

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

Tuesday

August 19th, 2025

9:07 a.m. – 12:41 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Rod Brewer moved to approve the minutes from August 12th, 2025. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman abstained from voting. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Meagher County City Library Report-Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom, Library Co-Director Shannon Washburn, Library Staff Member Cassi Zimmerman, Library Staff Member Claudia Blanchard, Library Board of Trustees Chair Glenda Ritchie and Finance Officer Jennifer Deems entered the chambers at 9:08 a.m.

Wahlstrom shared that the Summer Reading Program concluded at the end of July with great success. Throughout the summer, the program welcomed a total of 116 children, and the final day saw an impressive turnout of 85 attendees. In addition to the program's success, the library has refreshed its branding—updating the logo on both its website and Facebook page. New library cards, letterheads, and other materials have also been rolled out to reflect the updated look. Wahlstrom also stated they will be starting reading programs such as Story time for kids and reading at daycares come this fall.

Washburn and Wahlstrom will be going a Directors Workshop in Great Falls, MT that they attend every other year.

Commissioner Brewer inquired on the requirements for continued education. Wahlstrom stated currently they need to complete 60 hours over the course of 5 years.

The state discontinued the Wi-Fi hotspots as of the end of June, 2025. The library has continued to provide Wi-Fi hotspots, 6 in total, as it is a need in the community.

Wahlstrom, Washburn, Ritchie, Deems and the Commissioners went over Fiscal Year 25.26 Library budget.

Wahlstrom also discussed with Commissioners the potential salary increases for library staff.

Non-Agenda Item:

At the August 5th, 2025 Commissioners Meeting, Treasurer Dayna Ogle and Clerk of District Court Candi Richardson, discussed with Commissioners opening a checking account.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #14

Chairman Hurwitz moved to approve the authorization of the Clerk of District Court, Candi Richardson, to open a Checking Account at the Bank of the Rockies. Commissioner Rod Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Health Nurse-Eva Kerr R.N.

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kerr distributed the July, 2025 reports to the Commissioners. Kerr noted a high volume of children coming in for school vaccinations and mentioned that they continue to send out vaccine reminders.

Kerr reported that Red Ants Pants went smoothly overall, with no major issues. However, the sanitarians that were recently hired, Southwest Montana Consulting, Inc., left on Sunday morning, so Kerr had to return to the site to manage vendor-related matters herself. Southwest acknowledged the oversight and committed to improving vendor communication next year. Kerr also mentioned that communication could be improved, particularly in sharing updates on event operations. Eva added that during the evacuation on Friday night, she was pleased to see Southwest was on-site assisting vendors.

The Homemaker/Respite Program currently serves seven active clients, and end-of-year reporting has been completed. Heather Nicholson from Area IV Agency on Aging, informed them of additional available funding, resulting in a \$2,000 contribution to the program. The Homemaker fund now totals \$14,675, while the Respite fund is at \$8,350.

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N., Finance Officer Jennifer Deems and the Commissioners went over the Fiscal Year 25.26 Health Nurse Budget.

Kerr wanted to know if the Commissioners would consider when hiring a new cleaning person to also clean the Ambulance and Training center especially after meetings.

Rural County Fire Chief Discussion-Ron Teig

Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:45 a.m.

Ron Teig entered the chambers at 11:01 a.m.

Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 10:50 a.m.

Teig met with the Commissioners to discuss his wages and health insurance options. Treasurer Ogle clarified that employees must work a minimum of 20 hours per week to qualify for health insurance benefits. Commissioner Brewer proposed the possibility of hiring Teig as an independent contractor, noting that he already holds the necessary license. Under this arrangement, Teig's compensation could be structured to cover the cost of his own health insurance. Teig expressed agreement with this approach. The Commissioners concluded that submitting a monthly invoice for payment would be an acceptable process.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #15

Vice-Chairman Errol Galt moved for Ron Teig be paid as an independent contractor for Rural County Fire Chief at \$2000 a month. Chairman Ben Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Cemetery Report/Budget-Kathy Palmer

Cemetery Board Member Kathy Palmer entered the chambers at 11:52 a.m. and Cemetery Sexton Randy Harden entered the chambers at 11:56 a.m.

Palmer, Hardin, Finance Officer Jennifer Deems and the Commissioners went over the Fiscal Year 25.26 Cemetery budget and report.

Palmer stated that they still need to purchase a lawn mower for the cemetery lawn. It is currently in the new budget and will be purchased soon. Palmer said Randy Hardin has received quotes to put in a new building at the cemetery, dimensions 20 ft. x 60 ft. x 12 ft. The Commissioners agreed it would be a great idea if it will work in the budget. In the mean-time, they are going to insulate the old building and put in a larger propane tank.

Palmer mentioned that Randy Hardin is still requesting the tractor equipped with a front-mounted snow blower.

Vice-Chairman Galt mentioned the airport has a snow blower that may work for the cemetery.

Treasurers Report-Dayna Ogle

Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:48 a.m.

Ogle requested that Shauna Porter extend her time in the role, as the training has required more time than initially anticipated. Ogle also asked that Shauna Porter provide coverage in September while both Ogle and Lomax are out of the office. Additionally, Ogle requested that Shauna Porter assist a few days each week while she is helping Finance Officer Jennifer Deems on budget-related tasks. The commissioners agreed that this arrangement sounded reasonable.

Public Hearing Budget Amendments-Jennifer Deems

Finance Officer Jennifer Deems presented the Commissioners with Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2024.2025 for signature.

Resolution 2024 - 2025

Budget Amendment

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

WHEREAS, the Checkerboard TV (7373) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$24.14

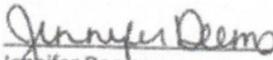
WHEREAS, the Checkerboard TV (7373) had unexpected revenue of \$24.14 from a transfer from General Fund Entitlement cash line (1000.107950).

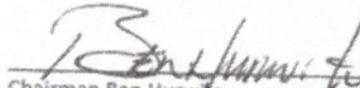
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Checkerboard TV (7373) for the unexpected expenses and unexpected revenue in the amount of \$24.14 (twenty-four dollars and fourteen cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

Prepared by:

Board of County Commissioners:


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

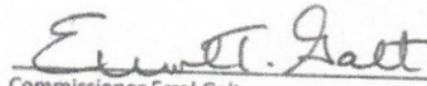
Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder



The seal is circular with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text 'COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER' at the top and 'MEAGHER COUNTY MONTANA' at the bottom. In the center, the word 'SEAL' is prominently displayed. Above and below 'SEAL' are two small stars, each flanked by a triangle pointing towards the center.


Commissioner Errol Galt

Resolution 2024 - 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Ambulance Outlay Fund (4030) did not have a budget in FY 24.25 and,

WHEREAS, the Ambulance Outlay Fund (4030) had unexpected expense in the amount of \$32,722.06 and,

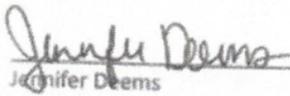
WHEREAS, the Ambulance Outlay Fund (4030) had unexpected revenue in the form of a Bair Grant in the amount of \$35,000

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Ambulance Outlay Fund (4030) for the unexpected expenses and unexpected revenue in the amount of \$35,000 (thirty five thousand dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

Prepared by:

Board of County Commissioners:

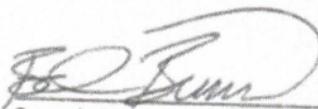


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer

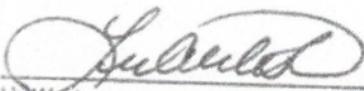


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:



Commissioner Rod Brewer



Liv West
Clerk & Recorder



Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024-2025 #

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Respite Care Fund (2988) had had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$5,736 and,

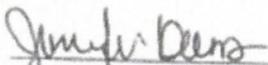
WHEREAS, the Respite Care Fund (2988) had unexpected revenue in the form of a transfer from General Fund Entitlement cash line (1000.107950) in the amount of \$5,736.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget for the unexpected revenue and unexpected expense of \$5,736 (five thousand seven hundred thirty-six dollars and no cents) in the Respite Care Fund (2988) effective June 30, 2025.

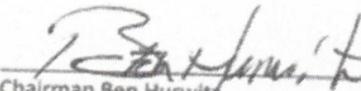
Dated this 19th day of August 2025

Prepared by:

Board of County Commissioners:



Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer

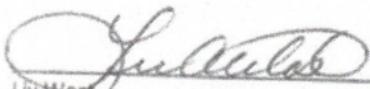


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:



Commissioner Rod Brewer



Liv West
Clerk & Recorder



Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024 - 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the General Building Capital Improvement Fund (4000) did not have a budget in FY 24.25 and,

WHEREAS, the General Building Capital improvement Fund (4000) had unexpected expense in the amount of \$16,264 for an A/C Unit and,

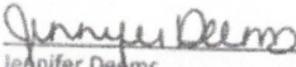
WHEREAS, the General Building Capital improvement Fund (4000) had unexpected revenue in the form of a transfer from General Fund Entitlement cash line (1000.107950) in the amount of \$16,264

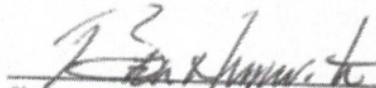
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the General Building Capital improvement Fund (4000) for the unexpected expenses and unexpected revenue in the amount of \$16,264 (sixteen thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

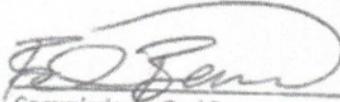
Prepared by:

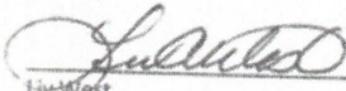
Board of County Commissioners:

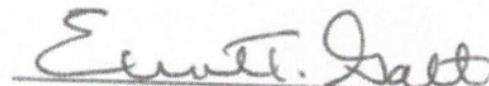

Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024 - 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Bridge Fund (2130) did not have a set Budget for FY 24.25

WHEREAS, the Bridge Fund (2130)) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$8,400 and,

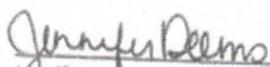
WHEREAS, the Bridge Fund (2130) had unexpected revenue from a loan from PILT (2900)

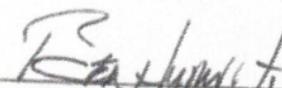
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Bridge Fund (2130) for unexpected expense and unexpected Revenue totaling \$8,400 (eight thousand four hundred dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

Prepared by:

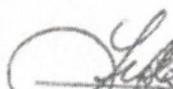
Board of County Commissioners:


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

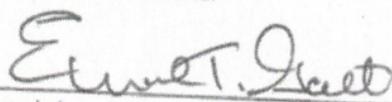
Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder



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Commissioner Errol Galt

Resolution 2024-2025 #

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

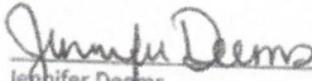
WHEREAS, the Home Health Care Fund (2980) had had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$770 and,

WHEREAS, the Home Health Care Fund (2980) had unexpected revenue in the form of a transfer from General Fund Entitlement cash line (1000.107950) in the amount of \$770.

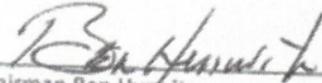
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget for the unexpected revenue and unexpected expense of \$770 (seven hundred seventy dollars and no cents) in the Home Health Care Fund (2980) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

Prepared by:


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer

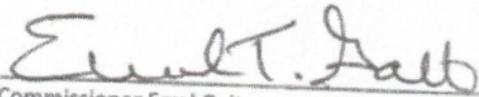
Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024 – 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$9,900 and,

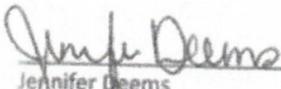
WHEREAS, the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917) had unexpected revenue in the form of an inter-fund loan from PILT (2900) in the amount of \$9,900.

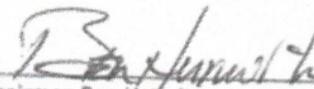
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget for the unexpected Revenue and unexpected expense of \$9,900 (nine thousand nine hundred dollars and no cents) in the Crime Victim Advocate Fund (2917)

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025

Attest:

Board of County Commissioners:

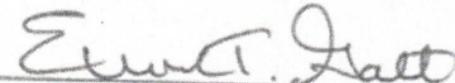

Jennifer Deems


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024 - 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Urban & Community Forestry Grant (2995) did not have a budget in FY 24.25 and,

WHEREAS, the Urban & Community Forestry Grant (2995) had unexpected expense in the amount of \$8,967 and,

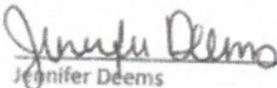
WHEREAS, the Urban & Community Forestry Grant (2995) had unexpected revenue in the form of a loan from PILT (2900) in the amount of \$8,967

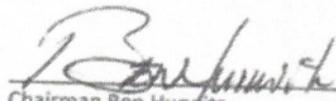
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Urban & Community Forestry Grant (2995) for the unexpected expenses and unexpected revenue in the amount of \$8,967 (eight thousand nine hundred sixty-seven dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August 2025

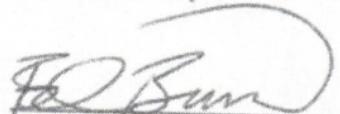
Prepared by:

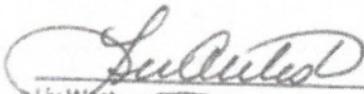
Board of County Commissioners:


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024-2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

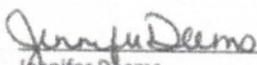
WHEREAS, the District Court Fund (2180) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$2,852.00 and,

WHEREAS, the District Court Fund (2180) will utilize their cash on hand to offset the expense.

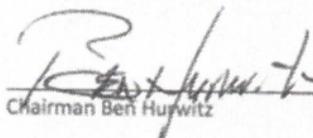
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the District Court Fund (2180) for unexpected expense totaling \$2,852.00 (two thousand eight hundred fifty-two dollars and zero cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025

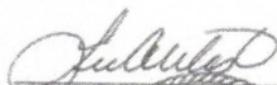
Prepared by:


Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer

Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024-2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

WHEREAS, the Library (2220) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$4,881.39 and,

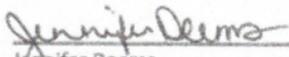
WHEREAS, the Library (2220) will utilize their cash on hand to offset the expense.

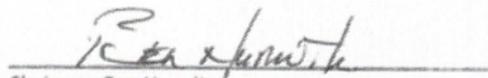
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Library (2220) for unexpected expense totaling \$4,881.39 (four thousand eight hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-nine cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025

Prepared by:

Board of County Commissioners:

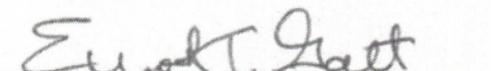

Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


My West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024 – 2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

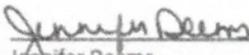
WHEREAS, the Weed Management Area Grant (2844) had unexpected expenses of \$6,926 associated with Chemicals and,

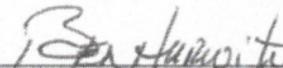
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED that the Meagher County Board of Commissioners are amending the budget in the Weed Management Area Grant (2844) for the unexpected expense totaling \$6,926.00 (six thousand nine hundred twenty-six dollars and no cents) effective June 30, 2025.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025

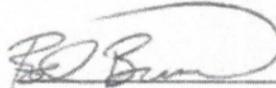
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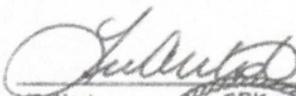
Board of County Commissioners:

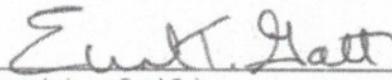

Jennifer Deems


Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Attest:


Commissioner Rod Brewer


Liv West
Clerk & Recorder


Commissioner Errol Galt



Resolution 2024-2025

Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the 2024.2025 budget has been set, and

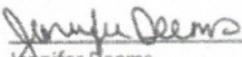
WHEREAS, the Grassy Mountain Fire District Fund (7206) had unexpected expenses in the amount of \$483.01 and,

WHEREAS, the Grassy Mountain Fire District Fund (7206) will utilize their 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 Grassy Mountain Fire District Fund (7206) for unexpected expense totaling \$483.01 (four hundred eighty-three dollars and one cent) effective June 30, 2025.

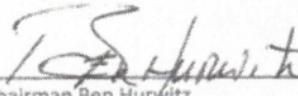
Dated this 19th day of August, 2025

Prepared by:



Jennifer Deems
Financial Officer

Board of County Commissioners:



Chairman Ben Hurwitz

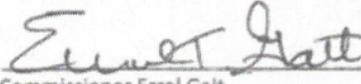
Attest:



Commissioner Rod Brewer



Lw West
Clerk & Recorder



Commissioner Errol Galt



Boiler/Maintenance Position

Treasurer Dayna Ogle met with the Commissioners to discuss the boiler and maintenance position, which will continue to be advertised for an additional week. She also reported that she had reached out to the Cemetery crew to inquire about the possibility of them mowing the Courthouse lawn. Additionally, the Commissioners directed that the part-time cleaning position be advertised with a starting wage of \$20 per hour.

Budget Workshop-Jennifer Deems

Finance Officer Jennifer Deems met with the Commissioners to discuss the proposed budget.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62774 through Check #62803 totaling \$36,675.99. Electronic Check #-99494 through #-99485 totaling \$2,968.93. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

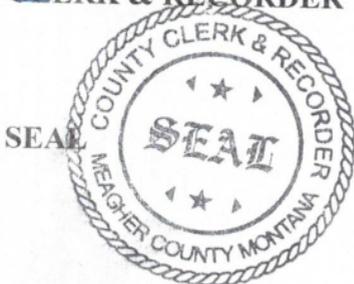
Meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

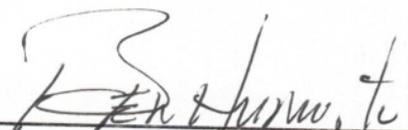
Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, August 26th, 2025.



CLERK & RECORDER





CHAIRMAN



VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Briana Frasier.
Distributed September 2nd, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.