

## March 2, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Chairman C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner John H. 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 that there has been a little bit of snow to plow. They have also been completing lots of of shop projects.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK  
February 22nd to February 28th 2026  
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow Horse Prairie and Byway
  - Repairs and Maintenance
    - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Plow Upper North Fork, Lower North Fork, Twin Lakes, Moose Ck, Rock Ck, River Rd, Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, Wisdom
  - Backhoe Batteries Parts Run
  - Load Scrap and Take to Bitterroot
    - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Plowed Snow on South Valley Road, Lima Dam Road
  - Equipment Repair and Cleaning
    - General Fabrication
    - Checked Local Roads

Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, County Attorney Sky Jones, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Clerk of District Court Carly Anderson, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, and County Planner Tina Caron, joined the meeting.

Tom added that all at the landfill is going well. He and Tina are dealing with issues on lots that may or may not be able to be developed. Quite a few permits coming in. He also mentioned that DNRC has introduced a new permitting process to dig a new well.

Shonna mentioned that there was a wiring issue with the generator that was fixed. Once that is complete, we can remove the old generator and underground storage tank. They are moving Sam's office this week and setting up new HR office. She got 6 applicants for the facilities position and will have interviews next week. Strong winds broke the door at weeds office last week, it may need replacement. She also added the sump pump went out in the jail on Friday.

Joyce commented that she was at the Elks on Thursday watching them prep and they did really well. She has been getting a lot of inspections done. She has a class on Saturday to renew her license. She should hear about the FDA grant this week.

Amber mentioned that this week she is reading grants and scoring them. Next week she is gone for hearings. She is also opening up job applications for her summer crew.

Mike added that this week is Science Fair week at UMW. Last week he visited almost all the schools to do evaluations. There will be a retirement at Reichle. All other teachers should be returning.

Tina mentioned that last week she was at a flood plain conference in Great Falls. She got a DNRC rookie of the year recognition.

Carly commented that there is no court this week. She is hosting the clerk of court convention in May at UMW.

Sky added that there is some Justice Court this week. Busy weekend with law enforcement.

McGinley added in DC he learned that Secure Rural Schools was funded. Title 2 is being held. He also added that Beaverhead County applied for a Rural Energy Cohort and was picked as one of 12 counties in the nation.

### **Discussion- Open Burn Season**

County DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the Commissioners to discuss open burn season in the county. Travis Wilson was also present.

Tom started by saying burn season opens in March. With current conditions, we are hoping for rain. A permit is still required for burning in open season or they can be cited.

McGinley asked about BJ leaving and who will be deciding to turn on and off the ability to burn through the county.

Tom replied it is based on local conditions and any of the chiefs can get on there if they choose to have that access. Currently Tracy, Rochelle, dispatch and Tom have that access to turn it on and off. It should go through Tom directly but others are able to as needed. They will be monitoring the weather conditions.

He also added the county assist team for incident management is the end of March in Bozeman.

They briefly discussed the Basin Creek fire which started over the weekend.

### **Discussion and Action- MACo PCT Agent Agreement**

A notice was received from MACo PCT regarding updates to the Bylaws. There is now an option to have an Employee Elected to represent the county but we will stay with having Josh Boka and Mountain View represent the county.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded to keep the agent agreement with Mountain View Insurance Josh Boka and not elect an employee at this time. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners signed the acknowledgement of Bylaws for PCT.

### **Discussion and Action- Notice of Award Brownes Bridge Decking**

The engineers with Great West reviewed the bids and recommended the bid be awarded to R. Rhodes Construction. A Notice of Award was drafted and signed by the Commissioners on February 25, 2026.

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

The minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026, meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson 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**

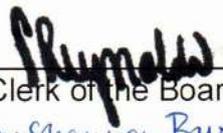
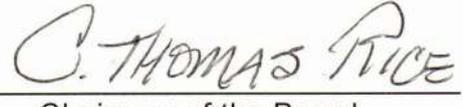
- Ck # 219750 Missoula County Justice Court \$550.00
- Ck # 219751 Missoula County Justice Court \$30.00
- Ck # 219752 Safeway Detention Meals \$1630.00

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$90,789.37 beginning with check #219753 and ending with check #219789. 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.

Attest:  Approved:   
 Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board  
*by Shannan Burkupus, deputy*