

September 21, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on September 21, 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. They have been out blading.

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

DILLON AREA

- Blade Bloody Dick, Rebish, Sweetwater, Birch Cr, Bond
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Lower Bender, Skinner Meadows, Lower North Fork
 - Parts Run to Dillon
 - Hearing Test Dillon
 - Yard Maintenance
 - Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on South Valley Rd
- Bladed and Watered on Little Sheep Creek Rd, Sage Creek Rd, Reeder Rd
 - Hauled Gravel on Little Sheep Creek Rd
 - Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, County Attorney Sky Jones, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Public Health Director Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Human Resources Director Theresa Eathorne, Clerk of District Court Carly Anderson and Land Use Sanitarian/DES Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Nick added he has been working with DIS on the scale computer.

Jack mentioned that the Fair is about closed out. He is headed to White Sulphur springs for a training.

Theresa commented that it is payroll week.

Stacey added all the military and overseas ballots went out last week. She is heading to Polson for election training. Next week is MACo conference.

Mike mentioned rural basketball started this weekend. Thursday is Wisdom Health Fair.

Lilia added that they are in Wisdom Thursday for Health Fair. Staff is out of town at conference. She will be at MYCA teaching health. Friday she is at the school teaching bike safety. Rural flu shots van is coming around. She also mentioned a mental health first aid course.

Joyce commented that she is finishing up her inspections. The quarter 2 check came in last week and so did the FDA reimbursement from Kansas trip. She is out Wednesday thru Friday for family trip this week. She will be in Helena on Monday for a training on the new database.

Tom mentioned he was in Bozeman last week for a flood plain training with Tina. They focused a lot on enforcement issues. He is headed to Miles City for State Emergency services conference with Rochelle.

Shonna added that the doors were replaced last week at Extension Office and front doors of the courthouse. Doug finished his boiler class.

Carly commented that she had a new lock installed on her door that is controlled by switch. Courtroom is also on a limited access lock.

Randi mentioned that Megan had clerk conference last week. She is working with other judges and the county attorney on the mental evaluation case.

Adam added that he is wrapping up phone issues. DIS will have a training for staff this week on the new phone system. He is working on an issue in dispatch with addressing.

Sky commented they have a busy court week. He will follow up on the Clenera lease later, he was supposed to receive a final draft over the weekend.

Discussion and Action- Lifting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Tom Wagenknecht was present and gave a brief update on the fires in Beaverhead County. Discussion regarding the current fire camps and situations around the county ensued.

McGinley updated that other agencies have been in conversation about the rain and cooler weather; it is time to lift the Fire Restrictions in place. Lifting the burn ban was also discussed and it can always be shut down on red flag days.

Motion: McGinley moved to lift stage 1 fire restrictions and open burning with permit. Rice seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Effective today, the Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are lifted and open burning is allowed by permit.

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.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 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

Larry Volkening was present to update the Commissioners on him coming across a spot on Thatcher road that has metal poles stuck in the road that says Private Property/Private Road. He is not sure who put up the poles but then someone came by and cut the poles down. He just wants the county to be aware in case an issue arises. Bob Ferris was present and confirmed is not a private road, it is a public road so he is not sure who put up the poles and signs.

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#221331 \$10,385.00 Ideal Equipment (Road Dept Forks)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$102,050.55 beginning with claim warrant #221332 and ending with claim warrant #221381. 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 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board