

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

January 7th, 2025

8:30a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from December 17th, 2024. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Sheriff's Report – Jon Lopp:

Meagher County Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the Chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Sheriff Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint Report for the month of December, and a comparison report for years 2023 and 2024. In the month of December the Sheriff's Office took two hundred eighteen (218) calls, twenty three (23) 9-1-1 calls, and had two hundred sixty three (263) people come into the Office. A total of five hundred four (504) people who contacted the Sheriff's Office. Lopp stated there are 2 inmates in jail, both being housed in Townsend. Due to an ACLU recommendation from 2013, inmates can only be in the Meagher County Jail for 3 days. Sheriff Lopp stated he will bring the report for the Commissioners to review and discuss it during February's Sheriff Report.

Road / Fire Report – Jake Kusek

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

Kusek and the Commissioners briefly discussed the county roads that go through Grassy Mountain subdivision.

Kusek informed the Commissioners that Grader number two (2) lost an O-ring while plowing near Beaver Creek. Kusek stated he picked up new O-rings and will be working to get those installed. Brewer asked about adding cement floor in the fire building in Ringling. Kusek stated the project was budgeted for, however, they are look into applying for a T- Mobile Hometown grant to cover the cost.

County New Year's Resolutions:

Clerk Deems presented the Commission with the New Year Resolutions for signature.

Resolution Fiscal Year 24.25 #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,

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

Dated this 7th day of January, 2025



[Signature]
CLERK & RECORDER

[Signature]
CHAIRPERSON

[Signature]
VICE CHAIR

[Signature]
COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #48

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 members to act temporarily as presiding officer,

It is Hereby Resolved: Ben Hurwitz shall be the Chairperson of the Meagher County Board of County Commissioner through December 31, 2026

Dated this 7th day of January, 2025.



[Signature]
CLERK & RECORDER

[Signature]
CHAIRPERSON

[Signature]
VICE CHAIR

[Signature]
COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #49

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, lodging and meals as of January 1st, 2025,

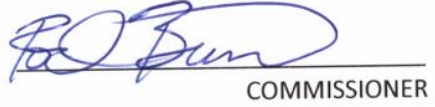
Dated this 7th day of January, 2025




CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #50

Whereas, Section 46-18-403, MCA states that “the daily rate of incarceration must be established annually by the Board of County Commissioners 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 of confinement cost, 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

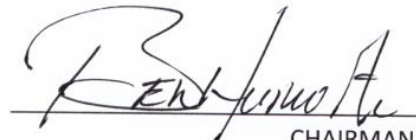
Be it further resolved, if a judgement is for a fine and imprisonment until the fine is paid, the detainee shall be allowed a credit of \$75.00 for each day of incarceration; and that in inmate is responsible for the actual costs of medication, medical services, or hospitalization while detained in a 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, the County Attorney shall initiate proceedings to collect from the inmate and charges arising from the medical services or hospitalization in accordance with 7-32-2245, MCA.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2025




CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

REOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #51

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 Saturday 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 the office hours.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2025




CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #52

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 Saturday 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: the office of the Justice of the Peace 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 7th day of January, 2025




CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRPERSON


VICE CHAIR


COMMISSIONER

RESOLUTION FISCAL YEAR 24.25 #53

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) Tuesdays of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running till said meeting is complete. The meetings shall take place in the Commission Chambers at the Meagher County Courthouse, unless otherwise noted.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2025



[Handwritten signature]
CLERK & RECORDER

[Handwritten signature]
CHAIRPERSON

[Handwritten signature]
VICE CHAIR

[Handwritten signature]
COMMISSIONER

Airport Project Review – Mat Wilder

Mayor Rick Nelson entered the chambers at 10:20 a.m. Attending via zoom from Robert Peccia and Associates, Mat Wilder and Lance Bowser.

Wilder reviewed a pavement maintenance project at the airport. The project will also include some geotechnical work to determine actual weight limits on the runway. Wilder presented the Commissioners with a grant application from the FAA, which will fund 95% of the project for 2025 and 2026. Wilder stated that a grant application has already been submitted to Montana Aeronautics to cover the other 5% which will hopefully leave Meagher County with no costs for the project.

Call for Bids – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 11:00a.m.

No calls for Bid were received.

Swearing in new officials – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m., Meagher County News Editor Jason Phillips entered the chambers at 10:50 a.m.

Commissioners adjourned to the Courtroom, Rod Brewer was sworn in for County Commissioner and Candi Richardson was sworn in for District Clerk of Courts.

Public Hearing Budget Amendment- Dayna Ogle:

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

Ogle discussed with the Commissioners that the acquisition cost of the leased John Deere Motor Graders needed to be included in the County financials. Therefore, a budget amendment is needed for the proceeds from the loan agreement and acquisition of the graders.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62193 through Check #62232 totaling \$42,462.12. All Checks were signed as presented. Commissioners were presented with Electronic Check #-99742 through Check #-99721 totaling \$8,712.37.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, January 14th, 2025.

CLERK & RECORDER

CHAIRMAN

SEAL

VICE-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed January 14th, 2024 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West.