

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MEAGHER
15 WEST MAIN STREET
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA 59645

Monday
March 9th, 2026
9:15 a.m.- 12:12 p.m.
Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order 9:15 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

ACTION #1

Commissioner Galt moved to accept the meeting minutes from March 2nd, 2026. Commissioner Brewer seconded.

Public Comment:

No public comment for this meeting.

Elections Update- Liv West

County Clerk and Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 9:18 a.m.

West brought a binder with information on a proposed subdivision for the Commissioners to browse. Commissioner Galt inquired Clerk and Recorder Liv West about local land purchase and if it was subdivided. West advised the Commissioners to verify with County Attorney Burt Hurwitz on the status of the transfer.

Liv updated the Commissioners on her required election training she attended in Helena. The Commissioners and West discussed the details of primary versus general elections and what elected seats are state and what are county. West submitted a letter of notice to the Commissioners recommending to cancel local races for the primary elections. These seats include Commissioners, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Clerk and Recorder, and County Justice of Peace.

County Clerk and Recorder Liv West reported to the Commissioners that the White Sulphur School District will handle their election for school board trustees, including staffing and funding the election. West presented a contract for the required Express Vote machine per ADA compliance. Meagher County will provide the machine and the school will assume responsibility for it. West stated that this is a traditional practice between the County and the School District.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #55

Commissioner Galt moved to accept the contract with White Sulphur Springs School for the Express Vote machine for the 2026 School Board Election. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

ELECTION CONTRACT FOR USE OF EXPRESSVOTES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION FOR THE 2026 ELECTION

BE IT HEREBY AGREED between White Sulphur Springs K-12 School District and Meagher County:

1. The Meagher County Election Administrator, hereinafter called "County" on behalf of the White Sulphur Springs K-12 School District No. 8, hereinafter called "School" and upon their request shall loan to the School the use of one (1) ExpressVote machine.

Pursuant to SB15, the school shall be responsible to pay the cost for programming, activation cards, encrypted thumb drives and any replacement or repair costs from damages sustained to the equipment while in the School's possession. Pursuant to 13-1-302(5) the School may request a cost estimate and the county will provide it within 30 days.

The School, at this time, does not need to purchase the thumb drive(s) necessary for programming the equipment. However, in the future, the County may require the School purchase the thumb drive(s) that can be reused by the district in future elections.

2. School shall either be responsible for either completing all necessary information needed to program the machines directly into the vendor's portal or shall pay for the County to do the necessary programming. If the County will be programming, this will be included in the cost of borrowing the equipment listed above.

School shall program Expressvote

County shall program Expressvote

If the County is programming, School shall certify ballot no later than March 26, 2026.

3. School and County shall determine the most adequate location for the equipment based on the election and will determine who will run the equipment and be responsible for it during its availability. Location of Expressvote shall be as follows:

School shall be responsible for running Expressvote

County shall be responsible for running Expressvote

4. The School shall ensure secure storage for the ExpressVote and all necessary supplies other than the ballot paper if ExpressVote are used at a School location.
5. Said Agreement will be in effect for the following elections.

2026 Regular School Board of Trustees

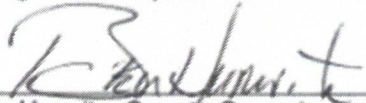
IN WITNESS THEREOF, the aforementioned parties have hereunto entered into this agreement on this ____ of March, 2026.




School District Representative

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the aforementioned parties have hereunto entered into this agreement on this 9th day of March, 2026.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Meagher County, Montana



Ben Hurwitz, County Commissioner, Chairman




Errol Galt, County Commissioner



Rod Brewer, County Commissioner

ATTEST:



Liv A. West
Meagher County Clerk & Recorder



ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #56

Commissioner Galt made the motion to cancel the primary election for local government offices. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. 56

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF ALL COUNTY RACES ON THE 2026 FEDERAL PRIMARY BALLOT

WHEREAS, pursuant to §13-1-403, MCA, if the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, the election administrator shall notify the governing body of the local government in writing that the election is not necessary and the governing body may, by resolution, cancel the election; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §13-1-403, MCA, no person or one person filed as a candidate for all county races up for election by the statutory deadline of March 4, 2026:

WHEREAS, pursuant to §13-1-403(4), MCA, no write-in candidates for the county's upcoming primary election filed by the March 4, 2026 deadline, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to §13-1-403, MCA, the Meagher County Elections Administrator notified the Meagher County Board of Commissioners that the primary election is not necessary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to §13-1-403, MCA, Meagher County Commissioners hereby order and authorize the Meagher County Election Administrator to cancel (not place on the ballot) all County Races for the June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Meagher County Commissioners this 9th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



Liv A. West, Clerk & Recorder





Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Chairman



Errol Galt, Commissioner



Rod Brewer, Commissioner

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 25.26 #56A

Vice-Chairman Galt made a motion for the cancellation of the Meagher County Conservation District Election. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEAGHER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION

WHEREAS, Notice was given pursuant to 13-1-104 MCA, the Conservation District Election will not be held as the number of candidates filed for a district's representatives are less than or equal to the number of positions to be elected.

IT HERE HEREBY DECLARED THAT the Conservation District Election will not be held and the candidate(s) who filed for the position will be elected by acclamation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Meagher County Commissioners this 9th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



Liv A. West, Clerk & Recorder




Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Chairman


Errol Galt, Commissioner


Rod Brewer, Commissioner

ACTION #5

Resolution FY 25.26 #56B

Vice-Chairman Galt made a motion for the cancellation of the Meagher County Committeeman and Committeewoman election race. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEAGHER COUNTY COMMITTEEMAN AND COMMITTEEWOMAN RACE

WHEREAS, Notice was given pursuant to Section 13-1-104 MCA, the races for the Meagher County Committeeman and Committeewoman may be cancelled as the number of candidates filed for the precinct races are less than or equal to the number of positions to be elected.

IT HERE HEREBY DECLARED THAT the Election for the Committeeman and Committeewoman race will not be held and the candidate(s) who filed for the position will be elected by acclamation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Meagher County Commissioners this 9th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:

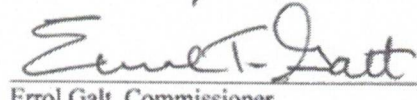


Liv A. West, Clerk & Recorder





Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Chairman



Errol Galt, Commissioner



Rod Brewer, Commissioner

Clerk and Recorder West updated the Commissioners on a selection of previous Election Judges. West stated Meagher County has an excellent judge pool and has confirmed their willingness to be judges again. The Commissioners reviewed the list. Per 13-4-101 MCA, the Commissioners must appoint the Election Judges.

ACTION #6

Resolution FY 25.26 #57

Commissioner Brewer moved to accept the Election Judges list presented by Election Administrator Liv West. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. 57

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ELECTION JUDGES FOR ALL ELECTIONS 2026-2027

WHEREAS, pursuant to §13-4-101, MCA Appointment of election judges. At least 30 days before the primary election in even-numbered years, the county governing body shall appoint three or more election judges for each precinct, one of whom must be designated chief judge.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to §13-4-101, MCA Meagher County Commissioners hereby appoint the names on the attached list of the Meagher County Election Judges

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Meagher County Commissioners this 9th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



Liv A. West, Clerk & Recorder





Ben Hurwitz, Commissioner Chairman



Errol Galt, Commissioner



Rod Brewer, Commissioner

Rural Tourism Asset Grant Application – County Attorney Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:21 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz started the conversation recounting how the Department of Commerce had begun to rely on county-wide demographic and economic data which has prevented Meagher County from succeeding with recent CDBG applications. Cassie Coburn, Meagher County Stewardship Counsel, found the current opportunity, which is directly from Congressman Troy Downing's office. While utilizing the same forms and many of the same goals as CDBG, it is a different pot of federal dollars. The current application is for infrastructure planning and study for the potential affordable housing development near the new hospital. It is a replacement for the CDBG application that was denied. Coburn was able to get letters of support from the community and several non-profit organizations. The Commissioners and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz discussed the numbers of the grant and how much is needed to complete the Phase II master plan for affordable housing on the hospital property. There is the potential for a match requirement for the County, however, private matching funds will be sought before the County is obligated, Hurwitz cautioned however, that the County should be prepared if no sources can be found.

ACTION #7

Resolution FY 25.26 #58

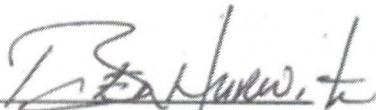
Commissioner Galt made the motion to approve the Rural Tourism Grant Application. Chairman Hurwitz seconded to approve the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.


RESOLUTION 26 58

BE IT RESOLVED that the Meagher County Commission submit an application to the office of Hon. United States Representative Troy Downing for the FY27 Community Project Funding for the Meagher County Housing Master Plan - Phase 2, at a total project cost of \$102,338, including the potential match of \$12,500. This project is necessary to address critical housing needs for Meagher County and its residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County, Montana, this 9th day of March, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA


Ben Hurwitz, Chairman


Rod Brewer, Commissioner


Errol Galt, Commissioner

CLERK AND RECORDER


Liv West



The seal is circular with a rope-like border. Inside the border, the text "MEAGHER COUNTY MONTANA" is written at the bottom and "CLERK & RECORDER" at the top. In the center, the word "SEAL" is prominently displayed, flanked by two stars.

Mid-Montana Insurance- Jodi Tierney

Jodi Tierney entered the chambers at 10:50 a.m.

Jodi Tierney handed the Commissioners the numbers for all buildings and vehicles for review. Jodi Tierney discussed and answered all questions the Commissioners presented. Tierney walked the Commissioners through each line and discussed each building insurance coverage. The Commissioners decided that each department head had a better idea of what vehicles and equipment needed coverage and updated information. In collaboration, the finance office and department heads are to review all of the information provided and report back to the Commissioners with an updated list of vehicles and equipment for insurance coverage. The updates are scheduled to be presented to the Commissioners in upcoming meeting(s).

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #063358 through Checks #063378 for the amount of \$27,525.81. Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

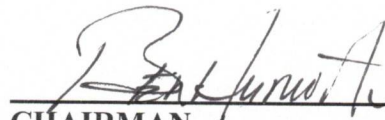
Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, March 16th, 2026.



CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN



VICE CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

SEAL



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed March 16th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.