

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

**Tuesday**

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**9am Monthly Library Report:**

Cancelled

**9:30 Monthly Extension Report:**

Extension Agent Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Paul opened by updating the Commission on the 4H program. The materials for the new Beef Barn have been delivered and construction is scheduled for early June. 4H Demonstration Day was held on April 16 with seven competitors. The 4H club hosted a Donkey Basketball tournament/fundraiser with 6 teams participating. The club raised close to \$1000 and is considering making this an annual fundraiser. 4H camp at Camp Rotary is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and is open to 4H members in Meagher, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Broadwater, Musselshell and Golden Valley counties. A separate "Tween Camp" may be hosted this summer at Mizpah Retreat from June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Paul reported Fair planning is in full swing. The 2023 4H Fair is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> and the 4H horse show is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Paul reported the Ag News & Brews continues to be successful with 16 people attending the presentation on "Biocontrol Agents". The next presentation on May 17<sup>th</sup> will be on "Optimizing Forage Production for Sustainable Ranching Enterprises" this will be the last presentation this spring and Paul will start up again in September or October of this year.

Paul reported on the success in her gardening workshops and is looking at starting a Master Gardeners workshop this fall. Paul hosted in conjunction with Meagher County Weed Supervisor Lee Zehntner on the drone spraying demonstration held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 the demonstration was put on by Red Iron Air. Paul is also hosting a Farm Fair in conjunction with Meagher County Farm Bureau and Meagher County Cattle Women. The Farm Fair will be held at the 4H barn on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Paul concluded by stating she has completed several office consultations; 3 lawn & garden soil tests and 3 agriculture soil tests and 1 tree disease identification.

### **Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Jess Secrest:**

Jess Secrest, Secrest Fire Solutions entered chambers at 9:45 a.m.

Secrest presented the Commission with the draft Meagher County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This is a 5-year plan that has been developed to assist Meagher County, Meagher County Fire Departments and federal and state agencies in the identification of private and public lands at risk of severe wildfires and to explore strategies for the prevention, suppression and management of such fires. The CWPP is intended to outline Meagher County's activities targeted at reducing the risk to human health and life protect critical community infrastructure, protect private property and protect our natural resources. The document identifies the need for a fire building in checkerboard, a 250 g.p.m. well or a 10,000-gallon cistern at the Ringling Fire building as well as changes for the current Grassy Mountain fire District.

Secrest will continue to work with Northwestern Energy, Fergus Electric, Vigilante Electric Cooperative and Park Electric Cooperative when they review their mitigation plans in January 2024.

Secrest will finalize the plan and present it on June 20,2023.

### **11am Meagher County Senior Center – Beth Hunt:**

Beth Hunt entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Hunt opened by stating the Meagher County Senior Center is a community owned non-profit organization governed by a 5-member board. The center is primarily funded through grants, membership fees, building rent and donations. Hunt requested a donation from the County in the amount of \$15,000, the same as last year. Hunt then explained the services the center provides including daily meals to member and nonmembers, meals on wheels as well as activities, crafts and exercise programs.

Hunt is partnering with Ernie Marks and working with Mountainview Medical Center to develop a transportation plan for elderly citizens. Hunt also stated the center will replace the siding on the building this year and hopes to install upgraded solar panels on the new roof.

Hunt stated she will be attending a nutrition training and meeting with the Area IV on Aging later this week and also attending the Governor's conference on aging in September.

### **ACTION #2**

#### **Resolution Fiscal Year 22.23-106**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to allocate \$15,000 to the Meagher County Senior Center, commissioner Brewer seconded. A vote was taken, the motion passes

### **Monthly Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek:**

Maura Kusek and Shauna Porter entered 11:30

Kusek presented the Treasurer Cash report along with the monthly cash report for review.

Porter expressed the difficulties in utilizing autopay for vendors that have that option. Porter felt it would create more work on their end and create risk to the county accounts if the payment went through and the amount wasn't reported to the Treasurer's office to ensure funds were available.

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle stated she is looking into the option of sending electronic checks and is working out the details with Black Mountain Software and the Bank of the Rockies.

### **Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Check #60310 through Check #60333 totaling \$39,591.20. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 26th 2023.

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**