

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

Tuesday

February 18th, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.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 February 11th, 2025. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 8:55 a.m.

Wahlstrom informed the Commissioners that Western Skies Construction completed the repairs to the library ceiling.

Wahlstrom also informed the Commissioners that there will be an opening on the Library Board as one of the board members will be moving away from Meagher County.

Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Meagher County Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 9:15 a.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the January Cash Report for signature.

Fire Reorganization Discussion

Secrest Fire Solutions Jess Secrest, City Council Member Ron Frisbie, Mayor Rick Nelson, Under Sheriff Jerami West, Clerk and Recorder Liv West, Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m. City Council Member Pattie Berg attended via Zoom.

Commissioner Galt expressed that he perceives the reorganization to be a greater advantage to the City of White Sulphur Springs compared to Meagher County as a whole. Frisbie noted that city residents pay both city and county taxes for fire protection while county residents only pay county tax for fire protection. Frisbie noted when a fire call comes in both city and county respond without prejudice to where the fire is located, in essence acting as a combined unit already sharing equipment and resources. Frisbie also stated that with the impending development of the Black Butte Copper mine, the county and city need to prepare for the influx of residents and potential calls for service. Frisbie highlighted that for grant purposes a county-wide fire service area would increase the likelihood of securing grants due to the larger coverage area and call volume. However, a potential complication arises from the fact that the city volunteer firefighters have a retirement plan under MCA 19-17 Volunteer Firefighter's Compensation Act, that county volunteer firefighters do not qualify for.

Several questions remain unanswered, Frisbie and Secrest will continue to research concerns and discussions will resume on April 1st @ 10:00a.m.

Bair Grants

Commissioners were presented Bair Grant Applications for Sheriff, Disaster Emergency Services (DES), Search and Rescue, and Ambulance for signature. All applications were signed.

Road and Bridge Policy Guidelines

Commissioners discussed some of the changes they would like to make to the Meagher County Road and Bridge Policy Guidelines. The issues will be discussed with the Road Department at the Commission meeting on March 4th, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

Yearly Fuel Tax Certification SFY 2026

Commission Chair Ben Hurwitz was presented with the New Fuel Tax Map and Mileage Certification Form for signature.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62306 through Check #62336 totaling \$111,403.66 and Electronic Check # -99682 through #-99676 totaling \$2,227.20.
All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:


Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 4th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed March 4th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West.