

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

August 6th, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 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 Rod Brewer, Vice-Charmain Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Claims Review / Minutes Review:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from July 16th, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

Kari Leibel entered the chambers at 9am

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

Sheriff Lopp entered at 9am

Lopp presented the Commission with the July compliant report for review. Lopp reported during the Red Ants Pants Musical festival weekend only 4 traffic related tickets were issued. Lopp stated the private security provided by Red Ants Pants was greatly improved over previous years. The festival attendance was reported to be 14,000 over the 4-day event.

Lopp stated he had investigated a missing person report and that the incident was unrelated to the festival. The missing person was eventually located.

Lopp also reported that the Gallatin County Sheriff's office is requesting assistance from neighboring counties for security during the upcoming Donald Trump Rally on August 9, 2024 at the Brick Bredin Field House. Trump is scheduled to fly into Belgrade, travel to Big Sky for a private meeting and then back to Bozeman to speak at the rally. Lopp may send two deputies to help with the event.

Commissioner Galt inquired about the recent theft of his property in Martinsdale and if there were any leads. Lopp reviewed the progress of the investigation and agreed to reach out to the Department of Transportation and see if their weather cameras stored any footage.

Monthly Road Report / Off System Bridges – Jake Kusek & Stahly Engineering &

Benjamin opened by reviewing the status of the posted bridges in Meagher County. Benjamin and the Commission reviewed the off-system bridges over 20ft in length and prioritized them according to condition as follows:

#1 Bridge Id 03654	County Road 128	Musselshell River 022	2mi NE Martinsdale
#2 Bridge Id 03652	1 st Ave	Sixteenmile Creek 029	Ringling
#3 Bridge Id 03653	Ed Lavell Ln	Sixteenmile Ck 039	3mi E Ringling
#4 Bridge Id 03645	Cottonwood Ck Rd	Cottonwood Ck 025	9mi S Martinsdale
#5 Bridge Id 03648	Birch Ck Rd	Smith River 001	4mi NW WSS
#6 Bridge Id 03647	Canyon Rd	Smith River 002	8mi NW WSS

The Bridge Id #03654 at Martinsdale has been included the State of Montana Bridge Investment Program, funding has not been approved for this project as of today.

The Bride Id #03647 on Canyon Rd has been approved as part of the State of Montana's Quick Fix Bridge program to replace the timber deck.

Benjamin stated that Montana SB 536, an act providing funding to local governments for the maintenance of city roads along with reconstruction and repair of local roads and bridges, would not fund the repairs and maintenance of all the posted bridges and he will look into funding possibilities for the remaining bridges.

Fire Report – Jake Jusek

Jake was unable to attend due to the lightning strikes the previous night.

Building – Courtroom A/C - Budget – Rosie Spaulding, Bill Dutton

Bill Dutton and Rosie Spaulding entered at 10am

Spaulding reported Wild Thing Taxidermy delivered the remaining deer mount for display in the courthouse. Spaulding then discussed and gave estimates for several maintenance/repair projects for the upcoming fiscal year:

1. Replacing the rain gutters on the courthouse - \$1,735
2. Replacing the windows in the basement boiler room and the Clerk & Records basement vault - \$3,786
3. Replacing the window in the boiler room only - \$1,678
4. Repairing the concrete steps going into the boiler room and repairing the pony wall on Main Street - \$ 2,966
5. Removing the stumps in the courthouse lawn and landscaping the lawn to slope away from the building - \$2,220
6. Installing air-conditioning in the courtroom – \$26,000

Candi Richardson entered the chamber at 10:15 a.m.

Richardson discussed the possibility of installing air-conditioning in the courtroom. Recently there were two jury trials held in the courtroom. The fans and window air-conditioning units cannot be on during the testimony due to the court reporter inability to hear the witnesses and attorneys. The temperature in the courtroom was extreme with the outside temperatures in the

ACTION # 2

Resolution FY 24.25 #9

Commission Brewer moved to accept the estimates for replacing the rain gutters, removing the stumps and landscaping the lawn at the courthouse. Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Commissioners tabled the installation of air-conditioning in the courtroom and replacing the final three windows in the basement of the courthouse until the FY 24.25 budget has been set.

Dutton expressed the need for a heater in the boiler room office, the office is not part of the central heating system and small space heaters are used to heat the office space. Dutton then reported the County Attorney had reviewed the paperwork from Day Springs Restoration and no changes were made. Dutton will submit the paperwork needed to sign up with the company for restoration needs.

Open Sealed Bids – Dayna Ogle

Compressor: Ken Ogle \$20

Cement Mixer: Steve Hicks bid \$51.03

Root Beer Machine: No Bids

Ambulance RFP: Tabled

ACTION # 3

Resolution FY 24.25 #10

Commissioner Galt moved to accept all bids received, Commissioner Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Appoint Grassy Mountain Fire District Board Member:

The Commissioners were presented with two letters of interest for the unexpired term ending in 2025 on the Grassy Mountain Fire District board from Rich Siebken and Greg Philpot.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 24.25 # 11

Commission Brewer moved to appoint Greg Philpot to the unexpired term ending in 2025. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Year End Budget Review – Dayna Ogle

Ogle presented the Commission with a year-end budget report.

Public Hearing Budget Amendments – Dayna Ogle

*Search and Rescue (2382) over budget by \$1,635, the fund has enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Solid waste (2500) is over budget by \$660, the fund does not have enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Meagher County Harmon is over budget by \$185, the fund has enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Castle View Weed Grant is over budget by \$17,993, the fund does not have enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Crime Victim Advocate (2917) is over budget by \$24,454, the fund does not have enough cash to offset the overage.

*Health Alert Network HAN (2974) is over budget by \$2,253, the fund has enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Community Service Block Grant (2979) is over budget by \$95, the fund has enough cash available to offset the overage.

*Home Health Care (280) is over budget by \$3590, the fund does not have enough cash to offset the overage.

*Respite Care is over budget by \$1,178, the fund does not have enough cash to offset the overage.

*American Recovery Plan Act Minimum Allocation (2991) is over budget by \$6743, the fund does not have enough cash available to offset the overage, a reimbursement request is expected in July.

*General Building Capital Outlay is over budget by \$940, the fund has enough cash available to offset the overage.

A second public hearing is scheduled for August 13, at 11:00 a.m.

Budget Workshop – Dayna Ogle

Ogle presented the FY 24.25 Certified Taxable Values received from the Department of Revenue. The Commissioners and Ogle discussed why the current values are lower than the previous years values. Ogle will prepare the Mill Levy Limitation worksheet for each taxing district for next week.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check # 61606 through Check # 61665 totaling \$214,953.74 and electronic check # -99854 through electronic check # -99872 totaling \$9,287.35. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

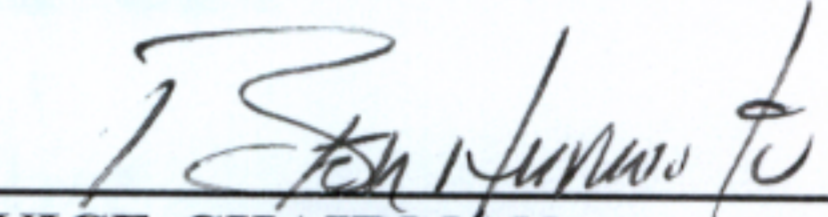


CLERK & RECORDER

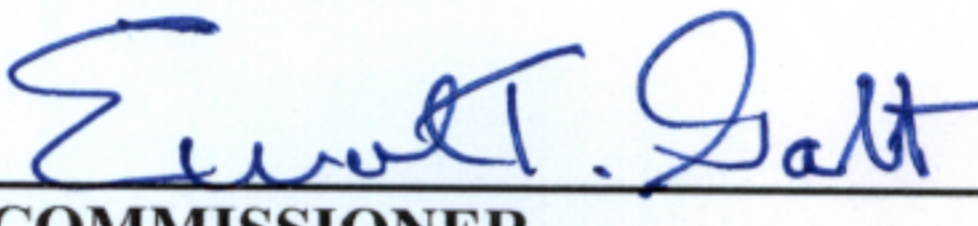


CHAIRMAN





VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle
Distributed August 9th, 2022 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West.