

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

Tuesday

September 16th, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 10:49 a.m.

Commissioner Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

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

ACTION #1

Vice Chairman Galt moved to approve the minutes from September 9th, 2025. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Catalyst for Change- Christy May

Christy May, Kori Martinson, and Amber Martinsen entered the chambers at 9:02 a.m.

Martinsen clarified that Meagher County was not selected for the original grant because the grant was awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. However, they have since secured a different grant with a similar focus. While this new grant differs from the grant the County initially applied for, it still offers support for our goals. If the Commissioners remain interested, it would enable them to provide a community health care worker to serve White Sulphur on an as-needed basis. Unlike the original, larger grant—which would have funded a full-time position—this new opportunity is more limited in scope. The County had originally applied for a 2-year \$250,000 grant which would have covered a full-time person. This new grant is significantly lower.

Martinsen stated that they collect data and statistics to demonstrate progress and effectiveness. Under the current arrangement, they would offer interim services—providing a part-time or as-needed CHW. If the Commissioners are interested in a long-term solution, they would need to budget for a contract with Catalyst, estimated at a rough estimate of \$90,000 per year. This would cover all necessary services and support.

Martinsen shared that, for the first time, the counties they serve are outperforming state averages in key statistics. For example, in Sweetgrass County, 19% of youth had previously reported suicide attempts. That number has been reduced to 8% with Catalysts' help and has remained steady. In contrast, statewide statistics have worsened—from 8% in 2018 to 15% currently. Notably, in areas where Catalyst for Change has been active, such as Sweetgrass County, the rates have not increased, highlighting the program's positive impact.

The Commissioners agreed more discussions with the school and county attorney are needed. Discussions are set to continue October 7th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

County Attorney Report-Burt Hurwitz

Crime Victim Advocate Laura Taylor entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

County Attorney Burt Hurwitz entered the chambers at 9:36 a.m.

Taylor distributed the annual Client Services Report and provided the Commissioners with updates on upcoming trial dates. She discussed the department's progress in handling new assault cases, including those involving children—both as victims and as offenders. Additionally, Taylor noted that several DUI cases had arisen from the Red Ants Pants Festival.

On September 25th, Taylor will meet with the Montana Board of Crime Control as they conduct an audit of her Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. The audit will include a review of financial records, the services she has provided, and the cases she has managed.

Hurwitz emphasized that mental health challenges are a significant concern within the county. He stressed the need for increased support and resources to address these issues effectively.

Hurwitz and the Commissioners discussed upcoming cases and trials. They also reviewed the Meagher County Funds Investment Policy Statement. Hurwitz indicated that he would conduct further research on the policy.

Hurwitz notified the Commissioners that a Fire Reorganization meeting is scheduled for October 14th.

Final Housing Plan-Great West Engineering and CDBG Housing Grant

County Clerk and Recorder Liv West entered the chambers at 9:51 a.m.

Meagher County Stewardship Council Cassie Coburn entered the chambers at 9:51 a.m.

Great West Engineering Kevin Angland entered the chambers VIA ZOOM at 10:10 a.m.

Coburn presented the Commissioners with a conceptual layout for the housing master plan. The next step in this initiative is to proceed with a Phase II Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to further develop the project. Coburn, Hurwitz, and the Commissioners discussed the proposed layout in detail.

Hurwitz emphasized the importance of securing the grant and engaging Great West Engineering to complete the necessary work. This would provide developers with a strong foundation to begin planning workforce housing for the county. He noted that any preparatory work completed in advance increases the likelihood of attracting investment by offering greater certainty regarding project viability.

Coburn added that there are currently at least three interested parties. In response, the hospital board has formed a dedicated housing committee to engage with these individuals. The committee will evaluate their proposals and determine whether to present them to the full board for consideration.

Coburn informed the Commissioners of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Montana Department of Commerce in the amount of \$50,000 to support this initiative. The grant has a maximum award of \$50,000 and requires a 25% local match, which amounts to \$12,500. Coburn is currently coordinating with Nancy Schlepp, the hospital board, and potentially the city to secure the matching funds. All materials, including letters of commitment for the match, must be submitted by the application deadline of October 14, 2025. Discussions will continue on October 7th, 2025.

Treasurer Report-Dayna Ogle

Dayna Ogle entered the chambers at 10:47 a.m.

Ogle stated she would like to appoint Eve Lomax as Deputy Treasurer. The Commissioners agreed this would be a good idea.

Public Comment:

Trent Townsend and Tyler Myrstol met with Commissioners to discuss gaining support of rescinding the 2001 Roadless Area of Conservation Rule. The US Department of Agriculture welcomes written comments beginning Aug. 29, 2025, on alternatives or effects and on relevant information, studies, or analyses with respect to the proposal. Townsend and Myrstol are planning on drafting a letter that they would like the Commissioners to sign. Written comments must be received to the USDA no later than Sept. 19, 2025.

Claims Approved:

Commissioners were presented with Checks #62856 through Check #62872 for the amount of \$14,515.76.

They were presented with Electronic Checks #-99470 through Check #-99461 for the amount of \$2,156.87.

The total amount for Claim Checks: \$16,672.63. All Checks were signed as presented.

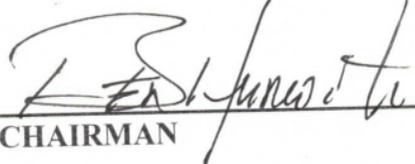
Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.

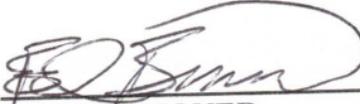

CLERK & RECORDER


CHAIRMAN

SEAL




VICE-CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER

Note: Minutes taken by Clerk to the Commission Briana Frasier.
Distributed October 7th, 2025 to Chairman Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman Galt, Commissioner Brewer, and Clerk & Recorder Liv A. West.