

**September 8, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on September 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present Commissioner C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner Michael J. 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 the following. Gate put in on the Wise River side of the Byway for Fire closures. Fixed washout on Sweetwater and bladed. They also checked the new section of Sweetwater.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**

August 30th to September 5th 2026

Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Gate on By Way
- Blade Sweetwater Rd
- Repairs and Maintenance
  - Road Check

**WISDOM AREA**

- Blade Big Lake, Steel Creek, Twin Lakes
  - Spray in Lima
  - Shop Clean
- Check Local Roads

**LIMA AREA**

- Bladed on South Valley Rd and Ruby Divide Rd.
- Culvert Repair on South Valley Rd. and Ruby Divide Rd.
- Culvert Cleaning on North and South Valley Rd and Shineberger Rd.
- Mowed on Big Sheep, Glead Ln, Gravely Ln, Steelbridge Ln, Wolfe Ln, Bitmat Ln, and Lima Dam Rd.
  - Moved and Repaired Equipment
  - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, County Planner Tina Caron, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, Deputy County Attorney John Gardiner, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Clerk of District Court Carly Anderson and Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick mentioned that spent time last week on computers working on issues. Cameras up and going. Solid Waste meeting tomorrow.

Tom added that he was on a conference call regarding fire restrictions and they are talking of lowering from Stage 1 with the cool weather.

Mike commented that schools are all in session as of today. There are some tech difficulties with adding a teacher for MAST in Reichle. He will give commissioners the budget reports at 1:30 today.

Theresa added that she is working on personnel files. Working on fire reimbursements.

Shonna mentioned that last week the team handled her absence really well. Labor Day in law annex went ok. There was a flood in one of the cells that happened late at night,

called plumber and it is being worked on. Plumber worked in public health building last week.

Stacey commented that ballots are at the printers.

Carly added no court this week.

John mentioned that there are a few upcoming trials. Final draft of solar lease should be coming through today. Sober Rides did over 1000 rides this weekend.

Adam commented that phones had a lot of issues last week with the swap over. He discussed the issues and the fix schedule including issues with the Sheriff Annex connectivity.

Tina added that it is busy upstairs. Planning conference is at Western this week.

McGinley discussed mill levies and taxes briefly with the budget approval this afternoon.

#### **Public Hearing- Beaverhead County Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

The Commissioners recessed the Regular Meeting for the Public Hearing.  
Present: Becky Hankinson, Mark Boka, and Casey Elliot (Dillon Tribune)

Casey asked questions and McGinley answered regarding "highlights" of changes or new for this years budget.

At 10:30am, Commissioner Rice closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Commissioner Meeting.

#### **Discussion and Action- Accept Resignation from Beaverhead County Fire District #4 Trustee**

Shelly Boyd has tendered her intent to resign from the Beaverhead County Fire District #4 (Grasshopper Valley) Board of Trustees effective October 21, 2026. This is an elected board so the Commissioners will accept letters of interest to fill this position and appoint to the next election (May 2027).

With no further questions the following motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to accept the resignation of Shelly Boyd from Fire District #4. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Recess**

At 12:00 noon, Commissioner Rice recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Rice and Commissioner McGinley reconvened the meeting with Assistant Dana Basile present.

#### **Review and Action on School Budgets- County Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller**

Present: Mike Miller, Kasey Swisher, Mark Boka, Casey Elliott (Dillon Tribune)  
County Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller joined the meeting. Mike distributed copies of the 2026-27 School District List of Levies for all schools and reviewed it with the Commissioners. He thanked all the school clerks and school boards for their diligence in getting this information to him. He briefly elaborated on a few lines in the budget, specifically the addition of the high school and elementary general base that was created by HB156 which will be dispersed in December and May.

There were no further questions from the Commissioners.

The List of School Levies (Schedule C) will be attached to Resolution 2026-35.

McGinley moved to accept the school budgets and Rice seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Rice signed the submitted budget report for FY 27 for each district.

**Action- Resolution 2026-31 Setting Elected Officials' Salaries**

Resolution 2026-31 was reviewed with no further questions or corrections. These numbers were discussed and voted on by the Compensation Board in April.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to sign and approve Resolution 2026-31 Setting Elected Officials Salaries. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO SET ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-31

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the salaries and one percent longevity for the Beaverhead County elected officials are as follows:

| FY26-27<br>ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES FOR THE ANNUAL RESOLUTION |                |               |              |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                                | BASE           | LONGEVITY     | STAUTATORY   | TOTAL SALARY |
| Clerk & Recorder                                               | \$69,700.00 +  | \$5,227.50 +  | \$2,000.00 = | \$76,927.50  |
| County Attorney                                                | \$127,780.00 + | \$3,833.40 +  | \$0.00 =     | \$131,613.40 |
| County Commissioner                                            | \$69,700.00 +  | \$11,152.00 + | \$2,000.00 = | \$82,852.00  |
| County Commissioner                                            | \$69,700.00 +  | \$11,152.00 + | \$2,000.00 = | \$82,852.00  |
| County Commissioner                                            | \$69,700.00 +  | \$0.00 +      | \$2,000.00 = | \$71,700.00  |
| Sheriff                                                        | \$69,700.00 +  | \$11,472.00 + | \$2,000.00 = | \$83,172.00  |
| Superintendent of Schoo                                        | \$69,700.00 +  | \$3,136.50 +  | \$400.00 =   | \$73,236.50  |
| Treasurer                                                      | \$69,700.00 +  | \$10,803.50 + | \$2,000.00 = | \$82,503.50  |
| Clerk of Court                                                 | \$69,700.00 +  | \$9,409.50 +  | \$2,000.00 = | \$81,109.50  |
| Justice of Peace                                               | \$69,700.00 +  | \$3,833.50 +  | \$2,000.00 = | \$75,533.50  |

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th day of September, 2026.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSION



*Michael J. McGinley*  
Michael J McGinley  
Commissioner  
*C. Thomas Rice*  
C. Thomas Rice  
Commissioner

VACANT  
Commissioner, District 3

*Stacey C. Reynolds*  
Stacey C. Reynolds  
Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

116750 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-31 Page:1  
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 9/8/2026 At 4:02 PM  
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
By: *R. T. Field*

**Action- Resolution 2026-32 Reallocating One-Half Percent Vehicle Tax**

Resolution 2026-32 was reviewed, McGinley added this year the percentages were changed to Road 60% and General Fund 40% - with no further questions or corrections.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to sign and approve Resolution 2026-32 Reallocating One-Half Percent Vehicle Tax. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

116751 Fee: \$ 0.00 File: 2026-32 Page: 1  
 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 9/8/2026 At 4:03 PM  
 Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
 By: *R. F. Field*

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2026-32****A RESOLUTION OF THE BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 REALLOCATING A ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (.5%) VEHICLE TAX**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Beaverhead County intend to reallocate a "local option" one-half of one percent (.5%) vehicle tax; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local one-half of one percent (.5%) vehicle tax will be distributed in accordance with law as set forth in Section 61-3-537, M.C.A., as amended by the 1991 Legislature, that is, fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds to be distributed to the County, and the remaining fifty percent (50%) to the County and the incorporated cities and towns within the County, apportioned on the basis of population, as follows: for incorporated cities and towns, by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of the city or town to the total county population; and for counties, by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of unincorporated areas within the county to the total county population; and

WHEREAS, the County, and cities and towns do need the monies generated by this tax to maintain current services; and

WHEREAS, the distributions for Beaverhead County's share at approximately 75% of the total will be as follows:

|                     |                     |                         |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2110 - Road         | Approximately 60.0% | Approximately \$375,000 |
| 1000 - General Fund | Approximately 40%   | Approximately \$250,000 |

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners resolves as follows:

One-half of one percent (.5%) local option tax on motor vehicles having a rated capacity of one ton or less is ordered as authorized by state law.

DATE: This resolution shall be effective upon passage and approval.

Passed and approved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Beaverhead, State of Montana, this 8th day of September 2026.



BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSION  
*Michael J. McGinley*  
 MICHAEL J. MCGINLEY  
 Commissioner  
*C. Thomas Rice*  
 C. THOMAS RICE  
 Commissioner

District 3 Commissioner  
 VACANT

ATTEST:

*Stacey Reynolds*  
 Stacey Reynolds  
 Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

**Action- PILT Distribution Fiscal Year 2026-27**

PILT Distribution was explained by Commissioner McGinley and reviewed by the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve PILT Distribution for Fiscal Year 2026-27. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Action- Entitlement Share Distribution Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Entitlement Share Distribution was explained by Commissioner McGinley and reviewed by the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to approve Entitlement Share Distribution for Fiscal Year 2026-27. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Action- Resolution 2026-33 Large Taxpayer Reserve Fund**

Resolution 2026-33 was reviewed with no further questions or corrections. This was discussed

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to sign and approve Resolution 2026-33 Establishing a Large Taxpayer Reserve Fund. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

116752 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-33 Page:1  
 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 9/8/2026 At 4:04 PM  
 Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
 By: R. F. Field

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2026-33****RESOLUTION LARGE TAXPAYER RESERVE FUND FISCAL YEAR 2027**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 7-6-620, MCA, effective fiscal year 2027, a local government large taxpayer reserve account may be established; and

**WHEREAS**, money deposited in a local government large taxpayer reserve account must remain in the account and may not be appropriated until a large taxpayer has permanently ceased operations or experienced a significant decrease in taxable value; and

**WHEREAS**, money held in the large taxpayer reserve account may not be considered as cash balance for the purpose of reducing mill levies; and

**WHEREAS**, money in the large taxpayer reserve account must be invested and interest and income from the investment must be credited to the account; and

**WHEREAS**, when circumstance occurs necessitating the use of the large taxpayer reserve account, the governing body shall use funds to pay for outstanding capital project bonds or other expenses incurred prior to the cessation of operations or a significant decrease in taxable value; for up to 10 years, to decrease mill levies of the county that are directly impacted by cessation of operation, or significant decrease in taxable value; to attract new industry; to provide cash incentives for expanding the employment base; or to invest in infrastructure directly related to new development or housing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners that a large taxpayer reserve account will be created and 10% of newly taxable revenue from classes of property other than class four will be deposited into the large taxpayer reserve account.

**DATED THIS** 8th day of September 2026.



Attest:

Stacey C. Reynolds

Stacey C. Reynolds  
Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Michael J. McGinley  
 Michael J. McGinley  
 Commissioner

C. Thomas Rice  
 C. Thomas Rice  
 Commissioner

\*more information is attached to the resolution filed with the Clerk and Recorder.

**Action- Resolution 2026-34 Adopt Final Budget Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Resolution 2026-34 was reviewed with no further questions or corrections. Schedule A and Schedule B are attached to this resolution.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to sign and approve Resolution 2026-34 Adopting Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

116753 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-34 Page:1  
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 9/8/2026 At 4:05 PM  
Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
By: R. F. Field

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2026-34**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET  
FOR BEAVERHEAD COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 7-6-4024 MCA the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on September 8, 2026 in accordance with the notice given pursuant to 7-6-4021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners attended the budget hearing to answer questions on the proposed preliminary budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, no citizens attended the hearing to offer comment on the budget.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners that the Beaverhead County budgets as set out in the attached Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" hereby be adopted as the final budgets for fiscal year 2026-2027.

**DATED THIS** 8th day of September 2026.

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Michael J McGinley  
Michael J McGinley  
Commissioner

C. Thomas Rice  
C. Thomas Rice  
Commissioner

VACANT  
Commissioner, District 3



Attest:

Stacey C. Reynolds  
Stacey C. Reynolds  
Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

\*Schedule A and Schedule B are attached to the Resolution filed with the Clerk and Recorder

**Action- Resolution 2026-35 Setting Mill Levies for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Resolution 2026-35 was reviewed with no further questions or corrections. Schedule A and Schedule C are attached to this Resolution.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded to sign and approve Resolution 2026-35 Setting Mills Levies for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

116754 Fee:\$ 0.00 File: 2026-35 Page:1  
 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 9/8/2026 At 4:06 PM  
 Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder  
 By: *R. Field*

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2026-35**

**RESOLUTION SETTING MILL LEVIES  
 FOR BEAVERHEAD COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 7-6-4036 MCA the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners shall fix the tax levy for each taxing jurisdiction at levels that will balance the budgets as provided in 7-6-4034.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners that the levies are hereby set for fiscal year 2026-2027 as set out on attached **Schedule "A"** (County) and **Schedule "C"** (School).

**DATED THIS** 8th day of September 2026.

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Michael J McGinley*  
 Michael J McGinley  
 Commissioner

*C. Thomas Rice*  
 C. Thomas Rice  
 Commissioner



VACANT  
 Commissioner, District 3

Attest:

*Stacey C. Reynolds*  
 Stacey C. Reynolds  
 Beaverhead County Clerk and Recorder

\*Schedule A, Schedule C, and the Report to Beaverhead County Commissioners Review of School Budgets are attached to the Resolution filed with the Clerk and Recorder.

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the August 31, 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**

Dena Carlin joined the commissioners to discuss the accessibility of the midway at the fairgrounds. She saw a few struggling with mobility due to the gravel. Stacey Reynolds also made comment regarding wheelchair accessibility. The Commissioners replied that it was soft and unlevel this year and they did notice. They will look into the issue. It was brought to their attention by the Road Supervisor earlier this morning about packing it down to harden it or adding asphalt millings.

**New or Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

County Attorney Sky Jones brought in the final draft of the Clenera Lease for the Commissioners to review. This has already been approved as part of previous Commissioner meeting. Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.

**Payment of Invoices**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved claim warrant for a total of \$26,502.24 beginning with claim warrant #221178 and ending with claim warrant #221238. Claim warrant #221237 Stock Drive Trailer Sales, LLC, \$10850.00 (Tilt Deck 20' trailer) the remaining claim warrants were for the Beaverhead County Fair.

**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction****Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



Clerk of the Board

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Chairman of the Board