

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

Tuesday

January 6th, 2026

9:05 a.m.- 11:13 a.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.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 December 16th, 2025. Chairman Hurwitz seconded. A vote was taken and passed.

Public Comment:

Jack Berg entered the chambers at 10:58 a.m.

Berg informed the Commissioners that the new ambulance is expected to be delivered approximately two to three weeks after February 16, 2026. He asked for clarification regarding the funding for the purchase of the ambulance. Berg also inquired about the status of the grant following the purchase of the monitors, as well as the remaining funds available for the gurneys and the new ambulance.

Berg stated that they will need a new software to process claims. An Ambulance Billing Software Update is scheduled for the next the Commissioner Meeting.

Sheriff Report-Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Meagher County Sheriff's Office Complaint Report for the month of December 2025.

In this month, the Sheriff's Office received one hundred ninety incoming calls, fourteen 9-1-1 calls, and one hundred thirty people coming into the office. For a total of three hundred thirty-four people who contacted the Sheriff's Office.

For the month of December 2025, in the city one incident was required reportable to NIBRS and in the county, three incidents were required to be reported.

Two tickets were issued in the city and five tickets were issued in the county. One warrant of arrest was served in the city and zero in the county. Zero sets of civil papers were served in the city and one in the county.

Lopp stated there was a burglary the day after Christmas and there is going to be an arrest. Lopp and the Commissioners discussed a burglary, using the tahoe for coroner calls, a pending toxology report, and a new patrol pickup that should be arriving this month.

In 2025, the Sheriff's Office received 4,117 calls, compared to 5,048 calls in 2024—a decrease of nearly 1,000 calls year over year.

Lopp discussed with the Commissioners a notice of intent to apply for the Resiliency Fund, Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant. This grant could help fund new generators for the Sheriff's Office, school, courthouse, ambulance barn, senior center, and community center in Martinsdale, MT. These generators would ensure that during power outages, residents have safe locations to access electricity for essential needs, such as powering medical devices. There is a 25% match from the County on the grant.

Road Report-Jake Kusek

Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:34 a.m.

Kusek and the Commissioners discussed the need for frequent reprogramming of the radios in the vehicles. Kusek noted that Starlink would be a good solution for connectivity. He also reported that next week he will begin work on culverts, including replacing one on Birch Creek. The land use agreement is expected to be finalized soon, and additional topics included equipment and the road crew.

Rodeo Club/Fairgrounds Discussion

Mayor Rick Nelson entered the chambers at 9:50 a.m.

Extension Agent Madisen Lindsey entered the chambers at 9:52 a.m.

Clearwater Montana Properties, Inc Realtor Cale Updegrave entered the chambers at 9:52 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:04 a.m.

Clerk and Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 9:52 a.m.

Rodeo Club President Shane Sereday entered via ZOOM at 9:55 a.m.

Trent Townsend entered the chambers at 9:54 a.m.

Great West Engineering Kevin Angland entered the chambers via ZOOM at 9:59 a.m.

Rick Simkins entered the chambers VIA ZOOM at 10:01 a.m.

Rodeo Club President Shane Sereday initiated a discussion with the Commissioners regarding whether to proceed with the proposed land purchase. Chairman Hurwitz stated that the Commission would need to review the precise property boundaries before they could make an informed decision.

Clerk and Recorder Liv West then presented the Certificate of Survey (COS) for the Commissioners' consideration.

The Commissioners held further discussion regarding the land survey and associated boundary lines. Although they had previously visited the property, they were unable to accurately identify the land's borders during the site visit.

County Attorney Hurwitz stated that he had discussions with the Rodeo Club before the holidays and there was no opposition to the location, discussions included fiduciary responsibility of the rodeo club members, structuring of plans moving forward and creating a fairgrounds board.

Great West Engineering Kevin Angland stated that the County did not receive the CDBG grant for the Phase II of the hospital grounds.

Other discussions with Commissioners included the timeline for marketing the current rodeo grounds and the land staying affordable.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #40

Chairman Hurwitz moved to accept assignment of the Buy-Sell Agreement between the Meagher County Rodeo Club Inc., as buyers, and Gary Finucan and Dustin Kessler, as sellers, dated December 1st, 2025 and agree to purchase the property for the future Meagher County Fairgrounds subject to inspection by Commissioners. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Treasurer Report-Dayna Ogle

County Treasurer Ogle entered the chambers at 10:27 a.m.

Ogle discussed with the Commissioners about increasing Treasurer Deputy Eve Lomax's pay to 87% of Treasurer per her 6-month probation period ending.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #49

Chairman Hurwitz moved to adjust Eve Lomax pay for the ending of her probation period starting November 27th, 2025. Commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

New Years Resolutions:

Finance Officer Briana Frasier and the Commissioners discussed the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 New Years Resolutions.

Resolution FY 25.26 # 41

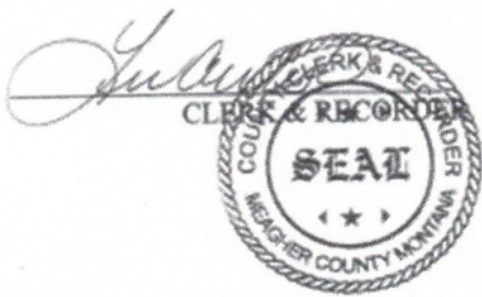
RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #41

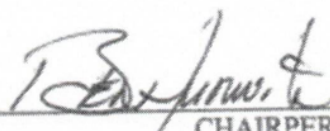
Whereas, unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays,

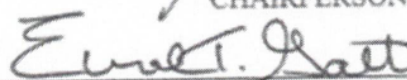
It Is Hereby Resolved:


The Meagher County Courthouse will be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.




CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

Resolution FY 25.26 # 42

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #42

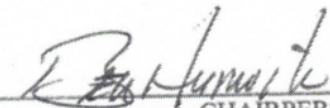
Whereas, the board of county commissioners must elect one of its members as presiding officer (MCA §7-5-2109), and

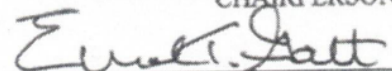
Whereas, the presiding officer shall preside at all meetings of the board, and in case of the presiding officer's absence or inability to act, the members present shall select one of their number to act temporarily as presiding officer,

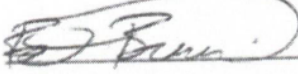
It Is Hereby Resolved:

Ben Hurwitz shall be the Chairperson of the Meagher County Board of County Commissioners through December 31, 2026.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.


CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER



RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #43

Whereas, it is recommended that counties adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel,

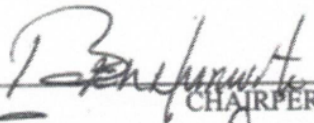
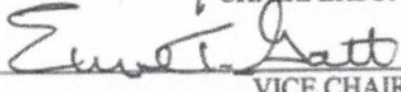
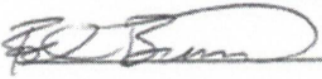
It Is Hereby Resolved:

Meagher County will use the prevailing state rates for mileage and lodging as of January 1, 2026, and continue with the per diem rates set in Resolution 2013 - # 76 established November 19, 2013.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRPERSON

VICE CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #44

Whereas, Section 46-18-403, MCA, states that "the daily rate for incarceration must be established annually by the Board of County commissioners by resolution" and that the daily rate must be equal to the actual cost incurred by the detention facility and it has been determined that the actual cost incurred by the Meagher County detention facility, on an average daily basis, is equal to Seventy-Five dollars (\$75.00);

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County that the daily rate for confinement costs, other than for actual medical costs, as ordered by the court and paid in advance for confinement and prior to payment of any fine, is hereby established at \$75.00 per day; and

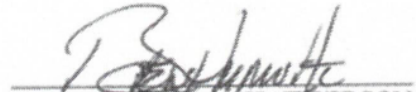
Be it further resolved, if a judgment is for a fine and imprisonment until the fine is paid, the detainee shall be allowed a credit of \$75.00 for each day of incarceration; and that an inmate is responsible for the actual costs of medication, medical services, or hospitalization while detained in a detention center, based upon the individual's ability to pay and/or private provider health care coverage, or a bona fide and responsible third-party payer; and

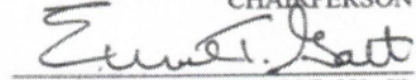
Be it further resolved, that the County Attorney shall initiate proceedings to collect from the inmate any charges arising from the medical services or hospitalization in accordance with 7-32-2245, MCA.

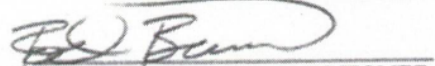
Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #45

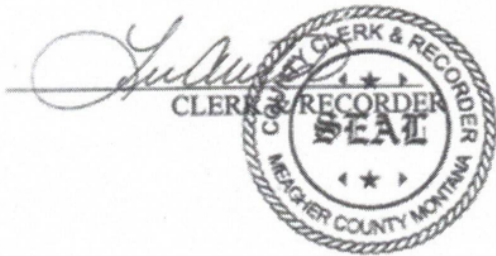
Whereas, unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business, during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays.

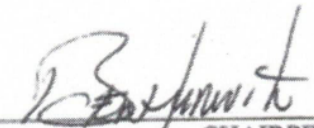
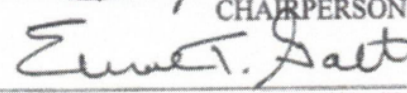

Whereas, Court hearings and meetings may be scheduled during or outside of office hours without notice. In the event of Court or meetings out of the office, the following hours may be changed and/or cancelled without notice.

It is Hereby Resolved:

The office of the County Attorney shall be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments may be taken outside of office hours.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2026.




CHAIRPERSON

VICE CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #46

Whereas, the governing body of the county shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date (MCA §7-5-2122), and

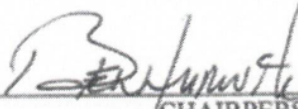
Whereas, the governing body of the county, except as may be otherwise required of them, may meet at the county seat of their respective counties at any time for the purpose of attending to county business, and

Whereas, the commissioners may, by resolution and prior two days' posted notice, designate another meeting time and place,


It Is Hereby Resolved:

The Meagher County Board of County Commissioners shall meet the first three (3) Mondays of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running till said meeting is complete. The meetings shall take place in the Meagher County Courthouse.

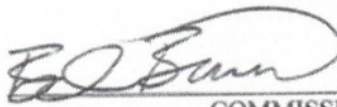
Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.



CHAIRPERSON



VICE CHAIR



COMMISSIONER



RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #47

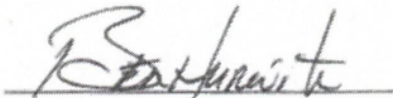
Whereas, unless otherwise provided by law, each officer shall keep the officer's office open for the transaction of business, during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and only if consented to by any affected elected county officer each day except Saturdays and legal holidays.

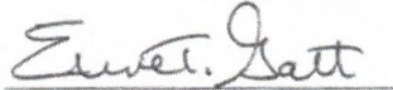
Whereas, the office of the Justice of the Peace is a part-time position and should consist of 20 hours per week. This office shall be open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Hours shall be posted for the public's information. A minimum of four (4) additional hours will be dedicated to Justice Court administrative duties, clerk of court duties, and official criminal justice meetings throughout the week as needed to maintain the office. Court hearings and meetings may be scheduled during or outside of office hours without notice.

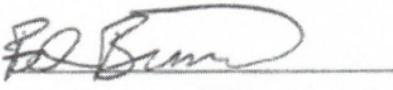
It is Hereby Resolved:

This office shall be open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Hours shall be posted for the public's information. A minimum of four (4) additional hours will be dedicated to Justice Court administrative duties, clerk of court duties, and official criminal justice meetings throughout the week as needed to maintain the office. Court hearings and meetings may be scheduled during or outside of office hours without notice.


DATED this 6th day January, 2026.


CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER


CLERK & RECORDER



Resolution FY 25.26 # 48

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 2025.2026 - #48

WHEREAS, pursuant to applicable state law and municipal policy, the governing body of the county is shall designate official locations for posting public notices, agendas, and other required information; and

WHEREAS, the designation of such posting places ensures transparency, accessibility, and compliance with open meeting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Commissioners have determined that the following locations are accessible to the public and suitable for official postings;

1. **Meagher County Courthouse**
15 West Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
2. **White Sulphur Springs City Hall**
105 East Hampton Street, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
3. **White Sulphur Springs Post Office**
103 Main Street West, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645



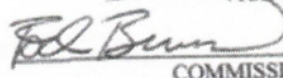
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Meagher County Commissioners, that the following locations are hereby designated as the official public posting places for the year 2026: Meagher County Courthouse, White Sulphur Springs City Hall, and the White Sulphur Springs Post Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all official notices, agendas, and other required postings shall be placed at these locations in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRPERSON

VICE CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63231 through Checks #63251 for the amount of \$38,880.03. All Checks were signed as presented.

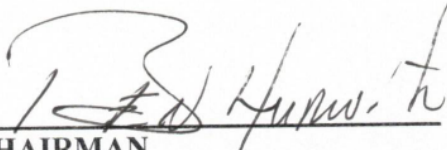
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Next Meeting:


Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, January 12th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Briana Frasier.
Distributed January 12th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.