

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

Monday

March 2nd, 2026

9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Ben Hurwitz and Vice-Chairman Galt were present for the meeting.

Public Comment:

Sheriff Report- Jon Lopp:

Sheriff Lopp entered the chambers at 9:02 a.m.

Lopp and the Commissioners discussed the Complaint Report for the month of February 2026. The Sheriff's Office received two hundred three (203) incoming calls, twenty-four (24) 9-1-1 calls, and seventy-three (73) people came into the office. In total, three hundred (300) people contacted the Sheriff's Office. There were zero (0) reportable cases in the county and one (1) in the City for the NIBRS. The Sheriff's Office issued fifteen (15) citations in the County and (2) in the City. There were zero (0) warrants of arrests in the City and the County. There were zero (0) sets of civil papers served in the County and seven (7) in the City.

The new dispatch hire, Chris Tilson, has been settling into the position well.

Road Report- Jake Kusek:

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:22 a.m.

Kusek informed the Commissioners that Sam Berg with Fort Logan Ranch has accepted the new pit offer. Kusek will begin searching for bids for crushing the gravel at the new pit. Commissioner Galt mentioned to Kusek that there is available grant money to use in all aspects; including working Mag-Chloride back into his budget. Kusek and the Commissioners discussed about the important Mag-Chloride locations for summer of 2026. The conversation then led to possibly leasing a tractor and mower for county road mowing to then sell grader mower attachment. The current mower attachment is unsafe when attached to a tractor. The Commissioners also discussed a possible roller lease for a month this summer. Commissioner Galt stated that leasing equipment allows the department to still get their seasonal work done without having to absorb the high cost of such equipment. Kusek and the Commissioners conversed about the snow blower to eliminate hazardous drifts across the county upon the arrival of more snow.

Library Mill Levy Report - Rachel Wahlstrom:

Library Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:56 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:57 a.m.

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:58 a.m.

Wahlstrom and County Attorney Hurwitz were able to connect and assemble the new mill levy proposal that will be on the ballot for 2026. County Attorney Hurwitz is meeting with the City Attorney today to get approval and will make changes, if necessary, then present the changes to the Commissioners later this week. Wahlstrom has asked the Friends of the Library to help with the campaign in hopes of the voters passing the new mills. If passed, the mills will be on Meagher County resident’s taxes for the next five (5) years and the re-evaluated. If failed, the Library is likely to lose their funding from taxes in totality. The purpose of switching the Library mills to a fixed amount is so they can better predict their budget and increase clerk wages.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY 25.26 #54

Commissioner Hurwitz made the motion to approve the new Library mills on the June 2, 2026 ballot. Galt seconded and the motion passed with a positive proxy vote from Commissioner Rod Brewer.

RESOLUTION 2026-54

RESOLUTION TO PLACE LIBRARY MILLS ON THE JUNE 2, 2026 BALLOT

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. § 22-1-304, permits the governing body of a city or county to raise mills in excess of the levies allowed by law, subject to the provisions of Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420, to maintain adequate public library services, and

WHEREAS, The Meagher County City Library is currently supported by 5 County mills and 9.5 City mills (5 voted and 4.5 non-voted). Over the past three years, due to the volatility of property valuation, the amount of money generated by these mills has varied by the following amounts:

Fiscal Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
County Mills (5)	\$56,794.35	\$54,963.00	\$45,909.61
City Mills (9.5)	\$22,304.00	\$21,194.00	\$16,440.00
Total	\$79,098.35	\$76,157.00	\$62,349.61

WHEREAS, the proposed annual budget of the Meagher County City Library is \$170,000.

Sixty percent or approximately \$102,000 is staffing.

Twelve percent or approximately \$20,400 is for programs and digital access.

Eleven percent or approximately \$18,700 is for computers and other electronic devices

Ten percent or approximately \$17,000 is for books.

Seven percent or approximately \$11,900 is for facility maintenance, and

WHEREAS, Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs must make up the balance to maintain library funding, which burdens the local governments and makes long-term planning, employee retention, and facility maintenance difficult, and

WHEREAS, the Meagher County City Library has increased youth participation, overall visits, circulation, one-to-one tech support, and other community services while inflation has increased costs of supplies, books, and personnel at the same time, and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill 20 in 2025 calling for levies to be stated in dollar amounts for greater transparency, and

WHEREAS, the Meagher County Commission, by resolution FY25.26 #29, transitioned the 5 County mills to dollar-based mills on September 9, 2025, setting the dollar amount for the library mills to \$45,910.00, plus the inflationary amount allowed thereafter pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §15-10-420(1)(a), and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Meagher County City Library has requested that the Meagher County Commission place a Special Library Mill on the June 2026 general election ballot, calling for the full amount of the Library's proposed annual budget, \$170,000, (approximately 18.6 mills) providing certainty for the Meagher County City Library and providing transparency for the voters of Meagher County, for a period of five (5) years, and

WHEREAS, the previous voted County mills and the 5 City voted mills will be replaced by these approximate 18.6 mills in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420. In other words, those mills would not be collected if this levy passes. The 4.5 non-voted city mills will continue to be appropriated by the City Council in their sole discretion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County, herby declare a financial need to seek additional mills and to set a specific dollar amount to be raised for the Meagher County City Library and will place before the qualified electors a Library Mill on the June 2, 2026, general ballot requesting \$170,000 or approximately 18.6 mills, for a period of five (5) years, and shall place the following questions as follows:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
LEVY TO REPLACE EXISTING MILLS WITH SPECIFIC DOLLAR AMOUNT

Shall the Meagher County Commission be authorized to levy \$170,000 or approximately 18.6 mills to fund operation of the Meagher County City Library. This Levy will be for a period of five (5) years and will be subject to Mont. Code Ann. § 15-10-420(1)(a) after the first year allowing for inflationary and newly taxable growth. The fiscal impact of this levy on a home valued at \$100,000 is estimated to be \$14.07; on a home valued at \$300,000 is estimated to be \$42.21; on a home valued at \$600,000 is estimated to be \$101.09.

Signatures on Following page

DATED this 2nd day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



LIV WEST
CLERK AND RECORDER





BEN HURWITZ, CHAIR



ROD BREWER, COMMISSIONER



ERROL GALT, COMMISSIONER

Airport Update- Non-Primary Entitlement Fund Transfer- Briana Frasier:

Finance Officer Briana Frasier entered the chambers at 10:37 a.m.

Frasier read an email from Mat Wilder with Robert, Peccia, & Associates Inc. Wilder asked for a concurrence from Kurt Burns and the Commissioners that since the airport was due to get a transfer of funds back from the West Yellowstone Airport in 2026, the project manager asked for an extension in payment until 2027. Frasier already spoke with Kurt Burns and he approved as the airport does not have any projects planned for 2026. The Commissioners also agreed.

Treasurer Report- Dayna Ogle:

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:30 a.m.

Ogle gave the Commissioners September, October, and November 2025 Cash reports to review and sign in approval. Ogle and the Commissioners discuss the report and she answered questions. September had three hundred six (306), two hundred fifty-nine (259) in October and one hundred eighty-four (184) in November motor vehicle transactions. Ogle discussed the allocations from state, county and city in motor vehicle transactions.

Ogle presented the contract for Susan Nicosia who will help create the report for the County's AFR filing. The Commissioners agreed and allowed Ogle to proceed in getting Nicosia's assistance.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63379 through Checks #63424 for the amount of \$110,868.35. All Checks were signed as presented.

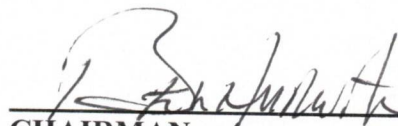
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, March 9th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed March 9th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.