

## May 27, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on May 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner Tom Rice, Commissioner Michael McGinley and Commissioner Support Specialist Dana Basile.

### Pledge of Allegiance

At this time, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance aloud to begin the day.

### Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris was present and reported the following. They were able to get a lot of blading done last week with the moisture. This week they are getting ready for the bridge project in Lima. It will be closed for about a week. He will be working on budget items. They received an agreement from MDT about the detours and it needs the Commissioners approval.

The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

#### BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

May 18th to May 24th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

#### DILLON AREA

- Blade Anderson Ln, Stoddard, Argenta Rd, Bon Accord Rd, Rebish Ln, and Bolick Ln
  - Repair Soft Spots on Hogsback
- Clean Cattle Guards at Bannack and Argenta Rd
  - Repairs and Maintenance
    - Road Check

#### WISDOM AREA

- Blade Lower North Fork, Upper North Fork, Wisdom, Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, and Twin Lakes
  - Clean Culverts on Little Lake and Miner Lake
    - Clean ditches on Byway
      - Road Check
  - Equipment repair Shop, Tire Change

#### LIMA AREA

- Blade Kidd Ln, Ashbough, Wolf Ln, Bitmat, Medicine Lodge, Cabin Creek, and Sage Creek.
  - Job Prep for Bridge Project
- Equipment Repair and Moved Equipment
  - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Finance Assistant Becky Hankinson, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Fairground Manager Justin Kellabrew, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Deputy County Attorney Coty Calvin, Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Extension Agent Intern Janna Groover, Planner Rob Macioroski, Sheriff David Wendt, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Chief Deputy Clerk and Recorder Tina Caron, joined the meeting.

Tom commented he is working on permits and working through enforcement issues still. Nick is at the dump this morning dealing with an issue.

Justin mentioned the season is kicking off this week with the Junior High rodeo. The gates will also be worked on this week.

Shonna added they got the generator running at Public Health and they are working on getting the sign installed for them also in the next week. Rocky Mountain boiler came last week and inspected/passed the Courthouse boiler.



Rob mentioned that a conservation easement came through last week and a 2-lot subdivision plat to go before the June planning board. There is also a flood plain permit request from Diamond O Ranch and three surveys to review this week. He talked to Madison County Planner to see about assisting until his replacement is hired.

Stacey commented she is meeting with commissioners at 9:30 for appointments of special districts. She also asked about Rob retiring and who will be filling in as planner until the position is hired.

Joyce commented she is busy doing inspections and looking into enforcement issues.

Becky reminded everyone about budgets being due by June 10.

Mike added schools are all closed. The teachers are turning in final reports and blue books. We are losing two teachers- Polaris and Wisdom- Wisdom plans to consolidate classes and utilize one teacher and an aide.

Jack introduced his new intern, Janna Groover. Today is her first day. This week is starting the summer rush through end of July.

Randi added that the jail is full this morning with 21. Her office is sending out jury pool notices soon. She will be out in June for a 2-week training, but there will be a substitute judge filling in.

David mentioned they are busy. They have several headed to court today. He also mentioned there is a treasure hunt and rescuing people. Deputy Cross' last day is June 7<sup>th</sup> and the new deputy is starting today.

Tracy added was in Seattle last week. This week is playing catchup.

Coty commented that Sky will be back next week. Court canceled this morning due to judge sick.

Compensation Board will be Thursday at 9:00a.

### **Discussion and Action- State/County Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement**

Jay Lemon, DNRC presented the Commissioners with an agreement at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Session that has been in place for a while. After discussion ensued, the Commissioners motioned the following:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rice motioned and Commissioner McGinley seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously to sign the agreement for the Montana/Beaverhead County Fire Protection Agreement.

STATE/COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE STATE OF MONTANA  
AND Beaverhead COUNTY

THIS STATE/COUNTY COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT (AGREEMENT) is made and entered into by and between Beaverhead County, (COOPERATOR), and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry and Trust Lands Division, (DEPARTMENT), and effective the 19 day of July, 2025.

The purpose of this Agreement, when signed by both parties and accompanied by a written wildland fire management plan, (PLAN), is to satisfy the requirements of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) sections 7-33-2201(4)(b), 7-33-2210, 75-13-104 and 75-13-126.

WHEREAS, State Fire Policy acknowledges that it is a priority to minimize property and resource loss resulting from wildfire and to minimize expense to Montana taxpayers, which is generally accomplished through an aggressive and rapid initial attack effort;

WHEREAS, it is to the advantage of all Montana's citizens for the DEPARTMENT and the COOPERATOR to work together on matters of wildland fire protection. MCA sections 75-13-103 and 75-13-115(2) encourage the cooperation of state, public, and private agencies in the protection and conservation of Montana's natural resources, range and water;

The parties to this Agreement, in consideration of the mutual covenants and stipulations set out herein, agree to the terms outlined below:

1. The COOPERATOR shall appoint a Firewarden pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2215. The Firewarden shall work directly with the DEPARTMENT in accordance with the requirements of the PLAN.
2. The COOPERATOR is authorized to annually appropriate funds pursuant to Montana Code Annotated section 7-11-2209. The COOPERATOR shall use these funds in accordance with the requirements of the PLAN.
3. The COOPERATOR shall implement the PLAN by performance of the functions described in Montana Code Annotated section 7-33-2202. The COOPERATOR may exercise the powers authorized by Montana Code Annotated sections 7-33-2205, 7-33-2206 and 7-33-2209.
4. The COOPERATOR is solely responsible for the proper use, protection, maintenance, and care of the equipment and supplies loaned under this Agreement.
5. The COOPERATOR agrees to make the loaned equipment available for use on private and public ownership for the protection from fire as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 75-13-104 and 75-13-135, and when requested by the DEPARTMENT'S representative. Incidental use on any type of fire or other emergencies which threaten loss of life or property is proper providing that this equipment is available and primarily used for fire duties as set forth in Montana Code Annotated sections 75-13-103 and 75-13-135. Refusal or neglect to make this equipment available for use on such fires without good and sufficient cause shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement by the DEPARTMENT.
6. The COOPERATOR shall maintain and make necessary repairs to the said equipment and component parts thereof so that it is kept in good, serviceable and safe repair.
7. The COOPERATOR will assure that all operators of the equipment covered by this Agreement meet the appropriate minimum driver's license requirements per Montana State law, adhere to state law and are members of either a County Government, Rural Fire District, County Volunteer Rural Fire Department, Fire Service Area, Volunteer Fire Company, or Municipal Fire Department.



2. The proper identification of the equipment as cooperative fire equipment, and as federal or state property, if applicable, will be maintained and the equipment will not be sold, junked, rented, traded, given away, or otherwise disposed of, nor is personal use to be allowed. No disassembly of equipment or removal of parts is allowed without prior approval of the DEPARTMENT. All State or Federal property is to be painted and marked in accordance with State statutes or STATE'S instructions.
3. Title to all equipment loaned under this Agreement will remain with the State of Montana or the Federal government. All state owned vehicles will bear the permanent Montana Agency license plate furnished by the State without charge.
4. Loss, damage, or destruction of State- or Federally owned equipment by fire, collision, theft, or any other means, will be reported immediately to the DEPARTMENT with signed affidavit showing loss, cause and recovery action attempted by the COOPERATOR. Accidents involving State- or Federally owned equipment must be reported immediately by the COUNTY to the STATE on forms provided for that purpose. Federal policy requires investigation to determine the cause of negligence, if any.
5. Items of equipment covered by this Agreement no longer needed by the COUNTY will be reported to the DEPARTMENT, who will determine disposition.
6. If this Agreement between the DEPARTMENT and the COOPERATOR is terminated by either party, all equipment provided by the DEPARTMENT will be returned to the DEPARTMENT.
7. Any equipment owned and installed by the COOPERATOR remains the property of the COOPERATOR and should be removed prior to returning the equipment to the DEPARTMENT.
8. It is mutually agreed that this Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties. In the absence of mutual consent, either party may terminate this Agreement on June 30 of any year by giving written notice to the other party on or before June 1 of that year. Unless terminated in accordance with this provision, this Agreement will continue in full force and effect for an additional period of one year beginning July 1 of each year.

COUNTY OF Beauregard DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
 BY [Signature] CONSERVATION:  
 BY [Signature] BY [Signature]  
 BY [Signature] Land Office Area Manager

### **Discussion and Action- Appoint by Acclamation Special District Trustees (Resolutions 2025-06 thru 2025-12)**

Clerk and Recorder, Stacey Reynolds began with notifying the Commissioners of the Special Districts not being required to run an election due to the trustees running unopposed. She then presented the Commissioners with the list of trustees to be appointed by acclamation in the following resolutions: Resolution 2025-06, 2025-07, 2025-08, 2025-09, 2025-10, 2025-11, and 2025-12.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley motioned to appoint the special district trustees as listed on Resolution 2025-06, 2025-07, 2025-08, 2025-09, 2025-10, 2025-11, and 2025-12 and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners signed all of the Resolutions and Certificates of Election at this time.

### **Discussion and Action- Anderson Family Transfer**

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Tina Caron, Carly Anderson, and JB Anderson were present.

Commissioner Rice read the questions and JB Anderson answered. The property was not purchased with intent to divide. There is no intent to develop the property further. The recipient will be residing on the property.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley motioned and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve the Anderson Family Transfer. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion and Action- Summer Weed Crew Hiring**

\*Due to technical difficulties, this portion of the meeting was not recorded.

Amber Burch, Weeds Supervisor, was present and began the discussion with they have a good pool of applicants this season with a few returners. The new hires being requested for approval were presented to the Commissioners, a few returners and some new.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley moved to approve the list of weeds crew to be hired and Commissioner Rice seconded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



Amber brought up the new weeds building, there is still a tacky floor in some areas. She will reach out and talk to the contractor. There is one area for storage and paperwork that is not accessible at all due to the epoxy floors not curing correctly.

She also mentioned her motor vehicle repair budget may be larger than usual- there are a lot of repairs needed.

McGinley asked about grants coming in- Amber replied that they got what they need and the ones from last year have been finalized.

### **Recess**

At 12:00 noon, Commissioner Jackson recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner McGinley, and Commissioner Rice reconvened the meeting with and their Assistant Dana Basile present.

### **Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the May 19th, 2025 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**

### **New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

The secretary, Dana Basile, was contacted by Montana Department of Transportation and it was requested to give the Commissioners, Road Supervisor and County Attorney an agreement for review. The Commissioners, Road Supervisor and County Attorney will look it over and discuss at the next regularly scheduled Commissioners Meeting.

Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.

### **Payment of Invoices**

5/19/25 Check #217857 Justice Court Butte Silverbow \$140

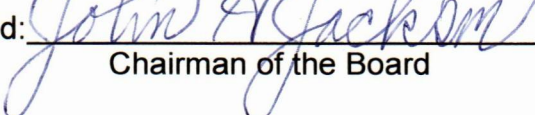
The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$37,759.44 beginning with check #217858 and ending with check #217893. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

### **Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:   
Clerk of the Board

Approved:   
Chairman of the Board