

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Monday

April 20th, 2026

1:10 p.m. – 3:36 p.m.
Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Public Comment:

There is no public comment at this time.

Minute Approval:

Vice-Chairman Galt moves to approve the meeting minutes from February 2nd, 2026 and April 6th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Grassy Mountain Fire District- Penny Plachy

Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 1:08 p.m.

Penny Plachy started the conversation with an update on the happenings of the Grassy Mountain Fire District. The district is updating members and they had three people want to join. The district only had two seats to fill. Plachy stated that one of the three members could be on the board but be a non-voting seat. The potential board members that Plachy brought to the Commissioners for approval are Becky Derby, Michael Fobert, and Becca Dorsey. Plachy states that Derby and Fobert would be on the board as regular members and Dorsey is the non-voting member.

Plachy continued the conversation about the Fire District applying for grants. There was discussion between the Commissioners and Plachy about the momentum that the Fire District has and they are hoping to keep pressing forward.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY 25.26 #76

Commissioner Brewer moves to appoint Michael Fobert, Becky Derby as regular board members and Becca Dorsey as a non-voting member to the Grassy Mountain Fire District. Vice-Chairman Galt seconds the motion. A vote is taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan Request- Dayna Ogle and Nancy Schlepp

Nancy Schlepp entered the chambers at 1:20 p.m.

Joe Candrian entered the chambers at 1:20 p.m.

Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:26 p.m.

Nancy Schlepp started the conversation with the Commissioners about the acceptance of the County's request for funds from the Hard Rock Mining Impact. She adds that she is still waiting to hear back from lawyers at the Department of Commerce about how the money is coming to the county. They are hoping to avoid a third party.

Joe Candrian gave an update on mining activities and the current mine operations. Candrian presented the Commissioners with the Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan Annual Monitoring Report. The report includes the current request that the County has made.

Schlepp added that both her and Ogle are working with MACo and the Department of Commerce. They will need to change the language for the credit against taxes owed. Commissioner Brewer asked what that looks like. Nancy and Dayna agreed that it will be an agreement between the mine and county to settle the numbers. They added that this is unchartered territory but should be a painless process.

Lewis and Clark County Children's Advocacy Center of AWARE-Burt Hurwitz and Paula Samms

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:27 p.m.

Paula Samms entered the chambers via zoom at 1:59 p.m.

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 1:50 p.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz gave an update on his current cases. He said he was making progress on civil cases and then a few youth court cases came up to where he lost a lot of momentum. County Attorney Hurwitz added that some cases are moving faster than others.

Hurwitz introduced Paula Samms and her role. Hurwitz and Sheriff Lopp utilize Paula when a juvenile witnesses or is the victim of a crime. Paula is trained to interview and help juveniles through the process of testimonies and questioning. He continued Paula has not charged for any of her services for the last six (6) years. Paula Samms made the request for a \$2,000 payment once a year going forward. Paula added that her partnership with Meagher County has been really great thus far.

County Attorney Hurwitz stated the he believes there is a way to analyze the budget to add the funds for Paula's request. There is discussion when this should take place and Paula agrees that next fiscal year is justified.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #77

Chairman Hurwitz moved to include Paula Samms \$2,000 request into the next fiscal year's budget. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

City/County Library Update- Shannon Washburn

Library Co-Director Shannon Washburn entered the chambers at 2:20 p.m.

Shannon Washburn presented the Commissioners with a pamphlet about the mill that will be on the June ballot. There was discussion and admiration over the pamphlet. Shannon added that the MLA (Montana Library Association) is using the library's info, photos, and numbers to support resource sharing across the state for other libraries.

Shannon Washburn updated the Commissioners about the upcoming summer activities that are planned. The library has a busy summer planned for all ages.

There is an upcoming library board member opening. Washburn gave notice to the Commissioners that the board will be coming with recommendations to fill the soon to be vacant seat.

Building Update- Scott Frasier

Building Maintenance Scott Frasier entered the chambers at 2:42 p.m.

Frasier updated the Commissioners on the Republic Services damage to the County owned red truck in the parking lot. A couple weeks ago, the Republic Service driver forgot to unhook one side of the dumpster, hit the truck and caused damage to the driver side door. The Commissioners and Frasier agreed that it is a minimal infraction and does not need to be reported to insurance.

Frasier met with a company that will come to assess the buildings for conditional and structural soundness. Frasier stated that it wouldn't hurt to have buildings assessed to get an idea of where and when the roof may need to be replaced on the courthouse and Sheriff's Office.

Frasier and the Commissioners also discussed fixing the parking lot. The Commissioners agreed to have a conversation with Jake Kusek to get his opinion on how to fix the courthouse parking lot or if he could do the prep work for replacing the asphalt. There was discussion on completely tearing up the parking lot. It was also mentioned that an asphalt company frequents the area with jobs.

Frasier is still working on fixing up the electrical in the building. There is older wiring and older outlets in the building that keep Frasier busy.

Road Position Posting- Jake Kusek

Road Department Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 2:53 p.m.

Kusek discussed with the Commissioners on needing to post a job opening advertisement for a new road crew worker in the newspaper.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #78

Commissioner Brewer made a motion to post an advertisement for a job position with the Road Department. Vice Chairman Galt seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

The Commissioners started a conversation with Kusek about fixing the parking lot in the courthouse. Kusek stated that he is willing to help how or where he can to get it prepped and finished.

Kusek gave the Commissioners on the shop in Ringling. He has been coordinating with the electrician to finish up the new door openers. Kusek also states that the concrete company will be coming the first part of May to fix the floor in the shop.

Extension Update- Madisen Lindsey

Extension Agent Madisen Lindsey entered the chambers at 2:59 p.m.

Lindsey gave an update on Rec Lab. She took thirteen Meagher County 4-H members. Leadership 47 held their graduation. She went to Sidney for the Community Vitality Update. She learned a lot and had a great experience at the update. She is getting ready for fair already and scheduling the animal judges. She has another training next week in Havre, MT. Lindsey will continue to travel to trainings, meetings and updates through the rest of April and most of May. She states that she is always available via email and phone while she is out of the office.

Treasurer Update- Dayna Ogle

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 3:19 p.m.

Dayna Ogle presents the Commissioners with the December, January, and February Treasurer reports. There is discussion about current outstanding checks and account balances. Ogle assured the Commissioners that the report is confusing to understand and that everything is in normal working order.

Ogle asked the Commissioners on their thoughts on what to do with some delinquent tax payers. She explained the situation and the Commissioners agree to relieve the current tax payers that have delinquent charges. Dayna will be back with the proper language and dollar amounts to finalize the relief on these charges.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63492 through Checks #63560 for the amount of \$399,678.15. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, May 4th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed April 20th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.