

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

**Tuesday**

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Brewer, and Vice Chair Hurwitz and Commissioner Galt were present.

**Claims Review / Minutes Review:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the Minutes from August 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Monthly Road/Fire Report – Jake Kusek:**

Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Kusek & the Commission discussed the beaver activity on 16 Mile Creek and Lost Creek and the potential damage to the county road if it persists.

Hurwitz inquired about the new graders and a claim that they may not have as much horse power as the old graders. Kusek stated the new graders have 255 hp compared to the old graders with 185-205 hp, the blades on the new graders stay on the ground better than the old graders. The left front wheel seal started leaking on both the new graders, however the leak has stopped and no repairs are needed at this time. Other machines built in the same time frame had similar problems with the wheel seals. Kusek reported the mower is on the 140M grader and will remain there, the new John Deere graders do not have the correct adaptor for the mower.

The counter on Smith River Rd is still counting approximately 250 vehicles per day and will be left there until after hunting season.

Kusek received the Reclamation Release for the Bodell Gravel Pit from the State of Montana, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and he is continuing to work on getting the Fort Logan Pit permitted. Eric Erben, from Highland Environmental Inc staked out the pit last month and anticipates the permit will be approved and ready for use next summer.

Bryan Holtz and David Collins are attending the 2023 Annual Equipment Operator Training and Snow Rodeo in Missoula. The training consists of one day of classroom training and one day of hands on competition.

Kusek continued with the fire report. The fire truck stationed at Springdale Colony is not running and will need to be replaced. Kusek found a 2011 Ford Fire truck from the State of California, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. There is no cost for the vehicle, the only cost will be the freight charge of \$2500 to have the truck transported to Montana.

The current fire restriction will remain in effect until further notice.

Commissioner Galt requested Kusek reach out to Riverside Contractors, they are bidding the highway project near Martinsdale, to inquire about the milling that will be taken off the highway and could be used to repair the streets in Martinsdale.

**ACTION #2**

**Resolution FY 23.24 #26**

Commissioners approved adding concrete under the doors of the Ringling Fire building to help seal up the building from the weather and rodents.

**Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:**

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

Lopp was delayed by a service call, when he arrived he handed out the August 2023 Complaint report for review. Over the Labor Day weekend only 1 speeding ticket was issued. Lopp stated the weather was a factor in the quiet weekend.

Lopp is preparing for an Abandoned Vehicle Sale in October. Currently the county has 22 vehicles and other items to be auctioned off. The minimum bid on each vehicle will be the tow fee for each vehicle. The State of Montana has a Junk Vehicle Program however the county does not have enough abandoned vehicles to utilize the program.

Commissioner inquired about Smith Creek Cabin Sites and how emergency services are handled in that area. Lopp stated Meagher County has a Mutual Aid Agreement with Park County for the Smith Creek area.

**Clerk & Recorder /Superintendent of Schools – Liv West:**

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers 10:00 a.m.

West opened by giving an overview of the County Superintendent of Schools duties and the oversight of the home-schooled students. Currently Meagher County has approximately 45 home-schooled students. Springdale Colony and School District 8 have an Attendance Center Agreement to provide education and the Colony Students are part of the “Average Number Belonging” (ANB) for the district. Makayla Bingham has been hired to teach at the Colony.

West presented a spreadsheet outlining different options for election security cameras and the option of adding an “Election Room” in the Clerk & Recorder’s vault. The room would be locked and would house the election equipment and supplies. Commission requested estimates on the cost of the “Election Room” and agreed to provide the 20% match for the HAVA grant. West will report back with construction estimates.

**Grassy Mountain Fire – Rich Seibken**

Keith Hancock entered the chambers at 10:40 a.m.

Rich Seibken entered the chamber at 10:45

Penny Plachy entered the chambers at 10:50

Liv West, Emma Bess entered the chambers at 10:50

County Attorney entered the chambers at 10:55

Seibken opened by stating currently he is the only member of the Grassy Mountain Fire District Board (GMFD). The board has 4 vacant position and Seibken requested Ben Haugen, Anthony Perrone and Valerie Seibken be appointed to the board. Penny Plachy also volunteered to be on the board.

Discussion turned to the possibility of creating a “county wide” Fire Service Area (FSA) and then merging the GMFD into the county wide FSA. County Attorney Hurwitz briefly outlined

the process for creating a county wide FSA. The Commission will need to evaluate the impact to taxpayer's before they move forward with creating an FSA.

Board appointments are tabled until the GMFD bylaws and board member terms can be established. Next meeting is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

**Smith Creek Community Access – Keith Hancock**

Hancock presented a letter from the Smith Creek Parking Committee. Brewer asked why the issue is being presented to Meagher County when the area where Smith Creek residents park is in Park County. Hancock wanted the Commissioner's to be aware of the problem since their residences are in Meagher County. County Attorney Hurwitz suggested Hancock contact Sheriff Lopp to clarify how emergency services would access the area and how residents could receive information such as evacuation notices.

**Lunch**

**Public Hearing Final Budget Adoption**

Ogle presented the final budget resolution for fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Ogle asked for a motion for the Sheriff & Deputies hazard pay and for a motion for the cost of living allowance (COLA) for elected officials and county employees. The following motions were made:

**ACTION # 3**

**Resolution FY 23.24 #27**

**RESOLUTION NO. FY23.24 R 2-7**  
**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7-6-4030, MCA, provides that the governing body shall adopt the final budget by resolution. The resolution must:

Authorize appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year and Establish legal spending limits at the level of detail in the resolution.

**WHEREAS**, Section 7-6-4020 requires that a preliminary annual operating budget must be prepared for the local government; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 7-6-4021 requires that the governing body shall cause a notice of public hearing on the preliminary or amended budget to be published, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 7-6-4024, provides that the governing body must hold a public hearing in accordance with the notice given pursuant to 7-6-4021; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 where residents of the County were allowed to express their concerns about the proposed budget; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the proposed budget, received the estimated ending cash balances for all county funds, made changes to the budget as deemed necessary following the public hearing(s) and from input by elected officials and department heads, and computed the estimated taxes, fees and assessments needed to fund the fiscal year 2024 budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County that: The final budget after any amendments to the preliminary budget and after considering any public comment is adopted. This resolution authorizes:

Appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year and sets the legal spending limits at the county fund level as set out in FY 23.24 Attachment "A". (the fund level detail is stated in the formal budget document and established in the County's accounting system), sets levies as set out in FY 23.24 Attachment "B" and sets salaries/wages as set out in FY 23.24 attachment "C".

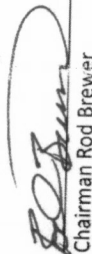
The effective date of this resolution is July 1, 2023, even if the resolution is adopted after that date.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

Prepared by:

Board of County Commissioners:

  
Finance Officer - Dayna Ogle

  
Chairman Rod Brewer

Attest:



  
Commissioner Heather Hurwitz

  
Commissioner Errol Galt

**ATTACHMENT B - Meagher County Levies  
Fiscal Year 2023.2024**

**Market Valuation: \$634,309,297**

**Taxable Valuation: 11,358,870**

Special Districts - Fees	
2150	Predatory Animal (Sheep) \$0.60/hd
2155	Predatory Animal (Cattle) \$0.50/hd
7205	Martinsdale Fire Service Area \$50.00/yr
7371	WSS TV \$40.00/yr
7372	Martinsdale TV \$5.00/yr
7373	Checkerboard TV \$15.00/yr

County Special District	
2110	Road - Mill Value = \$9,010,995 40.230
2191	Special Police-Mill Value = \$2,347,875 32.540
2200	Mosquito Dist -Mill Value=\$2,347,875 2.670
2400	Martinsdale SID - Mill Value=\$197,689 111.480
2240	Cemetery - Mill Value = \$10,414,155 3.430
7206	Grassy Mtn Fire - Mill Value = \$432,289 53.750
7207	Castle Valley Fire -Mill Value = \$56,731 15.660
7350	Soil&Conservation-Mill Value = \$7,711.619 1.410
7860	City of WSS- Mill Value = \$2,347,875 101.860

County General & Misc. Sm Funds Mill Value = \$9905.823	
1000	General 92.000
2170	Airport 0.820
2180	District Court 3.000
2230	Ambulance 0.250
2271	Mental Health 0.170
2340	Fire 2.000
2378	Meagher Co Health 2.000
2382	Search & Rescue 0.250
2384	Liability Ins. 10.000
2500	Solid Waste 0.000
2850	911 Emergency 1.800
2860	Land Use 0.000
2870	K-9 Unit 0.460
	<b>Total 112.750</b>

Voted	
2140	Weed - Mill Value = \$11,358.870 1.600
2220	Library - Mill Value = \$11,358.870 5.000
2290	Extension - Mill Value = \$11,358.870 3.000
7861	City of WSS- Mill Value = \$2,347,875 5.000

Permissive Health Insurance - Mill Value = \$11,358.870	
2371	Health Insurance 16.520

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State	
7521	University Millage Fund 6.000
7527	State Equalization Fund 40.000

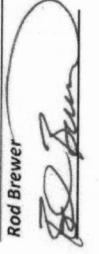

Schools	
7529	Elementary Equalization 33.000
7531	High School Equalization 22.000
7820	County Wide Transportation 2.940
7830	High School (Retire, Unemp, FICA) 18.900

District #8 K - 12	
7701201	General 86.400
7701210	Transportation 17.410
7701211	Bus Depreciation 10.620
7701213	Tuition 2.420
7701217	Adult Education 4.400
7701228	Technology 3.210
7701261	Building Reserve 3.140
7701250	Debt Service (New School) 50.910
	<b>Total 178.510</b>

Total Mills By District	
District #8 IN	587.13
District #8 OUT	485.29
District #8 OUT No Lennepe	481.86

**ATTACHMENT C - FINAL SALARY WITH LONGEVITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2023 2024  
EFFECTIVE 7.1.23**

Name	Fund	HIRE DATE	YEAR	YRS	NEW HRLY	LONGEVITY
Airport Maint.	2170	03.08.13	2013	10	\$ 43.36	\$ -
Ambulance Billing Clerk	2230	01.25.07	2007	16	\$ 18.39	\$ -
Ambulance Drivers	2230	08.12.96	1996	27	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Ambulance Drivers	2230	06.01.15	2015	8	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Ambulance Drivers	2230	08.01.23	2023	0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Finance Assistant	1000	07.24.23	2023	0	\$ 19.92	\$ -
Building Maint. Boiler	1000	9.16.21	2021	2	\$ 24.90	\$ -
Building Maint	1000	06.30.23	2023	0	\$ 20.92	\$ -
Chief Financial Officer	1000	04.27.09	2009	14	\$ 27.33	\$ 1,400.00
Clerk & Recorder	1000	08.15.20	2020	3	\$ 25.94	\$ 300.00
Commissioner Dist. 1	1000	01.01.09	2009	14	\$ 25.94	\$ 700.00
Commissioner Dist. 2	1000	01.01.23	2023	0	\$ 25.94	\$ -
Commissioner Dist. 3	1000	10.08.13	2013	10	\$ 25.94	\$ 500.00
County Attorney	1000	01.01.19	2019	4	\$ 60.36	\$ 400.00
Depty Clerk & Recorder	2020	06.09.23	2023	0	\$ 22.95	\$ -
Deputy Sheriff	2191	11.18.14	2014	9	\$ 24.40	\$ 4,357.00
Deputy Sheriff	1000	02.15.21	2021	2	\$ 22.73	\$ 1,223.00
Deputy Treasurer	1000				\$ 24.21	\$ -
Dispatcher	2850	03.05.01	2001	22	\$ 24.90	\$ 2,000.00
Dispatcher	1000	01.16.14	2014	9	\$ 20.90	\$ 900.00
Dispatcher	2850	03.01.11	2011	12	\$ 23.90	\$ 1,200.00
Dispatcher	1000	03.16.10	2010	13	\$ 21.90	\$ 1,300.00
Dispatcher	1000	04.27.22	2022	1	\$ 19.90	\$ -
Dispatcher (PT)	1000	12.18.17	2017	6	\$ 18.90	\$ -
Dispatcher (PT)	1000	12.10.21	2021	2	\$ 19.92	\$ -
District Court Clerk	2180	12.14.20	2020	3	\$ 25.94	\$ 300.00
Health Nurse	2378	05.13.14	2014	9	\$ 32.15	\$ 900.00
Health Nurse Assistant	2378	01.19.22	2022	1	\$ 28.90	\$ -
Home Health Care	2980	05.28.15	2015	8	\$ 18.61	\$ -
Home Health Care	2980	04.17.17	2017	6	\$ 17.10	\$ -
Justice of the Peace	1000	09.23.19	2019	4	\$ 25.94	\$ 200.00
Library Clerk	2220	04.30.22	2022	1	\$ 17.92	\$ 100.00
Library Clerk	2220	05.18.23	2023	0	\$ 17.92	\$ -
Librarian Director	2220	08.07.17	2017	6	\$ 21.92	\$ -
Librarian Director	2220	11.26.19	2019	4	\$ 21.92	\$ -
Reserve Officers	1000				\$ 19.92	\$ -
Respite Care	2988	06.14.20	2020	3	\$ 17.92	\$ -
Road Crew	2110	05.28.19	2019	4	\$ 24.80	\$ 400.00
Road Crew	2110	09.07.21	2021	2	\$ 22.90	\$ -
Road Crew	2110	06.17.19	2019	4	\$ 24.80	\$ 400.00
Road Supervisor	2110	05.05.15	2015	8	\$ 29.80	\$ 800.00
Sexton	2240	03.20.23	2023	0	\$ 20.67	\$ -
Cemetery (Summer)	2240	06.08.21	2021	2	\$ 16.92	\$ -
Sheriff	1000	04.15.01	2001	22	\$ 25.94	\$ 12,005.00
Treasurer	1000	07.27.15	2015	8	\$ 25.94	\$ 800.00
Treasurer Assistant	1000	09.12.16	2016	7	\$ 19.92	\$ 700.00
Under Sheriff	1000	04.30.18	2018	5	\$ 26.36	\$ 2,260.00
Wed Assistant	2140	03.20.20	2020	3	\$ 24.90	\$ -
Weed Seasonal	2140	07.22.21	2021	2	\$ 18.90	\$ -
Weed Supervisor	2140	05.28.18	2018	5	\$ 22.90	\$ 500.00



  
 Ben Hurwitz      Errol Galt

**ACTION # 4**

**Resolution FY 23.24 #28**

Galt moved to give the Sheriff, Under Sheriff, and Deputies \$2000/year in Hazard Pay. Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed, the issue is hereby resolved.

**ACTION # 5**

**Resolution FY 23.24 #29**

Brewer moved to give elected officials a COLA of 8% or \$1.92. All other county employees regardless of probationary status will receive a COLA of \$1.92 with the exception of Deputies and the Under Sheriff who receive a percentage of their Elected Officials salary and EMT's. Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed, the issue is hereby resolve.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with check # 60655 - # 60685 totaling \$51,080.46. All checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

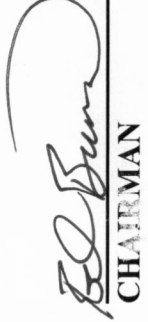
**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.


  
CLERK & RECORDER



SEAL

  
CHAIRMAN

  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

  
COMMISSIONER