

FEBRUARY 2, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 2, 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. Bob reported that no snow to plow, working in the shop. They are looking to hire for an operator position and will be posting this week.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
January 25th to January 31st 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Sweetwater
- Plow Snow Bannack Bench
- Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Shop Clean, Equipment Setup.
- Repairs and Maintenance
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Equipment Repair and Cleaning
 - Training in Helena
- Shop Maintenance, Shop Cleaning
 - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Landfill Manager Nick Hoem, Sheriff David Wendt, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, County Planner Tina Caron, County Attorney Sky Jones, and MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore joined the meeting.

Nick added quiet up at the landfill. The sheriff wants to redo the shooting range at the old landfill and possibly move to an area of the new landfill. February 4th he will be meeting with the school to talk about the new radio training.

Jack commented that Fair Board meeting tonight, beef weigh in on Saturday. Darrin is still getting set up with MSU. 17-19th he will be in Butte for state 4H meeting.

Sheriff Wendt added one of the detention officers moved to Dillon PD.

Shonna mentioned Kevin put in his resignation last week so they will be hiring a new facilities worker. The propane for the generator was installed last week. The Airport boiler inspection is today.

Tom commented that permits are trickling in and he is working on the final filing for CWPP.

Tina mentioned that she is working on subdivision review and flood plain training. Economic Development in Butte is Thursday.

Stacey added that candidate filing for special districts ends this week. HR interviews are Friday afternoon. She is hoping to interview for the C&R position next week.

Tracy mentioned working on all things GIS.

Sky commented that the hearing is this week for the Ambulance district. They are working on around 70 felonies and 80 misdemeanors right now. His office will be very busy handling those cases.

City/Chamber Update

Mayor John McGinley was present and updated the Commissioners on the following. The city is putting their boards together. The growth policy for Dillon is out for the 30-day public comment period on the city website. They are putting together a grant for the cemetery irrigation system.

Todd Godfrey was not present to update the Commissioners on Chamber events.

Discussion- MACo HCT Renewal Presentation

Pam Walling, Cheri Copeland, and Vera Pederson with MACo Health Care Trust joined the Commissioners to discuss plan summary, looking forward to next year and new year information.

Topics of discussion were:

Review of Year to Date Performance, Projected Renewal Rates, Contribution and Eligibility Form, HSA/HRA/FSA Plans, Plan Changes and Benefit Changes, Value Added Benefits, Open Enrollment Dates, Rocky Mountain Biometrx Statistics, ETC.

All the information can be viewed in the Finance Office.

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

Kristen Thompson, Sarah Rouse, and Corey Lewellen with US Forest Service were present to start a conversation with the Commissioners to give updates on various projects with Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. They would like to come back and do a overlook of the fire season. 15 non-fire seasonal employees will be hired for Beaverhead-Deerlodge area. Looking forward to Spring for updates on EIS and travel planning. Other topics were action plans for grazing, timber, maintaining and improving recreation, etc. Timber – sustained yield unit- working on establishing a sustained yield unit. There will be a public hearing on this in Butte as a central location.

Sarah added information on the Selway-Sag projects she is working on and the road improvements needed moving forward. Another timber project is Bull creek area and looking for public engagement on that in the spring. She discussed briefly about the agreement with Weeds Dept and working on invasive species. Discussion regarding the resource advisory committee in the county. Sarah is the Designated Forest Officer for Beaverhead.

McGinley mentioned Title 3 monies and repairing the bridges in these areas.

Kristen mentioned Bull Creek is the next project but Selway-Sag is getting some restoration work this summer. Looking to the future, she is looking at the West Pioneers area for entry for vegetation management. She touched on other non-timber projects in Beaverhead.

Sarah mentioned there are likely a lot of trees down on trails with the high winds recently. There is also no road crew foreman and only 2 for road crew. Fuels reduction projects at French Creek and Birch Creek. Kristen added info about the East Pioneers fuel reduction project- trapper creek and river corridor.

Clark Creek Road update- Sarah touched on next steps for the county.

Active and upcoming mines in the county were discussed as well as Beaverhead County radio/towers on FS land.

New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Cathy Huckle, County Treasurer, submitted the Cash Report to the Commissioners for November 2025 on Thursday (1/29/26) and it was not accepted due to not being in balance.

Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.

Payment of Invoices

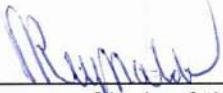
- Ck # 219580 \$1,075.00 Detention Meals Safeway
- Ck # 219581 \$289.63 Quadient (postage machine)
- Ck # 219582 \$1,306.01 Staples
- Ck # 219583 \$89.90 Stockman (Huckle) Postage
- Ck # 219584 \$59.19 Stockman (Ferris) fees
- Ck # 219585 \$5,798.30 Vigilante Wild Fire

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$18,566.59 beginning with check #219586 and ending with check #219612. 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: 
Chairman of the Board