969 at page 916 reception number 743177 of the Office of the Morgan County Clerk and Recorder), at this point new water line will be placed in the West right of way Morgan County Road 24, North in the West Right of Way to a point North of the North line of said parcel. (At this location the new line will be placed in private property west of County Road 24 North to a point approximately 7,000 feet North of County Road W), thence trenching East across County Road 24 Right of Way, ending at a meter vault located on private property, Morgan County, Colorado. Mr. Goodman stated the fees are attached in the amount of \$290.00 as necessary. Commissioner Zwetzig reviewed the information stating this will be a four inch line that is being placed for the dairy located in this area. He stated they are completing this project utilizing private property to best work with Morgan County.

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve Permit 2015 PMT 37 with Morgan County Quality Water District as shown on the narrative in permit and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

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Consideration of Approval – CONTRACT - 2015 CNT 191 – Life Med Safety

Morgan County Ambulance Director Joe King presented to the Board for approval Contract 2015 CNT 191 with Life Med Safety. Mr. King stated this contract is for the preventive maintenance for ZOLL heart monitors. Mr. King summarized the term of this agreement will be from 2015 through 2020 for a yearly onsite maintenance check of the heart monitors. He stated in the past these monitors had been sent out for maintenance and this agreement will allow for onsite maintenance to be completed which will be a better situation for the County. The total of the agreement is not to exceed \$8,000.00. Commissioner Teague noted that this term is for five years but the contract can be terminated at any time by providing a 30 day notice. Mr. King stated by entering into the agreement for five years provides a substantial savings to the County.

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve Contract 2015 CNT 191 with Life Med Safety as outlined by Mr. King and suggested the Board auto renew this agreement annually and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Approval – GRANT ACCEPTANCE – 2015 CNT 175 – VOCA

Morgan County Victim's Assistance Coordinator Glenda McNabb presented to the Board Contract 2015 CNT 175 a VOCA Grant. Ms. McNabb stated this is the VOCA grant which covers her salary and benefit package as well as ongoing trainings. Ms. Covelli shared with the Board the budget side of the grant explaining it helps fund the Victims Assistance Program and explained it does cover salary and administrative expenses. She stated that funding sources have been decreasing from the federal and state levels, and the cost to the County has increased over the past few years. Originally, the grant had covered the entire position excluding vehicle expense and rent. At this time, the grant is not covering all these expenses. Commissioner Zwetzig asked if this program is mandatory with Sheriff Jim Crone indicating there are mandates for law enforcement to provide services to victims of certain crimes, explaining the history of how these programs came into effect. In 1989, he stated the Sheriff's offices in the State of Colorado started Victim Assistance Programs which were funded by state grants. He further noted that it made sense for the county level to cover victims of crimes and stated that at this time, it has branched out that the larger municipalities are able to provide these services as well as the County's. He stated that there are surcharges that are charged in certain crimes that cover these services, and indicated the Courts are not imposing these surcharges like they used to. He stated he is still mandated to provide victim assistance services and it makes more sense to provide specific personnel to cover these services rather than to require other staff to take on these services. Sheriff Crone stated that Ms. McNabb provides services to not only Morgan County but also other agencies within the 13th Judicial District and named a recent situation in Phillips County that she assisted with. Sheriff Crone stated at some time the County may be required to encumber the entire costs of this program but at this time they are still receiving some grant funding.

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the Contract 2015 CNT 175 with Victim Assistance Program as outlined by Ms. McNabb and the verbiage offered by all parties and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY OFFICIAL AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Morgan County Administrative Services Manager, Tracy Amen presented to the Board the vacancies for the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, Fair Board and the Planning Commission. Ms. Amen summarized the various openings of each board by reading aloud the Community News Announcement. She indicated there are six openings for the Morgan County Fair Board, four openings for the Morgan County Planning Commission and two positions available on the Morgan County Board of Adjustments and Appeals. She stated that a letter of interest is due to the Board no later than December 15, 2015 for anyone who may be interested in participating on any of these boards.

Chairman McCracken thanked Commissioner Zwetzig for his time and service on the Morgan County Fair Board with Commissioner Zwetzig stating that there are several events and on goings which others have participated in as well. Commissioner Teague expressed her feelings about how important it is to have individuals participate in these boards and encouraged new volunteers and individuals to participate. Commissioner Zwetzig noted the Planning Commission has been very instrumental in creating regulations and structure for the County's infrastructure and economic development in the County.

Commissioners reviewed the calendar dated November 6, 2015 through November 17, 2015 with no changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

LIQUOR LICENSES

At this time, the Board of County Commissioners convened as the Morgan County Liquor License Authority in the matters of:

Liquor License or 3.2 Beer License Renewal Application – Hotel and Restaurant (County)

Licensee: Cascade Hotels, Inc. dba Clarion Inn Fort Morgan

Owner/Operating Manager: William Meyers

Morgan County Clerk and Recorder Susan Bailey presented to the Board a liquor license renewal application Hotel and Restaurant License submitted by Cascade Hotels, Inc. doing business as Clarion Inn Fort Morgan. Ms. Bailey

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stated that she has received the necessary documents and all fees have been submitted. She asked the Morgan County Sheriff's Department to report at which time Sheriff James Crone indicated he had nothing to report.

Chairman McCracken opened the matter for public comment at which time no comment followed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Teague to approve the liquor license renewal of a Hotel and Restaurant license for Cascade Hotels, Inc. doing business as Clarion Inn Fort Morgan noting that all fees are attached and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman McCracken opened the public hearing at 9:28 a.m. and asked Finance Director Michelle Covelli to present the 2016 Proposed Preliminary Budget. Ms. Covelli stated the departments have submitted their individual departmental budgets and all were submitted to the Board by the deadline of October 15, 2015. She then highlighted the preliminary numbers to the Board by reviewing the information provided to each Board member. She indicated this preliminary budget does not include any salary increase and explained the Board recently received a summary from a salary survey study that has been completed. She further indicated the budget is balanced stating the total property tax being \$14,979,439.00, which is a ten percent increase from 2015. She indicated total revenues from other sources are \$17,774,168, 00 and total from fund balance is \$5,927,541.00.

Ms. Covelli then summarized the preliminary assessed value as \$537,503,620.00 stating this is an increase of \$66,587,010.00, about 14 percent. She indicated the current mill levy as 28.948 which would produce property tax in the amount of \$15,559,655.00. She stated this amount is over the 5.5% limit that is imposed on the County so the County will be required to issue a temporary tax credit for 1.079 for a total mill levy of 27.869 decreasing the property tax collected by \$580,217.00.

Ms. Covelli stated the health insurance rates will increase by seven percent for a total of \$160,000.00 and further summarized the individual funds indicating the respective amounts and the total increase in each fund. Ms. Covelli explained that all budgets are currently in the preliminary stage and indicated there will be changes to the budgets before the final budget is adopted on December 15, 2015.

At this time Chairman McCracken opened the matter for public comment at which time no comment followed.

Commissioner Zwetzig asked that it be noted that the Board has made a commitment to all County staff in regards to salary increases and will continue to work diligently towards this commitment.

At this time Ms. Covelli then asked Assessor Bob Wooldridge to go over the County's assessed value. Morgan County Assessor Bob Wooldridge explained to the Board that this year happens to be the reappraisal year and summarized the new construction projects that have impacted the County's valuation for this year. He further summarized the numbers and how they have increased since the 2013 valuation. He explained there have been major changes over this two year period and indicated he has not seen this kind of overall change since he has been County Assessor. He explained that is the reason the increase in the valuation.

Mr. Wooldridge further summarized the information to the Board in detail stating the information he has provided is preliminary assessed values at this time.

Commissioner Zwetzig asked what he expects the taxes to be for citizens with Mr. Wooldridge stating it is difficult to project given the different entities and their respective mill levy certifications that will take place naming the School Districts and a bond issue that may affect how certain taxing districts will be taxed. He stated he believes there will be a decrease in some but in some areas there could be an increase.

Commissioner Zwetzig stated it is necessary to point out that the political climate does affect the County's valuation, referencing the coal fired power plant located in the County and how this tempers the factor of our tax revenues. Commissioner Teague noted that EPA just described their plan and summarized the current challenges of the clean power plant act, stating that unfortunately rural counties will be harmed by this matter. She shared her concerns about the economic development and sustainability within the County, given this political climate.

Mr. Wooldridge expressed the benefit of having Public Service Company within the County as well as the benefit of the agriculture producers who are key players in regards to revenue for the County. He stated it is an economic shift that occurs every odd year and he stated this was one of the largest shifts he has seen. He stated he feels the County is blessed and hopes the County remains stable as it has and wanted to be sure it was noted to acknowledge the farmers as they are a big part of the economic growth in the County given they employ citizens and spend money with the County locally.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT

There were no citizen comments.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan L. Bailey
Clerk to the Board

(Minutes ratified November 24, 2015)

