

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

July 16th 2024

8:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from July 9th, 2024, Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Non-Agenda Item

Greg Philpot entered the chambers at 8:30 a.m.

Philpot informed the Commissioners that he is interested in being appointed to the Grassy Mountain Fire District Board.

Philpot then raised concerns about the possible dissolution of the Grassy Mountain Ranch Owners Association (GMROA). Philpot advocated for the continuation of the GMROA, highlighting its importance in collecting dues and overseeing essential maintenance tasks like road repairs and weed control. He noted that these critical functions have been neglected and requested the Commissioners endorse a letter to the GMROA, urging them to fulfill their responsibilities. The Commissioners agreed to review the letter to the GMROA.

Monthly Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Wahlstrom and the Commissioners briefly discussed the condition of the library building and the meeting with Diamond Construction, the builders of the facility, that the Commissioners will be attending at 10:00 a.m. today.

Wahlstrom discussed the Summer Reading Program and free lunch provided to the children after the program. Wahlstrom stated the library had over 60 children attend last week's program. This is a significant increase over previous years, so the library has needed to order more materials for the programming. The last day of Summer Reading will be Wednesday July 31st with a big celebration for the children.

Wahlstrom stated on July 27th, 2024 Thrivent will be holding a free shredding day for anyone needing documents shredded. This is a fundraiser for the library, any donations made will be matched by Thrivent.

Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Cancelled

Salary Compensation Board – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder, Liv West, Rob Brandt, and Nancy Schlepp entered the Chambers at 9:15 a.m.

Brandt and Schlepp presented to the Commissioners their recommendation for Elected Officials wage increases for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Brandt and Schlepp recommend the 4.1% COLA increase in wages which is equal to \$1.06. Brandt and Schlepp also requested that the

Commissioners look at increasing longevity from \$100 per year of service, capped at 20 years, to \$200 per year of service. Commissioners will take these suggestions into consideration while working on the budget.

County / City Planning Board – Jess Secrest

County / City Planning Board Chairman Jess Secrest and Bobby Secrest entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Jess Secrest informed the Commissioners that his term on the County City Planning Board is up and requested that the Commissioners appoint him for another 2-year term.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY24.25 #3

Commissioner Galt moved to reappoint Jess Secrest to the County / City Planning Board for a 2-year term. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Non-Agenda Item – Bobbie Secrest

Secrest informed the Commissioners that there are funds available from the Montana Food Bank Network for improvements to food banks. Secrest would like to construct an awning above the door to the food bank and is seeking Commissioner approval before applying for the funds. Commissioners agreed this would be a good addition. Secrest stated she would move forward with the project and should know more in September.

Non-Agenda Item – Off-Site Visit to the Library

Commissioners attended a meeting offsite at the Library for approximately 45 minutes to meet with representatives from Diamond Construction to discuss ceiling issues. Diamond Construction agreed to do the necessary repairs at cost.

Grassy Mountain Fire District – Rich Siebken

Rich Siebken, Clerk & Recorder Liv West and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Siebken explained to the Commissioners that he believes he has one year left of his term on the Grassy Mountain Fire District Board. Attorney Hurwitz explained at the GMFD Board had been defunct as Siebken was the only member until the Commission meeting on September 5th, 2023 when the Commissioners appointed new members. Hurwitz reminded Seibken that he drew the terms for persons interested in serving on the board, and Seibken drew a one-year term ending May 2024. Hurwitz went on to explain that because Seibken did not file to be re-elected this spring, his term is now up and there is an open seat on the board. Commissioners explained that Seibken has until July 31st, 2024 to express in writing his interest to be appointed to the GMFD Board. Commissioners will look at submissions and will appoint a board member at the August 6th Commission meeting.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 11:25 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the June complaint report. The Sheriff's office received 274 incoming calls, 22 9-1-1 calls, and 297 came in to the Sheriff's Office. For a total of 593 people who contacted the Sheriff's office in June.

Lopp discussed the wages of his deputies and how it compares with other county employees and other county's deputies. This will be discussed more during budget workshop.

Lopp informed the Commissioners that the Sheriff's Office received a High Visibility Traffic Enforcement Mini Grant in the amount of \$5,300 offset the cost of additional reserve deputies.

Lopp informed the Commissioners that the Horse Gulch fire is approximately 6 miles from the Meagher County line. Lopp inquired about implementing fire restrictions. Commissioners decided to implement Stage I fire restrictions.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY24.25 #4

Commissioner Galt moved to implement Stage I Fire restrictions effective at 8; 00a.m. July 17th, 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

County Superintendent of Schools: Annual Interdisciplinary CPT Resolution – Liv West
County Superintendent of Schools, Liv West entered the chambers at 9:15 a.m.

West presented the Commissioners with the Annual Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team Resolution.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY24.25 #5

**Meagher County
Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team**

RESOLUTION NO 2024-~~4~~5

Whereas, section 52-2-211, section (1) MCA, states "county commissioners of each county shall form a county interdisciplinary child information and school safety team by written agreement";

Whereas, section 52-2-211(1) further states that such agreement be signed by authorized representatives of the following: youth court, county attorney, department of public health and human services, county superintendent of schools, sheriff, chief of any police force, all public school districts operating within the boundaries of the county and the department of corrections;

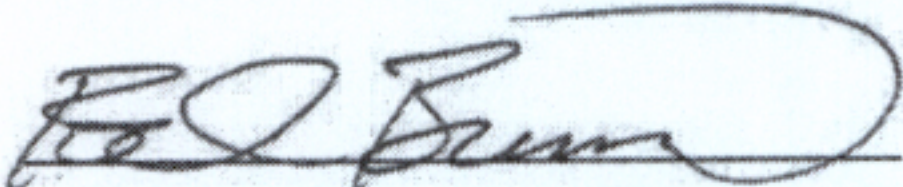
Whereas, section 52-2-211(2) further directs that team officials "may by majority vote allow the following persons to sign the written agreement and join the team": physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and other providers of medical and mental health care, attorneys, and a person or entity that has or may have a legitimate interest in one or more children that the team will serve;

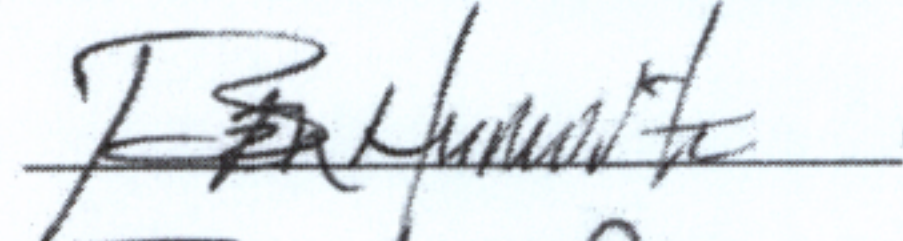
Whereas, the interdisciplinary child information and school safety team will operate under the further guidance of 52-2-211(3),(4),(5),(6),(7) and (8);

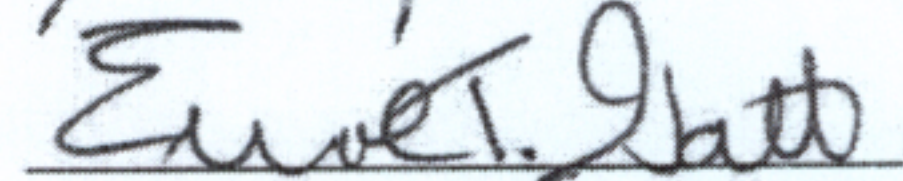
Whereas, 52-2-211(8) requires "The County Superintendent of Schools shall provide to the Office of Public Instruction a current copy of any written agreement under this section no later than September 1;"

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the following team members comprise the Meagher County Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2024

 Chairperson

 Commissioner

 Commissioner

2024-2025
Meagher County
Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team

Meagher County Attorney	Burt Hurwitz
Meagher County Victim Witness Advocate	Laura Taylor
Meagher County Sheriff	Jon Lopp
Meagher County Superintendent of Schools	Liv West
Meagher County Health Nurse	Eva Kerr
School District #8 Superintendent	Meredith Feddes
School District #8 Principal	Lacey Arthun
School District #8 Counselor	Tiffany Sweeney
School Resource Officer	Jerami West
Mountainview Medical Center	Kay Lowe
Preschool	Jane Townsend
ASPEN	Rebecca Ruhd
DPHHS	Mary Fortune-Blair
Stevens Youth Center	Bethany Wieferich

County Surplus – Dayna Ogle

Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:45 a.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with surplus County property to put out for bid.

ACTION #5

Resolution FY24.25 #6

Commissioner Galt approved a call for bid on a 1955 Hires Root Beer Slider with a minimum bid of \$1000. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

ACTION #6

Resolution FY 24.25 #7

Commissioner Galt approved a call for bid on a Compressor. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

ACTION #7

Resolution FY 24.25 #8

Commissioner Galt approved a call for bid on a cement mixer with no motor. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #61576 through Check #61604 totaling \$141,047.47 and electronic check #-99833 through electronic check #-99874 totaling \$2,164.36. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, August 6th, 2024.



CLERK & RECORDER



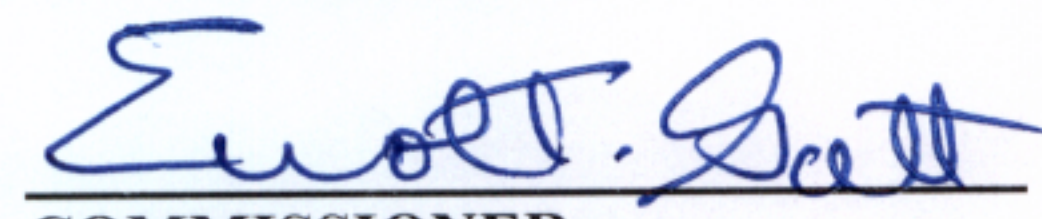
CHAIRMAN

SEAL





VICE-CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed August 6th ,2024 to Chairman Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West.