

June 23, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on June 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner John Jackson, 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. The replacement of Steel Bridge is done and the temporary bridge is out. This week they were able to blade some roads. They will start doing mag chloride on some local roads this week. The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

June 15th to June 21st, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Schoolhouse, Ten Mile, Stone Cr
 - Install Steel Bridge Lane Bridge
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Bannack Bench, Lower North Fork, Steel Cr
 - Equipment Repair and move
 - Parts Run
 - Road Check

LIMA AREA

- Install Guard Rail, Finish Rip Rapping, Rolled and Hauled Gravel and Removed Temporary Bridge on Steel Bridge Lane
 - Moved and Repaired Equipment
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, County Attorney Sky Jones, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Food Safety Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Treasurer Cathy Huckle, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, joined the meeting.

Nick mentioned they got the scale ready to start training this week or next. Gate guys will be around today to get the gate finished.

Jack added that last week was busy. He was in Lima on Monday for 4H training and Tuesday in the Big Hole. This week he has gotten a few field calls regarding horticulture. There is a hay field inspection on Friday and a conference this weekend through next Thursday.

Mike added that the Kwanis club has been using traps for the ground squirrels and they are going to fumigate the park this week. All schools closed and reports submitted to OPI.

Shonna mentioned that last week the plumber fixed the shower and cut piping under the boiler for the County Attorney remodel. They moved some of the Clerk and Records books out of the way for remodeling too. The sign was put in place at Public Health last week, and they will be finishing the electrical this week. The transfer switch for courthouse generator was put in last week. They were able to move Margot's office. Facilities also helped Mike move some old documents from superintendent's office.

Tom commented that he has been getting more septic permit applications in. He is going out to Melrose to look at a proposed subdivision. He has been working on the Diamond O flood plain permit with Cody Marxer and reviewing new CWPP.

Lilia added last week there was a SIMS workshop. They will be hiring a part time behavioral health coordinator and the job should be posted this week. Last week there was a perinatal conference in Helena. There was also an LEPC meeting and they looked at specimen transport and train wreck protocol. The car seat safety law is being updated as of October 1, 2022, which is pushing a lot of car seat questions to her office. The county Safety Fair is in July. Katie will start going down to the jail once a week starting July 1st. McGinley questioned the opioid settlement. Lilia mentioned they should be settling that soon.

Cathy mentioned her May report was turned in. The property assessment notices are going out at the end of June or beginning of July.

Joyce added there has been an uptick in mobile units. The fees are going up for DPHHS licenses with more tiers for food and vacation rentals. There have been a lot of new vacation rentals on the market this year too.

Ian commented that last week there were a lot of transports. Jail population is at 20. The plumber was there and fixed the shower and ordered extra parts. He has been dealing with medical billing. The Sheriff was at conference in Billings last week. There were a lot of events in Dillon over the weekend, not a lot of arrests but still busy.

Tracy added he has been working on the CWPP, working on phones, and addressing.

Sky mentioned the historical books being returned from Boise since they left for scanning. Behavioral Health Coordinator will be a good addition to the county as interventions are needed. There will be no district court this week. He is out of office Wednesday but will be back Thursday for the Axes Canyon public meeting.

Discussion and Action- Opening Bids for GIS Plotter

At the time of this meeting, there was only one bid submitted.

Travis Wilson- \$100.00

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to accept the bid for the GIS Plotter be awarded to Travis Wilson. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion- Public Administrator Vacancy

The death of Paul Pilgrim left the position of Public Administrator vacant. The Commissioners wanted to start the conversation of looking to fill this position. Sky commented that his understanding as far as accounts Mr. Pilgrim was administering have been cleared up. He spoke to other county attorneys in Montana and they are also the Public Administrators. He would be okay with the Commissioners appointing his office for this task until the next election and then elect someone to that position.

McGinley added we need clarification on appointing an interested party as this is the preferred course of action.

Sky mentioned there is one open conservatorship/guardianship in the Public Administrators name. He will have this person transferred to the County Attorneys office for interim until the matter is settled.

Carly asked if this was a paid position. It was clarified it is not.

McGinley added there will be a public notice for a few weeks asking for applications. If none are received then they will appoint the County Attorney.

Carly asked if she could be a part of the reviewing applications for the position.

McGinley added he will keep her in the loop.

Public Notice will run through July 6th and the Commissioners will action on July 7th regular session.

Discussion and Action- Rust/Beaverhead Post Company Minor Subdivision Preliminary Approval

Cody Marxer, Ken and Kristen Bailey were present.

Cody summarized the proposal is south of town off Sawmill. It is splitting a lot into 2. Everything is in place, it is so they can separate the Sawmill from the personal property. The planning board met and reviewed this on June 12. There was a discussion on what is there currently and decided on 12 points of approval. It is a straightforward project.

McGinley asked if there is going to be an added driveway. It was clarified there is an easement in place.

Ken added they need a weed management plan and to address the possibility of grazing. Cody clarified

Cody clarified the weed plan is part of the final approval subdivision.

McGinley, Kristen and Cody discussed the weed plan and laws involving disturbing ground.

Ken asked if there should be any development before final approval. Cody clarified the landowner can develop but they don't know if it will be approved until after it goes to review.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Rust/Beaverhead Post Company Minor Subdivision be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion- Summer Fire Restrictions

BJ Klose, Travis Wilson, and Tom Wagenknecht were present.

McGinley added last week was hot and dry so he wanted to start this conversation.

Tom added around the 4th of July DNRC, FWP, FS, all have a conference call and decide what to do. Counties are a big driver of it.

BJ added the rain helped the grass but not the moisture in the ground. We need the conversation with DNRC and Forest Service involved in this conversation.

June 30th will be on the agenda to discuss and action if we need to stage Restrictions prior to July 4th.

BJ added he is trying to get the message out that if you start a fire, you are responsible. Getting information out to the public is important. The bill could be very high depending on what burns up.

BJ added fireworks are already not allowed on federal lands.

Recess

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 16, 2025 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley 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

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

Payment of Invoices

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$131,604.10 beginning with check #218032 and ending with check #218076. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Void Checks 218077-218079

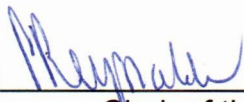
Check 218080 Floyd's Truck Center \$3,383.66

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Adjourn

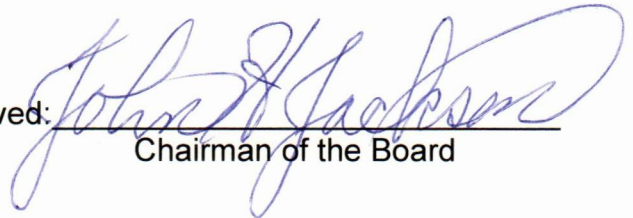
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board