

**August 4, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 4, 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 have been around the county blading and patching roads. They finished the chloride applications. The sign issue in the Big Hole has been taken care of. The new mechanic starts today.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

July 27th to August 2nd, 2025

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Blade Blacktail, Hwy 324, Lemhi, Birch Creek
  - Patched Local Roads and By Way
    - Repairs and Maintenance
      - Road Check

**WISDOM AREA**

- Load, Haul and Spread Gravel Skinner Meadows and Upper North Fork\ul style="list-style-type: none;">  - Oil Collection
- Signal removal Lower North Fork
  - Check Local Roads

**LIMA AREA**

- Bladed North Valley Road, South Valley Road, and Brundage Lane
- Chloride on Wolfe Lane, Big Sheep Creek, Steel Bridge Lane, Town of Lima, and South Valley Road
  - Equipment Repair and Move
  - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, County Attorney Sky Jones, Fairgrounds Manager Justin Kellabrew, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, County Planner Tina Caron, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick added last week he was getting scale working and testing the system. Paradigm is fixing bugs found in the system.

Jack commented he is getting ready for the fair. Tomorrow, he is judging at the Madison County Fair.

Justin mentioned plumbing projects are starting at the end of the week. Engine 18 donated a 3-bay sink to fairgrounds. The electrical project is done on the alley side.



Lilia added that last week was Bike Rodeo and they had 57 kids go through. This week is the senior health fair at the YMCA. Applicant for BH position so interviews soon. Nurse vacancy will be posted soon. This week Jess will be trained to fill in as needed.

Stacey mentioned she will be gone to the Clerk and Recorder conference this week. She recently had a voter challenge through the election office and she did have to cancel his voter registration. He needs to go through district court to be removed from the ballot. Sky briefly elaborated on the process.

Randi commented that it will be a busy August. The upcoming bench trial might be canceled but she is waiting for the official motion. Jury trial later in the month. She is getting her clerks registered to attend a training in Missoula.

Tom added that they are working with NW Energy to get the generator put in starting this week. Shonna elaborated on the work to be done in phases. He is working on permits and enforcement issues.

Shonna mentioned that Kevin is working in the county attorney office remodel.

Mike commented last week he was in Missoula for training on helping each district with their Title I money. He is heading to another OPI training today that is dealing with Esser grants. On August 12<sup>th</sup> all schools have a mandatory training on Zoom. August 14<sup>th</sup> all teacher will get together at UMW for orientation.

Tina added she is finally fully upstairs in her new office. There is one subdivision coming through, one flood plain issue, and other things coming in soon.

Tracy mentioned that he has been working on computers and phones and CWPP and scale house.

Sky added that he is preparing for trials coming up and working with other counties. He has been working with Tom on violations, and working on legislature and the court administrator issue.

### **Discussion and Action- Lima Planning Board**

County Attorney Sky Jones, County Planner Tina Caron, Travis Wilson, Jackie Sutton and Deb Harrison joined the Commissioners.

Sky started with mentioning the state law on the topic. We received notice and now it is on the Commissioners to decide to elect them to form a planning board.

Jackie added they are trying to move forward and create an environment to promote growth and protect what they have.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to allow Lima to have their own planning board. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Chamber/City Update**

Chamber President Rebecca Jones joined the Commissioners to report the following. The ITRR of UM Missoula sent an infographic of 2024 Montana travel industry she shared with the Commissioners. The average tax burden was discussed, use of lodging facility use tax dollars and bed tax dollars for the Chamber use. Beaverhead County bed tax goes to Southwest Montana tourism region in Deer Lodge. The chamber is hosting a business after hours with 18Land company and a lunch and learn with Barrick Gold of North America. Thursdays at the Chamber on August 14th will be on UMW campus for move-in day. Board meeting that night at Horse Prairie Stage Stop. She has been working with School of Outreach and Stockman bank to put on a 16-hour Customer Service training online. She also has a sandwich board with local business logos and will put them



up at UMW Move-In day, rodeo, etc to remind everyone what businesses are downtown Dillon.

Mayor John McGinley joined the Commissioners and added the following. Sheriff approached him to build an evidence locker at Ray Lynch park partially on city property. Jackson added he wants to make the coroners office out of it. Mayor asked if there was other land he had looked at. Commissioner McGinley added the lot he is looking at is by SAR building. Mayor said he told Sheriff to speak to CA about it and find out liability details since it is part city part county. It would need an MOU. It is currently a vacant lot and would be a good place but he is concerned with liability. Jackson added we will let the County Attorney look into it and let us all know.

#### **Discussion and Action- Resolution 2025-15 Adopting the Montana Western Region Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)**

Tom Wagenknecht joined the Commissioners to present the Montana Western Region Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Tom began the discussion with stating this used to be a pre-disaster mitigation plan and now the state has picked it up. This is now a State-Wide plan and each county has a section in the plan specific to its region. This plan touches on earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, social disasters, etc. The commissioners would need to sign a resolution to formally adopt if they so choose. He could do a presentation for the Commissioners if they would like that or chose to adopt today if no other questions.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Resolution 2025-15 Adopting the Montana Western Region Hazard Mitigation Plan be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **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 28, 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**

Sky Jones was present to discuss next steps after receiving a letter of resignation from the County Coroner on Friday, August 1. Discussion was added to the agenda next week.

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 \$102,619.88 beginning with check #218293 and ending with check #218326. 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: \_\_\_\_\_



VICE Chairman of the Board