

July 7, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner John Jackson, 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. Last week, Pioneer, Selway, Blacktail and White were chip sealed. They are getting ready to apply more mag chloride. They worked on Ten Mile Road. The Mechanic/welder application has closed; 2 applicants need to be interviewed. They patched hole in Stoddard Lane bridge and Steel Bridge Lane is done.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

June 29th to July 5th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade for Chloride on Trout Cr, Anderson Ln, Ten Mile
 - Patch Stoddard Ln Bridge
- Chip Seal Pioneer, Selway, White, and Blacktail
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Big Swamp, Skinner Meadows, Upper Mussigbrod, Upper North Fork, Upper Bender
 - Equipment Tires and Parts Run
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed and Watered Lima Dam Road
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Public Health Director Lilia Gullien-Sanchez, County Attorney Sky Jones, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Finance Administrator Becky Hankinson, Sherrif David Wendt, Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick added that Paradigm is starting training this week and next for the scale to get up and running. There were some bad transfer switches that were replaced.

Jack commented that last week he was in Billings for a meeting. This week he is in Bozeman for a state 4H conference.

Becky mentioned she is playing catch up with the budget.

Lilia added the Public Health sign is up and working. The part time Behavioral Health position will be posted this week. Katie will be going to the jail starting this Wednesday to do well-checks with inmates. Last week they did a presentation for a group of kids at the library on sun safety. The Safety Fair is this week and BOH in Lima this Friday.

Joyce added that she worked over the holiday for the BBQ in the park and Farmers Market. She is still running around the county right now for inspections.

Stacey commented that she is posting the notice for the Deputy Clerk and Recorder position and currently rearranging duties in her office. Jasmine just passed 6-month probation period. Elections update there are Issues with municipal elections with City of Dillon she is looking into.

Mike mentioned he is helping plan an orientation meeting for teachers returning in the Fall. Otherwise, his office is quiet for the summer.

Tom added there are still lots of permits coming through, and he is reviewing the CWPP.

Tracy added he is also working on the CWPP, helping with surveys and legal descriptions and replacing/upgrading computers as needed.

David added it was a busy week. There were two searches and rescues, two wrecks in Monida area and a parade in Lima. He is working with DCI this week in Helena and Deer Lodge. There are currently 17 downstairs.

Sky mentioned there will be a busy couple days in court this week. The Montana County Attorney Association Summer Conference is at the end of the week in Fairmont and they will all be in attendance.

Ian commented that there are 17 downstairs. They are having issues with needing to separate inmates. The plumbers will be in this week to snake the drains and check things in the showers. They are down a detention officer but have received four applications for the position and looking to hire mid-July.

Discussion- MDT Highway Safety Improvement Program via Teams

This portion was not recorded due to being on MDT Teams.

The Commissioners and Bob Ferris were contacted by Daniel Birlut, Safety Project Engineer from MDT regarding the Highway Safety Improvement Program. They identified a site in Beaverhead County that needs to be discussed. Daniel joined via Teams.

The site identified in 2023 for improvement is Blacktail Road at White Lane. This program improves the road, but the county needs to agree to maintain in the future. Their recommendation is to upgrade the signage for the curve and change the Yield sign on White Lane to a Stop sign. Bob commented that he added the Stop sign after the last major crash. He also added some curve signs. The speed limit is 35mph. They are recommending lowering the turn speed to 25 to maintain consistency along Blacktail.

Commissioner McGinley asked when was the last traffic accident on that corner. Daniel answered it was in February of 2024 and the average is about 2 crashes a year. Daniel added they want to improve the signs to hopefully lower the amount of crashes.

The Commissioners said they would look at the agreement if he created one. Daniel will send it over via Docusign when it is ready.

Daniel said if there are other sites the county has identified, they would make recommendations and improvements if approved.

McGinley asked about Pioneer at 91 as a site they can look into. Daniel replied that he will look into any sites if we can send it to him via email.

Chamber Update

Rebecca Jones was present and reported the following. The Beaverhead County Board meetings are still happening around the county. The merger between the chamber and the Beaverhead development Corp is going well. They are looking to use the investment for hiring a part time social media director for the Chamber next year. They have been partnering with City of Dillon on the pilot grant program using the office of tourism money. She has put together 2 meetings from major employers and non-profits in the county to get input on what they would like to see. SO far there have been discussions about a walking trail to the river from downtown and adding signage to the current bike trail. They will have public hearings regarding the pilot grant when it opens in the fall. She has been helping Dani Arps with the downtown master plan for the city. There is a survey open to gain input about this. Ribbon cutting for Little Minds Daycare, new business in Dillon near Poms on Monday 7/21. Thursdays at the Chamber will be this month.

City Update

Mayor McGinley was present and reported the following. They have been working on the streets. So far, they have done 3 times the amount of chipseal for cheaper than last year using a different company. No real complaints, work was done quickly. He will share the contact info if the county wants to use them for county roads. No more streets scheduled for this summer. They are not working on potholes in the city starting today. Casey asked about Orr street and Dana asked about Railroad. Mayor answered they are on the list.

Recess

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 30, 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.

Discussion and Action- Axes Canyon Petition Update

Coty Calvin, Deputy County Attorney briefly discussed the petition and the negotiations between the Smith Unit and High Divide Minerals. The two parties have reached an agreement and both parties involved asked the county to table the petition temporarily for 2 weeks until the deal is finalized.

Rebecca asked about the investigation regarding the way it was closed in the past. Are they looking further into that? McGinley answered they are looking at it still and will have an answer in 2 weeks.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

The Commissioners have received a few letters of interest for the Public Administrator position. They reviewed them and will decide on an individual to appoint at the next commission meeting.

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

Payment of Invoices

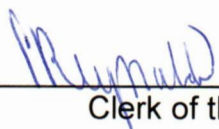
The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$26,144.25 beginning with check #218120 and ending with check #218146. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

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