

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

Tuesday

May 6th, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 2:45 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.

Public Comment:

Benjamin Haugen entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Haugen asked the Commissioner's advice on the future of Grassy Mountain Fire District. Haugen asked if GMFD should build their own facilities or try to contract something with Meagher County? Haugen stated Grassy Mountain Ranchowners Association wants to sell the utility lot to the fire district for \$35,000. Haugen also state there is 12 acres on Schendel Lane that Grassy Mountain Fire District might have the opportunity to utilize. Commissioners suggested to try to get some land donated and build a fire building.

Minutes:

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the minutes from April 15th, 2025 and April 25th, 2025. Commissioner Hurwitz 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 9:21 a.m.

Kusek stated he needs to speak with County Attorney Burt Hurwitz to get the land use agreement from Fort Logan Ranch for the permitted Fort Logan Pit, so the road department can start crushing gravel there. Kusek stated that the road department would need to get bids for gravel crushing.

Kusek stated Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) came to inspect the fire trucks stationed in Meagher County. Kusek stated there is one truck stationed in White Sulphur Springs that will be returned to Missoula because it has a bad tank, this is covered by the DNRC. The fire truck at Martinsdale failed because there was a short in the pump panel. DNRC stated that Kusek could either move the truck to a different location or they will take the truck back. Kusek stated that he found a truck in Idaho Falls from Penske Used Trucks to replace the one at Springdale Colony. Kusek discussed the truck with the Commissioners, it is a 2018 International Durastar 4300 listed for \$19,250.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 24.25 #73

Brewer moved to purchase the 2018 International Durastar 4300 from Penske Used Trucks for \$19,250 for Fire Department. The truck will be stationed at Springdale Colony. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Kusek discussed prepping Martinsdale roads to allow for the millings from the Road construction on Highway 12 that will be happening this summer from White Sulphur Springs to the nine-mile wye.

MACo – PCT Renewal – Hope Barker

Property & Casualty Trust Administrator Hope Barker entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Barker reviewed the recent changes to the Property and Casualty Insurance Policy for Meagher County, encompassing equipment, vehicles, buildings and property. She noted that Meagher County experienced a 7.36% increase, which is significantly lower than the pool average of 11%. Barker also discussed the loss ratio and claims over the past few years.

Southwestern Insurance Company – Julie Blockey

Southwestern Insurance Company owner Julie Blockey entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Blockey presented the new quote from United Health Care to the Commissioners, highlighting her successful negotiations to reduce the premiums. Blockey then detailed the differences among the UHC tiers and outlined the various programs that United Health Care offers at no additional cost. Health Insurance for county employees will remain with United Health Care.

Montana Aeronautics Grant Agreement

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Ogle presented two grants from the Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division to the Commissioners for their signatures. The first grant pertains to reimbursement for the cost to flight check the Instrument Approach at the airport, while the second grant is for the pavement maintenance project.

Earmarked alcohol tax designation discussion

Commissioners discussed the earmarked alcohol tax designation. Taking in to account the preference of Justice of the Peace John Lesofski, Commissioners have designated Starr Counseling as the preferred provider. This issue will be on the agenda for resolution at the regular Commission meeting on May 13, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

New Fund Creation – Dayne Ogle

Ogle explained that County Attorney Burt Hurwitz and Crime Victim Advocate Laura Taylor requested a special fund be created to accept and disperse victim restitution payments.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY24.25 #74

Commissioner Brewer moved to create the Victim Restitution Fund (7071). Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Building Improvements – Rosie Dutton / Burt Hurwitz

Building maintenance Rosie Dutton and County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 11:50 a.m.

Dutton presented the commissioners with a quote for air conditioning in the Courtroom. Attorney Hurwitz stated that the comfort of the jurors is important to keep them engaged in trials. Dutton also informed the commissioners that she solicited a bid for a stair lift to the third floor. Dutton presented the Commissioners with the security recommendations from the Montana Supreme Court. Considering these recommendations, Dutton requested quotes from 2 companies for new doors or door locks that use key cards or fobs. Commissioners made no decisions at this time. Discussions will continue at the regular Commission meeting on May 13, 2025@ 9:00 a.m.

Lunch

Commissioners broke for lunch.

Senior Center – Beth Hunt

Beth Hunt entered the chambers at 1:50 p.m. Gerald Zarr entered the chambers at 1:57 p.m.

Hunt provided the Commissioners with several handouts regarding funding for the Senior Center. Hunt gave a breakdown of what it costs to run the Senior Center, including daily meals, wages, and

utilities. Hunt also broke down what the Senior Center receives in grants and donations. Hunt stated the Senior Center would not ask for any funding this year from the county.

Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 2:13 p.m.

Sheriff Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint Report for April. The Sheriff's Office received one hundred twenty-one (121) incoming calls, twenty-four (24) 9-1-1 calls, and two hundred twenty-one people came into the Sheriff's Office. For a total of Three hundred sixty-six (366) people contacting the Sheriff's Office in April.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Check #62495 through Check #62512 totaling \$10,232.85 Electronic Check #-99604 through #-99597 totaling \$3,109.25. All Checks were signed as presented.

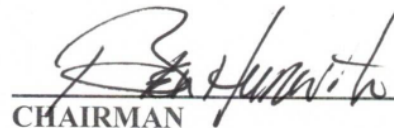
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 13th, 2025.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN




VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems
Distributed May 13th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice Chair Galt, and Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.