

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 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-Chairman 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 December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

**Monthly County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz**

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Victim Advocate Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 9:20 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz informed the Commissioners about anticipated changes with the upcoming appointment of District Court Judge Adam Larson for District 14 in January. Judge Larson has indicated he would like to be in White Sulphur Springs for approximately one week each month to conduct court business.

Attorney Hurwitz also reported an arrest related to the thefts in Martinsdale this past summer and provided a brief update on the current criminal cases he is handling. Additionally, he discussed the motor vehicle accident that occurred in Ringling on December 1, 2024, and stated his intention to prosecute the driver responsible for reckless endangerment, as the driver had pulled out in front of oncoming traffic.

**Monthly Report County Health Nurse – Eva Kerr**

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

Kerr informed the Commissioners that she attended MANDT training, a comprehensive program designed to prevent and de-escalate crisis situations, thereby reducing violence. She also attended training with ASPEN (Abuse Support & Prevention Education Network), an organization that provides a range of services to support victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, as well as human trafficking.

Kerr also reported difficulties with United Health Care regarding the billing of services. She explained that United Health Care has refused to cover vaccines administered since July, when Meagher County transitioned to United Health Care for their employee healthcare plan. United Health Care stated they would not pay for any vaccines given since July because the county needed to be signed up by July 1st under a group contract, rather than an independent one. Kerr noted that this issue has now been resolved and the new contract will take effect on January 1st, 2025. However, she emphasized that they are still negotiating with United Health Care regarding the vaccines administered since July and she is determined to resolve this matter, as it involves a significant amount of money.

### **Cemetery Report – Kathy Palmer**

Cemetery Board Member Kathy Palmer and USFS Jennifer Frazer entered the chambers at 10:30a.m.

Palmer stated the Cemetery has been pretty quiet. There have been a couple burials and Cemetery Sexton Randy Harden called in Cemetery Assistant Randy Porter to help with grave digging.

Frazer stated she is working on an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Frazer stated this grant supports projects like tree planting, trimming, and other urban forestry initiatives to improve the care and management of trees in urban areas. Frazer stated the White Sulphur Spring School, Meagher County Courthouse and Mayn Cemetery have expressed interest in being included in the grant and Frazer is asking the Commissioners to sponsor the Grant. The DNRC requires a 3:1 match, the local match for the Cemetery and Courthouse Building Maintenance is already allocated in the FY24.25 budget.

### **ACTION #2**

#### **Resolution FY24.25 #43**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to sponsor the Urban and Community forestry Grant with local match to come from funds already budgeted for Courthouse and Cemetery. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

### **Election Security – Liv West**

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

West requested to publish a Call For Bid in the newspaper for the construction of a 6x6 room dedicated to election security. This room will serve as a secure storage area for election machines, ballots, voter registration cards and other related materials.

### **Action #3**

#### **Resolution FY24.25 #44**

Commissioner Galt moved to place a Call for Bid for the construction of a 6x6 room for election security. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed the issue is hereby resolved.

### **Rodeo Club – Jerry Paugh, Sara Stevenson, Shane Sereday**

Rodeo Club members Jerry Paugh, Sara Stevenson, Public Trent Townsend, 4-H Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 11:30. Shane Sereday attended via telephone.

Paugh mentioned that the current rodeo grounds, located within the city limits, becomes quite congested during events. The Rodeo Club is considering relocating the rodeo grounds. Paugh stated the Rodeo Club identified potential properties south of town and also east of town pending negotiations with the landowners. Sereday added that due to high property taxes, the rodeo club would prefer to transfer the new land to the county once acquired. Stevenson inquired about the requirements and whether the Commissioners were interested in creating a County Fairgrounds to host events. Paul stated concerns about the newly built 4-H building and the impact the move would have on the 4-H program. This proposal is in its early stages, aiming to gauge the Commissioners' support. The Commissioners acknowledged that the rodeo is outgrowing its current location and agreed to explore this idea further. They also noted that other considerations, such as 4-H buildings, liability, and insurance, would need to be addressed if the plan proceeds.

### **Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #62077 through Check #62171 totaling \$ 77,310.60 and electronic check #-99748 through electronic check #-99747 totaling \$ 418.78 All Checks were signed as presented

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Commission Clerk Jennifer Deems  
Distributed December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder West