

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

Tuesday

March 4TH, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.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 January 21st, 2025. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

Sheriff Lopp entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Sheriff Lopp presented the commissioners with the complaint report for the month of February 2025. In February, the Sheriff's Office received one hundred forty-six (146) incoming calls, nineteen (19) 9-1-1 calls and two hundred thirty-three (233) people coming into the office. A total of three hundred ninety-eight (398) people contacted the Sheriff's Office in February 2025.

Sheriff Lopp stated Under Sheriff Jerami West has attended an Artificial Intelligence (AI) conference last month. Lopp stated he asked West to write a couple of summaries using AI. Lopp stated it was interesting what AI can do.

Lopp stated the Sheriff's Office received a donation from Vortex Optics for 5 rifle scopes.

Monthly Road / Fire Report – Jake Kusek

CANCELLED

Finance Report – IT Contract / Computer Replacement- Dayna Ogle

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle attend via phone.

Commissioners were informed that the last lease for the Toshiba Copier in the Courthouse has been paid. The Commissioners were presented with several options for either leasing or purchasing a new copier or purchasing our current copier. The Commissioners tabled the discussion until the Commission meeting on March 11, 2025 @10:30a.m.

The updated contract with DIS Technologies will be presented March 11, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. for review and signature.

Resolution Opposing Legislature Limiting MACo Lobbying on Behalf of its Members

Commissioners were presented with a resolution opposing legislation limiting Montana Association of Counties (MACo) lobbying on behalf of its member. Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken Commissioner Hurwitz and Commissioner Brewer in favor. Commissioner Galt opposed. The Resolution was approved.

Resolution Opposing Legislation Limiting or Prohibiting Montana Association of Counties Lobbying on Behalf of Its Members

Resolution FY24.25 #60

Whereas, Meagher County is a member of the Montana Association of Counties;

Whereas, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-5-2141 authorizes and empowers Montana's counties to join and pay for such membership with county funds, allowing for the cooperation with other counties of this state to further good governance and to protect county interests;

Whereas, the "Montana Association of County Commissioners" was formed in January 1909, for the purposes of providing advocacy on behalf of its members at the State Legislature;

Whereas, in 1973, the Association was reorganized as the "Montana Association of Counties" to allow for the creation of a permanent office and authorized the hiring of an Executive Director and appropriate staff to further that purpose;

Whereas, the Montana Association of Counties represents all 56 counties in Montana and shares the same constituents as the entire Montana Legislature;

Whereas, without Association representation on legislation that impacts counties throughout the state, advocacy by elected county officials will be muted through lack of representation in the Capitol Building;

Whereas, the alternative of sending Commissioners to Helena will result in significant time and costs incurred by each member county;

Whereas, while Zoom is an option for remote testimony, in our opinion it is not as effective as physical presence on a daily basis as legislation develops and does not allow meaningful participation outside the hearing rooms;

Whereas, local governments are intergovernmental partners in performing the work demanded by our like constituents, and the passage of legislation requiring local governments to carry out the demands of the legislature requires consultation with intergovernmental partners to ensure the consequences are intended and decisions are informed (Bradley v. Saxbe, D.C.D.C. 1974, United States District Court, District of Columbia);

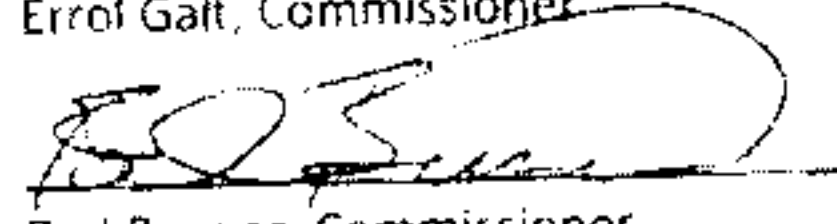
Whereas, the State of Montana, The Legislature, Governor's Office, and other Statewide Elected Offices utilize and pay dues or fees with taxpayer funds for membership in similarly missioned organizations for advocacy on their behalf, which is inconsistent with the effort to limit the counties collective voices;


Whereas, the Montana Association of Counties, with direction from its leadership as elected by the full membership, carries out advocacy on the collective policies and direction of County Elected Officials, primarily County Commissioners.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, by order of the Meagher County Commissioners, they hereby oppose any legislation that limits or prohibits lobbying by the Montana Association of Counties.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2025


Ben Hurwitz, Chairperson

Errol Galt, Commissioner

Rod Brewer, Commissioner

Attest: 
Liv A. West, Clerk & Recorder
Brandi Dreidlein Deputy
Clerk & Recorder



Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62339 through Check #62366 totaling \$44,724.16. Electronic Check #-99674 through #-99662 totaling \$7,273.74. All Checks were signed as presented.

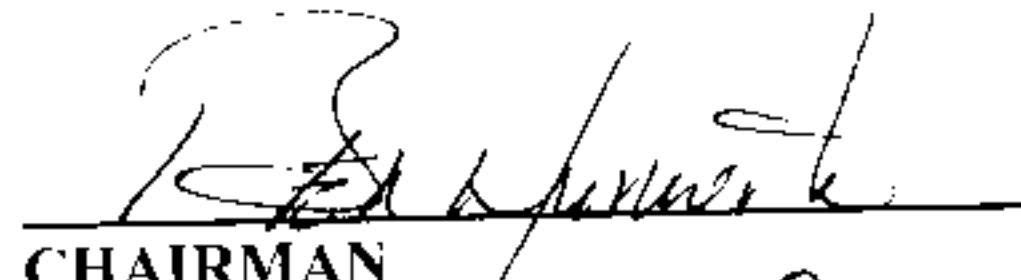
Meeting Adjourned:


Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Next Meeting:

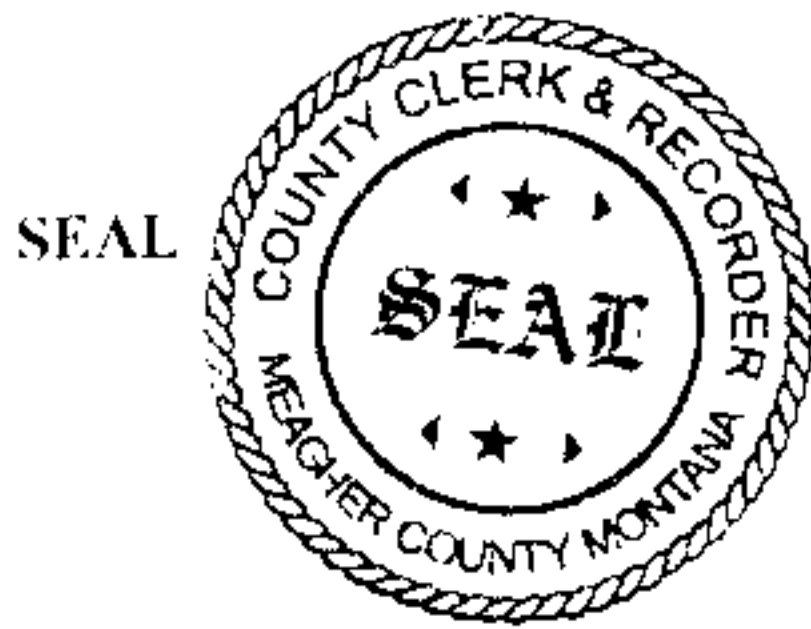
Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 11th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed March 11th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West