

July 21, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 21, 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. They were able to do some patching around town. They were able to get some mowing done. Chloride is being applied this morning on Beaverhead, Buffalo, and Antelope. They are doing more blading and getting caught up around the county.

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

July 13th to July 19th, 2025
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Blacktail, Bloody Dick, Sweetwater, Ten Mile, Brenner, Lemhi
 - Mow local roads
 - Patch local roads
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Load, Haul, and Spread Gravel Big Lake Creek
 - Blade Gibbonsville Road
- Spray Skinner Meadows Race track.
 - Parts Run Dillon
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed South Valley Road, Stibal Lane, Lima Dam Road, and Medicine Lodge Road
 - Moved Equipment
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, County Attorney Sky Jones, Fairgrounds Manager Justin Kellabrew, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Finance Administrator Becky Hankinson, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick reported we have completed more training for the scale. The scale is connected and reporting data to the computer. Tracy is getting everyone signed up with log in access.

Tom added he has been working on enforcement issues, assisting with DNRC and the planner on a floodplain issue and as DES and Fire Warden he is working to finish up the CWPP.

Jack commented it is quiet this week. He will be out of town all next week.

Justin added he has the electrician out there doing work digging a trench for underground lines. He got approval to start replacing the toilets next to main concession booth. High Winds rodeo is this weekend at the Fairgrounds.

Shonna mentioned that they placed some decals on the weeds and extension office last week with hours posted and logos. Sean is back and Kevin is on vacation this week.

Stacey mentioned today at 5p is closing for her Deputy Clerk and Recorder position and will be scheduling interviews.

Joyce added that her and Tom are going to the Centennials to look at enforcement issues this week.

Becky mentioned that the treasurers office got a transfer and are needing help figuring out what account it goes into.

Lilia added that they are still accepting applications for a Behavioral Health nurse. The other nurse at public health turned in resignation. The BOH meeting did not have a quorum but did discuss plans for measles response and transport plans. She is finalizing bike rodeo plans.

Jackie Sutton mentioned she is here to visit about Lima city planning board request but has no updates for the Commissioners.

Mike mentioned the county transportation committee meeting is Thursday. There is a meeting with Divide school board and Wise River this Wednesday to discuss tuition payment. He will be out attending a funeral on Thursday.

Tracy added he was working on the scale a lot last week. DIS is working on new computers, emails, and sign ins. He is working on the website.

Sky mentioned his office is busy this week. There were many felonies over the weekend. He has updates for the Axes Canyon agenda item at 1:30p. He has been working with Shonna on the attorney's office remodel. Coty is back this week.

Discussion- Lima Town Council Planning Board

The Lima Town Council sent a notification letter to the Commissioners regarding their wish to create a planning board.

Jackie Sutton began the discussion with stating Lima is trying to work on a growth policy and in order to do that, they need a planning board. They are trying to build the area up and create opportunities for more housing and more businesses. They need to work on the infrastructure of the town. They do have room to grow but need a board to look at how do they want to grow. They were a part of Reimagining Rural last year with MSU. The town council would like to move forward in creating a planning board and a growth plan.

McGinley added he thinks the Beaverhead Planning Board is a City/County planning board. Because of this, they are not allowed without an action from the Commissioners. With Lima looking to grow, we should promote this and see how we can let this happen.

Sky read aloud MCA 76-1-105. Lima mailed the letter to the Commissioners to start this process. The commissioners have 30 days to decide on how to move forward. He will have answers by end of week and get it on the agenda in 2 weeks.

McGinley questioned if they need to hire a planner for the planning board or if they can utilize the Beaverhead County Planner. Sky will look into it.

Discussion- C-PACE Headwaters with Kelly Sullivan

Kelly Sullivan of Headwaters and Carolyn Jones from the Montana Facility Finance Authority were present to discuss C-PACE with the Commissioners.

The full presentation can be found in the Commissioners Assistant Office.

Carolyn began the discussion with she is working on getting as many local government as a part of the C-Pace program. In is one program across the state that the local governments can opt into. C-PACE is Commercial Property Assessed Capital Enhancements. It allows building owners to borrow private sector funds for energy efficiency, water conservation or renewable energy systems. This is for commercial, industrial, mixed use, agriculture or multi-family (5 units or more).

The loan is filed with the Clerk and Recorder and repaid through the Treasurer as an added line on their property tax bill.

She briefly discussed current and past projects they have helped fund in other counties.

SB 458 was mentioned as adding public safety and resiliency improvements as C-PACE eligible.

For Beaverhead to adopt, the Commissioners can adopt a resolution of intent, hold a public hearing, and adopt a final resolution establishing a C-PACE program.

McGinley mentioned he has concerns with adding private sector loans to government tax bills. He has questions such as what if the property owner goes into default or protests their taxes.

City of Dillon can opt in individually if they're interested and Beaverhead County does not.

911 Communications Committee Meeting

The minutes from the 911 Communications Committee Meeting will be filed with Clerk and Recorder and located in the Commissioners Assistant office.

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 July 14, 2025 meeting were not read or approved. They will be read at the next Commissioners meeting for approval.

Discussion and Action- Axes Canyon Petition Update

Commissioner Rice opened the discussion with stating the Commissioner's received the email stating both parties wished to withdraw the petition. County Attorney Sky Jones reported that this is his understanding. Both parties have withdrawn the petition at this time.

Nick VandenBos reported that last week the second petition was withdrawn so there is nothing for the Commissioners to decide. There is no action pending. There was a private deal between the 2 parties and it has been signed.

Josh Regan confirmed this to be true.

Sky added there was some question about what happened in 1991 so he would like to keep this clean and documented so there is no question in the future.

McGinley commented that the county should never give up access to roads.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to accept the withdraw of the petition to open Axes Canyon Road. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Tom Barnes came before the Commissioners to ask questions regarding Clark Creek Road/Torrey Mountains subdivision and blading, snow removal, speed limit signs, etcetera regarding the roads. The Commissioners advised him that this is not a county road at this time.

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 \$148,889.67 beginning with check #218214 and ending with check #218245. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Solid Waste Board

The minutes from the Solid Waste Board can be found with the Commissioners Assistant and will be filed with the Clerk and Records office.

Adjourn

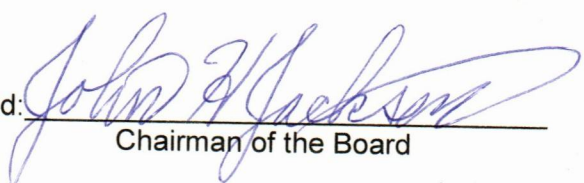
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board