

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-095

**A Resolution of the Gallatin County Commission Establishing
Budgeting Protocol for Funds Levied Under the 2018 Voter-
Approved Open Space Levy.**

This Resolution was introduced by Sean O'Callaghan, Planning Director, moved by Commissioner SKINNER _____, and seconded by Commissioner MACFARLANE. The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 3:0.

WHEREAS, The Gallatin County Commission created the Gallatin County Open Lands Program for the purpose of conserving important agricultural and natural resource lands in Gallatin County; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, voters of Gallatin County passed the Open Space Levy and authorized levying up to 4.5 Mills on real property to support open space capital needs including the purchase of land and conservation easements from willing landowners to conserve farm and ranch lands, provide recreation, protect water quality of streams and rivers, manage growth, protect wildlife areas, and for other capital improvements and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Expenditures of Levy funds will be based on recommendations from a citizens' advisory committee;

WHEREAS, The Gallatin County Commission has allocated 0.5 Mills of the approved 4.5 Mills to support the capital improvements and maintenance needs of County-owned parks, and levies those monies under the parks fund. The remaining 4.0 Mills, levied under the open space fund, is available to fund other conservation, capital, and maintenance projects; and

WHEREAS, For budgeting purposes it is prudent for the County to maintain a modest reserve to account for tax delinquencies and not allocate all of the available money to projects; and

WHEREAS, For the purpose of administering Levy money collected under the open space fund, Gallatin County considers "Conservation Projects" as projects related to the purchase of land and conservation easements to conserve farm and ranch lands, provide recreation, protect water quality of streams and rivers, manage growth, protect wildlife areas, and recognizes "Other Eligible Projects" as those capital improvements and maintenance projects that support the purpose of the open space levy and are eligible for funding under the levy; and

WHEREAS, For administrative purposes it is desirable to create separate application processes for "Conservation Projects" and "Other Eligible Projects," and to do so, the County Commission must direct funds and develop administrative processes to support both application processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Gallatin County Commission:

- Each year the County Commission shall determine the amount of Levy money available to be allocated to projects and the amount to be reserved;
- Of the Levy money available to projects, 81.25% of the funds (proportionate equivalent to 3.25 Mills) shall be directed to Conservation Projects and the remaining 18.75% of funds (proportionate equivalent to 0.75 Mills) shall be directed to Other Eligible Projects; and
- The Open Lands Program administrator shall work with the County Commission, applicable citizens' advisory committees, and other appropriate stakeholders to develop and maintain administrative policies and processes, scoring criteria, and take other necessary steps to provide for both Conservation Projects and Other Eligible Projects.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2020.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION



DON SEIFERT, CHAIRMAN

09/01/2020

DATE

ATTEST:



ERIC SEMERAD, CLERK & RECORDER

9/1/20

DATE