

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

August 1st, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 3:25 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 Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes with correction from July 18th 2023, Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Road / Fire Report – Jake Kusek:

Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 8:45

Kusek opened by updating on the fire at Battle Creek. The fire was caused by a swather and was extinguished in about an hour and a half. Fires were also reported in the Lingshire area and the Fishing Access.

Kusek reported the DEQ will be here on August 10th 2023 for the gravel pit permit at the Fort Logan site.

Kusek stated they are still grading and mowing the county.

Commissioners adjourned to the parking lot to inspect the new grader.

Kusek reported Mag Chlorite has been applied on Jackson Lane and Smith River Rd. The remaining Mag Chlorite has crystalized, water will need to be added before they can continue using it.

Kusek reported that the Weed Department is utilizing the fire truck from Fort Logan and a DNRC fire truck is stationed at Fort Logan.

Kusek requested a ban on open burning in the county. No burning of debris, ditches, or fields. Camp fires must be in a ring.

ACTION #2

Resolution Fiscal Year 2024 #2

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve a ban on open burning in Meagher County effective August 1st, 2023 immediately and will remain until further notice. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The restriction is in place.

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Recorded at 1:00 PM on 8/16/2023 Fee: \$0.00

Liv A. West Clerk & Recorder, MEAGHER COUNTY By EB

Extension Report – Makayla Paul

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 850am

Paul started by informing the Commission that she received a call from Governor Gianforte's office. They contacted her regarding her agriculture-based workshops and liked the work that she is doing. The Governor's Office requested a private lunch w/ Paul and 8-16 Ag producers in the county on August 10th to discuss agriculture, 4-H, and the impact of Extension in rural communities.

Paul gave an update on the 4-H Fair. Interviews and indoor project judging were scheduled on Monday. 4-H Horse show was held on Tuesday. 4-H Animal Fair was held on Thursday with weigh in at 6 a.m., 5 pigs and 1 lamb did not make weight. The 4-H Livestock auction ended the day with sales totaling over \$99,000. Swine averaged \$5.02, Lambs \$9.16, and Beef \$3.22. Overall, sale averages were lower than last year. Sponsorships for this year totaled \$4,500. Paul stated that next year they have animal weigh in on Wednesday night.

Paul gave an update on 4-H Congress. She took 5 members to 4-H Congress in Bozeman. 4 of the 5 members competed in horse judging earning a second-place finish.

Paul informed the commissioners that the 4-H barn is complete. MQS will be back to finish installing the tin on the indoor side of the barn. The 4-H council will meet next week to discuss completing the entire project and what the next steps are. Council member Annie Lester has built a donor wall to recognize community members that donated to the project.

Paul stated she will be in Des Moines, Iowa on August 12th thru 18th for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Conference.

Paul informed the Commission that on Saturday September 2nd Thrivent will be hosting a golf tournament. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to establish a travel fund for 4-H members to travel out of county for camp, Congress, and Rec. Lab

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Lopp entered the chambers at 9:23 a.m.

Sheriff Lopp started with an update on Red Ants Pants Festival. Thursday night's street dance was shut down due to severe weather. There were several people trying to camp around town waiting to line up for the festival. Deputies patrolled town and kept people from camping in parking lots and blocking driveways. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Game Warden Tanner Mitchell and Forrest Service Law Enforcement Officer Corey Seevers patrolled the festival grounds via horseback on Saturday.

Lopp reported the cost to the county for law enforcement over the festival weekend was \$7000 in wages and \$500 in fuel charges.

Lopp will attend the after-festival meeting to discuss the cost the county incurs over the RAP weekend and the ineffectiveness of the hired security at the festival. Lopp provided some materials on how other counties handle large group gatherings for the Commission to consider.

Lopp reported Deputy Cody Wilson is back from North Carolina with newly trained K-9 drug dog Rudy.

Title III open 45-day comment period:

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle presented the Resolution to open a 45-day comment period for Title III funds.

ACTION #3

Resolution Fiscal Year 23.24 #3

Commissioner Brewer Moved to approve a 45-day comment period.

Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved. The issue is hereby resolved.

