

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17th, 2026

10:03 AM - Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners, Ruth Baue and Ruth Baker; Marlo Mochr was absent. Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears; Treasure County Road Department Supervisor, Robin Rich; Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz; Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton; Treasure County Conservation & Treasure County Public Health Department, Deb French; Treasure County Volunteer Fire Department, Bill Hutchison; Treasure County Maintenance Department, Sean Sears; and Guest(s), Scott Upchurch.

10:10 AM - Minutes Approval, Claims & Payroll

- o Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting for February 20th, 2026 and the meeting minutes from March 3rd, 2026 were presented. March 11th, 2026 Special meeting minutes will be presented at the April 7th, 2026 meeting.
 - ****MOTION****- Baker moved to accept the minutes for February 20th, 2026, Baue 2nd Motion Carries.
 - ****MOTION****- Baue moved to accept the minutes for March 3rd, 2026, Baker 2nd Motion Carries.
- o **Claims:** Claims for March 17th, 2026 were presented for payment in the amount of: \$29,742.33 for check numbers 32770 through 32799.
- o **Payroll:** Payroll will be listed on the first April meeting minutes.
- o ***All Other Claims were approved & paid.**

10:30 AM - Treasure County Road Department Discussion, Robin Rich

- o Sand Room
 - Memo was given to all department heads with possible items in the sand room.
 - There was an April 30th, 2026 deadline given. See Attached
- o Road Maintenance
 - Discussion of Sumatra Road
 - Discussion of gravel pits and gravel pit use. Mentions of both DeCock's and Icopini's gravel pits.

10:50 AM - Treasure County Department Heads:

- o Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears
 - Moving Regular Scheduled Commissioner Meetings
 - Clerk Sears has a scheduled Irrigation District Election and is requesting the commissioner meeting be moved to Thursday, May 7th, 2026 at 10 AM
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to change the meeting day for the first meeting in May to May 7th, 2026, Baue 2nd, motion carries.
 - Clerk Sears has the scheduled Primary Election on June 2nd, 2026 until 8 pm and is requesting the commissioner meeting be moved to the following Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 @ 10:00 AM, in hopes that the County Canvass and regular commissioner meeting can be combined.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to change the meeting day for the first meeting in June to June 9th, 2026 @ 10:00 AM, Baue 2nd, motion carries.

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- **Compensation Board Preparation**
 - Discussion regarding what should be prepped for the compensation board. It was consensus to continue figuring based off of percentage.
- **Resolution 2026-019 - Resolution to Amend the budget for the Local Government Review Fund**
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve Resolution 2026-019, Baker 2nd, motion carries.
- **Treasure County DES/ Fire Update**
 - Nicole was not present due to a training she had to attend. She sent an email to Clerk Sears for Update
 - See Attached
 - The Fire Department voted for Travis Gamble to be Fire Warden for this year and will need his appointment confirmed. Bill Hutchison is remaining the chief.
 - DNRC Fire Assistance Program 50/50 Grant, that Nicole applied for was awarded for \$5,000.00. There must be an expense of \$10,000.00 and the Fire department would get reimbursed for \$5,000.00.
 - Nicole is hoping to purchase five new radios, one chainsaw, and ten booster antennas.
 - Discussion of where the \$10,000.00 will be expended from.
 - Roster Update - Nicole reached out to everyone on the current roster to confirm if they would like to continue to participate as a member of the department, there was a reduction from 30 to 22 in members. Therefore, Nicole will give Clerk Sears an updates list and we should see a reduction in the workman's comp for the county.

11:00 AM - Public Comment - No Public Comment

11:15 AM - Treasure County Conference Call, Stahly Engineering, Adam Hagel

- **Updates**
 - **Quick Fix Monies**
 - Discussion regarding what quick fix monies can be used on. It CAN NOT be used on bridges under 20ft long, because they would not then be inspected.
 - **Discussion of MCEP Grant Denial**
 - The grant was denied due to an error made buy Stahly Engineering. The breakdown of the hours worked on the project was not submitted with the packet.
 - The plan is to resubmit in the next cycle and it would have the hourly breakdown.
 - **Discussion of Congressional Letter of Spending**
 - **Discussion of MDT project bridge in Treasure County**
 - Adam was inquiring if the board had heard from or had any update on the Montana Department of Transportation Bridge, River Road, as of today. The board informed him there was no update other than someone was seen there possibly sampling the soil.
- **Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears**
 - **Resolution 2026-017 - Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Election Judges**
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve Resolution 2026-017, Baker 2nd motion carries.
 -

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11:31 AM – Treasure County Department Heads

- Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz
 - Land Sale Resolution
 - Resolution 2026-020 – Resolution to designate signing authority for closing paperwork on the Treasure County Land Sale
 - ****MOTION**** - Bauc moved approve Resolution 2026-020, Baker 2nd, motion carries.
 - Reminder for Joint Town Meeting
 - Reminder for the Town/ County Joint Meeting on March 26th, 2026 at 5:30PM, with the Study Commission Meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.
 - Joint Town/ County Meeting
 - Reminder that there is a joint town meeting with the Town of Hysham and Treasure County on March 26 @ 5:30 PM.

11:45 AM – Treasure County Public Health, Deb French

- Maternal Child Health Grant
 - Discussion of the Anti-Bully Project that Laini McNaney is heading up.
 - Jane Lamb created the T-Shirts, Deb would like to compensate her for those for \$2-\$3 per shirt.
- Maintenance Work
 - Deb needs some TVs mounted in the LEPC room and another unidentified location. Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays work best but can make arrangements with Sean if needed for another day.
- Credit Card update
 - Clerk Sears is working on the application and was waiting on a couple confirmations with employee change overs, before submitting. Its in the works.
- Avale System Discussion
 - Discussion of what the system is and what it is capable of. It is a self reporting system, or peer reporting system that will assist those that are needing help in regards to self harm. This is a system that is for both adults and students. It can be placed within the school system.
- Discussion of Retention bonus for Jane Lamb.

12:01 PM – Recess for Lunch

1:16 PM –Reconvene after Lunch

- Treasure County Department Heads,
 - Treasure County Sheriff's Department
 - Possible Appointment for Interim Sheriff, County Attorney Schantz
 - Scott Upchurch(who was present for the discussion) is the only interested party that turned a resume and application in for interim Sheriff/Coroner. Upchurch currently works for Rosebud County and has also met requirements, for Commissioner of Political Practices to be on the ballot and has filed to run for Sheriff/Coroner in the upcoming Primary Election in June.
 - The board of commissioners asked Upchurch if he would be available to start as of April 1st, 2026. Upchurch indicated that Rosebud County was aware of the possible appointment and can start April 1st, 2026.

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- **MOTION** - Baker moved to appoint Scott Upchurch as Interim-Sheriff/Coroner, effective April 1st, 2026, Baue 2nd, motion carries.
- **Treasure County Fire Department**
 - **Circling back to the appointment of Fire Warden.**
 - **MOTION** - Baker moved to appoint Travis Gamble as Fire Warden, Baue 2nd, motion carries.
- **Treasure County Maintenance, Sean Sears**
 - **Community Center -**
 - Changing table in the bathroom
 - **Mainstreet Firehall**
 - Needs to get in touch with the Fire Man Company for fire extinguishers in the Mainstreet Firehall
 - Discussion of decals and replacing them on the doors.
 - **Courthouse**
 - Discussion of door replacement and up grades suggested from the court administration costs. Commissioner Baue mentioned this could possibly be expended with Opioid monies.
 - **Contract**
 - Sean asked the board of commissioners for contract renewal as it was up for renewal a while back.
 - **MOTION** - Baue moved to have Sean's Maintenance contract looked over and have Hanna prep it for the next meeting, Baker 2nd, motion carries.

1:45 PM – Conference call with Nancy Everson, MACO regarding placement of the county land sale funds discussion

- Nancy had initial questions for the Board as to what the intention for the funds to go towards. Did they want to set it aside and retain interest or designate it to specific funds with restrictions
 - The board consensus was to receipt it into a Montana Board of Investments STIP account and receipt in interest to aide with the regular working budget. To not spend the principle but be allowed the flexibility to spend if a project comes about.
 - With that being said Nancy recommended placing it into a special revenue fund.
 - Treasurer Julie Pinkerton was also present, she would need in a resolution to include where the interest monies earned would be receipted with the creation and designation of the fund.
 - Accounts Payable Lindsey Kimball was also present and questioned the set of the expenditure lines. Nancy's recommendation was to set up the expenditure lines as needed.
 - Consensus regarding the interest earned was to do one transfer a year to aide in the General fund with the increased expenses of the main street firehall facility.
 - The initial deposit could be receipted in as miscellaneous revenues.
 - This would not push the county into the federal audit as that pertains to strictly federal monies receipted into the county.

1:57 PM – Hysham Volunteer Fire Chief, Bill Hutchison

- Combined Title of Fire Chief & Warden

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- Discussion of the split of the combined title in the latest fire meeting. Fire Department elected Travis Gamble as Fire Warden and Bill as Chief. Last year the title was combined for one position. This year the department voted to separate back to two separate positions.
- Discussion of removal of items from the sand room.
- Firetrucks will remain out of the main street firehall building until after Fridays event.
- Discussion of re-negotiating contract with the Town/ County Local agreement including services provided by the fire department.
- Inquiry on the 1978 Chevy Structure rig, owned by the town.
- Discussion of the stencils/ decals to put on the roll up firehall doors. Bill said he would get the stencils for Sean to redo them on the doors of the firehalls.

2:00 PM - Commissioners

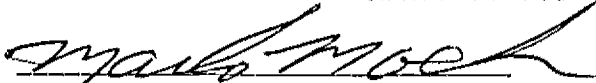
o Discussions


- Teams Meetings Discussions
- Mainstreet Event Center Use Request
- Meetings to Report -
 - Ruth Baker -
 - 911 Meeting
 - Baker discussed with upcoming interim Sheriff Upchurch about being on the 911 board. Upchurch said he was planning on talking to Keith Raymond once the appointment was made final to be on the board.
 - Weed Board Meeting
 - Ruth Baue -
 - Coal Board Zoom Meeting
 - Study Commission Meeting
 - Marlo Moehr - No Meetings
- Next Meeting Agenda Items/ Reminders:
 - Joint Town/ County Meeting on March 26th at 5:30 PM

2:24 PM - Adjournment, being no further business to come before the Board, Ruth Baue moved for adjournment, Ruth Baker 2nd the motion, motion carries.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Marlo Moehr, Chair


ATTEST:

Marlee Sears, Clerk & Recorder

BY: _____
Dani Erickson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder