

**January 26, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on January 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner John H. Jackson, Commissioner Michael J McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice 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 hauled more gravel to Sweetwater Road and sanded in Dewey. They are getting caught up on shop and equipment repairs.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

January 18th to January 24th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Haul Gravel on Sweetwater
  - Sand Dewey
- Repairs and Maintenance
  - Road Check

**WISDOM AREA**

- 811 Class in Dillon
- Hang Tailgate, Oil Change, Move Equipment for Repairs
  - Work on Power in Quonset
- Shop Clean, Equipment Setup.
  - Check Local Roads

**LIMA AREA**

- Equipment Repair and Service
- Cleared Rocks off the Road
  - 811 Training
- Shop Maintenance, Shop Cleaning
  - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, County Planner Tina Caron, County Attorney Sky Jones, and MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore joined the meeting.

Jack introduced Darrin Schallenberger as the new 4H Program Manager. He is starting today and learning the ropes.

Tom commented that all is smooth at the landfill. He did the final reviews of the CWPP and it will be adopted today by the Commissioners. He is working on generator stuff, permits and inquiries.

Stacey added that she is working on elections. She will be hiring a new election assistant.

Amber said she has nothing major this week. She got her grants finalized, and getting ready for hearings in the middle of March.

Shonna commented that they are working on gas hookup for the generator. She renewed the license for boiler for the county.



Tina added no big projects this week, little surveys, and a questionnaire.

Tracy added that he is working on GIS stuff and finishing CWPP.

Randi mentioned that today there are 5-6 pretrials or change of plea hearings, one felony hearing this afternoon and the Spring Conference is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April and beginning of May for her absence.

Sky added he will be in court a lot today. He is also working with the Attorney General's office on a few cases.

Mike commented that the schools are quiet. He has homeless liaison training on Wednesday.

**Discussion and Action- Appointment to City/County Planning Board**

Commissioner Rice explained that the county has an appointed person to attend city and county planning boards to be a go-between of information. The current appointee is Maria Emmer-Annes and she has not been to any meetings in the last 6 months and prior to that her attendance was also sporadic. Under the procedure of non-attendance or inactive member this person can be replaced by the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to remove Maria as the county representative. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGinley mentioned that Todd Reiser has been in contact with him and expressed interest.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to appoint Todd Reiser as the county representative to the city planning board. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing on the adoption of the county CWPP. Sign in can be viewed here:

CWPP Public Meeting

Commissioners Room-County Courthouse, Dillon, MT

SIGN-IN - 1/26/2026

(Include Phone # and Email If Not Given Previously)

Name (Please Print)	Phone #	Email Address
Tom Rice		
John H Jackson		
Mike McGinley		
Jim Alvarado		
Nancy Mayne		
Cathy Elliott		
Rachel Hoerning		
Tom Wagner		
Tracy Sawyer		



Tom Wagenknecht addressed the public and the Commissioners. The community wildfire protection plan is required by different entities in collaboration with local government agencies like DNRC, Forest Service, local fire districts, etc. It addresses everything that could be in the future of fire management and growth within our county including agreements with mutual aid. This plan should be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

Discussion ensued regarding fire management, subdivision regulations, fuel reduction, and grants possible.

#### **Discussion and Action- Adoption of the CWPP**

With the explanation above from the Public Hearing portion and no further discussion needed, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded to adopt the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Beaverhead County. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Tom Wagenknecht presented a signature page for the Commissioners to sign and be a part of the CWPP as filed.

#### **Discussion and Action- Agreement with Healthy Is**

Commissioner McGinley began with stating that Healthy Is will be bringing the InBody machine tomorrow and they would like to be able to leave it here for everyone to use as they wish. The agreement with Healthy Is for a year term to leave the machine here at the county courthouse. We hope to monetize this by letting the community come and pay to utilize the machine as well.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to sign the agreement with Healthy Is. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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

The minutes of the January 20, 2026 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**

JS Turner and Tom Barnes came in to ask the Commissioners questions about Clark Creek Road and Forest Service regarding if it is a county road and who is responsible for maintenance.

#### **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 # 219548 Jake Peterson \$750 V Plow Re-Issue lost (Indemnity Bond)  
Ck # 219549- 219550 VOID  
Ck # 219551 Safeway Detention Meals \$1150.00  
Ck # 219552 Floyds Truck Center \$1526.67

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$38,667.03 beginning with check #219553 and ending with check #219579. 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 3:00 p.m. for the Solid Waste Meeting

Attest:  Clerk of the Board  
Approved: C. THOMAS RICE Chairman of the Board