

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Tuesday

June 18th, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.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 Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from June 4th 2024, Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 8:55 a.m.

Wahlstrom stated summer reading started on June 12th, 2024. Mountainview Medical Center provides free lunch to the children at the summer reading program, with 41 children attending last week.

Wahlstrom discussed the condition of the ceiling in the library. The ceiling was not fastened correctly and is coming unglued, the library is struggling to find a contractor to complete the repairs.

Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek

Meagher County Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with May's cash report for signature.

Primary Election Canvas – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Brandi Dreidlein entered the chambers at 9:45 a.m.

Chairman Brewer, Vice Chairman Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt were handed the Tally Books from the 2024 Primary Election. No issues were found during the canvases.

Extension Report – Makayla Paul

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

Paul informed the Commissioners of the 4-H events that she has held over the last few months, including a Rec Lab, 4-H Demonstration Day, Indoor Fair Night, and 4-H Camp. Paul stated there are currently 239 entries and 50 exhibitors registered for 4-H fair. At this time there are 12 Beef, 24 Pigs, 6 Sheep, 1 Goat and still a few more members to register for the fair. Montana 4-H Congress is scheduled for July 8th – 12th, with 9 members from Meagher County registered to attend. One member is running for a state ambassador position.

Paul stated the Strong People, Strong Bodies class ended on April 24th. The program was a success and Paul plans to host the program again in the fall.

Paul stated planning for Leadership 47 is off to a great start. There are currently 12 applicants for the program and they are hoping to have a class of 20. The program will launch on September 9th

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in Martinsdale and will hold monthly meetings through April. Paul stated she was awarded a MSU Extension mini grant for \$1000 and a Red Ants Pants Foundation Grant for \$500 to assist in funding the program. Paul stated the advisory team is also seeking sponsors for the program.

Paul stated she successfully defended her thesis on April 17th and graduated with her master's degree on May 10th. By achieving her master's degree, she has transitioned to the tenure track position. Paul will be reviewed in 2026-2027 for retention and then in 2029 -2030 she will be reviewed for tenure. Paul stated that her position description is used to determine what program areas she will need to focus her attention on. Currently her primary areas of focus are agriculture and 4-H. However, with the creation of the Leadership Program and her work with the housing efforts. Paul is focusing some of her attention on community vitality. Paul requested that the Commissioners approve Community Vitality be added as a secondary focus in her job description.

Resolution FY23.24 #107

Commissioner Brewer motioned to add Community Vitality to the Meagher County Extension Agent's job description. Commissioner Galt Seconded. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Paul stated Montana State University (MSU) has made changes to its FY25 County Agreements. Documentation was provided explaining the changes. Paul stated the county contribution cap was increased from \$37,000 to \$39,000. This is the first increase since 2018.

Public Hearing - Checkerboard TV District Dissolution

Finance Assistant Jennifer Deems

Ken & Kelly Jorgensen entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Jorgensen requested that the taxes for the Checkerboard TV district be stopped once the TV district is dissolved and questioned why the assets from the district were transferred to the general fund instead of used for other Checkerboard projects. The Commissioners explained that with the dissolution of the TV District those taxes will stop being assessed. It was explained that per Montana Code Annotated 7-11-1029 the assets must be transferred to the County general fund upon dissolution of the district. However, Commissioners did agree that the money could be used for projects needed in Checkerboard.

Deems presented the commissioners with a Resolution to dissolve the Checkerboard TV District and transfer the assets to the General Fund.

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