

**July 28, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 28, 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. The chloride application around Dillon is done, they still have Lima area to go. They are still blading around the county. Dustin will be over at the Fairgrounds working. The new mechanic starts next Monday.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

July 20th to July 26th, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Blade Blacktail, Flynn, Carrigan, Ten Mile, Hwy 324
- Chloride Beaverhead, Buffalo, Antelope, Elk, Freeman, Ten Mile
  - Mow on Bannack Bench and Scenic By Way
    - Repairs and Maintenance
    - Road Check

**WISDOM AREA**

- Load, Haul and Spread Gravel Skinner Meadows
  - Water Roads for Chloride
    - Equipment Move
  - Check Local Roads

**LIMA AREA**

- Bladed North Valley Road, Lima Dam Road, South Valley Road, Roe Lane, Old Armstead Road, Big Sheep Creek Road
  - Rock Raked on Old Armstead Road
- Watered Road on Big Sheep Creek and Lima Dam 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, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, County Planner Tina Caron, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick commented that he has been working on the scale, it has been having hardware problems, but it is almost ready to go live. They have been working on the waterline to the shop. There was a short discussion about expanding Ten Mile and the waterline.

Justin added that the Rambling Rose are having an event from Thursday thru Sunday. The electrical project is done on the alley side. The new toilets are being delivered today and the plumber starts tomorrow. Main gate on Railroad will be closed at 5p daily starting this week.

Shonna commented that last week the water heater was installed for the boiler. She ordered doors for the treasurer's office for replacement. Kevin is out sick today.



Joyce added that she went to the Centennials last week with Tom and got some inspections done. There are some RV Parks without proper permits in the county and she is looking into that.

Tom commented that he is working through some enforcement issues. One particular issue in Jackson needs attention. He is still working on CWPP. Permits are still trickling in.

Mike added it is quiet for schools right now. He will be in Missoula on Friday for a training on Federal monitoring of school districts.

Randi commented that she is back from her 2-week training and playing catch up. There is a Clerk conference in September she is sending others to.

Stacey added that the new deputy Clerk and Recorder was hired and they are starting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. She is headed to the Clerk and Recorder convention this week.

Tina mentioned that she should be moved into the new office this week and she is working on flood plain things.

Tracy commented that he added a new network storage device with DIS.

Sky added they are pretty busy this week with new felonies, helping Tom and Joyce with enforcement, election issues and the remodel moving along.

Bob asked Tom W about the new construction on the University of Utah Lakeview site. Discussion ensued regarding usage and permitting.

#### **Department Head Meeting**

No new announcements today.

#### **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.

#### **Discussion and Action- Beaverhead County Response to Legislative Audit Division Records Request**

Carly Anderson and Sky Jones were present.

Sky commented the legislative audit division is tasked with auditing certain state agencies. They have asked the office of the court administrator for an audit to determine whether or not Montana needs more district judges. As part of that audit they have asked for access to computer data which is mandated by the state for all the district courts to use. All this data includes everything- victims, neglect cases, divorces proceeding, sealed cases, all information. The audit could be done with information provided by the Clerks instead of access to this private sensitive data. This conversation has been ongoing for a few months to try and gain access to this program. They have been denied multiple times. Some of the clerks came together and wrote a letter disagreeing with them getting access to the raw data. A week ago today, the legislative audit division was granted full access by the Clerk Administrator. There was a meeting last week with a lot of around the state, one of the entities was going to take action against this. They decided last minute not to. Sky was not able to put something together in the last minute time frame to file an action against this decision. This is a violation of privacy. He is asking the Commissioners if he needs to draft and file or if he can group with other agencies, clerks and county attorneys. There has not been any communication from them saying how they are going to use the data or who is going to have access. They need to outline the terms of how this data will remain secure before they go ahead with this. The office of the clerk administrator is the one giving access,



not the individual clerk of courts. It is also noted that the full access to the data means they also could change or delete information in the system.

Discussion ensued on records security and the duty of the courts to keep the records confidential.

The Commissioners feel an injunction is necessary.

Sky questioned if a motion and a vote are necessary to move forward with the Commissioners backing on this.

MOTION: Rice motioned and McGinley seconded for Sky to move forward with filing or joining others on an injunction to revoke access and delete any information that may have already downloaded. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

McGinley stated that state agencies are supposed to report to this division, we are not a state agency.

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

The minutes of the July 14, 2025 and July 21, 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 \$49,988.83 beginning with check #218247 and ending with check #218292. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

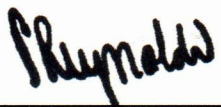
7/22/25 Check # 218246 Maverick Metalworks \$3997.50 Stairs for Co. Attorney Remodel

#### **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.

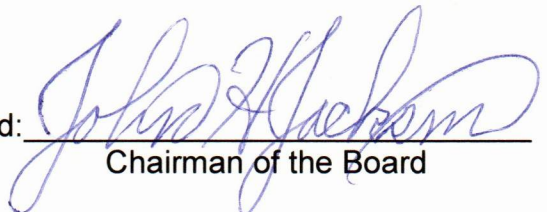
Attest:



Clerk of the Board

by Shannon Burkenpas,  
deputy

Approved:



Chairman of the Board