

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Monday

April 6th, 2026

12:47 p.m. – 4:19 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 12:47 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Public Comment:

David Towery and Selena Woody entered the chambers at 12:47 p.m.

David Towery started with introducing himself and Ms. Woody. Towery explained their why him and Ms. Woody joined the Republican Committee. Towery stated that they are hoping to fill all of the voting position involved on the board. Towery, Woody and the Commissioners discussed back and forth about the history of the committee.

ACTION #1

Commissioner Rod Brewer moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 16th. Chairman Hurwitz seconded.

ACTION #2

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 9th. Commissioner Brewer seconded.

Cemetery Report- Kathy Palmer

Cemetery Board President Kathy Palmer entered the chambers at 1:21 p.m.

Cemetery Sexton Randy Harden entered the chambers at 1:21 p.m.

Kathy Palmer starts the conversation with the information that Randy Harden is back to full time as of this week and Randy Porter starts the first of May. Palmer has been in contact with someone to help write grants for the Cemetery. This person and Palmer have applied for Home Depot and T-Mobile grants. In part of the grants, they'd like to create a memorial for a war veteran.

As a part of the memorial for the war veteran, Kathy Palmer stated that the American Legion is helping track more information and potential family members. The Cemetery is hoping to have a nice memorial on the plot for the service of the veteran.

Kathy Palmer stated that the Cemetery has a booth for the health fair. They will have trinkets to hand out.

Palmer, Harden and the Commissioners discussed the new building and tractor that the Cemetery would like to purchase. Harden mentions that the Cemetery should have more water and the Commissioners agreed. Vice-Chairman Galt suggested that Harden start to look for bids to drill a well. There was discussion on location of a future well and the building. Harden states that there might need to be some extra work into deciding on a cite due to encroaching plots and property boundaries.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY 25.26 #61

Vice-Chairman Galt moves to approve the Cemetery Board and Sexton drill a well on Mayn Cemetery property for additional water sources. Chairman Hurwitz seconds and the motion so moves forward with a positive vote.

The Commissioners will talk with the Finance Officer to create an account for "outlay". The Commissioners approve to create a Cemetery Outlay account to help fund the new wanted building. Upon approval from the Finance Officer, there will be a resolution from the Commissioners to create a new fund for "Cemetery Outlay".

Harden stated that the existing property fence is starting to get tattered. They can get by but would like to upgrade it. Harden got a rough quote from Lee Menard and he was estimating \$125,000 for a similar fence to what the school had done last year. The Commissioners suggested that Randy Harden look into hiring someone to maintain the fence for this year.

FY 24.25 Year End Budget Review- Dayna Ogle

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:50 p.m.

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle discusses with the Commissioners the year end budget for Fiscal Year 24.25. Resolutions for the budget will be next week.

FY 25.26 Year End Budget Review- Dayna Ogle

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 1:50 p.m.

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle discuss with Commissioners about the budget for the Fiscal Year 25.26. Resolutions for the budget will be next week.

Call for Bids- Polaris Weed Spraying Ranger

ACTION #4

Resolution FY 25.26 #62

Commissioner Brewer made the motion to approve the bid from Wylie Galt for \$12,000 on the 2021 Polaris Ranger with weed spraying equipment from February 2nd, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion and Vice-Chairman Galt abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

ACTION #5

Resolution FY 25.26 #63

Vice-Chairman Galt made the motion to approve the bid from Douglas Chapman for \$12,500 on the 2022 Polaris Ranger with weed spraying equipment. Commissioner Brewer Seconded the motion.

Sheriff Report- Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 2:44 p.m.

Taten Knapp entered the chambers at 2:44 p.m.

Taten Knapp started the conversation. Knapp is a District Field Officer for Montana Disaster and Emergency Services. Knapp described his role to Meagher County and how they come in and help support offices in time of need during emergency situations. Knapp specifically will come to the County's need during any fire, police, or disastrous situation. Whether working on the line, in the command station or making supply runs, Knapp stated that his job is to help in any way possible. Knapp adds that Montana Disaster and Emergency Services can help with funding in emergency situations as well.

Sheriff Jon Lopp started the report with the monthly complaint report. In the month of March, the Sheriff's Office received two hundred eight (208) incoming calls, twenty-four (24) 9-1-1 calls, and one hundred thirty-eight (138) people coming into the office. In total, four hundred seventy (470) people contacted the Sheriff's Office. There were eight (8) cases in the City were required to be reported to NIBRS and zero (0) in the County. There were twelve (12) tickets issued in the City and twelve (12) in the County.

Sheriff Lopp kept the conversation going with the Commissioners with information regarding Deputy Wilson. Lopp stated that due to family health reasons, Deputy Wilson is considering relocating out of the Meagher County area. The Commissioners and Lopp had discussion regarding the K-9 deputy and if there is a plan to also relocate Rudy. Lopp stated that it is all still in the initial phases and nothing is off the table at this time. Lopp continued with the hope that Rudy will be able to relocate with Deputy Wilson. The Commissioners wish Deputy Wilson and his family a happy and healthy future.

Sheriff Lopp asks the Commissioners for permission to sell the three (3) unused vehicles that are at the Sheriff's Office. Lopp stated that the Office would like to get an updated F-250 to use when the need arises. Lopp stated that he has already spoke with Jake Kusek and he is going to help try to salvage anything out of the pickups to put into the new one. The Commissioners agreed that this would be a great idea.

ACTION #6

Resolution FY 25.26 #64

Chairman Hurwitz moves to approve the Sheriff's Office put three used vehicles out to bid. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Sheriff Lopp stated that he has been in contact with an electrician to update some fixtures and the generator system. Lopp stated that the last few times the power has gone out, they have lost internet and other abilities. Lopp states that currently most of the office's computers are on a battery that keeps them on until the generator system kicks on. Lopp hopes that the electrician can get all of their problems smoothed over and solve some issues.

Sheriff Lopp states that Undersheriff West is working on filling the reserve positions. Lopp states that there are six (6) applicants. Lopp and the Commissioners discuss the requirements to become a reserve. Lopp stated that a reserve does not have to go to academy but does have one hundred twenty (120) hours in the classroom and one hundred twenty (120) hours ride along with deputies as well as spending two weekends at Fort Harrison.

Sheriff Jon Lopp discusses changing fuel card companies with the Commissioners. Lopp states how difficult the current company is to work with. Lopp adds that the cards don't work half of the time anyway. Lopp states that the Coast cards will allow deputies and ambulance drivers to use it more than just fuel. Lopp asks to switch fuel card companies to Coast.

ACTION #7

Resolution FY 25.26 #65

Commissioner Brewer moves to approve the Sheriff's Office and Ambulance switch fuel card companies to Coast. Vice-Chairman Galt seconds the motion. A vote was taken and passed. The issue is hereby resolved.

Sheriff Lopp continued the discussion with the Commissioners about the new system that is in the vehicles, E-Citiations. Lopp stated that deputies don't have to handwrite anything. Lopp added that if a deputy issues a ticket, the ticket gets emailed straight to the judge and there is less hassle for the deputies. It also allows tickets to get paid and completed in a faster time. Lopp stated that the deputies are really enjoying the new system.

Road Department Report- Jake Kusek

Jake Kusek entered the chambers at 3:19 p.m.

Jake Kusek and the Commissioners discuss the different options for bridge decks. Kusek stated that he has been looking into metal decks and the cost difference. The Commissioners and Kusek discuss back and forth on the metal decks versus a wood deck. Kusek states that he discussed with a person from the State that they do the work on the bridge decks the state will reimburse the County entirely up to \$160,000.

Call for Bids- Fort Logan Gravel Crushing

Jake Kusek opens the call for bids. There were four (4) bidders. The Commissioners agreed to accept the bid with the lowest cost to the county.

ACTION #8

Resolution FY 25.26 #66

Commissioner Brewer moved to accept the bid from Faction Contractors for \$8.13 per cubic foot. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Chairman Hurwitz signed the agreement sent with Faction Constructors bid. The issue is hereby resolved.

Black Butte Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan- Nancy Schlepp

Nancy Schlepp entered the chambers at 3:46 p.m.

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 3:48 p.m.

Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 3:55 p.m.

Dayna Ogle starts the conversation with the breakdown of a what it costs for the least senior officer who was hired through Black Butte Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan. Nancy Schlepp brings up the concept of the plan and if money is requested, the mine is obligated to pay. Schlepp states that the money is not a grant but in leu of lower property taxes. Schlepp states that she will have to discuss with Department of Commerce to see if the mine needs to go through a third party like an escrow or if the money can come straight to the County.

Nancy Schlepp stated that she will look up the language statute for the pre-tax payback. There was discussion of what the pre-tax payback looks like for Meagher County and what it looked like for the Stillwater Mine in Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties. Nancy Schlepp will be back April 20th to accept the final request.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63492 through Checks #63515 for the amount of \$18,313.26. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, April 13th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIRMAN

SEAL




COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed April 6th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.