

June 3rd, 2025

ORIGINAL

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 3rd, 2025

10:05 AM - Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners, Ruth Baue, Ruth Baker, and Marlo Mochr Chairman. Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears, Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz; Treasure County Road Department Supervisor, Robin Rich; Treasure County Public Health Department, Deb French; Treasure County Sheriff's Department, Will Seastrom; Treasure County Council on Aging, Megan Metcalf, Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton, Hysham Cemetery Board Member, Dale Zent and Treasure County DES Coordinator, Nicole Stephenson. Also were guests Bart Icopini and Gary Van Haele.

10:14 AM - Minutes Approval, Claims & Payroll

- Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting for May 20th, 2025.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to Approve the minutes for May 20th, 2025, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- **Claims:** Claims for May 30th, 2025 were presented for payment in the amount of \$37,253.61, for check number 32259 through 32282.
- **Payroll:** Payroll for May was approved in the amount of \$97,295.15 for check numbers 23435 through 23450.
- ***All Claims were approved & paid.**

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

- Road Business
 - Discussion regarding the sale of vehicles.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to take the Blue 1985 Chevy to Auction and the Black 1984 Chevy to auction, Baker 2nd motion carries.
 - Discussion regarding the re-programming or deletion of the old Volvo. The approximate cost would be between \$5,500 and \$6,000.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue motioned to delete the Volvo machine, as well as checking into pricing in other places, Baker 2nd motion carries.
 - Budget Discussion
 - Discussion regarding the application for a Coal Board Grant to get a new road grader. The county would have to come up with a match so we would need a working machine to essentially use as the match for a new machine.
 - Signature on Bond Paperwork for TCA Group for completion Gibson Road Bridge
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to sign the bond paperwork, Baue 2nd motion carries.
 - Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Invoice
 - The invoice received was for repairs and maintenance at pumphouse road. The county was under the impression through the contract that no cost would be incurred on the county. Attorney Schantz has been in discussion with BNSF and Montana Department of Transportation. The work completed on the railroad crossing that the invoice pertains to is for the road not the crossway. Keaton Westfall was the BNSF supervisor of the project and claims to have discussed with the county road department if they could fix the road. In the meeting Robin had no recollection of the conversation. Later Robin did mention that he did speak with Mr. Westfall and told him that the county did not have adequate equipment

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to complete the repairs on the road. This is why an outside contractor was hired. The Board of Commissioners chose to proceed with paying the invoice but including a letter stating that these decisions should be coming through the Board of commissioners not directly from the Road Department.

- ****MOTION**** - Bauc motioned to pay the invoice and to include a letter that states that any changes to any work or progress needs to go through the Board of Commissioners, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- Weed Spraying
 - Discussion of spraying weeds
 - Joe sprayed the canister site and the courthouse last week.
- Gibson Road Bridge Completion
 - Robin spoke with Adam, it sounds like ten loads of gravel on the approaches and the bridge deck would complete the monies needed for the completion of the Gibson Road Bridge Project.
- Dust Pods Representative - Wayne
 - Wayne will be coming to finish the repairs on Pease Bottom Road next week.

11:00 AM - Public Comment - NO Public Comment

11:15 AM - Treasure County Attorney's Office, Hanna Schantz

- Abandoned Mobile Homes
 - There are two mobile homes that have been considered abandoned. The land owner can either have the trailers hauled off or have the Fire Department Burn them and use them as a training. Hanna is asking the commission to waive the taxes for the abandoned trailers.
 - 1. The 1977 Trailer has delinquent taxes in the amount of \$56.22.
 - 2. The 1971 Trailer has delinquent taxes in the amount of \$50.13.
- Town Main Street Firehall - Easements
 - Discussion regarding the easements behind the Mainstreet Firehall. In the filed document paperwork there is a "non-exclusive right of way easement, which is very vague in the descriptions. There was a discussion of ideas one being to get with Hysham Community Elevator to ensure that the easement.
 - will be transitioning and seems like a much more user-friendly system for reporting.

11:45 PM - Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears

- Budget Requests
 - Clerk Sears does not have any large requests. We are currently working on getting estimates to get the computers on a replacement schedule. This year includes four computers, one for Clerk and Recorder, one for the Treasurer, one for the Legal Secretary and the last is for the Sheriff.
- Resolution 2025-026 - Unanticipated Revenue Resolution for reimbursement of expenses for Montana Association of District Clerk of Court Convention
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve Resolution 2025-026, Bauc 2nd motion carries.
- Longevity Discussion
 - Clerk Sears reached out to McKenzie McCarthy, the council for Montana Association of Counties for Human Resources. At the last commissioners meeting the board inquired about once longevity is started if they could when valuation are down reduce or not provide the longevity award. McCarthy explained regarding longevity that it can

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be reviewed annually and modified as needed that it all pertained to how the policy is worded. There were discussion regarding a "bonus" check based on longevity when valuations come in.

- Discussion regarding the museum budget. It was decided in August of 2024 for mail checks to the museum so they could handle their own finances. The museum board inquired about this information at the Clerk and Records office. Clerk Sears was just re-confirming this is the process to take and to mail the checks to the museum. The balance in the account will go to the Museum at the close of the fiscal year.

12:04 PM - Adjourn for lunch

1:10PM -Reconvene

- Hysham Cemetery Board, Dale Zent
 - Purchase of Pump for the Cemetery. Zent presented the commissioners with a price to purchase a new back up pump in the amount of \$5,670.00.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker motions to buy the pump in the amount of \$5,670.00, Baue 2nd motion carries.
 - Weed Spraying Discussion
 - No new requests for the Hysham Cemetery Budget

1:20 PM Treasure County DES Coordinator, Nicole Stephenson

- New Vendor Contract
 - Nicole informed the board of commission about the new vendor contract with the Ambulance billings. They took over Solestone. Nicole was inquiring who the board would like to sign the HIPPA Agreement and the Business agreement. The board requested to have Marlo sign as Commissioner Chairman. Nicole stated she would modify the contracts and bring them back to the next commissioner meeting.

1:30 PM - Treasure County Sheriff's Department, Will Seastrom

- Training
 - Sheriff Seastrom has Sheriff Convention in Billings June 16th through the 20th. Rosebud County covers Treasure County.
- Civil Secretary
 - Filled last week started working on scheduling. Aeryn Turner was hired for the position. Sheriff is hoping to make the secretary position a more permanent position in the future.
- Part-Time Deputy Position
 - Spiro Mack, currently works for Motor Carrier Services, so he holds the certifications to provide law enforcement through the Sheriff's Department. He is going to be hired as the part time deputy. Sheriff claims he will be working less than 80 hours a month.
- Budget Requests
 - Possibly make the civil secretary position permanent only working for 60 hours a month. The possible cost of the computer tower for replacement.

2:00 PM - Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz

- Budget Request
 - The only request is to get her legal secretary on the list for a computer replacement. Every thing else would be the same.
- Water on the Main Street firehall project.

2:15 PM - Treasure County Council on Aging, Megan Metcalf

- Budget Request

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- Megan made necessary changes to the wages line item in the CCOA Budget. Supplies she kept the same. Purchased services are for communications and for the meals.
- Grant
 - Megan applied for the Town Pump Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for any necessary needs for the seniors and it was awarded.

2:30 PM - Treasure County Recreation, Lynn Schultz

- Lynn was not present at the meeting but had a couple of questions. No new requests for the recreation department.
- There was a question of reimbursement for the lifeguard certification classes in Billings.
 - ****MOTION**** - Bauc moved to approve the reimbursement of the class costs for the lifeguards not the travel expenses, Baker 2nd, motion carries.
- Discussion regarding a cover at the canister site for the pool.

2:45 PM - Treasure County Justice of the Peace, Erin Fink

- Budget Request
 - Judge Fink doesn't have any increase requests. She did mention possibly upgrading the Televisions within the Courtroom to a bigger size for viewing
 - Discussion regarding other bigger counties pushing for more jury trials which results in an overload of scheduling and defaults back to the speedy trial deadline. This causes the cases to be dismissed because they aren't meeting the deadline for "speedy trials."

3:00 PM - Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton

- Title Correction
 - Julie had documentation for the 1984 Chevy that was approved to go to auction. There was a typo in the vin number on the title work. Julie presented the commission with a statement of correction form to receive a new title for the vehicle. She needed a commissioner signature to get the title work fixed.
- Budget Request
 - Julie would like to place an extra \$2,000 in her supplies due to the scanner necessary for the CARS system. The scanners are the only ones that will work for the CARS program and she would like the replacement cost for both available in her supplies line in case they break. The state is no longer aiding in the costs of equipment for counties. She also has a computer on the list for replacement discussed with Clerk Sears earlier in the day.

4:50 PM - Commissioners

- Discussions
 - Dump Key Request
 - Duane Schaak, lawn and caretaker for the school requested a key to the canister site. The commission advised that we have a limited number of keys to release and at this time they would not be issuing any more keys to the public.
 - County Hunting Rights
 - Through the Jennaway Lease Agreement the county holds the hunting rights permissions. The county potentially has the opportunity to partner with the Federal Wildlife and Parks for block management and a habitat conservation that could possibly have a revenue of \$380,000. Commissioners asked that we put Steve Atwood on the agenda for July 1, 2025 meeting.
 - Discussion of the Lease advertisement for renewal
 - Discussion regarding the increase of the rate of the Lease.

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- Hysham Flying Club Tax Waiver
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to waive the taxes for the Hysham Flying Club, Baker 2nd, motion carries.
- Grant Review
 - Review of the County Wildfire Protection Grant, The EMP/ Homeland Security grant, and the Coal Board Grants.
- Meeting Date Change
 - Commissioners will be in Rosebud County on the next regular scheduled meeting date, therefore they consensus was to push the meeting until Thursday June 19th, 2025.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to change the next regular commissioner meeting date to Thursday June 19th, 2025, Baker 2nd motion carries.
- Meetings to Report
 - Ruth Baker - Baker will be in Missouri June 4th through the 11th.
 - Ruth Baue - South Eastern Mental Health
 - Marlo Mochr -

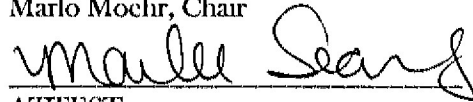
4:51 PM Adjournment, being no further business to come before the Board, Ruth Baue moved for adjournment, Ruth Baker 2nd the motion.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2025.

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlo Mochr, Chair



ATTEST:

Marlee Sears, Clerk & Recorder

BY: _____

Dani Erickson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder

