

July 6, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: 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 that good moisture last week and wet snow on the Byway. They had to clear trees that were downed. Getting ready for chloride.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

June 28th to July 4th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Saw Trees on Byway
- Blade Birch Creek, Hwy 324
- Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Jackson Sewer Flooding Issue/Dig Ditch in Yard
 - Road Check for Water Damage
 - Shop Clean. Equipment Repair
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed South Valley Rd, Lima Dam Rd, and North Valley Rd.
 - Serviced Equipment/ Equipment Repair
 - Cleared Fallen Tree off South Valley Rd
 - Checked Local Roads

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Land Use Sanitation/DES Tom Wagenknecht, Food use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, County Planner Tina Caron, County Attorney Sky Jones, and Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez joined the meeting.

Tom commented that landfill is having computer troubles this morning. DES there was a semi accident yesterday with a fuel spill. Moisture is good but the heat coming may bring fires. There was a small fire in the Grasshopper yesterday. Sanitation is still getting septic permit inquiries.

Mike added schools closed. Jackson is still looking for a teacher. This week he is working on the second payment of retirement for schools.

Lilia mentioned BOH is on the 17th in Lima. Working on deliverables for grants. Staff is creating a safe sleep education video. There will be a bike rodeo in August. She will be at conference next week.

Stacey commented that it is quiet.

Shonna added last week was quiet. They are working on landscaping and yard care.

Adam mentioned last week he started working on new update with Motorola. Working on DEQ stuff with Bob.

Randi added there will be interviews on Wednesday for her clerk position. Today is busy with hearings. There were lots of traffic citations over the holiday weekend.

Sky commented that they are busy. He has been working on solar lease for landfill. County Attorney conference is at the end of the week. There was a felony over the weekend.

Tina added there are a few meetings this week on surveys and trails.

Joyce mentioned she did some inspections over Dillon Days. Working on compliance issues. She is heading to Wisdom today for inspections.

Jack added weekend was good- no fires. They will be at State 4H conference end of week Tuesday thru Friday.

Discussion and Action-Resolution 2026-27 Resolution to Add the Charter to the General Election Ballot (per Study Commission)

Present: Brooke Erb, Stacey Reynolds, Mark Boka

Commissioner Rice asked for comments. Brooke added this is the recommendation of the Study Commission to add this to the ballot. No comments have come in to the Commissioners regarding the resolution.

Brooke asked about cost of changing to the charter. McGinley replied that he is not aware of extra cost with this change- since it is leaving the commission format the same.

Mark asked if now the Study Commission will campaign for this. Brooke replied no, they will send a letter to the paper for the public to review what the change is.

Mark asked if they found any major problems that needed changed. Brooke added division of responsibility in personnel. Stacey added that was not for the Study Commission to review- they were tasked with looking at the form of government.

Sky added it is a requirement of the Commission to pass this if it is recommended by the Study Commission.

McGinley added comment that the charter form is typically built for cities and the counties stay general powers. Almost all of the counties are still general powers. He has read through this and it is not changing anything. He is hoping there is a lot of education done for this since the city is also adding a request to change their form of government. Discussion ensued regarding confusion about the form of government and ballot language.

Stacey requested that when they put together the info for the paper if they could also give to the Elections Office for when people ask questions. Brooke agreed that is a good idea.

McGinley questioned some verbiage in the charter as it is written and may be in contradiction of state law. Sky asked if it does pass, what is the process to amend the charter. He will look into it.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-27 to Add the Charter to the General Election Ballot. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 7/6/2026 At 10:29 AM
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
By: *Shannon Burkenpar*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-27

A RESOLUTION OF BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA, SUBMITTING
TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF BEAVERHEAD COUNTY A BALLOT
MEASURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CHARTER FORM OF COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Article XI of the Montana Constitution authorizes local governments to adopt alternative forms of government and self-government charters, subject to approval by the voters; and

WHEREAS, Title 7, Chapter 3, Montana Code Annotated, establishes procedures for proposing and submitting alternative forms of local government, including the charter form of government, to the electors of a county; and

WHEREAS, Beaverhead County currently operates under the statutory county government structure provided by Montana law; and

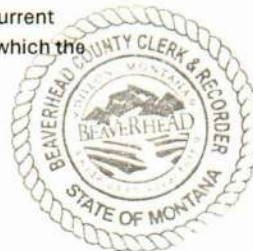
WHEREAS, the 2024 Local Government Study Commission finds that it is in the public interest to present to the voters the question of whether Beaverhead County should adopt a self-governing charter form of county government in order to provide greater local control over governmental organization, powers, administration, and accountability, consistent with Montana law; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to submit to the qualified electors of Beaverhead County a ballot measure proposing adoption of a charter form of county government and to authorize all actions necessary for lawful submission of that question at the November 3, 2026 election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Beaverhead County, Montana, as follows:

Section 1. Submission of Ballot Measure. Beaverhead County hereby submits to the qualified electors of Beaverhead County, Montana, a ballot measure on the question of whether Beaverhead County shall adopt a charter form of county government as authorized by the Montana Constitution and Title 7, Chapter 3, Montana Code Annotated.

Section 2. Purpose of Ballot Measure. The ballot measure will allow the voters of Beaverhead County to determine whether the County should move from its current statutory form of county government to a charter form of government, under which the





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BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 7/6/2026 At 10:29 AM

County may establish its local governmental structure and administrative organization through a voter-approved charter, subject to the limitations of state and federal law.

Section 3. Ballot Language and Election Materials. The appropriate County officials, in consultation with the County Attorney, Elections Administrator, and other necessary staff or advisors, are authorized and directed to prepare, review, and finalize the ballot language, explanatory statements, notices, and all other documents required to submit the measure to the voters in accordance with applicable law.

Section 4. Election. The ballot measure shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Beaverhead County at the November 3, 2026 election, or at another legally permissible election date if required by law or election administration requirements, upon satisfaction of all procedural requirements applicable to the proposal and submission of an alternative form of county government.

Section 5. Public Information and Review. County officials may circulate public information describing the nature and effect of the proposed charter form of government, provided that all official ballot materials remain accurate, legally sufficient, and consistent with applicable election requirements.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Beaverhead County, Montana, this 6th day of July 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

By: C. Thomas Rice

BEAVERHEAD, Commission Chair

ATTEST:

Stacey Reynolds
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
Reynolds
SEAL

Discussion and Action- SRS Funds Allocation

Present: Mark Boka, Tina Caron, Travis Wilson

Rice added this is our allocation of how the title funds are distributed. McGinley added we have one more year of SRS money authorized. This is to allocate the percentages when they reauthorize money to come in Spring of next year.

Title II goes to fund RAC. This was at 8% last allocation. Title III is restrictive on how you can spend it- using it mostly for Forest Service to benefit Beaverhead County in weeds, roads, search and rescue, etc. This was at 7% last allocation.

McGinley explained about what is the RAC and information about title funds.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to allocate 8% to Title II and 7% to Title III. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Montana SFY 2027 County Forest Reserve or SRS Payments Election and Allocation Form

County Election for 1908 Act (25%) Forest Reserve payments or Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act payments. If a county elects SRS payments, they need to select permissible SRS allocations.

The Forest Service is asking Counties to make both their program election (FFR 25% or SRS). If SRS selected Counties are asked to make their allocation percentage decisions for SRS Title I, Title II, and Title III, subject to their level of payments (see attached Forest Service County payments estimates and instructions).

The Forest Service has asked for these selections be delivered before August 1st. The Governor's office is required to submit the forest county responses. We ask that this form be returned to us by July 17th, 2026.

County	Program election		Allocations for the Secure Rural Schools Act Payments ¹			
	1908 Act (25%) Payments	Secure Rural Schools	Title I Schools & Co. Roads	Title II Projects (FS RACs)	Title III County Funds	Return to U.S. Treasury
		✓	85%	8%	7%	

If electing SRS payments, allocate payment (whole) percentages in the columns above -- not to exceed 100 in total. See guidelines below.

County: BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

Preparer's Name: Michael McGinley

Title: Co. Commissioner

Phone Number: 406-683-3751

Address: 2 S. Pacific

E-Mail: mmcginley@beaverheadcountymt.gov

Discussion and Action- Clenera Lease at Landfill

Sky has been working on this lease. He is waiting on Weeds to get back with him on mitigation of weeds verbiage in the lease. He will be mirroring the previous weeds terms from the other solar farm but update a little since it is on county property.

Rice added the numbers are good with him. Sky was going to find out what other counties had in their leases.

McGinley added they want certain reports to be given to the county and they questioned the \$650. Everything else looked good.

McGinley motioned to approve the lease.

Tom W. has been looking into changing where the septic trucks can dump now that the land is leased to Clenera. The county will put a user agreement in place with them and hold them responsible for weeds and trash. They need to be ready to move. Sky added he would like advice from Wagenknecht of verbiage for the septic leases.

There is an end date when the county gets the property back. The county will receive tax benefit from the upgrades to the property. The county will also make revenue on leasing the land to the solar farm. The landfill will not need that portion of land for at least 40-50 years.

Discussion ensued regarding solar power and transmission.

Sky asked about including anything about setbacks from the fence on the property. The commissioners replied no; the company will fence it off themselves and set back off the fence.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve this lease and authorize the County Attorney to negotiate further as needed. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action- Resignation from Public Administrator and Appoint Interim Public Administrator

Mike English, County Public Administrator, submitted a letter of resignation. He officially withdrew from the election. The commissioners will appoint someone to fill in until the General Election. The republican party will choose a candidate to add on the November ballot for election. If there is not a candidate chosen, then the Elections administrator can cancel the election and the county commissioners can start the process of combining it with another county position such as County Attorney.

Sky added he will go speak with the republican party about the process and the position.

McGinley would like to appoint County Attorney Sky Jones.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to appoint County Attorney Sky Jones as the interim Public Administrator. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 29, 2026, meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve the minutes as read. 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**

Stacey Reynolds and Sky Jones brought to the Commissioners attention that the Resolution 2026-27 passed today for the study commission has errors regarding ballot language that need to be addressed. This will be added to the next Commissioners meeting to amend.

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 \$59,108.75 beginning with check #220714 and ending with check #220747. 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 4:00 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk of the Board

Approved: _____

Chairman of the Board

Stacey Reynolds
by Kristy Sauerbeer
Deputy Clerk & Recorder

C. THOMAS RICE