

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

November 21st, 2023  
8:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Rod 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.

**Claims Review / Minutes Review:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom**

Library Director, Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 8:45 a.m.

Wahlstrom announced that the Meagher County City Library has received a \$5000 grant from The Dorothy Louise Kyler Fund for children's books and programming. Wahlstrom stated the library is also considering purchasing sensory bins to take to Springdale Colony, as well as a Lego table and bins with fun family-oriented activities for Saturdays. Wahlstrom said the conference room at the library is in high demand, so anyone wishing to use it must reserve it in advance.

**Extension Report – Makayla Paul**

Extension Agent, Makayla Paul entered the chambers at 9:26 a.m.

Paul stated that there are 48 members currently enrolled in 4-H this year. Returning members have until December 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 to enroll. Paul stated that there are 2 new and 6 returning volunteers this year. The 4-H Council elected Rachel Wahlstrom as President, David Fryer as Vice President, Kari Marks as Secretary, and Quita Mystrol as Treasurer at their October meeting.

Paul attended the MSU Extension Annual Conference in Bozeman from October 23rd to 26th. During the conference, Paul participated in a session about the 4-H Stir Ups contest, which is a cooking contest for youth. Paul expressed interest in hosting a similar event in Meagher County in the spring. Additionally, Paul attended a session on fairs and gathered new ideas that she would like to implement locally. Paul also gained insights on how to teach quality assurance to her 4-H members.

Paul stated on November 1<sup>st</sup> she attended a Beef Nutrition Conference. The topics focused on Bull nutrition and development, mineral nutrition in beef cattle, cattle health and carbon credits.

Paul stated in November she hosted a Rancher Round Table where she discussed managing drift, livestock pests and antibiotic resistance with 20 producers in the area.

Paul announced that she has completed training to teach the Strong People, Strong Bodies program, which is a strength training program for midlife and older individuals. Paul will be Partnering with Meg Rowe from Mountainview Medical Center. The classes are expected to start in February or March.

Paul reported that the MSU Extension Community Vitality Update will take place in Meagher County from January 9th to 11th. Extension agents attending the event will learn about the community's efforts to revitalize White Sulphur Springs from Community Businesses in Retail Sales, Lodging, New businesses and Recreation. Paul also mentioned that White Sulphur Springs will host a "Leadership 47 Showcase" to promote the Big Sky Big Leadership Program. The showcase aims to generate interest among community members in hosting the program in Meagher County.

#### **Great West on Call Engineering Contract Review**

Chief Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:05 a.m.

Ogle presented the Commissioners with the contract for On Call Engineering Services with Great West Engineering for Chairman Brewer's signature.

#### **Road – Grader Lease Update – Jake Kusek**

Road Supervisor Jake Kusek and Damon Van Diest, RDO Equipment entered the chambers at 10:26 a.m.

Van Diest presented the Commissioners with a quote and description for a New John Deere 672 GP. The Premium Circle would be a \$12,000 upgrade over the John Deere 672GP. Van Diest stated for Meagher County's use of the Grader he did not feel like it was a justified upgrade. Van Diest stated Meagher County would benefit more from selling the 2008 Cat 143M grader rather than trading it in. Van Diest stated that financing will go up at the end of November. Van Diest stated that it will take about 120 days after purchase to get the blade and wing mounted on the Grader.

ACTION#2

#### **Resolution #51**

Commissioner Galt moved to accept the proposal from RDO Equipment for the lease of a 2023 John Deere 672GP standard grader to be delivered in July 2024. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

#### **Treasurer Report – Maura Kusek**

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Kusek presented the Commissioners with the cash report for period ending 10/23.

Kusek handed the Commissioners 2 letters from tax payers regarding the condition and maintenance of Hay Creek Road and Horse Creek and also the roads leading to Castle Bar and Two Creeks.

Kusek expressed her concern regarding the election security cameras. A total of 11 cameras were installed in the courthouse with one camera installed in the server room in the Treasurer's office. Kusek questioned how this camera was providing election security.

Kusek stated that she and Attorney Hurwitz interviewed 3 good candidates for the DMV/Victim – Witness Advocate Position. Kusek and Attorney Hurwitz will meet soon to discuss the candidates.

**Public Comment / Claims Approval:**

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Emma Bess, Clerk and Recorder Liv West and Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 11:24 a.m.

West presented the Commissioners with a letter that the Clerk and Recorder’s office sent out to registered voters in Meagher County regarding address changes. West stated after the census, the state went through a redistricting process. This coincided with Meagher County’s Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) Grant with Great West Engineering for address maintenance. Matt Blassie, Great West Engineering has been working with Meagher County updating addresses for the Montana State Library. The Secretary of State’s Office provided Meagher County the addresses that needed to be corrected, affecting approximately 150 – 175 addresses. These address changes are necessary to ensure that emergency vehicles are dispatched to the correct address and for our election office to have valid addresses to comply with MCA 13-2-208.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #60882 through Check #60923 totaling \$68,651.76. All Checks were signed as presented

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at. 11:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

  
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CLERK & RECORDER



SEAL

  
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CHAIRMAN

  
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VICE-CHAIRMAN

  
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COMMISSIONER