

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

Tuesday

February 4TH, 2025

830 a.m. – 11:45 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 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 January 2025. In January the Sheriff's Office received one hundred ninety-seven (197) incoming call, twenty-two (22) 9-1-1 calls and two hundred fifty-seven (257) people coming into the office. A total of four hundred seventy-six (476) people contacted the Sheriff's Office in January 2025.

Sheriff Lopp stated Under Sheriff Jerami West was in Las Vegas attending an Artificial Intelligence Conference.

Monthly Road / Fire Report – Jake Kusek

Road Report cancelled – Road Supervisor Jake Kusek was unavailable.

Meagher County Housing Master Plan:

Stewardship Council Cassie Coburn, Makayla Paul, Cal Moore entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m., Great West Engineering Jerry Grebenc attended via Zoom.

Coburn presented the commissioners with handouts detailing the initial phase of the Housing Master Plan for the property owned by Mountainview Medical Center at the new hospital site. The plan covers approximately 55 acres that could be developed to meet the housing needs of hospital staff, and the broader community.

Coburn noted that an Open House for Public Comment was held, where suggestions included single-family homes, duplexes, apartments, and senior housing. Written comments also highlighted the desire for safe walking paths, a community garden, and restrictions on short-term rentals.

Grebenc explained that the first phase aims to identify infrastructure challenges and opportunities, determine how the project connects and integrates with the surrounding area, and outline steps for annexation into the city. The second phase, contingent on funding, will focus on detailed infrastructure planning.

Grebenc added that the concept will be presented to the City County Planning Board at a later date.

Airport Instrument Approach- Airport Board:

Airport Manager Kurt Burns, Airport Board Members Jack Galt, and John Zawada, Mountainview Medical Center CEO Rob Brandt, Hospital Board Member Bill Galt, Mayor Rick Nelson, County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m. Airport Board Member Shane Ogle and Robert Peccia and Associates Lance Bowser attended via Zoom.

Kurt Burns requested Jeremy Gouley be appointed to the Airport Board.

ACTION #2

RESOLUTION FY24.25 #57

Chairman Hurwitz moved to appoint Jeremy Gouley to the Airport Board. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Bowser explained that Airport Manager Kurt Burns was contacted by Air Traffic Control (ATC) and informed that any missed approach from runway 1 in White Sulphur Springs necessitated the cancellation of flight traffic in Helena, leading to the cancellation of the Instrument approach in White Sulphur Springs. Bowser has been in touch with ATC, clarifying that this issue only affects the approach for runway 1 and not runway 19. Bill Galt mentioned that landings should always be into the wind. Burns stated typically the wind is out of the South West which then favors runway 19. Brandt stated that in the winter storms can come out of the North which makes runway 1 necessary. Brandt noted that there are approximately 22 mercy flights per year from fixed-wing planes. Bowser highlighted that runway 1 offers a better approach with a lower cloud ceiling. Attorney Hurwitz questioned how this situation arose, to which Bowser responded that the designer failed to consult with ATC, impacting three airports in Montana: White Sulphur Springs, Lincoln, and Stanford. Bowser estimated that republishing the approach for runway 1 could take 2-3 years, but with congressional support, this timeframe could be reduced to 9 months. Bowser noted that the impact is likely minimal but acknowledged scenarios where the approach for runway 1 would be necessary. Attorney Hurwitz questioned whether this issue would cost the County more money? Bowser stated he did not think it would cost the county anything but he could not guarantee that. Letters will be sent to State Congressional Representatives to address the issue.

Finance – Fund Transfer – Dayna Ogle

Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Ogle requested to move the money in the Sheriff's Checking from the General Fund (1000.101209) to the Public Safety Fund (2309.101209)

Action #3

Resolution FY 24.25 #58

Chairman Hurwitz moved to transfer \$4907.22 in the Sheriff's Checking from the General Fund (1000.101209) to the Public Safety Fund (2309.101209). Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62274 through Check #62295 totaling \$19,889.63. Electronic Check #-99709 through #-99694 totaling \$5,797.43. All Checks were signed as presented.


Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45a.m.

Next Meeting:

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


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

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