

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

Tuesday

January 20th, 2026

2:00 p.m.- 4:17 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Rod Brewer were present for the meeting.

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from January 12th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded.

Public Comment:

Sheriff Report-Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 2:30 p.m.

Lopp distributed to the Commissioners the report for the Meagher County Sheriff's Office Complaint Report for the Year 2025.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office received three thousand three hundred nine (3309) incoming calls. In 2025, the Sheriff's office received two thousand four hundred forty-four (2444) incoming calls.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office received two hundred sixty-six (266) 9-1-1 calls. In 2025, the Sheriff's office received two hundred eighty-nine (289) 9-1-1 calls.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office had three thousand five hundred twenty-seven (3527) people into their office.

In 2025, the Sheriff's office had two thousand (2000) people into their office.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office received a total of seven thousand one hundred two (7102) people who contacted the Sheriff's office.

In 2025, the Sheriff's office received a total of four thousand seven hundred thirty-three (4,733) people who contacted the Sheriff's office.

In 2024, twenty-four (24) incidents in the city and three (3) incidents in the county were required to be reported to NIBRS.

In 2025, twenty-two (22) incidents in the city and twenty-eight (28) incidents in the county were required to be reported to NIBRS.

In 2024, fifty-two (52) citations were issued in the city and thirty-nine (39) citations in the county.

In 2025, thirty-five (35) citations were issued in the city and sixty-three (63) citations in the county.

In 2024, three (3) warrants of arrest were served in the city and two (2) warrants of arrest in the county.

In 2025, one (1) warrant of arrest was served in the city and zero warrants in the county.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office served fifty-one (51) sets of civil papers in the city and fourteen (14) sets of civil papers in the county.

In 2025, the Sheriff's office served twenty (20) sets of civil papers in the city and twelve (12) sets of civil papers in the county.

In 2024, the Sheriff's office made one hundred eighteen (118) traffic stops in the city and sixty-six in the county.

In 2025, the Sheriff's Office made one hundred and twenty-seven (127) traffic stops in the city and one hundred and five (105) in the county.

Lopp stated they hired Jodi Zehntner for the 911 Supervisor position and they are going to advertise the position for a 9-1-1 dispatcher this week. Discussions included hours worked for dispatch and employees.

Lopp updated the Commissioners on the damage to the Sky Ranch Repeater. He doesn't know how damaged it is yet, he will need to take it over to get looked at first. A wooden structure which held the repeater, was destroyed in a windstorm. He put in an insurance claim, however, not sure if it was insured. Potentially, he would like to get a storage container to replace the wooden structure.

Lopp notified the Commissioners that Jerami West went to Livingston to move all necessary equipment into the new 2025 F-150 Sheriff's vehicle.

Clerk and Recorder Fee Resolution-Liv West

Clerk and Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 2:55 p.m.

Southwest Montana Consulting Zach Kozicky entered the chambers VIA ZOOM at 3:00 p.m.

West distributed to the Commissioners a Clerk and Recorder Fee Resolution with updated fees for 2026 for the Commissioners to sign. She stated it has mostly the same language as the one from 2021 and County Attorney Hurwitz has also approved it. She would like a more formal wording for public record request and is working with County Attorney Hurwitz to update that.

West also distributed to the Commissioners a Meagher County Pre-Septic Application Checklist. Kozicky, West and the Commissioners discussed this checklist that will help alleviate mistakes for the county and for land owners. Laura Taylor, Deputy DES, is the current Flood Plain Administrator and they will talk to the County Attorney about flood plain maps and make sure the location of the systems are meeting all the sets backs. Van Puckett was wondering if there is a new build, should we keep Jake Kusek with the road department or have the contact be DES to determine accessibility. West suggested as long as Kusek is okay with being the contact, he would be a good fit with his knowledge of the county.

West stated that work may not begin until paperwork and fees are submitted for a more efficient process.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #50

Commissioner Brewer moved to adopt the Clerk and Recorder Fee Resolution for Fiscal Year 25.26. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Resolution Fiscal Year 25.26 - 50

WHEREAS The Meagher County Clerk and Recorder's Office collects fees for various county functions, see attached Exhibit A.

WHEREAS fees that are governed by the legislature changed after the 2025 Legislative Session;

WHEREAS Meagher County has contracted County Planning Services, County Addressing and Sanitarian services;

WHEREAS the Meagher County Clerk and Recorder has done a thorough comparison and review of similar and surrounding counties to be as revenue neutral as possible;



WHEREAS the Commissioners and Meagher County Clerk and Recorder have done a comprehensive review and must update the fees to accommodate these changes;

WHEREAS any change of fees must be subsequent to a public hearing. Public hearings were noticed and held during Commissioner meetings December 9, 2025, December 16, 2025 and January 20, 2026;

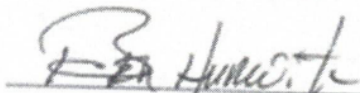
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Meagher County will follow the Meagher County Fee Schedule, Exhibit A, from this day forward.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County, Montana this 20th day of January, 2026 to publish the new fee schedule in the Clerk and Recorder's Office and the Meagher County Website.

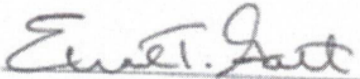
Attest:


Clerk and Recorder


Board of County Commissioners



Chairman, Ben Harwitz



Vice Chair, Errol Galt



Commissioner, Rod Brewer

"Exhibit A"

Meagher County Fee Schedule

1. Sanitarian Fees	
a. Installer Fees	
i. Certification	\$50.00
ii. Re-Certification	\$25.00
b. Septic System	
i. New Permit	\$575.00
ii. Replacement Permit	\$100.00
iii. Self-Installed Permit	\$650.00
iv. Self-Installed Replacement Fee	\$200.00
v. In approved Subdivision	\$150.00
vi. Self-Installed in Subdivision	\$300.00
c. Special Case Fees	
i. Non-Deg Septic Permit	\$300.00
ii. Special Circumstances Site Visit	\$400.00 + Mileage
iii. Non-Standard System	\$575.00 + \$90.00/hr + Mileage
2. Addressing	
a. New Address	\$50.00
3. Document Recording Fees (State Fees)	
a. Standard Document Page	\$20.00
b. Standard Document additional page	\$10.00
c. Non-Standard Document	\$10.00
4. Certificate of Survey Fees	
a. Review Fee	\$200.00
b. Certificate of Survey Filing	\$25.00
i. 100 or less lots	\$0.50
ii. 100 or more lots	\$0.25
c. Examining Land Surveyor	To be paid to contractor
d. Sanitation Review Fee	\$100.00
5. UCC Filings (State Filing Sheet)	
a. UCC Lien	\$7.00
b. UCC Amendment	\$5.00
c. UCC Assignment (full or partial)	\$5.00
d. UCC Release/Termination	\$0.00
e. UCC Continuation	\$5.00
f. UCC Add/Change/Delete	\$5.00
g. Construction Lien	\$5.00
h. Federal Tax Lien	\$5.00
i. Federal Tax Lien Amendment	\$7.00
j. Federal Tax Lien Release	\$0.00
6. Copy Charges	
a. Digital Documents Emailed (plus copy fees)	\$3.00

b. Documents	
i. First Page	\$0.50
ii. Additional Page	\$0.25
iii. Certified Copies (plus copy fees)	\$2.00
iv. USB Drive	\$7.00
c. Maps	
i. Tear Off Map Copy	\$8.00
ii. Digital Scan	\$5.00
d. Researching Authorized Requests	\$30.00/hr
7. Fax	\$3.00
8. Birth Certificate	\$8.00
9. Death Certificate	\$7.00
10. Election Fees	
a. Declaration of Candidacy	Dependent on Office
11. Subdivision Fees	
a. Pre-Application Meeting Fee	\$300.00
i. Minor Subdivision	Determined after Pre-App Meeting
ii. Major Subdivision	Determined after Pre-App Meeting
iii. Final Plat Review	\$500.00

Library Report-Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 3:23 p.m.

Wahlstrom distributed to the Commissioners a congratulatory letter from the Montana State Library that stated the White Sulphur Springs City County Library has successfully met the essential Public Library Standards and is going above and beyond to provide excellent library services to their community.

In 2025 versus 2024, the library visits increased 54.5%, circulation is up by 36%, digital content 41.6%, and the combined physical and digital as a whole is up 33.9%. One-on-one help increased at 203%, senior tech is up 301%, and computer use in the library is up 67%.

Wahlstrom will make sure and send over the final reports to the Commissioners.

Wahlstrom stated she is still in the process of finalizing the legal verbiage with the mill levy and she expects to have it ready for the Commissioners to look over at the commission meeting in February.

Discussions included the dollar amount for the mill levy, since the mills went down from the previous mills. Wahlstrom stated at a 5-year projection, they are looking at \$100,000 so the county would not have to contribute to the funding of the library. The Library and the County are not allowed to promote the mill levy, it has to be a private entity such as the Friends of the Library. She is working to put together a new committee consisting of library patrons who could promote the mill levy.

Extension Report-Madisen Lindsey

Extension Agent Madisen Lindsey entered the chambers at 3:30 p.m.

Lindsey distributed to the Commissioners her report for January 2026. She stated for the 4-H year of 2025-2026, they have 43 active members enrolled and 14 active volunteers. The Mavericks and Castle Mountaineers had their first club meeting of the year last week. The 4-H Shooting Sports is now a project option offered for 4-H members. Their first meeting was on January 12th, and their first practice was on January 16th at the Meagher County Sportsman's Association. A parent volunteer from Park County, Justin Delano is the project leader. They will have shooting practice once a week on Fridays until the Montana State 4-H Shooting Sports competition, which is March 6th-8th in Bozeman. She is still working on a confirmed total enrollment, but projection numbers are 5-8 members participating for 2025-2026.

The dates for 4-H Camp are set for June 15th-18th. Meagher County had five applicants apply and all five were selected to be 2026 4-H Camp Counselors. Beef intent forms were due January 9th, which gives us a total of 13 beef projects for fair this year. Fair dates are set for July 28th and July 30th, with the horse show taking place July 28th and the indoor fair, livestock show, small animals show, and auction taking place July 30th.

The 2025-2026 Leadership 47 class has three in person workshop days left. The class was divided into groups for their leadership projects at the November workshop and they will present on those in April.

Lindsey stated she attended the Crop and Pest Management School hosted by MSU Extension in Bozeman on January 14th and January 15th. She updated the Commissioners on her upcoming meetings, trainings, travel and events for January, February, and March.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63267 through Checks #63299, with Check #63288 being cancelled, for the amount of \$22,475.76. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, February 2nd, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN




COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Briana Frasier.
Distributed March 16th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.