

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Monday

April 13th, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 3:27 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Ben Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Errol Galt and Commissioner Brewer were present for the meeting.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Southwest Montana Insurance- Julie Blockey

Julie Blockey entered the chambers at 12:51 p.m.

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:05 p.m.

Julie Blockey presented the Commissioners with a folder of information regarding insurance for employees for the upcoming year. Blockey stated that United Healthcare is increasing 24% but she has not received their quote yet. Blockey and her team shop around for clients to keep rates down but have similar coverage.

Julie Blockey continues that she has looked into vision and dental policies. Blockey stated that she feels that our current plan is pretty good. She is wondering if we should move it or keep it at January 1 renewal. Blockey encouraged the Commissioner to keep the dental plan but explore vision plans. Julie Blockey will be back to meet with the Commissioners in May.

Meagher County Deputy Attorney Appointment- Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz quickly visited with the Commissioners about current and upcoming cases that involve Broadwater County Attorney Kevin Bratcher. County Attorney Hurwitz would like to appoint Broadwater County Attorney Kevin Bratcher as the Meagher County Deputy Attorney to assist in progressing cases.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY 25.26 #67

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the appointment of Broadwater County Attorney Kevin Bratcher as the Meagher County Special Deputy Attorney. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Resolution No. 67

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING
SPECIAL DEPUTY MEAGHER COUNTY ATTORNEY**

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance in the case of *State v. Ballenger-Brooks*.

WHEREAS, Meagher County Attorney has a conflict representing the State against Mr. Ballenger-Brooks.

WHEREAS, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a special deputy county attorney be appointed to prosecute this matter.

WHEREAS, Broadwater County Attorney, Kevin Bratcher, also has a case against Mr. Ballenger-Brooks in Broadwater County and has agreed to review and handle any charges for Ballenger-Brook's conduct in Meagher County.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

That Broadwater County Attorney, Kevin Bratcher, be appointed as Special Deputy Meagher County Attorney to assist the Meagher County Attorney in the above-mentioned prosecution.

That no fee will be charged for attorney time provided by Mr. Bratcher. Witness fees and expenses, jury costs, and other normal costs associated with trial will be Meagher County's responsibility, as with all other prosecutions.

Dated this 13 day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:



[Signature]
CLERK AND RECORDER

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

[Signature]
MEMBER

[Signature]
MEMBER

Health Nurse Report- Eva Kerr

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 1:59 p.m.

Eva Kerr starts her report on the month of March. Kerr is still filling in for respite and homemaker. She states that Julie Holtz and Sue Case are starting back into work but are still unable to do too much. Kerr continues that Kim Frisbie's position will stop being funded in June 2027. Kerr and Frisbie are looking for money avenues for funding, she states that there is time but she wants to get more ideas sooner than later.

Eva stated that her and Kim Frisbie leave to go to a training conference today. They will be traveling to Billings for Confluence 2026 Conference for three days.

Eva Kerr stated that she could manage in the downstairs office. As the new hospital is getting built, she is looking at her options if she cannot stay at the hospital. She said she is preparing to move if need be. The Commissioners and Kerr discussed more about her current location and the possibility of relocating.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY 25.26 #68

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve Health Nurse Eva Kerr put a job posting in the newspaper for Respite and Homemaker patient care. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the issue is hereby resolved.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #69

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve Health Nurse Eva Kerr to get a credit card issued by Finance Officer Briana Frasier. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the issue is hereby resolved.

Board of Health Report

Mayor Rick Nelson entered the chambers at 2:19 p.m.

Sandy Harris entered the chambers at 2:26 p.m.

Health Nurse Eva Kerr started the report with the disease reporting for the quarter of January to March. There was one (1) Covid- 19, thirteen (13) Influenza cases; eight (8) Influenza A and five (5) Influenza B.

Eva Kerr discusses Air BnB and the licenses now required for operation. Kerr has been keeping up with the property owners that contact her to get licenses. Kerr added that it is difficult to get all of the property owners up to speed. Mayor Rick Nelson stated that he cannot confirm that a property is used for vacation rental.

Eva Kerr stated that the doors on the transfer site are in bad shape and no longer shut properly. Kerr stated that the doors are left open regardless if the transfer site is open or closed. This causes trash to blow out. The transfer site is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays.

Eva Kerr stated that she went to a training and she learned that they can exclude children at the school if they have been exposed to an infectious disease such as measles. She will get with Burt to write up the language to have that ready to use if the need arises.

Realtor Representation Agreement

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #70

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to accept the Realtor Representation Agreement with Realtor Terry Taylor. Commissioner Brewer seconded to the motion. A vote was taken and the issue is hereby resolved.

Public Hearing Budget Amendment- Dayna Ogle and Briana Frasier

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 2:57 p.m.

Dayna Ogle stated that she has been looking through the budget to find what needs updated and fixed. Ogle has found the corrections that need to happen from the FY 24.25 budget to straighten the FY 25.26 budget and prepare the finance department for the FY 26.27 budget.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 25.26 #71

Chairman Hurwitz moves to approve the budget amendment of posting funds to offset the expenses of the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917). Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Resolution 2026 -71

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) purchased a victim tracking software from The Advocate Advantage and,

WHEREAS, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) had unexpected expenses associated with the purchase of the software program and,

WHEREAS, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) will utilize the cash on hand to offset the expense.

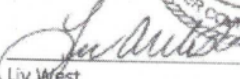
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) for the unexpected expenses in the amount of \$2,626.00 (two thousand six hundred twenty-six dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 13th day of April 2026

Prepared by:

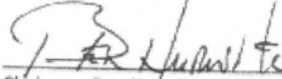

Briana Frasier
Chief Financial Officer

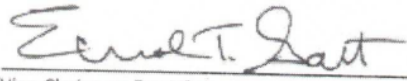
Attest:


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder



Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman Ben Hurwitz


Vice-Chairman Errori Galt


Commissioner Rod Brewer

ACTION #5

Resolution FY 25.26 #72

Vice-Chairman Galt moves to approve the creation of the Soil Conservation Fund (7350) to utilize the cash on hand to offset the expense. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Resolution 2026 - 72

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Soil Conservation Fund (7350) budget was not entered into the Black Mountain Software System and,

WHEREAS, the Soil Conservation Fund (7350) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$23,540 and,

WHEREAS, the Soil Conservation Fund (7350) will utilize the cash on hand to offset the expense.

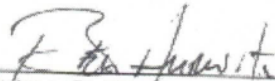
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in, the Soil Conservation Fund (7350) for the unexpected expenses in the amount of \$23,540 (twenty-three thousand five hundred forty dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 13th day of April 2026

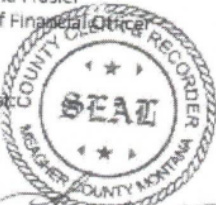
Prepared by:


Board of County Commissioners:

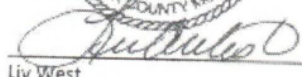

Briana Frasier
Chief Financial Officer

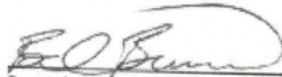

Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:




Vice-Chairman Errol Galt


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Rod Brewer

ACTION #6

Resolution FY 25.26 #73

Commissioner Brewer makes the motion to transfer funds from LATCF (2994) to bring the negative ending cash to a zero balance and amending the budget in the Public Safety Fund (2309) for the unexpected expenses. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Resolution 2026 - 73

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement and Dispatch Budgets were moved out of the General Fund (1000) and into the new Public safety Fund (2309) and,

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Funds (2309) budget was apportioned a part of the General Fund cash available and,

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Fund (2309) did not receive the operating cash for the budget year and,

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Fund (2309) ended the year with a negative cash balance and,


WHEREAS, the Public Safety Fund (2309) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$ 64,077 and,

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Fund (2309) will receive an inter fund transfer in the amount of \$94,514 from Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (2994) to bring the negative ending cash to a "0" zero balance.

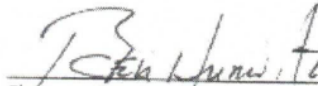
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are approving an interfund transfer from the LATCF Fund (2994) in the amount of \$94,514 (ninety-four thousand five hundred fourteen dollars and no cents) and amending the budget in the Public Safety Fund (2309) for the unexpected expenses in the amount of \$64,077 (sixty-four thousand seventy-seven dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 13th day of April 2026

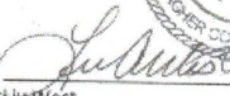
Prepared by:


Briana Frasier
Chief Financial Officer

Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder




Vice-Chairman Errol Galt


Commissioner Rod Brewer

ACTION #7

Resolution FY 25.26 #74

Chairman Hurwitz made the motion to move \$1,271 out of the General Entitlement Fund (1000) to Rural Addressing Fund (2300). Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

County Clean-Up Day- Dayna Ogle

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 2:57 p.m.

Dayna Ogle updated the Commissioners about the upcoming Clean Up Day at the Transfer Site on May 2nd. In regular fashion, County employees work half a day helping the Transfer Site with unloading vehicles that arrive. Dayna Ogle asks the Commissioners for compensation of the employees that are able to work on Clean Up Day; each employee will receive a full day compensation for a half day worked.

ACTION #8

Resolution FY 25.26 #75

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve the full day of compensation for county employees that volunteer to work half a day on clean-up day May 2nd, 2026. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan Request- Dayna Ogle and Briana Frasier

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 2:57 p.m.

Dayna discusses with the Commissioners about the language of the tax break the mine will get once the mine starts. She states that she will get into contact with MACo to see the resources are to get more information on how all of this looks. The Commissioners agree that would like to ask for the whole amount of \$115,800 from Tintina.

Coroner Purchase Update- Jon Lopp

Sheriff and Coroner Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 3:13 p.m.

Sheriff Jon Lopp initiates the conversation with an update on the hospital purchasing a morgue cooler that the county will reimburse. The morgue cooler can hold three bodies. The morgue cool will be placed at the new hospital location. Lopp states that he just wanted to give the Commissioners a preview of what is to come. Lopp stated that the morgue cooler is approximately \$10,130. There is conversation with Lopp and the Commissioners about the current situation. Lopp ensures the Commissioners that having a morgue cooler will be very beneficial and that the current costs for each body will go down. There will also be less transport for Lopp and the deputies.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63492 through Checks #63539 for the amount of \$57,682.03. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

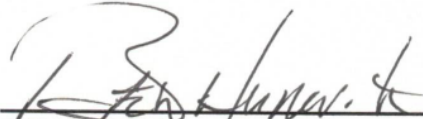
Meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, April 20th, 2026.




CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN





VICE CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed April 13th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.