

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

**Tuesday**

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice-Charmain Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Road Report – Jake Kusek:**

Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Kusek updated the Commissioners about vehicle damage that took place when a deer was hit with a department pickup. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the cost repair estimate and the insurance deductible of \$2,500. Discussion ended on contracting snow plowing for the airport as necessary during the winter season.

**Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:**

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint Report for November 2021. Lopp updated the Commissioners on the graduation of Deputy Gearheart from the Police Academy and the assistance that Deputy Wilson gave to the Fergus County Sheriff during the Denton Fire.

Commissioners and Lopp discussed equipment donations from local businesses to the K9 program and Deputy Wilson's training for the K9 Unit in the first quarter of 2022.

**Cemetery Board – Jerami West:**

Cemetery Board member Jerami West and Sexton Amanda Clayton entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

West and Clayton updated the Commissioners on record books, cleaning of the building/shop areas, changes to the full burial digging fee with the City, and servicing of the lawn mowers at Meagher Motor. West, Clayton, and the Commissioners discussed purchasing a new snowplow unit for the cemetery and an estimate from Kois to install the new wiring and brackets. Commissioners, Clayton, and West ended discussion on a Cemetery Clean-Up day in the spring to help trim trees and ready the cemetery for gravel work on the roads.

**Daycare Emergency Plan – Suzanne Weitz:**

Suzanne Weitz entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Weitz presented the Commissioners with her Montana Childcare Licensing Application. Commissioners and Weitz discussed the requirements for an emergency shelter area and her request to place the courthouse as a secondary emergency shelter area. Commissioners approved the use of the Courthouse for Weitz's 2<sup>nd</sup> Emergency Shelter Area. Weitz will be given a letter from the Commissioners to place with her application.

**Northwestern Energy – Howard Skjverm:**

*Cancelled until January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Lunch**

**County Tax Appeal Board – Dave Mc Alpine:**

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m. Dave McAlpine attended via ZOOM Teleconferencing.

Commissioners, McAlpine, and County Attorney Hurwitz discussed an Attorney General Opinions from and the MCA regarding County Tax Appeal. McApline provided information about how County Tax Appeal board members are compensated for hearing time and mileage to

attend hearings. After discussion, Commissioners decided to place an advertisement in the Meagher County News and reach out to potential candidates.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58665 through Check #58679 totaling \$26,113.66. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice-Charmain Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from December 7<sup>h</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz:**

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz updated the Commissioners on the criminal and civil matters of the county. The Consolidated Planning Board is scheduled to complete its final review of the County Subdivision Regulations on December 15<sup>th</sup> resulting in the Subdivision regulations coming before the Commission over the course of a couple of meetings in January. He also reviewed the Predatory Animal Act and the corresponding fee on livestock. The Commissioners discussed options to reduce fees on livestock owners that may be assessed the fee even if their cattle are in feedlots out-of-state. County Attorney Hurwitz stated the Department of Livestock only collects data on cattle 9 months or older, therefore, the collection of the fee is either on or off. The Stockgrowers Association manages the funds once they are collected and the Commission will meet with them to discuss options. Hurwitz updated the commission on the Justice Court records project and the work done by Candi Richardson and Donna Morris. Adult Protective Service is recommending additional records of contacts be tracked, which will be handled by the Sheriff's office.

**Distributor and Janssen Settlement – Burt Hurwitz:**

County Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

County Attorney Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with information about the Montana Distributors' and Janssen Opioids Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (MUO) and Participation in Distributors' and Janssen Settlements. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that in order for Montana counties to receive money from the settlement case all fifty-six (56) counties must agree to the terms of the MOU and the Attorney's General Office is working hard to get all MOUS and agreement paperwork completed for the counties. Commissioners, Hurwitz, and Ogle discussed the designation and the potential amount of money that Meagher County could receive. It is unknown how the money would be given to the counties or the exact dollar amounts at this time.

## **ACTION #2**

### **Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #39**

Commissioner Brewer moved to execute the State MOUs and designate Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle as the Authorized Official and executor of all further required documentation pertaining to the Distributors' and Janssen Settlements. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

### **Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr R.N.:**

Health Nurse Eva Kerr R.N. entered chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with a Health Report for November 2021. Kerr updated the Commissioners that in November we had eighteen (18) cases of COVID 19, one death from COVID 19, and have one (1) positive influenza case. Kerr and the Commissioners discussed the continued difficulty of contact tracing with COVID19 cases and the availability of the vaccine between both the Meagher County Health Department and the Mountainview Medical Clinic.

### **Extension Report – Makayla Paul:**

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Paul presented the Commissioners with a November 2021 Report. Paul updated the Commissioners on the success of the Rancher's Roundtable event, her attendance to the Range Beef Cow Symposium in South Dakota and the Montana Grain Growers Convention in Great Falls, her goals for both producer programming and 4H curriculum. Commissioners and Paul discussed her producer programming ideas and timeline, the current enrollment in the 4H

program, and private pesticide applicator training credits to be held within the first quarter of 2022.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58680 through Check #58712 totaling \$30,624.70. 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**Tuesday**  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Townsend called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Herb Townsend, Vice-Charmain Rod Brewer, and Commissioner Ben Hurwitz were present for the meeting.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Library Report – Jessica Ketola:**

Librarian Jessica Ketola entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Ketola updated the Commissioners that in October 2021 and November 2021 the library issued fourteen (14) new library cards, held six (6) Storytime programs, nine (9) preschool programs, donated eighty-seven (87) pounds of food to the food bank, and had fourteen (14) community room uses that were not library sponsored. Commissioners and Ketola discussed the ordering of books and movies within the library, the balancing of book subjects, and the retention schedule for books in both fiction and non-fiction categories. Ketola and the Commissioner also discussed cleaning at the library. Commissioners stated the Courthouse Custodian position does not include other departments and it is up to individual departments to either clean or hire a cleaning person.

**Road Report – Jake Kusek:**

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Kusek updated the Commissioners on snow plowing. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed a different plowing blade option for the airport to easily remove snow from the runway and

parking areas. Kusek stated he spoke with Airport Manager Kurt Burns about the availability of funding from the airport to purchase different equipment.

**Fire Report – Jake Kusek & Chad Evans:**

Kusek presented the Commissioners with two cost estimates for the installation of necessary safety lights and equipment on the new Fire Chief Truck once received from Bison Ford. The first estimate was from Ford for \$14,712.61 and the second was from Dana Safety Supply for \$12,980.00. Commissioners and Kusek discussed the cost estimates and decided the following.

**Action #2**

**Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #40**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to have Dana Safety Supply Inc install the safety lights and equipment on the new Fire Chief pickup. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

**Public Hearing - Budget Amendment – Dayna Ogle:**

Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with a budget amendment for the Ambulance Fund 2230 for Fiscal Year 20.21 and the Cemetery Fund 2240 for Fiscal Year 21.22. The Ambulance Fund should be reported on a full accrual basis rather than modified accrual per the Government Accounting Standard Board. This adjustment will put the Ambulance Fund over budget in Fiscal Year 20.21. Commissioners and Ogle then discussed the unbudgeted expense within the Cemetery Fund for \$5,200.00.

Commissioners and Ogle then discussed a purchase request from the White Sulphur Springs TV District to upgrade the transmitter units at the Ford Creek Tower. The upgrade would allow for easier remote access of the system for maintenance and allow a larger/stronger broadcasting distance for customers. Ogle explained that the money for the upgrade is available in the district's budget.



**Action #3**

**Resolution Fiscal Year 21.22 - #41**

Chair Townsend moved to upgrade the transmitters at the White Sulphur Springs TV Station for \$49,980.00. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

**Treasurer Report – Shannon Graham:**

Treasurer Shannon Graham entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Graham presented the Commissioners with a Delinquent Tax Report for taxes owing after November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Graham and the Commissioners discussed the delinquent tax report and balancing for November 2021. Graham stated that retired treasurer Shauna Porter has been assisting with balancing issues and is helpful when contacted with regarding the Treasurer position.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #58713 through Check #58735 totaling \$72,524.54. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.