

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Monday

May 4th, 2026

9:04 a.m. – 11:38 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Public Comment:

There is no public comment at this time.

Minutes Approval:

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 9th, 2026 and April 13th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brewer moves to approve meeting minutes from January 30th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion.

Sheriff Report- Sheriff Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:03 a.m.

Clayton Moss entered the chambers at 9:03 a.m.

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:26 p.m.

Sheriff Lopp introduced Clayton Moss to the Commissioners. Moss has been working towards becoming the Sheriff Office's Reserve Chaplin Deputy. There is discussion about pay for Moss in this position. Lopp states not at this time but that may need to be reevaluated depending on how often Moss is used.

Lopp gave the Commissioners an update on the three vehicles he was hoping to sell for the department. Lopp is hoping to sell the 2018 F-150 for a minimum bid of \$21,000, 2011 F250 for a minimum bid of \$15,000, 2014 F-150 for a minimum bid of \$5,000. Commissioner Brewer mentioned that the Weed Department would be interested in purchasing the F-250.

Chairman Hurwitz questioned Sheriff Lopp about the abandoned vehicles and relocating them. Discussion took place on the options to relocate. Lopp explained the process of an abandoned vehicle and what it takes before a vehicle can be dispatched.

Lopp gave an update on the new dispatcher and reports that he is doing fair for what he was trained for. Lopp continues that it is hard to train when incidents are not common occurrences.

Lopp questioned the Commissioners about Deputy Gearheart's vacation hours. Deputy Gearheart got a letter from the Finance Office about his current vacation hours and accrual. There was discussion about the hours the Deputies work and how they fill in for each other. Currently there is not much opportunity for Deputy Gearheart to take a vacation. The Commissioners agree that Gearheart should not lose his vacation.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY 25.26 #79

Commissioner Brewer moves to extend Deputy Gearheart's vacation use period until the end of the year. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the issue is hereby resolved.

Lopp gave the Commissioners an update on an incident on the river that occurred the previous day. Lopp had great response with the Game Warden, property owners, search and rescue and the Sheriff's Office. The incident ended as a false alarm but all in all it was great training for Meagher County First Responders.

Jake Kusek and Sheriff Lopp discuss moving junk and abandoned vehicles to the airport pit. Kusek thought the idea would be fine.

Road Report- Supervisor Jake Kusek

Supervisor Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 9:26 p.m.

The Commissioners and Jake Kusek discuss the job posting and current applicant. There was only applicant in the two-week posting period.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 #80

Chairman Hurwitz moved to hire Tanner Blair on to the Road Department. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Kusek presented the Commissioners a quote for the steel deck on the Canyon Road bridge. He added that it will take some planning to get the bridge work done and notifying all the landowners that are affected on Canyon Road.

Kusek continued that the County needs to re-permit the Van Auken shale pit off of Smith River Road. The pit is not used as often as some of the others, Kusek states that he would like to have it up to date just in case.

Jake Kusek gave the Commissioners an update about the Fort Logan Gravel Crushing Project. Faction Constructors will be available to start at Fort Logan around the end of May.

There is discussion about the Ringling Road and Fire building. Jake is hoping to start the work next week. Commissioner Brewer agreed to give a hand on moving the fire trucks around in preparation.

Southwest Montana Insurance/AFLAC- Julie Blockey and Marielle Dozier

SWMI Agent Julie Blockey entered the chambers at 10:20 a.m.

SWMI Agent Tony Heck entered the chambers at 10:20 a.m.

Aflac Agent Marielle Dozier entered the chambers at 10:20 a.m.

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:38 a.m.

County Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 10:41 a.m.

Julie Blockey presented the Commissioners and guests in the room with a folder containing information on insurance plans and the new plans each company updated for this year. There was discussion on the folders and options to offer to the county employees. A decision on insurance plans will be made at a later date.

Beckermann/Tripp Subdivision Preliminary Plat Meeting- Kristie Heinemann and Kevin Angland

Kristie Heinemann entered the chambers at 11:21 a.m.

County Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 11:25 a.m.

Great West Engineering Planner Kevin Angland entered the chambers via zoom at 11:27 a.m.

Kevin Angland kicked off the conversation with a summary of the staff report of the subdivision. The Consolidated Planning Board approved the report with the suggestion of removing conditions 2 and 13. After review, the Commissioners agreed with the Consolidated Planning Board and removed conditions 2 and 13.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #81

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve the recommendation from the Consolidated Planning Board to remove the second and thirteenth conditions within the Staff Report of the Beckermann/Tripp Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 25.26 #82

Commissioner Brewer made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat of the Beckermann/Tripp Minor Subdivision. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63561 through Checks #63592 for the amount of \$35,644.66. All Checks were signed as presented.

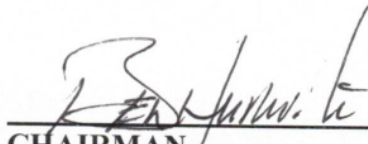
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Next Meeting:

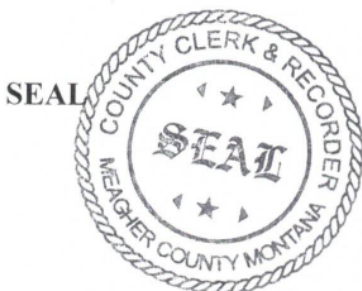
Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, May 11th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed May 4th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.