

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

Tuesday

June 3rd, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from May 20th, 2025. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Monthly Road / Fire Report – Jake Kusek

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:25 a.m.

Commissioner Hurwitz commented on Kusek resigning as Fire Chief. Kusek stated that he will resign as Fire Chief as of June 30, 2025. Kusek stated that he spoke with Ron Teig and thought that he showed some interest in taking on the role of Fire Chief. There was discussion of posting the position of Fire Chief in the paper.

Kusek mentioned opening the position for Road / Bridge Crew member in the paper. Commissioners discussed posting the starting wage at \$22.00 per hour.

Action #2

Resolution FY 24.25 #81

Commissioner Brewer moved to post the Road / Bridge Crew Member position in the paper with a starting wage of \$22.00/ hour to be posted until filled. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Action #3

Resolution FY24.25 #82

Commissioner Galt moved to give Meagher County employees 2 hours administrative leave with pay to attend the funeral of county employee David Collins. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed the issue is hereby resolved.

Kusek provided an update on the road construction millings designated for Martinsdale. While there had been previous discussions about transporting the millings directly to Martinsdale, it was ultimately decided to adhere to the original plan of storing them at the junction of Highways 89 and 294. This decision was influenced by the street dance event in Martinsdale on July 19th, 2025.

Kusek informed the Commissioners that construction of the Fire building in Checkerboard has been completed. The only remaining task is for Northwestern Energy to connect the electrical service.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with information about a loader-mounted snowblower that Paul Walker is offering for sale at a price of approximately \$8,000.

The snowblower is a large commercial unit designed to attach to a loader. While Kusek was unsure of the exact year of manufacture, he noted that it has only 210 hours of use. He believes it would be highly effective for snow removal at the airport, particularly around the runway lights and other challenging areas.

Kusek also shared a listing for a brand-new snowblower of similar size, priced at \$141,998, highlighting the value of the offer. The Commissioners agreed that it appeared to be a good deal. Kusek stated he would hold off on the purchase for now and include it in his upcoming budget proposal. He also mentioned that he would consult with Paul Walker and County Attorney Hurwitz to draft a signed agreement for the potential transaction.

Title III – Intent to Spend-Open 45-day Comment

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:02 a.m.

Ogle explained what Title III Secure Rural Schools funding is and presented a list of what the money can be spent on. Ogle explained the notice needs to be posted in the newspaper and be open for 45 days for comment.

Action #4

Resolution FY 24.25 #83

Commissioner Galt moved to approve opening a 45-day comment period. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Title III – Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

Notice is hereby given that Meagher County will open a forty-five (45) day period to accept written comment from the public on the payments received by the County pursuant to Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination of Act, as reauthorized (the "SRS Act") for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026.

Comment Period: Written comments will be accepted immediately through July 28, 2025 and can be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Meagher County
PO Box 309
White Sulphur Springs Mt 59645
dogle@meagherco.net

Comment Purpose: Meagher County is eligible to receive revenue under Title III of the SRS Act for application to certain statutorily defined purposes specified in Title III.

Proposed Use: Meagher County intends to use the funding for one or all of the following uses: (1) Activities under the Firewise Communities program; (2) Salary or wages of emergency response personnel deployed during an emergency response; (3) Replacement of equipment, materials and supplies expended damaged or destroyed during an emergency response; (4) Repair of equipment damaged during an emergency response; (5) maintenance of vehicles, equipment and facilities during an response; (6) purchase of capital equipment such as the purchase of a fire engine, a search & rescue snowmobile, or other emergency response equipment; (7) Expenses of training personnel to respond to emergencies on national forests; (8) Expenses of equipment and supplies to be kept on hand for response to emergencies on national forests; (9) Expense of non-disposable personal protective equipment and electronic aids such as GPS devices in anticipation of responding to emergencies; (10) Purchase of equipment for 911 emergency systems.

C-Pace Program – Carolyn Jones

C-Pace Project Manager Carolyn Jones and MBAC Executive Director Brian Obert and Stewardship Council Executive Director Cassie Coburn entered the chambers at 10:10 a.m.

Jones explained that C-PACE stands for Commercial Property Assessed Capital Enhancements. The program allows commercial property owners to obtain private financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation improvements. The loan is repaid through a voluntary assessment on the property's tax bill, making it a secure and transferable financing method.

Authorized by the Montana Legislature in 2021, C-PACE is available for commercial, industrial, nonprofit, agricultural, and multifamily residential properties with five or more units. It is not available for single-family homes. Eligible improvements include upgrades such as HVAC systems, insulation, lighting, solar panels, and water-saving technologies.

Jones noted that for Meagher County businesses to access the program, the county must opt in by passing a resolution and entering into a legal agreement. This would enable local businesses to take advantage of C-PACE financing. She also mentioned that businesses can combine C-PACE with other funding sources to support larger-scale projects.

Jones asked the Commissioners if they were interested in adopting the program. Commissioner Galt inquired whether there was a minimum project cost to qualify. Obert responded that while there is no official minimum, projects typically start at around \$100,000 to \$120,000, which is considered the lower end for C-PACE financing.

Jones will forward a draft copy of the resolution for Commissioners to consider at their next Commission meeting on June 10th, 2025

Red Ants Pants Festival – Sarah Calhoun

Sarah Calhoun entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Calhoun requested that the Commissioners Consider closing the section of Jackson Road from the entrance of the Campground to the west parking lot and lowering the speed limit on Jackson Road to 15 mph. during the Red Ants Pants Festival July 24-27, 2025. Calhoun discussed the possibility of purchasing the portable restrooms from Republic Services and requested permission to store them at the transfer station when not in use. Commissioners will need to discuss this issue with County Attorney Hurwitz

Action #5

Resolution FY 24.25 #84

Meagher County

Resolution Fiscal Year 24.25 #84

WHEREAS, the Red Ants Pants Music Festival is Scheduled for July 24-27, 2025 and,

WHEREAS, the safety of the festival goers and the public are of highest concern and,

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Commissioners are closing the section of Jackson Road from the entrance to the campground to the west parking lot.

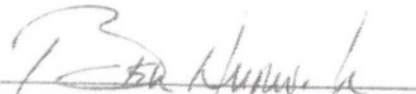
NOW THEREFOR LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED: The Meagher County Commissioners are closing Jackson Road from the entrance to the campground to the west parking lot from July 24:25,2025.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 2025

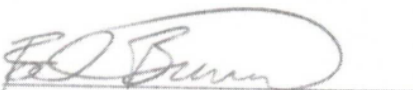
Attest:



Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman, Ben Hurwitz


Vice Chair, Errol Galt


Commissioner, Rod Brewer

Action #6

Resolution FY 24.25 #85

Meagher County

Resolution Fiscal Year 24.25 # 85

WHEREAS, the Red Ants Pants Music Festival is Scheduled for July 24-27, 2025 and,

WHEREAS, the increase in motor vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic on Jackson Road will create a safety hazard and,

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Commissioners are lowering the speed limit on Jackson Road to 15 mph.

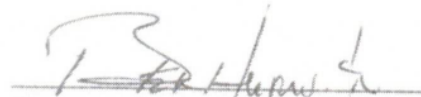
NOW THEREFOR LET IT BE KNOWN AND HEREBY RESOLVED: The Meagher County Commissioners are lowering the speed limit to 15 mph on Jackson Road for July 24-27, 2025.

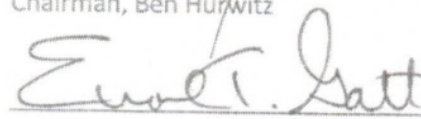
Dated this 1st day of June, 2025

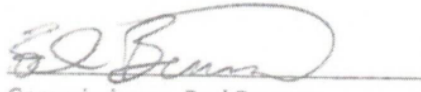


Attest

Board of County Commissioners:


Chairman, Ben Hurwitz


Vice Chair, Errol Galt


Commissioner, Rod Brewer

New Fund Creation – Dayne Ogle

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle 11:14

Ogle is requesting a new fund 2995 Urban & Community Forestry Grant, to track the grant activities. This a collaborative grant for the County Courthouse, Sheriff's Office, Mayn Cemetery and White Sulphur Springs School to prune, remove and plant trees.

Action #7

Resolution FY 24.25 #86

Commissioner Galt oved to create the Urban & Community Forestry Grant fund (2995). Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed the issue is hereby resolved.

Camera Policy – Liv West

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 11:19 a.m.

West provided a Courthouse Security Camera System Policy for signature. Commissioners discussed the policy with West and signed the final version.

Action #8

Resolution FY 24.25 #87

Resolution # 87

Courthouse Security Camera System Policy

Whereas, Meagher County purchased security cameras through a grant for election security as recommended in ARM 44.3.2904(4).

Whereas, Cameras were placed in the Meagher County Courthouse based solely upon the movement and tracking of election ballots as they moved through the certification process.

Whereas, the cameras are active year-round to assist with courthouse security, but are not intended to be comprehensive security camera solution, rather they are intended to prevent voter fraud or assist in the investigation of alleged voter fraud.

Whereas, the public is informed of cameras by signs located throughout the courthouse.

Whereas, Access to the cameras must be monitored and approved by the Elections Administrator (Meagher County Clerk & Recorder).

Now, therefore, be it resolved, The Elections Administrator has sole administrative control of the security cameras and must control which county employees have access to the camera monitoring system. Upon request, access to the camera system may be granted to other County employees.

Be it further resolved, access may be revoked, either permanently or temporarily, if the employee is: abusing their access to the cameras; if Court hearings or other sensitive meetings are occurring that involves a family member; or if there is a concern raised by the District Court Judge or Justice of the Peace due to sensitive Court Matters.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 2025



Attest:

Liv A. West

Clerk & Recorder

Board of County Commissioners

Chairman Ben Hurwitz

Commissioner Errol Galt

Commissioner Rod Brewer

Monthly Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

Lopp entered chambers at 12:18 p.m.

Presented Commissioners with the Forest Service Agreement for signature.

Lopp presented the commissioners with the complaint report for May 2025. There were one hundred eighty-one (181) incoming calls, nineteen (19) 9-1-1 calls and, one hundred sixty-five (165) people came into Sheriff's office for a total of three hundred sixty-five (365) people who contacted the Sheriff's office in May.

Mid Montana Insurance – Work Comp Renewal

Jodi Tierney entered the chambers at 12:23 p.m.

Tierney presented the commissioners with the new workers compensation rates for Fiscal Year 25.26. Tierney explained that Meagher County's premium has gone down due to low claims in previous years. Commissioners and Tierney discussed Work Comp coverage for County Ambulance drivers & EMT's when they are on an ambulance call if coverage stops when they enter a hospital.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62559 through Check #62581 totaling \$56,452.85 Electronic Check #-99579 through #-99573 totaling \$3,973.84. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

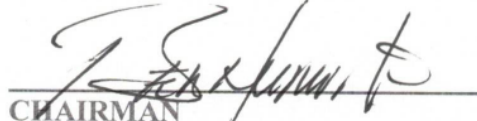
Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

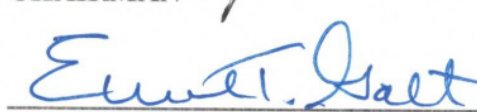
Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 10th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed June 10th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.