

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

Tuesday

May 13th, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from May 6th, 2025. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Building Improvements

Building Maintenance Rosie Dutton entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Dutton inquired again about installing Air Conditioning in the courtroom before the upcoming trials. Commissioners discussed potential funding options for the project.

ACTION#2

Resolution FY24.25 #75

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to accept the bid from Intermountain Heating for \$32,528.00 for air conditioning in the courtroom. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

ACTION#3

Resolution FY24.25 #76

Commissioner Brewer moved to use Entitlement money to pay for the Air Conditioner in the courtroom. Commissioner Galt Seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Dutton discussed with the Commissioners the replacement of locks and doors in the building per the State of Montana security recommendations. Commissioners decided they did not want to change the locks on all the doors in the building. Commissioners decided to table the conversation until Dutton can get some bids on replacing the back door.

Senior Center – Beth Hunt

Senior Center Coordinator Beth Hunt entered the chambers at 9:20 a.m.

Hunt provided an overview of how donations to the Senior Center are categorized and utilized, detailing the types of purchases made with those funds. She also reported that funding from the Area IV Agency on Aging has been reduced by 25%, resulting in an approximate shortfall of \$15,000. In light of this reduction, Hunt formally requested that Meagher County continue its contribution of \$15,000 to help offset the loss and maintain essential services at the Senior Center.

County Health Nurse – Eva Kerr

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Kerr reported that she received a \$10,000 Bair Grant to support child immunization efforts. Kerr stated she conducted hearing screenings as part of the kindergarten screening program at White Sulphur Springs Elementary School. Kerr informed the Commissioners; she is scheduled to attend a zoom meeting to discuss the Homemaker and Respite Care Programs. Kerr is requesting \$16,450 for Homemaker services and \$8350 for Respite Care, with a local match of \$2,087. Additionally, Kerr applied for a \$10,000 grant aimed at expanding training opportunities in CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Basic Behavioral Health. She expects to receive notifications regarding the grant decision in June.

DUI Task Force 2026 – Eva Kerr

Kerr presented the Commissioners with a plan for the 2026 DUI Task Force for signature. The 2026 DUI Taskforce Plan was signed by Chairman Hurwitz.

Earmarked Alcohol Tax Designation Resolution

ACTION#4

Resolution FY 24.25#77

Commissioner Brewer moved to designate Starr Counseling to receive earmarked alcohol tax for FY 25.26. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

County Attorney Report – Burt Hurwitz

Crime Victim Advocate Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 10:34 a.m. County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 10:40 a.m.

Taylor briefed the Commissioners on a recent training she attended put on by the Children Alliance for Montana. The training went over interview techniques, ways to best help child victims, Along with how to process and advocate for them.

Attorney Hurwitz stated he is working against a tight deadline to settle a case before it proceeds to trial in June. He also discussed a trespassing case from last fall's duck hunting season, which will have status update in two weeks.

Attorney Hurwitz also stated he participated in a tactical first aid training with Deputy Wilson and Deputy Gearheart.

Attorney Hurwitz stated that he has had ongoing conversations with Jess Secrest and Kate Dinwiddie regarding fire reorganization. These discussions will continue on Thursday May 15, 2025 in preparation for the Commission meeting on June 10th, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.

Review of Job Descriptions and Duties

Clerk & Recorder Liv West, Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle, and District Court Clerk Candi Richardson entered the chambers at 11:18 a.m.

Commissioner Galt opened the discussion by explaining the he requested this discussion because he was not a commissioner at the time the position of Chief Finance Officer (CFO) was split from the Clerk and Records office and wanted to know how and why this was done. Attorney Hurwitz explained the process and reasoning behind the separation of duties. Commissioner Galt asked if there were job duties that anyone wanted to change or move around prior the post of the CFO position.

Richardson shared that based on information from a recent District Court Conference, her office should not be closed during business hours. Richardson suggested assigning someone to cover her office during her absence. This discussion was tabled until the Commission meeting on May 20th, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62513 through Check #62533 totaling \$17,224.24
Electronic Check #-99591 through #-99587 totaling \$423.59. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 20th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER

SEAL




CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed May 20th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.