

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

Tuesday

April 8th, 2025

12:30 p.m. – 4:30p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.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 1st, 2025. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Surplus Property – Bill Dutton

Building Maintenance Supervisor Bill Dutton entered the chambers at 12:45 p.m.

Dutton requested to sell the snow plow attachment for the four-wheeler. Commissioners approved putting the plow attachment up for sealed bid with no reserve. Notice will appear in the April 18th edition of the Meagher County News.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 24.25 #66

Commissioner Galt moved to place the Snow plow attachment up for sealed bid with no reserve. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Mid-Montana Insurance Renewal – Jodi Tierney

Mid-Montana Insurance Jodi Tierney and Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:00 p.m.

Tierney, Ogle and the Commissioners reviewed the schedule of vehicles, equipment, and buildings for Meagher County. Tierney provided an overview of the current insurance policies covering county buildings, equipment and vehicles, highlighting the need for adjustments to ensure adequate coverage. Commissioners decided to move to an appraised value for all Meagher County Buildings instead of stated values. Ogle emphasized the importance of balancing cost-effectiveness with comprehensive protection. Commissioners thoroughly reviewed the information, considering both the financial implications and the necessity of safeguarding county assets.

Monthly County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Attorney Hurwitz discussed some of the issues that his office has encountered in getting mental health services for members of the community. Hurwitz stated that Mountainview Medical Center does not have the ability to do the tests and make the assessments an individual needs in order to go to the Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs. Meagher County has to rely on behavioral health units in Helena, Bozeman and Great Falls to do those assessments. Attorney Hurwitz stated He thinks that Catalyst for Change will help streamline the process for all county entities to get individuals the help they need.

Hurwitz stated that he has been able to settle several cases this month. Hurwitz stated that the next trial that is still on the books, he does not think will actually go to trial. There is one trial scheduled for June that he thinks has a good chance of going to trial.

Catalyst for Change Approval – Jen Hurwitz

Work in Progress owner, Jen Hurwitz entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Jen Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with an example budget for a pilot program with Catalyst for Change. Jen Hurwitz also presented the Commissioners with a support letter to apply for the Behavioral Health Systems for Future Generations (BHSFG) Grant through the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Commissioners agreed to apply for the grant to pilot a Behavioral Health Program partnering with Catalyst for Change.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 24.25 #67

Commissioner Galt moved to apply for the BHSFG Grant through the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Clerk & Recorder update – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

West informed the Commissioners that May 3rd is Clean-up Day in Meagher County. West requested the Commissioners approve a full day of compensation for any county employee that volunteers a half day of work at the transfer station.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 24.25 #68

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

West explained that MCA Title 13, Chapter 17 outlines that ADA- compliant voting machines be available for all state elections including school elections. Therefore, the White Sulphur School has signed a contract with Meagher County to provide the Express Votes machines for the school election. White Sulphur Springs School will be required to pay for the cost of programming the machines and any other election supplies needed. West stated that Wednesday April 9th the school will hold a presentation to explain the levy that is on the ballot.

West informed the commissioners that Rob Brandt wishes to step down from the Salary Compensation Board. West inquired if the commissioners had any suggestions for a suitable replacement. The commissioners indicated they did not have any candidates in mind and requested West to identify a potential appointee.

3rd Quarter Budget Review – Dayna Ogle

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the 3rd quarter budget expenditure for review. Ogle and the Commissioners discussed where each budget stands and the projection for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Montana Business Assistance Connection – Brian Obert

Montana Business Assistance Connection Executive Director Brian Obert and Senior Program Manager Eric Seidensticker entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Seidensticker reviewed some of the work that MBAC has done in Meagher County. In 2024 and 2025, MBAC actively assisted Castle Mountain Grocery to secure grant funding and finance a new

point of sale system through MBAC’s Food and Agriculture Development Center. MBAC also supported Two Basset Brewery’s expansion by helping fund new brewing equipment through USDA programs like Business Acceleration Marketing (BAM) Grants and Agricultural Innovation Grants.

Obert talked a bit about Pumped hydro and how that project is going and where is may be going in the future. Obert stated that having the Pumped Hydro built here would do a lot for taxable values.

Obert discussed some new program opportunities including Tourism Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). These funds can be used to support tourism-related businesses and business ventures within MBAC’s service region. Also, Montana Commercial Property-Assessed Capital Enhancements (C-PACE) Program offers long-term, low-cost financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation improvements on commercial, industrial, agricultural, and mixed-use properties. For C-PACE, eligible projects must exceed \$100,000 and demonstrate cost savings over time.

FY 23.24 Audit -Wipfli LLP – Clayton Johnson

Clayton Johnson entered the chambers at 3:15 p.m.

Johnson started by introducing himself and presenting the Commissioners with a letter outlining the scope of the audit. Johnson went on to explain this is a Federal Single Audit because Meagher County had enough Federal expenditures to trigger a Federal Single Audit in Fiscal Year 23.24. Johnson stated that this year his team will be looking closely at Federal programs. Johnson stated his team is responsible for testing the county’s accounting practices to the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and issuing an opinion on the finances and internal controls in the county.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62438 through Check #62452 totaling \$17,591.53. Electronic Check #-99622 through #-99620 totaling \$303.05. All Checks were signed as presented.

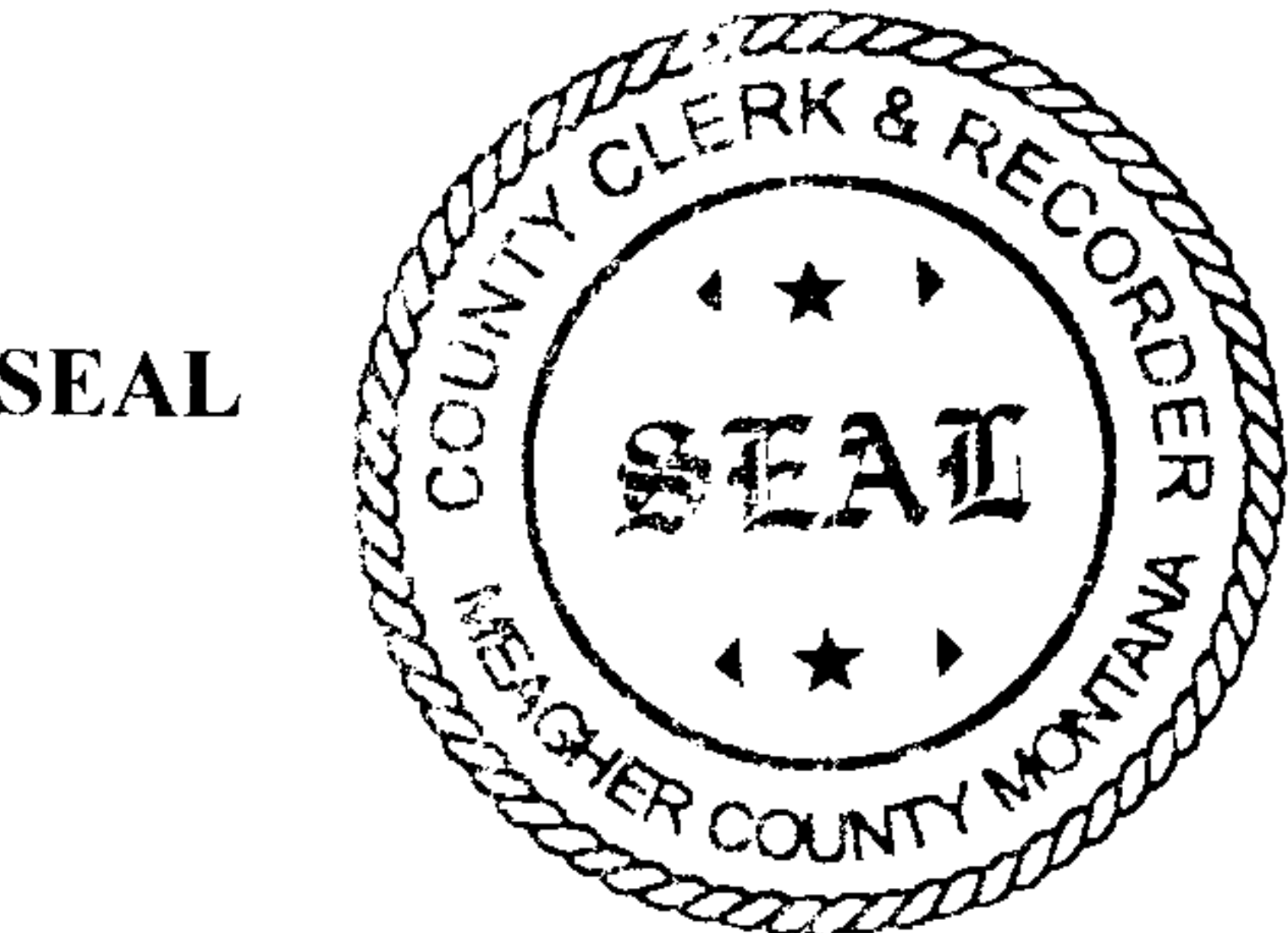
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed April 15th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.