

ORIGINAL

August 1st, 2025

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 1st, 2025

10:09AM -Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners, Ruth Baue, Ruth Baker, and Marlo Mochr Chairman. Treasure County Deputy Clerk & Recorder, Dani Erickson, Treasure County Road Department, Robin Rich; Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz, Treasure County DES Coordinator, Nicole Stephenson, Treasure County Justice of the Peace, Erin Fink, Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton, Treasure County Sheriff, Will Seastrom, Treasure County Volunteer Fire Department, Bill Hutchison, And Guest; Ron Kolb

10:10 AM - Minutes Approval, Claims & Payroll

- Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting for July 15th, 2025.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to Approve the minutes for July 15th, 2025, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **Claims:** Claims for July 31st, 2025 were presented for payment in the amount of \$39,707.25 for check number 32368 through 32392.
 - **Claim # 32360** - was held last meeting to check on DIS Licensing and was determined to be valid and signed.
 - **Claim # 32377** - to Local Government Services is held this meeting to address late fees the Commission feels are applied in error.
 - **Museum Claims Discussion** - A break down is provided by the 89'ers Museum, Commissioners review and approve the document, to accompany Claim #32389
- **Payroll:** Payroll for July was approved in the amount of \$100,146.54 for deduction check numbers 23492-23498 and employee check numbers 23476-23491.
- ***All Other Claims were approved & paid.**

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

- **Updates/Discussion**
 - Rich presents a bid for a new cutting edge and parts to the Road Grader Blade, totaling; \$4,783.40
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve the purchase for the cutting edge and parts for the grader totaling \$4,783.40, Baue 2nd motion carries.
 - Continued discussion that The Pinkerton Cattleguards need to be done. Pinkertons will be putting their cows in soon.
 - Discussion from the Commission to Road Dept on getting the Cut Across Roads holes and road repaired.
- **River Road Bridge;** a document was presented from MDOT stating it was a high priority bridge and they had started the planning process for replacement. MDOT has full financial responsibility for the bridge replacement.
- **Range Telephone Easement** is presented; it is reviewed and discussed; it is for Range Telephone to install a Fiber Optic Line along the County Road near the Airport.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve the Easement for Range Telephone near the Airport, Baue 2nd motion carries. The Easement Agreement is signed by Chairman Mochr and Notarized.

10:55 AM - Public Comment -Mr. Ron Kolb is present to make a request; In reference to the River Road Bridge job being complete, Mr. Kolb asks the Commission if he could reclaim the old cement that will be removed on River Road Bridge when that project commences. Commissioners

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tell him they are in support of him having the scrap cement and they direct him to speak with the contractor when it will be removed. Mr. Kolb asks if the rail will be replaced on the Kolb bridge and if the pot holes will be fixed? Commissioners tell him yes, and thank him for coming into the meeting.

11:00 AM - Treasure County Justice of the Peace, Erin Fink

- Judge Fink provides an update; She was previously approved to purchase 2 new larger TV's for the Courtroom. She has purchased two for \$1,500. And they just need to be installed. She suggests the county could donate the current small TV's to another County entity.
- Fink also updates the Commission that she currently has 3 active court cases, 1 of which has a probability of going to a Jury Trial.

11:05 AM - Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz

- **Horse Creek Road Coal Hauling;** Discussion on possible impact fee for the increased usage of the road. Commissioner Baue has looked into the requirements, and it is determined that at this time the economic impact to the road is not great enough to meet the requirements but that the Road Department will have to be giving more attention to the Counties portion of Horse Creek Road if the Sarpy Mine does haul coal on the road.
- **Discussion on Preparing a document for County use of Equipment.** There should be an agreement for an outside party to sign when the county lends its equipment for use. Recently a road crew member donated his time to dig holes at the school for new playground equipment.
- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe Road Maintenance Responsibilities;** Discussion on a letter from BNSF asking who's responsible for maintenance to roads on 3 County Crossings. The Commission and Rich determine the County does maintain the roads however the county does not own them therefore they will not state they are responsible for the maintenance. Attorney Schantz will draft a response the BNSF stating that the County does receive gas tax to the applicable road(s) but the county does not own them and just because the county does maintain them to keep them open does not mean they are responsible to do so.
- **Town-County Planning Board By-Laws;** Attorney Schantz has a couple additions to the previous by-laws.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved for the approval of the additions to the by-laws between the Town & County, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **County Study Commission Update;** Schantz continues the efforts to form the study commission, there are for sure two registered members to serve. One more is still needed and Schantz added that there is room for a "Non-Voting" member to serve, for example it could be an elected official or any member of the local government.
- **Discussion on County Owned Land;** Commissioners would like to explore the option of selling the land that that county owns and currently leases out, as the lease expires in December. They would like the county to retain the mineral rights if this proceeds. Schantz will research the requirements and begin title and easement work.

11:20 AM - Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears, Presented by Deputy Erickson

- **Resolution 2025-031** - Resolution to Amend Budget in General Fund
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve 2025-031, Baue motion carries.
- **Resolution 2025-032** - Resolution to Amend Budget in Weed Grant
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve 2025-032, Baue motion carries.
- **Resolution 2025-033** - Resolution to Amend Budget in Capital Rd Project

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- ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve 2025-033, Baue motion carries.
- **Resolution 2025-034** – Unanticipated Revenue Resolution – CCOA
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve 2025-034, Baker motion carries.

Treasure County Ambulance Service Resolution, Presented by Nicole Stephenson

- **Resolution 2025-035** – Resolution to Write-Off Ambulance Patient Debts
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve 2025-035, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- 11:40 AM - Recess for Lunch - The Board of Commissioners went to tour the Firehall on Elliot to check construction progress.

1:08 PM -Reconvene

- **Commissioners Discussion Points**
 - Canister Site Porta-John, needs replaced
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to have Attorney Schantz contact and contract with the company that services the Rifle Range Porta-John, Baker 2nd motion carries.
 - Deputy Clerk & Recorder Erickson asks for the okay to place an advertisement to open bids to contract potential Audit Agencies for the FY26 Audit. Commissioners give the go ahead to advertise for other Auditors since the contract will be up with the current Agency.
 - Discussion on Flooring in the Community Center, it is coming up in some places and it is mismatched. Commissioners feel it would be a good idea to get bids to replace the entire flooring so that it matches and could be cleaned more easily.

1:30 PM -Treasure County Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief, Bill Hutchison

- **Hutchison provides updates:**
 - Previous Fire Warden Dave Rickett has resigned. Hutchison states that the Fire Board has elected him to be both the Fire Chief and Fire Warden. Due to statute the Commissioners must appoint the Fire Warden.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to appoint Bill Hutchison as the Treasure County Fire Warden, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **Stage 1 Fire Restriction Discussion**
 - Hutchison provides current fire numbers and it is discussed that with this rain along with the guideline that Treasure County generally follows Yellowstone County in placing restrictions the Commission would rather wait to place restrictions on its residents since most fires are Not manmade in the County. Hutchison asks what the general protocol is and Disaster Emergency Services Coordinator, Stephenson stresses the need to communicate with her department along with Rosebud County and DNRC with channeling to their radios during an active fire. Hutchison then retracts his request to place Treasure County in a Stage 1 Restriction.

1:50 PM - Treasure County Sheriff, Will Seastrom

- **Tire Request**
 - Sheriff Seastrom presents 3 quotes for new tires for his patrol. They range from \$310/Tire-\$385 all are pursuit rated. Commissioners ask his preference; Seastrom states the best deal is at the \$310/Tire, Balanced and Mounted right in the County with Wes Gamble.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to accept the \$310/Tire at Wes Gamble's, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **Sheriff Updates**

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- Both Patrol vehicles have recalls, and the new white patrol is drawing power, the company that recently upfitted all the police equipment will look at it but accept no responsibility. Commissioners suggest the Sheriff take the pickup in for the recalls and have the certified garage run a diagnostic for the charge pull.

2:10 PM – Treasure County Treasurer/County Superintendent of Schools, Julie Pinkerton

- **Laptop Purchase Request**
 - Treasurer Pinkerton explains the need for use of a laptop for while she is away at conferences and more often while she goes over to the school and runs numbers and balances accounts with the school clerk. It would not have its own stand alone systems. It would link to her desktop programs just as the Couty Clerk & Records laptop does. Her best and most preferred laptop is at Best Buy for \$1,199.99
 - ****MOTION**** - Bauc moved for Pinkerton to purchase the preferred laptop at Best Buy for \$1,199.99, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **Department Updates**
 - Pinkerton lets Commissioners know that her Deputy will be out on leave for a short period of time but she has Susan Story, who is a county employee to provide back up and the office hours will remain open as set.
- **Fraudulently Endorsed Warrant Discussion**
 - Pinkerton lets Commissioners know, she discovered a fraudulently endorsed warrant when she was billed or notified payment was not received on a check that had been sent. Commissioners instruct Pinkerton not to re-issue payment as the payment has been made. The liability is on the Bank that accepted the check into the wrong account or cashed it.

2:30 PM – Correspondance to Commissioners

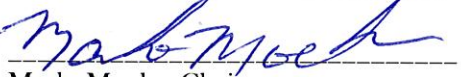
- **County Tax/EIN Accounts Reviewed;** Commissioners are presented with a list from Stockman Bank of Accounts that have use the County's Tax/EIN number as was previously requested. The accounts are reviewed and the Commission would like an explanation on 2 accounts and state even a verbal explanation is fine they just need clarity;
 - Health Accounts; what they are used for and who has authority
 - Ambulance Accounts; what they are used for and who has authority
- **MYEC-Wildfire Mitigation Plan;** Presented with a statement of wildfire mitigation plan.
- **Weed – Capital Project Transfer;** It is determined not to transfer any monies at this time.
- **Hysham Handyman & Platnum Plumbing Bills;** Discussion on the county being billed by the plumber when it was their understanding the general contractor had been paid to pay his subs. There is no intent or motion to pay the billed amount by Platnum Plumbing and there has never been a change order submitted by the general, Hysham Handyman.
- **CCOA-ACTION For Eastern MT Modification Agreement;** A modification agreement is presented and reviewed pertaining to the amounts the County is responsible for the County Council on Aging and the Match Amount made by Action.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve the Modification Agreement, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **HAB Document;** Info is presented pertaining to monies available to the residents through the Billings Housing Authority.
- **Meetings to Report**
 - Ruth Baker – Planning Board Meeting
 - Ruth Baue –
 - Marlo Moehr –

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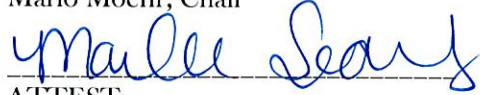
3:02 PM Adjournment, being no further business to come before the Board, Ruth Baue moved for adjournment, Ruth Baker 2nd the motion.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025.

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlo Moehr, Chair



ATTEST:

Marlee Sears, Clerk & Recorder

BY: _____
Dani Erickson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder



