

August 19th, 2025

ORIGINAL

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19th, 2025

10:06 AM -Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners, Ruth Baue, Ruth Baker, and Marlo Mochr Chairman. Treasure County Clerk & Recorder, Marlee Sears & Deputy Dani Erickson; Treasure County Road Department Supervisor, Robin Rich; Treasure County Public Health, Deb French; Treasure County Attorney, Hanna Schantz; Treasure County Fire Chief/ Worden, Bill Hutchison; Treasure County Sheriff, Will Seastrom; Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton; Treasure County DES Coordinator, Nicole Stephenson. Guests present were Brent Salmond, Montana Land Reliance Representatives, Jan Banks and Garrett Titus, Hysham Hardware Handyman owners, David and Shelley Rickett; Lenore Welch; Montana Association of Counties Health Care Trust Representatives, Pam Walling and Vera Pederson.

10:08 AM – Minutes Approval, Claims & Payroll

- Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting for August 1st, 2025.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to Approve the minutes for July 1st, 2025, Baue 2nd Motion Carries.
- **Claims:** Claims for August 19th, 2025 were presented for payment in the amount of: \$47,846.08 for check number 32393 through 32431.
- **Payroll:** Payroll for August will be on the next commissioner meeting minutes.
- ***All Other Claims were approved & paid.**

10:15 AM – Hysham Hardware Handyman – Claim/ Change Order

- There was a change order for the plumbing work where it was a bit higher than anticipated. Dave is requesting for the commission to pay the balance of the Change order.
 - ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve the change order in the amount of 4,378.80, Baker 2nd motion carries.

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

- Road Business
 - Discussion of canister site purchasing a golf cart.

10:45AM – Montana Land Reliance (MLR)

Jan Banks and Garrett Titus

- Introduction
 - Discussion regarding Conservation easements. Conserving Montana Lands.
 - MLR is non-profit, not associated with government.

11:00 AM – Public Comment –

- Lenore Welch was present to inquire about the sell of the 317 Elliot Avenue Building, also known as the “Junque” store or old grocery store. The building auction closed at 11:00am, in the amount of \$13,500.00 to a bidder from Utah.

11:15 AM – Stahly Engineering, Monthly Conference Call, Adam Hagel

- Discussion/Updates
 - Not a lot of update to report.

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- Discussion on the River Road project
- Montana Department of Transportation has hired HDR who aided in the Gibson Rd Bridge Project
- MDT was in discussion of finding ways to streamline projects
- Discussion of MCEP grant process, no update there
- Discussion of Aeronautics grant

11:30 AM – Treasure County Department Head, Deb French

- Updates
 - Deb is in discussion of organizing a health fair that will take place community center from 7am to 10am. Results will not go to the doctor and the contractor will not bill. They are hoping to have 42-46 participants at least.
 - Vaccination clinic, Deb talked to two different contractors' one, IPHARM would not be able to host but PHARM 406 could. This would be held September 29th. A 2nd shingles vaccination could be given in November.
 - The Mammogram bus was very successful and the participation was up from last year.
 - September is Community Preparedness month Deb would like to put a bag together.
 - Influenza vaccine, Deb is hoping to utilize the PHARM406 as a source of the vaccine so the health department doesn't have to have as much vaccine dosage on hand. She is thinking to acquire 50 doses and review once the PHARM406 has had their vaccination clinic.
 - Deb does plan to host a drive through clinic, which there was little participation last year.
 - The health department will also have a school-based clinic to ensure the children receive the vaccinations that are needed.
 - Discussion of blood draw vendors, the county through MACO Health care trust uses Biometrix.
 - Discussion of reduction in range bill.

11:30 AM – Recess for Lunch to LEPC meeting at the River Bottom Bar & Grill Conference Room.

1:28 PM –Reconvene

- Treasure County Department Head, Hanna Schantz
 - Auction Update
 - The Auction closed at 11 am 8-19-2025. The winning bid was for \$13,500.00.
 - Hanna will be working on the Buy Sell Agreement and requests signing authority on the title documents on behalf of the county.
 - ****MOTION**** - Bauc moved accept the Bid at \$13,500.00 and to allow Hanna signing authority on the Buy/Sell Agreement on behalf of the county, with Marlo signing on all other closing documents, Baker 2nd Motion Carries.
 - County Owned Land Discussion
 - Discussion of Title Commitment
 - Discussion of Attorney Schantz, and Jennaway. The smaller piece of property only has a smaller piece of fence line and no developed water. There is a small creek but doesn't provide water all year long. They are unsure if there is a public road.

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- If the county does decide to sell, would we want to appraise the property or do the market analysis with the relator.
- **Town/County Meeting Overview**
 - Hanna passed out an overview of the meeting scheduled on Wednesday August 20th, 2025.
 - Discussion of shared services with the Town.
- **Retained Counsel Contract with Rosebud County**
 - Attorney Schantz, presented a contract with Rosebud County for Retained Counsel in specific case circumstances.
- ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to approve the retained counsel contract with Rosebud County, Baker 2nd motion carries.

1:45 PM – Montana Association of Counties, Health Care Trust, Pam Walling & Vera Pederson

- **Rate Update for January 1, 2026 through December 31st, 2026**
 - Discussion regarding a change in legislature regarding the Pharmacy's allowed dispense Fee. This will not begin in 2026 but could occur in 2027. Typical process fees for rural pharmacy's is 10-15.00. This law kicks in on October 1st, 2025.
 - There was a 4.7% increase in the Dental plan from \$41 to \$43 dollars
 - This comes with a \$400. Benefit coverage
 - There was a 9.8% increase from the Medical Rates.
 - The county cap amount for calendar year 2025 is currently \$1,192.00 per employee.
 - The rate increases will up the county cap amount for 2026 at \$1,305.00 per employee.
 - Vision and Life rates stayed the same.
 - Discussion of Permissive Medical Levy Fund
 - Discussion of working hours to be offered insurance is currently at 87 hours.
 - Discussion regarding Workman's Comp. with sick and vacation time and also FMLA Leave.

2:50 PM – Treasure County Department Heads

- **Treasure County Fire Department, Bill Hutchison**
 - **Fire Restrictions**
 - Currently staying out of fire restrictions
 - Discussion of fundraiser in the Fire Hall in November
 - Discussion of parking fire rigs in the Mainstreet firehall
 - Discussion regarding possible invoices to reclaim fire department property
 - **DNRC Discussion**
 - Discussion regarding the events of the Summer Springs Fire.
 - There were four responders from the Treasure County Volunteer Fire Department
 - There was a DNRC Helicopter on scene
 - Discussion of radios for the Ranchers from Mr. Salmond
 - Hutchison will work on creating contact lists.
- **Treasure County Sheriff's Department, Will Seastrom**
 - Cameras Discussion – Tabled
 - Grant Updates

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- There is a search and rescue grant that was applied for through Tim Sheehy's Office. This would allow Treasure County to have necessary equipment to provide search and rescue services. This would be maintained under the Sheriff's Department.
 - Civil Secretary Position
 - Sheriff would like to remove the part time secretary position to create the line items for the search and rescue service.
 - White Patrol update
 - Heberle put in a new battery and are hoping that was the issue.
- Treasure County Treasurer, Julie Pinkerton
- Julie will be out of state for the weekend.
 - Discussion of the purchase of the new laptop. She is currently working on it to link to her desktop with DIS Technologies.

4:00 PM - Preliminary Budget

- Wage percentage
- ****MOTION**** - Baker moved to approve the Preliminary Budget with a 2.5 % wage increase, Baue 2nd motion carries.

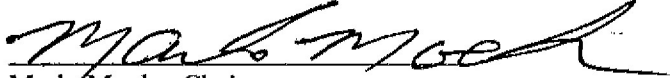
4:05 PM - Treasure County DES Coordinator, Nicole Stephenson

- The ambulance needs a "medical agent" for Medicaid services.
- ****MOTION**** - Baue moved to appoint Chairman Marlo Moehr to be the "Medical Agent," Baker 2nd, motion carries.

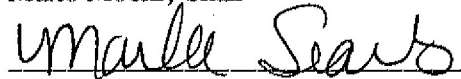
4:06 PM - Adjournment, being no further business to come before the Board, Ruth Baue moved for adjournment, Ruth Baker 2nd the motion.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2025.

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Marlo Moehr, Chair



ATTEST:

Marlee Sears, Clerk & Recorder

BY: _____
Dani Erickson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder

