

December 8, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on December 8, 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. They were able to plow snow last week and there was almost 10 inches at Elkhorn. They closed the Byway and Lemhi Pass for the winter last week. The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK November 30th to December 6th 2025 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Stone Cr, Sweetwater, Flynn
- Plow Snow: Byway, Horse Prairie, Local Roads
 - Closed Byway and Lemhi
 - Equipment Set Up
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Willow Removal Little Lake
 - Service Transmission
 - Move and Set Up Blade
- Equipment repair and Set up
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Shop Maintenance
- Signs Out on South Valley Rd, Stibal Ln, Lakeview, Lima Dam Rd
- Checked Local Roads
- Equipment Move

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, County Superintendent Mike Miller, County Planner Tina Caron, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, County Attorney Sky Jones and MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore joined the meeting.

Nick mentioned working on communications for Sheriffs office. He and Tom worked with the school last week on incident communications. Wise River fire department needs some updates also. The landfill is almost out of the old pit and they will be starting in the new pit in a few weeks. It has been very busy up there.

McGinley commented on the communications systems and taxing jurisdictions.

Jack added he was in Miles City last week to certify new 4H instructors. This week is slow- he is gone for his graduation at the end of the week.

Shonna mentioned Northwest Energy worked on cables for the generator and they are looking at January 7th to get it hooked up. This might cause some temporary power loss. The stroll was on Friday and it went well. The carpet install for County Attorney office is today and the lights and ceiling fans will be looked at next week.

Stacey mentioned she will be out Wednesday and Thursday for a MACo training.

Joyce added finishing up year-end FDA grant paperwork. There has been an uptick in cottage food permits. Heading out to Wise River today to look at a new bakery.

Tina commented that this week she is working on some surveys and end of year stuff.

Amber added there was a Rush Skeleton meeting last week with 44 people. She is working on the Forest Service bill this week.

Ian added that the jail is currently at 10 inmates. He is working on the contract with the guardian RFID system downstairs. All showers in the jail are done and replaced.

Sky added he has been staying busy, and the search for the new deputy county attorney continues. There is not a lot of district court this week. He is helping with 2 high profile cases out of Butte-Silverbow.

Mike commented it is quiet. He will be doing teacher observations this week.

McGinley added at 1:30 there is a discussion about the Safety Committee and our claims getting high. He would like as many to come back for that as can.

Discussion and Action- Resolution 2025-27 Ordering Consolidation of Coroner and Sheriff

Present: Sheriff Wendt, Deputy Fields

McGinley added they have been following state statute on this and have been going through the process for a little bit. This is ordering the consolidation to the office of Sheriff/Coroner effective today's date, December 8, 2025.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to approve Resolution 2025-27. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

115808 Fee: \$ 0.00 File: RESOLUTION 2025-27
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 12/8/2025 At 9:40 AM
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
By: Shannon Burkemper

RESOLUTION 2025-27

A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE OFFICE OF
COUNTY CORONER WITH THE OFFICE OF
COUNTY SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the office of County Coroner exists in the county of Beaverhead as authorized by 74-2203, MCA; and

WHEREAS, the office of County Sheriff exists in the county of Beaverhead as authorized by 7-4-2203, MCA; and

WHEREAS, the resolution of intent to consider consolidation of the office of County Coroner with the office of County Sheriff (Resolution 2025-24) was passed on November 10, 2025, as required by 7-4-2305, MCA; and

WHEREAS, information relating to the consolidation of the office of County Coroner with the office of County Sheriff indicates Beaverhead County operations will be executed more effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, 7-4-2301, MCA authorizes the consolidation of the office of County Coroner with the office of County Sheriff.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners that it does hereby order the consolidation of the office of County Coroner with the office of County Sheriff with an effective date of December 8, 2025.

Dated this 8th day of December, 2025.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John R. Jackson
John R. Jackson
Chairman

C. Thomas Rice
C. Thomas Rice
Commissioner

Michael J. McGinley
Michael J. McGinley
Commissioner

Attest:

Stacey Reynolds
Stacey Reynolds
Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder



Recess

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

Discussion- MACo HCT Beaverhead Claims

This portion was recorded on Teams for virtual attendance.

McGinley gave a brief on process of claims and how we are trying to rejuvenate it. He saw a report that said we are a "high use county" and we do not want to be. Top 3 statewide is hypertension, cancer, and gastro. We need to look at what is causing high claims on our county insurance and come together to try and control some of our cost with Healthy Is. Good on Safety means better workers comp, etc. The county is family friendly based on costs to employees. If our percentage stays high, the rates will go up. The county needs a payroll clerk and they can be trained in HR and Safety to help with the county's goals.

David added our workers comp policy has a dividend program returned about a 25% premium to policy holders. The correlation comes from the same risk management scenario for insurance.

Mark added that he would encourage us to set a safety goal such as positive small things such as inspections or near miss or safety training. Leading indicators- when you do it, things get better.

Nich added when they come to BVHD they bring the machine that measures muscle and body fat. When they come on site, they are engaging with the employees and helping them understand what is working for each of them. They need to be engaging more of the population here. He briefly discussed obesity and health problems. He wants to propose to have the machine live here all the time- so the access is available and more can engage with it. Coaching could be virtual and online programs.

McGinley added we have discussed this prior and wanting to maybe house it at Public Health and open to the public for a charge. There is also a big correlation between inflammation and depression.

Pam added their numbers look a lot better than the one he got from Allegiance.

Cheri ran through the specific to Beaverhead County numbers and explained. 96% of population have claims. Medical claims for Beaverhead County per member per month are 100% higher than benchmark. More details were discussed by claim and claimant.

She briefly discussed the following: benefits of being members of the trust, risk analysis, utilization metrics, procedure groups, number 1 prevalent condition is depression up 30% over benchmark, hypertension is number 2, care alert score, emergency room metrics, telemedicine, pharmacy metrics, high-cost members, and the biometrix blood screening results.

Cheri added there is not a lot that is a specific driver or misuse of the plan.

McGinley added Healthy Is isn't coming back until January. He is trying to design a job description to fill the need of the county and we need a wellness committee person. Premium numbers will be discussed in January and out in February.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes were not read due to time constraints.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Doug Egbert brought in a petition signed by neighbors to ban the use of compression breaking on Laknar and Schuler Lanes. The petition was read aloud and submitted to the Commissioners. Mr. Egbert added there are likely more signatures but with the time of year, he is not able to get to every neighbor before dark. The commissioners will

review what was submitted. Deputy Fields added enforcement might be an issue with all else going on in the county.

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

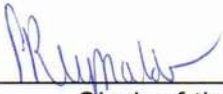
CK # 219234 Century Link \$530.01
CK#219235 Beaverhead Motors \$52,925.45

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$219,945.74 beginning with check #219236 and ending with check #219306. 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