

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

April 15th, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from April 8th, 2025. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Interview – Cheri Larson

Cheri Larson, Clerk & Recorder Liv West, and District Clerk of Courts Candi Richardson entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners interviewed Larson for the County Treasurer position.

Interview – Dayna Ogle

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:25 a.m.

Commissioners interviewed Ogle for the County Treasurer position.

Cemetery Board Update – Kathy Palmer

Cemetery Board President, Kathy Palmer entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Palmer notified the commissioners that her current term will conclude on June 30, 2025, and expressed her desire to be reappointed for another three-year term. Additionally, Palmer mentioned that Angie Egeler's term will also end on June 30, 2025, and she too wishes to be reappointed for another term.

ACTION#2

Resolution FY 24.25 #69

Commissioner Galt moved to appoint Kathy Palmer and Angie Egeler to a 3-year Term on the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Palmer reported that during the last Cemetery Board meeting, members discussed the possibility of amending their by-laws and inquired about the procedure for doing so. Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems will gather the necessary information on how to change the by-laws and relay it to the Cemetery Board.

Additionally, Palmer informed the Commissioners that the Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), applied for by the Mayn Cemetery, the Meagher County Courthouse, and the White Sulphur Springs School, has

been approved. The Mayn Cemetery plans to use their portion of the grant funds to plant spruce trees in the new section of the cemetery and Choke Cherry trees along the front by the highway.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 1:25 p.m.

Wahlstrom presented the Commissioners with 2 appointees to the Library Board, Mikayla Bingham and Brandie Gouley.

ACTION # 3

Resolution #70

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the appointment of Mikayla Bingham and Brandie Gouley to the Library Board. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Wahlstrom informed the Commissioners that the library received notice from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) regarding the cancellation of the Grants to States program. This program funds library development work at the Montana State Library, which in turn supports programs in libraries across the state. So far, three states—Washington, California, and Connecticut—have received formal letters from IMLS stating their current grants have been terminated effective April 1. Montana has not received a termination notice at this time. Wahlstrom mentioned that funding for the Hotspot program could also be at risk and assured the Commissioners that she would keep them updated as more information becomes available.

Wahlstrom then presented the Commissioners with the Library's Strategic Plan for 2025. Over the next year, the library aims to expand early literacy programs by launching a Summer Reading Program in Martinsdale. Additionally, the library plans to introduce the “Trunk Mobile” as a first step toward mobile library services. This initiative would involve delivering books placed on hold to patrons in other towns within Meagher County at designated locations and gradually introducing crates of books for on-site browsing and checkout. As part of a three-year plan, the library intends to develop outreach programs for adults, such as Memory Care Café, Storytime for Adults, and Technology Support. The five-year plan includes full Bookmobile expansion and Homebound services.

Wahlstrom noted that Friends of the Library (FOL) did not apply for the Town Pump Grant. However, FOL will still fund the Summer Reading Program this year. The tentative dates for the Summer Reading Program are Wednesdays from June 18th through July 30, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wahlstrom also informed the Commissioners that the library has begun Daycare Outreach, with staff visiting Rocky Mountain Rascals Daycare once a week to read to the children.

Lastly, Wahlstrom mentioned that FOL is working with Montana Flags in Helena to determine the appropriate gauge for a flagpole that will hold two flags, including the POW flag below the American Flag. Ground solar lights will also be installed.

Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Finance assistant Jennifer Deems entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Treasurer Maura Kusek was out of the office and requested Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems to present the Commissioners with the March Cash report for signature.

Monthly Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Kerr expressed her concerns about funding, noting that she is awaiting a return call from Heather Nicholson with the Area IV Agency on Aging. Kerr mentioned receiving a check for \$553, significantly less than the \$1350 received in March, and is uncertain whether this amount should be allocated to the Respite Care Program or the Homemaker Program.

Additionally, Kerr voiced her worries regarding Federal Emergency Preparedness funding, which constitutes a substantial portion of her budget. Despite her concerns, the State of Montana has assured her that the funding remains stable.

Kerr also informed the Commissioners about the upcoming Community Expo on April 26th, where the County Health Department will have a display. They plan to offer 72-hour emergency packs at the event.

Board of Health

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m. Board of Health Member Sandy Harris entered the chambers at 2:50 p.m.

Kerr reported that there was one (1) confirmed Covid -19 case in Meagher County. Kerr also stated that RSV cases in young children and older adults has increased this year and there were forty-six (46) reported cases of Influenza this season with 6 hospitalizations.

Kerr stated that she is unsure of the status of the County Sanitarian. Kerr will discuss the matter with County Attorney Burt Hurwitz.

Sandfire America – Hardrock Mining Impact Report – Joe Candrian

Sandfire America Engineering Technologist Joe Candrian and VP Communications and Government Relations Nancy Schlepp entered the chambers at 3:25 p.m.

Candrian presented the Commissioners with the Hard-rock Mining Impact Plan Annual Monitoring Report. Candrian stated that after consultation with the local government entities, the 2025 Annual Monitoring Report recommends no immediate adjustments or amendments to the impact Plan.

Commissioners questioned when construction might begin and Schlepp stated best case scenario, construction could start at the end of 2026.

Southwestern Insurance Center – Health Insurance Renewal – Julie Blockey

Southwestern Insurance Agent Tony Heck, Finance Officer Dayna Ogle, and District Court Clerk Candi Richardson entered the chambers at 3:50 p.m. Julie Blockey attended via zoom.

Blockey presented the Commissioners with the Health Insurance renewal premiums for 2025. Blockey discussed several options for Health Insurance that are available. Ogle requested that Blockey try to negotiate with United Health Care (UHC) to get Premiums down from what they are offering. Blockey stated that her team will contact UHC to negotiate the premium. Blockey will meet with Commissioners again on the May 6th, 2025 Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Interview – Rebekah Luchterhand

Rebekah Luchterhand entered the Chambers at 4:15 p.m.

Commissioners interviewed Luchterhand for the County Treasurer position.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62453 through Check #62473 totaling \$7567.03.
Electronic Check #-99619 through #-99610 totaling \$2706.96. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

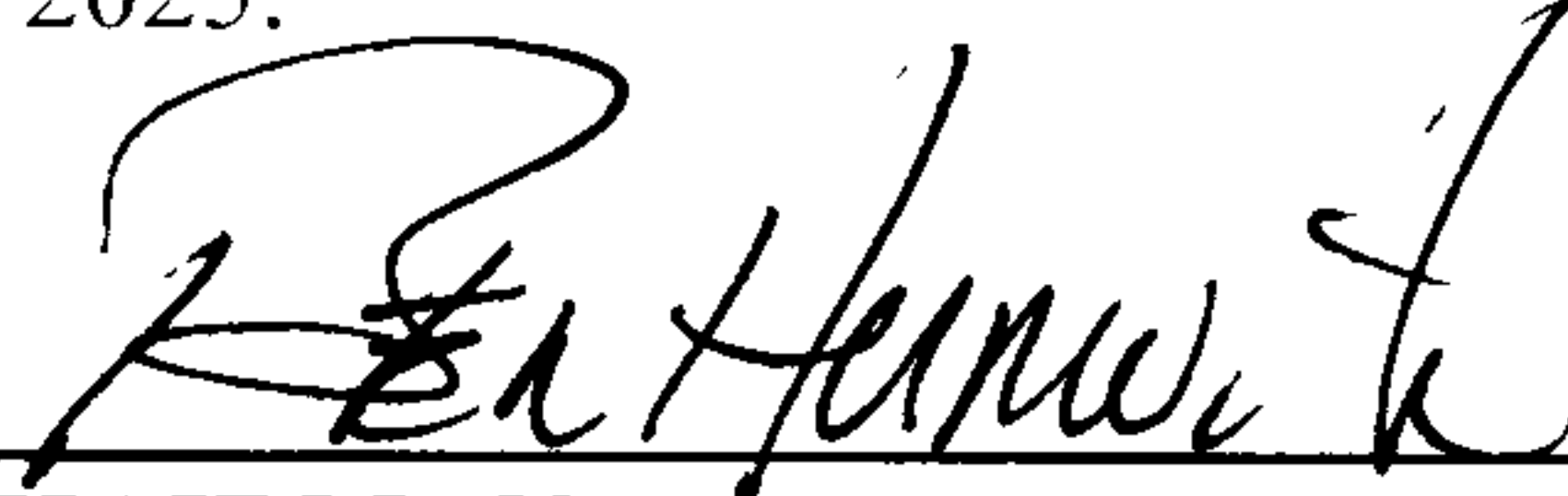
Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 6th, 2025.



CLERK & RECORDER

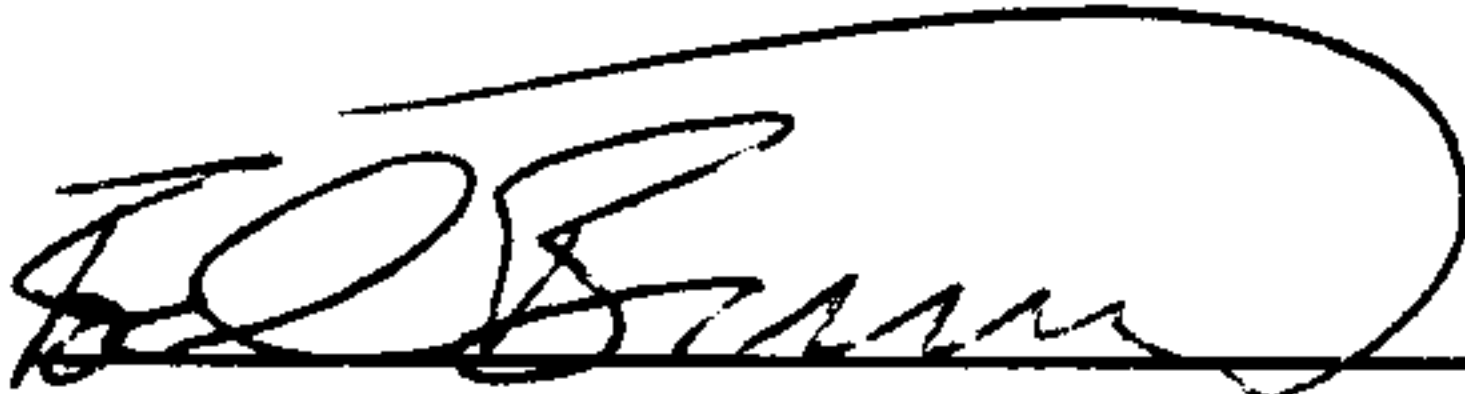
SEAL 



CHAIRMAN



VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed May 6th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.