

August 31, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 31, 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 gave the road report. They have been hauling gravel on Ten Mile. Frying Pan gravel pit is almost out of gravel. They are putting up a gate on the Byway this week for Forest Service. The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK

August 23rd to August 29th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Haul Gravel Ten Mile
- Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Cattle Guard Repair Upper North Fork
- Load, Haul and Spread Gravel Skinner Meadows
- Spray GP 303, Skinner Meadows, Long Ck, South Valley Road
 - Clean Ditches Upper North Fork
 - Service Equipment
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Blade North Valley Rd, Ruby Divide Rd, Brundage Ln.
- Mowed on Gosman Ln, Fitters Ln, Big Sheep Creek, West Rd, Munday Ln, and Chute Canyon Rd
- Equipment Repair. Moved Equipment. Yard Maintenance
 - Checked Local Roads

Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, County Attorney Sky Jones, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller and Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds joined the meeting.

Nick added he has been working on computer issues. Loader is working.

Tom mentioned the LEPC is at 9:30a today. Fires are doing okay this week. Issues with Jackson Water and Sewer. Septic permits coming in.

Stacey commented that last week was the 3-year assessment for cyber security with CISA. They are also working on upcoming Elections

Shonna mentioned Doug started boiler class. Plumber will be at public health this week working in basement. AED machine pads are done. This weekend is Labor Day so they expect heavy traffic in law enforcement.

Joyce added that she is learning the new database for entering inspections. She will be around the Fair off and on to check food permits.

Lilia commented that this week is slow for PH. Wednesday there will be a site review for a grant.

Tina added planning is busy- two subdivisions in review currently. Flood plain issues.

Mike mentioned the rural schools will start Tuesday morning. Budgets are in and he will be getting those together for budget meeting.

Adam commented that CISA review last week brought about some updates to look at moving forward. DIS should be inhouse today to finish phones.

Randi added that she had one misdemeanor warrant over the weekend issued. Labor Day coming will mean busy nights. She will be out of town over the weekend. Clerk Conference will be in September. Judge conference is in November.

Darrin mentioned it is Fair week so they are very busy.

Sky commented that last weekend he worked on Public Administrator duties as they came up.

LEPC Meeting

The minutes from the LEPC meeting will be available in the DES Administrators office.

Discussion and Action- Emergency LUA with Dillon Airport and Forest Service

The Commissioners received a request for an emergency land use agreement from the Forest Service for use of an area at the Dillon Airport. As this was a timely manner, it was reviewed and signed on August 26, 2026. The agreement has been filed as an agreement with the Clerk and Records Office for review as needed.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve the Emergency Land Use Agreement. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

McGinley added this needs to get to the DES office for filing also.

Discussion and Action- East Hills Minor Subdivision Preliminary Plat Approval

Present: Tina Caron, Rochelle Hoerning, Kelly Rowe, Bob Ferris, Adam Braddock, Collin Erb, Paul Lacey, Mark Boka, Tom Wagenknecht

McGinley added that commissioners are not attending planning board meetings. Collin and him had a conversation after the planning board meeting regarding this subdivision.

Tina read the summary of the Findings of Fact by the Planning Board and Planning Staff, Final Action of the Board of County Commissioners, the Preliminary Plat of the East Hills Minor Subdivision. The planning board finds that the subdivision be approved subject to the conditions set forth by the board.

Rice asked for any questions or concerns.

McGinley asked for clarification on numbers 8 and 9 regarding county road. There should not be updates to these county roads for this subdivision when the road has not been costing the county money at this time. The growth policy for Beaverhead County gives guidance- page 25 talks about rural improvement districts that he read aloud regarding subdivision road maintenance. He agrees with the concept in the document. Collin asked for clarification on what it means. McGinley referred to the map in the packet and Smith Road is the concern.

Paul added comment on the history of this project and he was under the impression that the county roads would be maintained by the county. He wants to come up with a solution together for a plan for improvement of the roads.

McGinley added that the comment of cost share of this "first" subdivision means there are possible others in the future. Paul clarified.

Discussion regarding Emergency services getting to the neighborhood should the roads not be improved and funding to improve the roads. RID and SID process and establishment were discussed. Costs involved needs to be researched more. Kelly added it would likely be around \$60 a foot for the first mile to the subdivision. Colin asked if the whole cost is on them as developers. McGinley added it still needs clarification.

Paul asked about a way it can be approved as a long term process of improving the road with the knowledge it will happen over time. Kelly added it is not fair to the future land owners if the developers aren't building to county specs before approving the subdivision.

McGinley added he can't defend spending this amount (approx. \$300,000) to improve a road for a small private neighborhood when there are a lot of roads around the county that can better benefit from improvements.

Rice added comment on other developments in the county.

Paul commented that he was told the county road improvement would be on the county and they would improve the roads in the subdivision.

Discussion regarding public, private, and county roads ensued.

McGinley added if they approve today, they have 3 years to meet the requirements of improving the road.

Paul asked if they were able to use some county resources such as equipment and gravel, could they ask for that.

Comment on building the road to standards before they can sell the lots so there is access for emergency and cost to property owners if an RID or SID is created.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve the preliminary plat with a concept of moving toward an SID or RID to get the roads up to standards. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Collin asked for clarification on if they can sell any lots before the roads are brought to standards. Tina commented that they can't sell until final subdivision approval anyways.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing an SID for the landowners and future expansions.

McGinley added that we can meet again after we can get estimates to see what the cost will be.

Discussion and Action- PCT Agent Agreement

Josh Boka was present. The Commissioners have received a letter from MACo including the agents commission check for Mountain View Insurance. The Commissioners will keep Josh Boka as our appointed PCT agent. They presented the check to Josh. Discussions ensued regarding county property and future projects.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 17th and 24th, 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

Jamie Silvera dropped off Coalition Involvement agreements from Be the Change 406 for the Commissioners to review. Each commissioner signed as a representative of the county government.

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#221137 \$339,827.00 Western States Equipment (Cat Grader)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$46,661.13 beginning with check #221138 and ending with check #221177. 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