November 2, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on November 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference 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. We got moisture. Hopefully getting work done in Big Hole before it freezes.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
October 25th to October 31st 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade East Bench, Stone Cr, Ten Mile, White, Smith, Blacktail, Flynn, Old Armstead
- Culverts Work in Big Hole
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Culvert Install Twin Lakes and Lower North Fork
- Load/Haul and Spread Gravel on Gibbonsville and Lower North Fork
- Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Closed Roads: West Rd, Munday Ln, and Reeder Rd
- Barricade Repair
- Bridge Repair on Ashbough Tr
- Parts Run to Idaho Falls and Dillon
- Equipment Repair
- Checked Local Roads

School Superintendent Mike Miller, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, County Attorney Sky Jones, HR Director Theresa Eathorne, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Sheriff David Wendt, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, County Planner Tina Caron, and Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, joined the meeting.

Nick added the crushers are almost finished with light goods. He is going to Idaho with Sheriff.

Mike commented nothing new for schools.

Amber mentioned that they are winterizing the shop today. She is in Helena Wed/Thurs. for conference.

Jack mentioned that quiet week. There is a 4H counsel and club meeting in Wisdom this week.

Joyce added there are a few inspections left to do. There have been some businesses that have sold recently so she is working on getting licenses changed. She is finishing up her grant paperwork.

Theresa commented that she was at a training last week and gained a lot of information.

Shonna mentioned that they have been busy setting up elections, loading and unloading all week. Turned clocks back.

Tina added they are staying steady. They did get the grant for Safe Streets for All.

Tom mentioned that there have been some septic issues and enforcement issues. He has been working with Beaverhead ambulance on ICS training. He turned in a Homeland security grant for this year.

Adam commented that he has been working with address verifications. He has been working on travel management project.

Randi added that last week she had a District 2 meeting on Zoom. This week there are quite a few hearings. Two need interpreters.

Sheriff mentioned that there are 18 downstairs. He was helping Game Warden all weekend. 3 coroner calls. Busy weekend.

Sky commented that they're busy. There are a few big hearings and trials coming up.

McGinley mentioned that tax bills should be mailed this week. He briefly discussed the Homestead exemption.

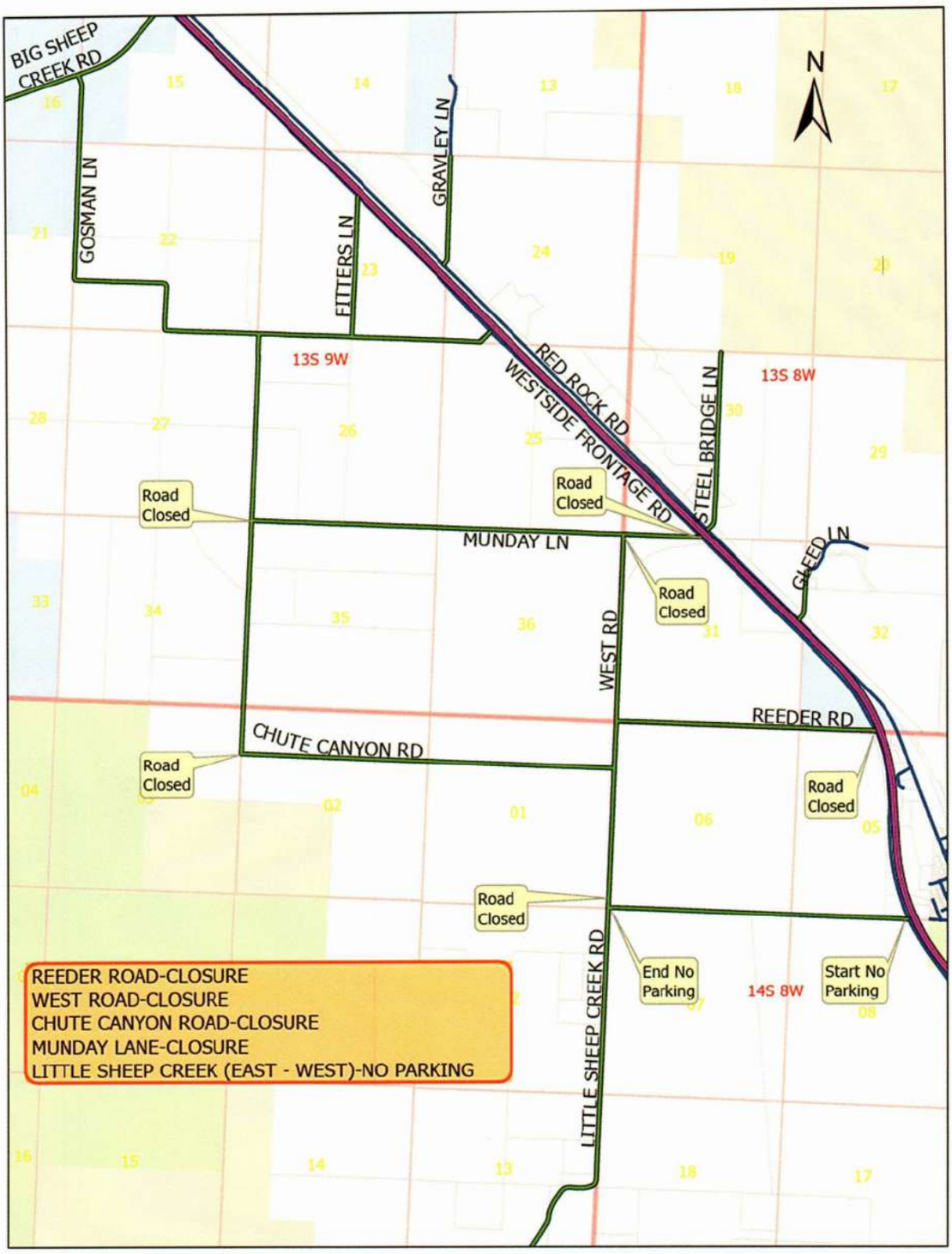
Discussion and Action- MACo PCT Contract

Josh Boka with Mountain View Insurance was present. He discussed a longer contract changing to a 5-year contract to keep a conflict of interest off the table. It is exactly the same as always but instead of year to year renewal, it is for 5 years.
McGinley added that he has performed very well as the agent for the last 4 years so he has no problem signing a 5-year contract.
Josh clarified it is a contract with him, not with his agency so there is a clause to protect the county if situation changes.
Kelly asked about longer contracts with the county.

Motion: McGinley motioned to approve the 5-year contract with Josh Boka for MACo Property Casualty and Trust. Rice seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion and Action- Emergency Road Ordinance (Lima) 2026-02

Last week, the Sheriff reported issue to the Commissioners about road closures needed in the Lima area due to an elk herd. Rice read the roads closed (see map attached below)
McGinley moved to approve Ordinance 2026-02. Rice seconded. Motion passed.
This was discussed last week under public comment with the Sheriff.



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 October 26, 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

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#221617 Noregon Systems $9,546.77 (Road Dept Software)
CK#221618 Shannon Burkenpas $225.32 (Reimburse Supplies)
CK#221619 Prudence Allen Gildroy $92.00 (Legal Transcript)

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of $22,656.34 beginning with claim warrant #221620 and ending with claim warrant #221646. 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 1:00 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approved: C. THOMAS RICE
Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board