

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

Monday

June 15th, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12:12 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Public Comment:

Laura Taylor presented the Commissioners with information regarding the grant she applied for. Taylor stated that there are many programs like hers starting across the state and she did not receive the full amount she requested. She requested the Commissioners help cover costs in the future. Taylor stated that she will continue to apply for other grants available.

Minute Approval:

Vice-Chairman moved to approve minutes from May 4th and 18th and June 1st and 8th, 2026. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve minutes from May 11th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Galt abstained from voting as he was not present that day.

Grassy Mountain Fire Build RFD Approval- Greg Philpot

Greg Philpot entered the chambers at 9:09 a.m.

Shawn and Becky Debry entered the chambers at 9:11 a.m.

Greg Philpot initiated the conversation with the Commissioners about the 30' x 40' building Grassy Mountain Fire Department would like to construct. He admits that the Department is not ready to ask permission to go to bid yet. The Commissioners make the suggestion to consider a larger building to account for future growth. They suggest the Fire Board observe the fire buildings in Checkerboard, Martinsdale, and Ringling for reference.

Treasurer Report- Dayna Ogle

County Treasurer Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

There is discussion with Dayna Ogle and the Commissioners about the extra room in the Treasurer's Office. The Commissioners and Ogle agreed that the space will be offered to the local Department of Revenue agent.

Library Report- Rachel Wahlstrom

Co-Director Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:38 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:40 a.m.

Rachel Wahlstrom stated that she is excited that the levy passed and the opportunities this presents to the library.

Wahlstrom stated that the Library Board voted to have Tiffany Sweeney fill the vacant board position. The position is on the city side and will go before City Council for final approval.

Rachel stated that there were 90 attendees at summer reading last week. The library is starting an evening family story time for parents that have to work during the day. The telescope will officially launch at the first evening story time.

Fairgrounds Organization- Burt Hurwitz

Rachel Wahlstrom entered the chambers at 9:38 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:40 a.m.

Kevin Angland entered the chambers at 9:51 a.m.

Mike Teter entered the chambers at 9:52 a.m.

Jess Secrest entered the chambers at 9:53 a.m.

Shane Sereday entered the chambers at 9:56 a.m.

Patty Campbell entered the chambers at 9:57 a.m.

Sara Stevenson entered the chambers via zoom at 10:00 a.m.

Clerk & Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 9:59 a.m.

Cassie Coburn entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m.

City Attorney Susan Wordal entered the chambers viz zoom at 10:02 a.m.

Kathy Hochstrat entered the chambers via zoom at 10:04 a.m.

Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with the proposed creation of the Fairgrounds Board Resolution. County Attorney Hurwitz outlined the process and members eligible to be appointed to the board. Hurwitz continued that the intention to create the Fairgrounds Board is to maintain the status of 4-H and rodeo club to operate as normal but have equal representation and responsibility of the Fairgrounds.

ACTION #1

Resolution FY25.26 #92

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the creation of a Fairgrounds Board. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION NO. 92**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA, ESTABLISHING THE MEAGHER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS BOARD, A FIVE-MEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, AND PRESCRIBING ITS MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, POWERS, AND DUTIES.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board of County Commissioners" or "Commission") of Meagher County, Montana (the "County"), has purchased real property (Tract B of Certificate of Survey #112887, comprising 47.489 acres, located in section 18 of Township 9 North, Range 7 East, PMM, Meagher County, Montana) for the establishment of fairgrounds (the "Fairgrounds"); and

WHEREAS, the County desires to provide for the orderly management, operation, improvement, maintenance, and administration of the Fairgrounds for the benefit of the residents of Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs; and

WHEREAS, a board of county commissioners may, by resolution, establish administrative boards, districts, and commissions allowed by law, and a county fair commission is among the administrative boards a county is expressly authorized to create, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §§ 7-1-201 and 7-1-202(3); and

WHEREAS, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201, requires that a resolution creating an administrative board specify the number of members, the terms of the members, whether members are entitled to mileage, per diem, expenses, and salary, and any special qualifications for membership; and

WHEREAS, the former statutory provisions specifically governing county fair commissions (Title 7, chapter 21, part 34,) were repealed by section 39, chapter 286, Laws of 2009, and such boards are now created and governed under the general board provisions of Title 7, chapter 1, part 2; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that creation of a five-member administrative board, with representation from the County, the City of White Sulphur Springs, the 4-H Council, and the Meagher County Rodeo Club, together with the local Montana State University ("MSU") Extension Agent serving as Secretary, will best serve the management and operation of the Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the County does not presently employ a fairgrounds manager, and the Fairgrounds Board is intended to operate the Fairgrounds directly, with the assistance of volunteers, until and unless the Board of County Commissioners determines otherwise; and

WHEREAS, no such board currently exists, and the Board of County Commissioners finds it in the public interest to establish one; and

WHEREAS, the Fairgrounds Board will conduct its affairs consistent with the open meeting and public participation requirements of Title 2, chapter 3, MCA, the Montana Code of Ethics, Title 2, chapter 2, MCA, and Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County, Montana, as follows:

Section 1. Creation and Name.

There is hereby created an administrative board of Meagher County to be known as the **"Meagher County Fairgrounds Board"** (the "Fairgrounds Board" or "Board"). The Board is established as a county fair commission under Mont. Code Ann. §§ 7-1-201 and 7-1-202(3).

Section 2. Statutory Authority.

This resolution is adopted under the authority of Mont. Code Ann. §§ 7-1-201, 7-1-202, and 7-1-203, and the general powers of the County. The Fairgrounds Board is subject to the supervision and control of the Board of County Commissioners as provided by law.

Section 3. Purpose and Duties.

The Fairgrounds Board is charged with the management, operation, improvement, maintenance, and administration of the County Fairgrounds and the real property, buildings, and facilities thereon. In carrying out this purpose, the Board shall:

- (a) manage and oversee the day-to-day operation, use, scheduling, and maintenance of the Fairgrounds and its facilities;
- (b) recommend to the Board of County Commissioners policies, fees, rental rates, capital improvements, and an annual budget for the Fairgrounds;
- (c) establish policy and adopt administrative and procedural rules for the operation of the Fairgrounds, consistent with this resolution and applicable law; and
- (d) exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to it by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution.

Section 4. Composition; Designated Seats.

The Fairgrounds Board consists of five (5) members, an odd number consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(6). The five seats are designated as follows:

- (a) one (1) member who is a representative of Meagher County (the "County Representative");
- (b) one (1) member who is a representative of the City of White Sulphur Springs (the "City Representative");

- (c) one (1) member who is a representative of the 4-H Council (the "4-H Representative");
- (d) one (1) member who is a representative of the Rodeo Club (the "Rodeo Club Representative"); and
- (e) one (1) member who is the local MSU Extension Agent, who serves as an ex officio voting member by virtue of that office and who shall serve as Secretary of the Board, as authorized by section 7-1-201(7), MCA.

The four members described in subsections (a) through (d) are appointed members. The member described in subsection (e) is an ex officio voting member who serves so long as that person holds the office of MSU Extension Agent for the County and is not subject to the staggered terms set forth in Section 6.

Section 5. Appointment; Nominations; Qualifications.

- (a) All members of the Fairgrounds Board are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, as required by Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(5)(a).
- (b) To ensure the designated representation described in Section 4, the City of White Sulphur Springs, the 4-H Council, and the Meagher County Rodeo Club may each submit one or more nominees for their respective seats, and the Board of County Commissioners shall appoint the City, 4-H, and Rodeo Club Representatives from among the nominees so submitted. The County Representative is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, each appointed member must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Meagher County, consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(12). Each designated representative should be a member of, or affiliated with, the organization the member represents.
- (d) The ex officio member serves by virtue of holding the office of MSU Extension Agent and is not required to be separately appointed or to meet the residency requirement of subsection (c).

Section 6. Terms; Staggering.

- (a) Except for the ex officio member, the term of office for each appointed member is two (2) years.
- (b) To establish staggered terms, the initial term of the County Representative and the City Representative is one (1) year, and the initial term of the 4-H Representative and the Rodeo Club Representative is two (2) years. Thereafter, the term for each of these four seats is two (2) years.
- (c) Initial terms commence on the effective date of their appointments. Thereafter, terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30, consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(5)(c); each initial term expires on June 30 of the year in which it concludes.

- (d) Each appointed member serves until a successor is appointed and qualified. Members are eligible for reappointment.
- (e) The ex officio member serves continuously for so long as that person holds the office of MSU Extension Agent for the County.

Section 7. Oath of Office.

Before assuming the duties of office, each appointed member shall take and file the oath of office required of public officers under Article III, Section 3 of the Montana Constitution and applicable law.

Section 8. Officers; Secretary.

At its first meeting and annually thereafter, the Fairgrounds Board shall elect from among its members a presiding officer (Chair) and a Vice Chair. If the Chair vacates office before the end of the term, the Vice Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair for the unexpired term, and the Board shall elect a new Vice Chair at its next regular meeting. The MSU Extension Agent shall serve as Secretary of the Board. The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, is responsible for preparing and keeping the written minutes and records of the Board as required by Section 14 of this resolution and Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(10).

Section 9. Vacancies.

A vacancy in an appointed seat occurring during a term must be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of County Commissioners, in the same manner as the original appointment (including, for the City, 4-H, and Rodeo Club seats, appointment from nominees submitted under Section 5(b)), as provided in Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(5)(a), MCA. A member appointed to fill a vacancy holds office until a successor is appointed and qualified. The ex officio seat is filled automatically by the person who succeeds to the office of MSU Extension Agent.

Section 10. Removal; Attendance.

- (a) An appointed member may be removed for cause by the Board of County Commissioners, as provided in Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(13).
- (b) Regular attendance is a duty of membership. If an appointed member has three (3) consecutive or five (5) non-consecutive absences from regularly scheduled meetings within a twelve-month period, the Board may report the absences to the Board of County Commissioners and request that the member be replaced. A member who is unable to attend should notify the Secretary in advance when possible.

Section 11. Compensation and Expenses.

Members of the Fairgrounds Board serve without salary or per diem. Members may be reimbursed for mileage and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, at the rates and under the policies adopted by the County.

Section 12. Powers; Operations; Staffing.

- (a) Consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(2), the Fairgrounds Board is granted all powers necessary and proper to the establishment, operation, improvement, maintenance, and administration of the Fairgrounds, including the authority to administer programs, establish policy, and adopt administrative and procedural rules.
- (b) The County does not employ a fairgrounds manager. The Fairgrounds Board, through its members, officers, and volunteers, is responsible for the direct operation of the Fairgrounds. The Board may recruit and coordinate volunteers and may establish subcommittees to carry out its work.
- (c) The Fairgrounds Board may not employ paid personnel unless and until the Board of County Commissioners expressly authorizes such employment by resolution and provides funding for it, consistent with Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(2)(d).
- (d) The Board may not pledge the credit of the County or impose a tax and may not sue or be sued independently of the County.

Section 13. Funds; Fiscal Authority.

- (a) All revenue derived from the operation of the Fairgrounds, rentals, deposits, and similar receipts, shall be deposited with the Meagher County Treasurer and accounted for as directed by the Board of County Commissioners and applicable law.
- (b) The Fairgrounds Board may recommend, and the Board of County Commissioners may set by policy: fees, rental rates, and deposits for the use of the Fairgrounds and its facilities. The Board may collect such fees as directed by the County.
- (c) Expenditures by the Fairgrounds Board are limited to funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Board of County Commissioners. Any single expenditure or contract in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) requires the prior approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The Board is accountable to the Board of County Commissioners for the budgeting and accounting of all funds under its administration.
- (d) The Fairgrounds Board shall prepare and submit a proposed annual budget to the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with the County budget process.

Section 14. Facility Use; Events; Licensing; Insurance.

- (a) The Fairgrounds Board shall develop, for approval by the Board of County Commissioners, policies governing the use, rental, and scheduling of the Fairgrounds, including any rules for events held on the grounds.
- (b) Any sale or service of alcoholic beverages, any concession operation, and any gaming or gambling activity at the Fairgrounds must comply with applicable state licensing and permitting requirements and any conditions imposed by the Board of County Commissioners.

- (c) Events and uses of the Fairgrounds are subject to such insurance, indemnification, and risk-management requirements as the County may require.

Section 15. Conflict of Interest; Ethics.

Members of the Fairgrounds Board are subject to the Montana Code of Ethics, Title 2, chapter 2. A member shall disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest and shall abstain from participating in or voting on any matter in which the member has a conflict. A member who is uncertain whether a conflict exists may request guidance from the County Attorney through the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 16. Quorum; Voting; Meetings; Minutes.

- (a) A majority of the members constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising the Board's powers and responsibilities. Action may be taken by a majority vote of the members present and voting.
- (b) The Fairgrounds Board shall provide by rule for the date, time, and place of regularly scheduled meetings and shall file that information with the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(11). Members may participate in meetings by telephone or video conference as permitted by law.
- (c) All meetings of the Fairgrounds Board are open to the public and subject to the open meeting and public participation requirements of Title 2, chapter 3, and Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution. The Board shall provide an opportunity for public comment as required by Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-103. A meeting may be closed only to the extent permitted by Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-203.
- (d) The Fairgrounds Board shall keep written minutes, including the final vote on all actions and the vote of each member, as required by Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(10). Records of the Board are subject to applicable public records law.

Section 17. Register of Appointments.

The Board of County Commissioners shall maintain a register of appointments to the Fairgrounds Board, including the name of the Board, the date of appointment and confirmation, the length of term, the name and term of the presiding officer and other officers, and the date, time, and place of regularly scheduled meetings, as required by Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-201(5)(b).

Section 18. Annual Report.

The Fairgrounds Board shall provide the Board of County Commissioners with an annual report summarizing its activities, the condition and use of the Fairgrounds, and its financial position and shall report to the Board of County Commissioners at other times as requested.

Section 19. Bylaws.

The Fairgrounds Board shall adopt bylaws and rules of procedure, consistent with this resolution and applicable law, subject to review and approval by the Board of County Commissioners. The bylaws should address, at a minimum:

- (a) the specific duties of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary;
- (b) the procedure and notice required to call and hold special meetings;
- (c) the rules of order governing meetings (for example, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order);
- (d) a standing order of business that includes an opportunity for public comment;
- (e) the creation and operation of subcommittees, which may include event or activity superintendents (for example, 4-H, FFA, or rodeo); and
- (f) rules concerning ex-parte communications and the disclosure of conflicts of interest.

Section 20. Amendment.

This resolution may be amended or repealed by the Board of County Commissioners by subsequent resolution. The Fairgrounds Board may recommend amendments to the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 21. Severability.

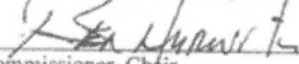
If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 22. Effective Date.

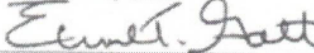
This resolution is effective upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners on the date set forth below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Meagher County, Montana, this 15th day of June, 2026, by unanimous vote:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER
MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**



Commissioner, Chair

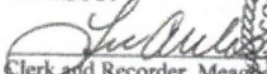


Commissioner



Commissioner

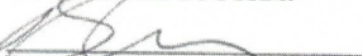
ATTEST:



Clerk and Recorder, Meagher County



APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Attorney, Meagher County

County Hurwitz presented the Commissioners with a Memorandum of Understanding between Meagher County and Maverick 4-H Council. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to establish terms for the 4-H buildings reconstruction at the new fairgrounds.

ACTION #2

Commissioner Brewer moves to table the discussion of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Meagher County 4-H. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion.

Fairgrounds Master Plan Task Order Approval- Kevin Angland

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:40 a.m.

Kevin Angland entered the chambers at 9:51 a.m.

Kevin Angland presented the Commissioners with a proposed Master Plan Task Order. The Commissioners agreed to amend proposed task order to condensed cost \$27,000. Kevin stated that he will come back with a new scope of work for the task order. He also stated that he will be looking at grants and other avenues to cover the task order. The Commissioners agreed to wait to make a resolution until more information is presented.

Primary Election Canvas- Liv West

Liv West entered the chambers at 9:59 a.m.

Brandi Dreidlein entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Liv, Brandi and the Commissioners canvassed through the election results to confirm race winners.

Appoint a Commissioner to Transportation Board- Liv West

Liv West entered the chambers at 9:59 a.m.

ACTION #4

Resolution FY25.26 #93

Vice-Chairman Galt moved to appoint Commissioner Brewer to the Transportation Board. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion.

Beckermann/Tripp Final Subdivision Plat Approval- Kristie Heinemann and Kevin Angland

Kevin Angland entered the chambers at 9:40 a.m.

Kristie Heinemann entered chambers at 11:24 a.m.

Kevin Angland presented the Commissioners the staff report for the Final Plat of the Beckermann/Tripp Minor Subdivision.

ACTION #3

Resolution FY25.26 #94

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the Beckermann/Tripp Final Subdivision Plat Approval. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion.

Cemetery Outlay Approval

ACTION #4

Resolution FY25.26 #95

Commissioner Brewer moved to create (4240) Cemetery Outlay fund. Vice-Chairman Galt seconded the motion.

Grant Approvals for Sheriff's Office- Jon Lopp

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 11:47 a.m.

Jon Lopp presented the Commissioners with an agreement between the County and the Forest Service. There was an antenna placed on the Sheriff's Building. The agreement is for the Forest Service to use the antenna when in the area.

Republic Services- Ryan Coffman

Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 11:58 a.m.

Scott Frasier entered the chambers at 11:59 a.m.

Ryan Coffman entered the chambers via zoom at 12:04 a.m.

Ryan Coffman stated that he has gathered a few contractors to look at the transfer station building and give estimates on the repairs.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63687 through Checks #63737 for the amount of \$98,992.84. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

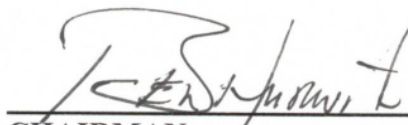
Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Monday, July 6th, 2026.


CLERK & RECORDER




CHAIRMAN


VICE CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

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