

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

September 19, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.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-Charmain Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Errol Galt were present for the meeting.

**Claims Review / Minutes Review:**

**ACTION #1**

Chair Hurwitz moved to approve the Minutes from September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Library Report – Rachel Wahlstrom**

Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chamber at 9:00 a.m.

Wahlstrom started by explaining the miscommunication in the increase of hours budgeted for FY 23.24. Wahlstrom explained the Saturday hours were in addition to the increase in regular hours. The libraries publications, subscriptions and dues, also increased due to the State of Montana increasing all their programs by 10% across the board. Wahlstrom also stated she has increased the number of times Courier Crates stops to exchange books with other libraries from only Tuesday to Tuesday and Thursday.

Story time has started again on Wednesdays at 11a.m. and Preschoolers come once a week either Thursday or Friday.

**Action #2**

Commissioner Hurwitz moved to approve the library budget increase without increasing the cash reserves. Commissioner Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. A Public Hearing for Library Budget will be held on Tuesday October 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

**Extension Report – Makayla Paul**

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

Paul started by updating the Commissioners on the visit from Governor Gianforte on August 10, 2023. The Governor inquired about how 4-H impacts the community. Paul stated several 4-H members were able to attend and visit with the Governor and his staff.

MQS has completed the inside of the 4-H barn. The Barn is now waiting on Master Electric to finish the electrical. Once the barn was built there were some changes in the way the electrical needed to be wired.

Paul confirmed the new 4-H year begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and National 4-H week is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The 4-H members will be putting up posters at the school and will be putting I love 4-H stickers on coffee cups at Wild Oats Bakery. Paul stated that she will also be more active in getting the Home School families involved in 4-H.

Thrivent Financial held a golf tournament fundraiser at Arrowhead Meadows over Labor Day. The tournament raised \$5000 that 4-H members can use to attend 4-H events outside of Meagher County.

Paul stated that she continues to see an increase in office consultations. Soil testing, disease identification in gardens and trees along with Nitrate testing are the most common visits. Paul stated that she is also receiving calls with questions regarding hay prices and custom haying rates.

Paul updated the Commission on the conferences, workshops and Retreats that she has been attending. Those include The National Association of County Agricultural Agents Conference, Level 2 Noxious Weed Management Workshop and a Leadership Retreat being the most recent.

### **Meagher County Housing – DA Davidson – Greg Brunner**

In Chambers were: Cal Moore, Makayla Paul, Cassie Coburn (Meagher County Stewardship Council), Rob Brandt (CEO Mountainview Medical Center), Melissa Mikesell (Tintina), Terry Taylor (City County Consolidated Planning Board), Rick Nelson (Mayor), Burt Hurwitz (County Attorney), Greg Brunner (DA Davidson), Bridget Ekstrom (DA Davidson), Crystal Vogel (DA Davidson)

Moore started by introducing the representatives from DA. Davidson and gave an overview of the housing situation in Meagher County.

D.A. Davidson has substantial experience providing financing for municipalities in Montana and across the Country. They offer a variety of financing options to assist in the development of affordable housing. Representatives from DA Davidson presented the commission with information regarding the different funding options available to Meagher County for affordable housing projects. It was discussed that Meagher County cannot be a landlord and they cannot be a lender. However, the county can be an investor.

Commissioners will continue the Meagher County Housing discussion on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. the Department of Commerce will be invited to attend the meeting.

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

Treasurer Maura Kusek entered the chambers at 11:15 a.m.

Kusek presented the Commission with a request to hire a full-time employee that would work as a part-time Motor Vehicle Clerk in the Treasures Office and part-time assisting County Attorney's office. Kusek asked the commissioners to set the wage at \$18-\$20 an hour. Kusek stated between the time it takes to hire a person and get a background check back, it will be about 4 to 6 months before someone can actually fulfill the MVC position.

### **Action#3**

#### **Resolution FY23.24 #30**

Galt moved to create a full-time position (part-time DMV clerk and part-time County Attorney assistant.) Hurwitz seconded the motion a vote was taken and passed.

## **Lunch**

### **Sheriff – New Patrol Vehicle - Jerami West –**

Under Sheriff Jerami West entered the Chambers at 1:00 p.m.

West started by explaining the life expectancy of an emergency vehicle is under 100,000 miles. Deputy Cody Wilson's 2019 Chevy Tahoe has over 100,000 miles on it. West would like to replace to Tahoe with a Dodge Durango. The Durango has a 6-month waiting list where other car dealers are 1-2 years out. The cost is estimated at \$44,714.

West further explained that the equipment is not included in the cost of the vehicle. However, they may be able to reuse the light bar from the 2016 Ford Inceptor. The Durango will need to have a kennel installed for K-9 unit "Rudy."

West stated that that Sheriff's Office would like to retain the Tahoe and utilize it as a back-up vehicle and a vehicle to transport the deceased to a funeral home.

### **Action #4**

#### **Resolution FY23.24 #31**

Commissioner Galt moved to approve the purchase of a new Patrol Vehicle through Billion Dodge-Chrysler Jeep for the estimated cost of \$44,714. Brewer Seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

### **Finance Report – New Funds – ARPA - Dayna Ogle**

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:15p.m.

Ogle started by explaining that the Meagher County allocated \$90,418 of the ARPA/ SLFRF money to Martindale Water and Sewer project in FY 22.23. Because of that allocation the County will use HB Entitlement along with ARPA/SLFRF funds to fill the gaps in the budget.

Ogle asked the Commission to create 2 separate funds. One for the Community Development Block Grant Martinsdale Water and Sewer Project and one for Martinsdale Water and Sewer Project's portion of ARPA/SLFRF funds.

### **Action #5**

#### **Resolution FY23.24 #32**

Galt moved to create fund 2395 CDBG - Martinsdale. Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

### **Action #6**

#### **Resolution FY23.24 #33**

Galt moved to create fund 2992 ARPA – Martinsdale Water and Sewer Project. Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

### **Action #7**

#### **Resolution FY23.24 #34**

Galt moved to approve the transfer of \$90,418 from fund 2991 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund 2992 The ARPA - Martinsdale Water and Sewer Project. Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**Clerk and Recorder – Liv West**

Clerk and Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 1:26 p.m.

West started by discussing the new quote that she received from DIS Technologies for election security cameras at the Courthouse. The quote from DIS is for \$10,806.33 and includes 11 cameras. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant is for \$8645.04 and the County match is \$2,161.26. Commissioner Brewer asked about put the lockable room in West's office. West stated that she had contacted 3 contractors, all said that they would come in to give her an estimate however, only one came in to look at the area and as of yet has not returned with an estimate.

**Action #8**

**Resolution FY23.24 #35**

Galt Moved to approve the purchase of Election Security Cameras from DIS Technologies in the amount of \$10,806.33 with \$2,161.26 County match. Brewer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hurwitz abstained from voting. The motion was passed.

**Designation of Environmental Certifying official: Dayna Ogle**

Finance Officer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:15

Ogle presented The Commissioners with a Resolution for Designating Chairperson, Rod Brewer as the Environmental Certifying Official responsible for all activities associated with the environmental review process to be completed in conjunction with the 2022 CDBG grant awarded to Meagher County – Matinsdale Water & Sewer District, Montana.

**Resolution FY 23.24 #**

**Resolution for Designating the Environmental Certifying Official**

WHEREAS, in 2022, Meagher County applied for federal, state, local and private funding to improve Martinsdale Water & Sewer District's water system.

WHEREAS, all necessary funding has been received to permit the project to go forward; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Certifying Official may be designated by formal resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Rob Brewer is designated as the Environmental Certifying Official to produce an Environmental Review Record;

Meagher County will ensure that it and all of its contractors or agents shall conduct all program matters in a non-discriminatory manner such that all persons regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or other protected class shall be treated equally and further each shall comply with the policies and procedures delineated in the 2023 Meagher County Management Plan, approved by the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above designation shall become effective on September 19, 2023

MEAGHER COUNTY, Montana

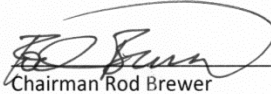


Attest:

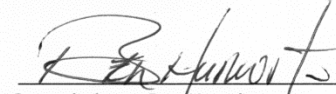


Liv West  
Clerk & Recorder

Board of County Commissioners:



Chairman Rod Brewer



Commissioner Ben Hurwitz



Commissioner Errol Galt

**Public Comment / Claims Approval:**

No Public Comment.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with Claim Check #60714 through Check #60735 totaling \$101,378.98. All Checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

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**CLERK & RECORDER**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**SEAL**

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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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**COMMISSIONER**

Note: Minutes taken by Chief Financial Officer Dayna Ogle/ formatted by Clerk to the Commission Jennifer Deems.  
Distributed August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 to Chairman Brewer, Vice Chair Hurwitz, and Commissioner Galt, and Clerk & Recorder Liv West.