

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 120

**A Resolution of the Gallatin County Commission Establishing
Funding Amounts for Conservation and Other Eligible Projects
Under the Open Space Levy for Fiscal Year 2024**

This Resolution was introduced by Sean O’Callaghan, Chief Planning Officer, moved by Commissioner SCOTT MACFARLANE and seconded by Commissioner JENNIFER BOYER. 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, With the passage of Resolution No. 2020-095, the Gallatin County Commission 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, Consistent with Resolution No. 2020-095, 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, Pursuant to County Commission resolution No. 2023–110, 75% of funding available from the Levy is directed to Conservation Projects and the remaining 25% is directed to Other Eligible 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 a reserve of \$141,237 has been established for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2024, the levy is estimated to bring in \$2,879,532 in revenue from property taxes; and

WHEREAS, In addition to new property tax revenue, there is \$248,435 in Open Space Levy funds from Fiscal Year 2023 that weren't dedicated to projects, and \$420,000 from a Conservation Project that was granted Level I approval, but subsequently has been withdrawn by the sponsoring land trust; and

WHEREAS, In total, there is estimated to be \$3,547,967 in Open Space Levy Funds available to award to Conservation and Other Eligible Projects in Fiscal Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Gallatin County Commission that funding amounts for Conservation and Other Eligible Projects under the Open Space Levy for Fiscal Year 2024 shall be as follows:

- \$141,237 remains an appropriate amount to be held in reserve and there is no need to reserve additional funds at this time;
- \$2,660,975 (75% of the Levy money available to fund projects) shall be directed to Conservation Projects; and
- \$886,992 (25% of the Levy money available to fund projects) shall be directed to Other Eligible Projects.
- By separate action, the County Commission shall cause a "Request for Project Applications" to be issued during Fiscal Year 2024 to make the public aware of opportunities to apply for Levy money for Conservation Projects and Other Eligible Projects.

Dated this 22th day of August, 2023.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION



ZACH BROWN, CHAIRMAN

8-22-23
DATE

ATTEST:



ERIC SEMERAD, CLERK & RECORDER

8/22/23
DATE