

August 3, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 3, 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 they worked on Sweetwater all last week to resurface. It was supposed to dry for 72 hours and there were people that drove around the signs and across it. They also worked in the Big Sheep Creek area repairing flood damage.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

July 26th to August 1st 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade: Bachelor Mtn, Bloody Dick, Stoddard, Argenta
 - Resurfacing Work on Sweetwater
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Haul Gravel Upper and Lower North Fork
 - Blade Local Roads
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Blade Big Sheep Creek
- Cleaned Shoulders on Big Sheep Creek
- Prep for Chloride on Big Sheep Creek and South Valley Rd
 - Checked Local Roads

Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Justice Clerk Katherine Funchion, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, County Planner Tina Caron, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller and Sheriff David Wendt joined the meeting.

Jack added we are less than a month to the fair. Lots of samples and hay testing. Working with weeds on a sample as well.

Mike commented that Jackson has decided to go non-operational status for next year due to not being able to find a teacher. The kids will go to Wisdom School.

Shonna mentioned that last week was yard work and cross training staff. Water softener at Public Health needs work, waiting on estimates.

Theresa added that she was working on all the cost-of-living raises for employees and working on levy for benefits.

Amber mentioned knapweed is blooming and easy to identify. Crews start leaving next week to go back to school. New invasive plant found this summer. Working with forest service to get projects done this fall. They will be looking into another new invasive this afternoon.

Tina commented she is the only one upstairs this week. Tom and Joyce are in Kansas. There will be a new minor subdivision on Smith.

Adam added he has been working on projects- mostly on addressing.

Randi introduced Katherine Funchion as her new part-time clerk. She also mentioned there are a few hearings this week.

Sheriff Wendt commented that he is back from medical leave on light duty. There are 22 downstairs. Nick is over helping with Forest Service radio issues. There was talk about closing parts of the Byway due to fires.

Discussion and Action-Appointment for Wise River Fire District Trustee

There was a vacancy left of the board of trustees for the Wise River Fire District. Mark Wilcox submitted a letter of interest to the Commissioners. With no further questions or comments, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to appoint Mark Wilcox to the Wise River Fire District as a Trustee to finish the term. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 27, 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

The Beaverhead Deerlodge Working Group sent a letter of thanks for the \$1000 donation in support of the BDWG operations.

Great West Engineering sent a request for draw of \$8,336.50 as part of the Anderson Lane Bridge project. Commissioner McGinley and Becky Hankinson signed and returned.

New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

McGinley added that he has been working with the hospital board recently on a bill sent from Barretts Hospital for services rendered to the jail/inmates. He spoke with chairman Shane Puyear and asked to meet to discuss. Shane emailed and said the county board does not want to meet at this time but McGinley should meet with the private hospital board. They need to still meet to decide to add a levy to pay the outstanding bills if needed.

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

Payment of Invoices

CK# 220907 Reese Jensen \$500.00 (DUI Task Force Scholarship)
CK# 220908 Emmanuel Dzenga \$500.00 (DUI Task Force Scholarship)
CK# 220909 911 INET \$58,000 (Sheriff Vehicle)
CK#220910 Safeway \$1870.00 (Detention Meals)
CK# 220911 MACR \$150.00 (Convention C&R)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$849,703.90 beginning with check #220912 and ending with check #220949. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

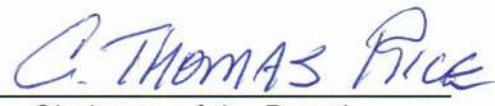
Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Budget Discussions

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