

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

Monday

March 16th, 2026

12:58 p.m. – 3:27 p.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Ben Hurwitz and Commissioner Brewer were present for the meeting.

ACTION #1

Commissioner Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes from March 9th, 2026. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion and the minutes will be recorded.

Public Comment:

There is no public comment.

County Attorney Report- Burt Hurwitz

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 12:58 p.m.

Commissioner Brewer questioned County Attorney Hurwitz about how the investigation and charges were going with previous employee. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that he is got the investigation is in good progress. He has many cases in progress including some federal cases with felony charges before this case. Hurwitz explains the process of jurisdiction and how these cases fall onto him. He is very grateful to Laura Taylor's help in many of these criminal cases with her work in the victim advocacy area.

County Attorney Hurwitz states that Judge Larsen will be here every second Monday of each month. They make for longer days but the court is able to be more efficient. County Attorney Hurwitz discusses the hardships with other agencies and how his work can get delayed. With the Judge on a timely schedule, they hope to swiftly move through cases going forward.

County Attorney Hurwitz discusses the Martinsdale Water and Sewage Board. He updates the Commissioners that Phase II is a 1.05-million-dollar project. Phase II of the project is to solve the dead-end issues by making "loops" in the water system. The grants the board has received equal \$800,000. Currently, the Martinsdale Water and Sewage Board has a survey out to find the remainder amount to complete the project. The board will be applying for the CDBG grant eventually, just not at this time. County Attorney Hurwitz stated that the Department of Commerce has specifics that the Martinsdale Water and Sewage Board cannot produce at this time.

County Attorney Hurwitz added that the Consolidated Planning Board Growth Policy is five years old. Great West Engineering planner Kevin Angland suggested the board review the policy and update it. The planning board will go through the policy and will bring the necessary changes to the Commissioners.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz made discussion on his replacement. Hurwitz will present a letter of resignation at a later date. County Attorney Hurwitz sought approval to put an ad in Montana

Bar Lawyer magazine to look for his replacement. His goal is to have a candidate selected by August for election purposes and to begin the new transition.

Health Nurse Report- Eva Kerr

County Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 1:41 p.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 12:58 p.m.

Eva Kerr passed out an informational sheet to the Commissioners about vacation rentals including Airbnb and VRBO rentals in the county. There is a law that owners now have to have a sanitation license to continue business. Kerr has been suggesting property owners talk to Southwest Montana Consulting to get the approved licenses.

Kerr continues on her report from the month of February. Kerr states that her and Kim Frisbie have been running rampant with respite care with other workers being sick and injured. Kerr asked the Commissioners if she could advertise for more help with respite patients. The Commissioners obliged and Kerr will begin advertising for more respite nurses. County Health Nurse Eva Kerr gave a light notice for her potential leaving the health officer position, especially after County Attorney Hurwitz finishes his term. County Attorney Hurwitz adds how difficult Kerr's job is. Kerr has no power in enforcement, yet is still responsible for the health and wellbeing of Meagher County residents.

The Commissioners authorized Eva Kerr to get a credit card for ease with transactions. The Finance Department will work on getting that for Kerr.

Sun Mountain Lumber Update- Quintin Woirhaye

Quintin Woirhaye entered the chambers at 1:44 p.m.

Chairman Hurwitz introduced Quintin Woirhaye and explained why he was here. Woirhaye explained his history in the timber industry and expertise. Sun Mountain Lumber mill has had several issues with debts to banks and loggers. They have had several years of hardships with purchases, market price drops, employment issues, etc. Quintin Woirhaye discussed the timbers currently at the mill, they have enough wood until April. As long as the weather cooperates, they will be able to get more timber and keep working. Woirhaye hopes that he can keep the mill running for not only his employees but also the local loggers.

Woirhaye discusses that Sun Mountain Lumber and Forest Service bought timber contracts near West Yellowstone that got revoked. Sun Mountain and the Forest Service are appealing the case and going to court. Woirhaye discussed that the AFRC is helping with the appeal. Chairman Hurwitz offered to also help give a push to get their case moving forward. The Commissioners stated that they are willing to advocate for Sun Mountain Lumber, Quintin Woirhaye, and the local men and women working in the timber industry.

Quintin Woirhaye stated he gets more timber from Meagher County than anywhere else. Woirhaye is working very hard to keep the mill open. The commissioners wished luck to Woirhaye and Sun Mountain Lumber for more success in the upcoming months and years.

Road Plowing Discussion- Steve Kloppel

Steve Kloppel entered the chambers at 2:27 p.m.

Pat Bentz entered the chambers at 2:27 p.m.

Steve and Pat have property passed Castle Town and looking to get the road plowed. Chairman Hurwitz ultimately said that the County cannot afford to plow the road past what it does currently. The Commissioners added that there could be a possibility in the future. Kloppel and the Commissioners discussed more on the lack of amenities near Castle Town.

Weed Department Insurance Update- Lee Zehntner

County Weed Department Head Lee Zehntner entered the chamber at 2:43 p.m.

The Commissioners started their conversation with the Weed Department's Insurance updated with the proper vehicles and buildings. Lee Zehntner has a weed spraying ranger that will be going to call for bids. The call for bids will be sent to Meagher County News and opened at the next Commissioner Meeting on April 6th, 2026.

Extension Report- Madi Lindsey

Meagher County Extension Agent Madi Lindsey entered the chambers at 2:52 p.m.

Extension Agent Madi Lindsey updated the Commissioners on the events and training she has been attending. Lindsey just attended the 4-H and Youth Development Extension update where she gained knowledge and was able to connect with other agents across the state. Lindsey also attended the Pesticide Initial Core Training and tested positively on the Core Test that allows her to obtain the government pesticide license. Extension Agent Lindsey has all sorts of events and leadership coming up including Leadership 47, Rec Lab for the 4-H kids, and several other 4-H events. Lindsey states that she will be out of office for a considerable about of time in April and May but is easily accessible by phone or email.

Building Report- Scott Frasier

Building Maintenance Scott Frasier entered the chambers 3:05 p.m.

Building Maintenance Scott Frasier has been updating some electrical fixtures throughout the building. Frasier found out that the breaker panel is mislabeled. Frasier states has been working on getting the maintenance room stocked with tools and such. Frasier has been updating certain signs in the courthouse to ensure safety and healthy practices. Frasier is still working to get his required boiler training and hours.

Frasier updated the Commissioners on the safety training the courthouse had. Frasier would like to continue researching and buy new safety ladders. The Commissioners agreed and Frasier will come back to report what he found.

The Commissioners would like Frasier to look into selling the unused A/C units to help recover the purchase costs.

Frasier added that his new hire Candice Chandler is working well despite the many challenges she faces.

Frasier stated that he has ended his six-month probation. The Commissioners added a one dollar raise for Scott Frasier.

ACTION #2

Resolution FY 25.26 # 59

Commissioner Brewer made the motion to add a \$1 raise to Scott Frasier's pay for successfully completing six-month employment probation. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion.

ACTION #3

Finance Officer Briana Frasier presented the Commissioners with a letter from Sheriff Jon Lopp that asked to raise the pay for Jodi Zehntner beginning March 1st, 2026. Zehntner accepted the Dispatch Supervisor position and significantly increased her duties and responsibilities.

Resolution FY 25.26 # 60

Commissioner Brewer made the motion to increase Jodi Zehntner's pay \$2.00 an hour from \$27.61 per hour to \$29.61 per hour for accepting the Dispatch Supervisor. Chairman Hurwitz seconded the motion.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #63442 through Checks #63462 for the amount of \$18,313.26. All Checks were signed as presented.

Meeting Adjourned:

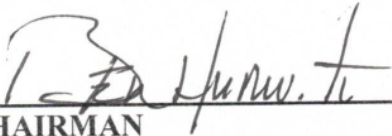
Meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Next Meeting:

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



CLERK & RECORDER



CHAIRMAN



VICE CHAIRMAN



COMMISSIONER

SEAL



Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Taylor Johnson.
Distributed March 16th, 2026 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.