November 9, 2026 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on November 9, 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 roads and finishing up installing and repairing culverts in the Big Hole.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
November 1st to November 7th 2026
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Blade Old Armstead, Stone Cr, Nissen, Carter Cr, Lovers Leap, Flynn
- Cattleguard Gibbsonsville
- Plow Snow Hwy 324
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Blade Miner Lake, Lower North Fork and Steel Ck
- Drain Wisdom Sewer Pivot
- Collect Oil, Pump Oil, Return Oil Barrels
- Cattleguard Repair Gibbonsville
- Help at Jackson Sewer
- Check Local Roads

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on South Valley Road
- Equipment Repair
- Checked Local Roads

Commissioner Elects: Kelly Rowe and Mark Boka, School Superintendent Mike Miller, GIS Coordinator Adam Braddock, Facilities Supervisor Shonna Graham, County Attorney Sky Jones, HR Director Theresa Eathorne, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Food Use Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Sheriff David Wendt, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, County Planner Tina Caron, and Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, joined the meeting.

Sheriff Wendt added they had a busy weekend helping the Game Warden. There was one search and rescue call over the weekend. There are 20 inmates downstairs.

Jack mentioned that 9 kids went to Butte for leadership training. 4-H Awards day was over the weekend. This week was quiet. He will be out next week.

Tom added that they are working on permits and enforcement issues.

Stacey commented that elections went well. Next week is the county canvass. Theresa added that she is working on applications. There are 2 open positions. The Safety meeting is today at 1:30 pm.

Amber mentioned that last week there was a meeting in Helena and this week she is playing catch up.

Shonna commented that they helped with elections last week. The clock tower lights are green for veterans. The front doors are being looked at to get fobbed. She will be out Thursday and Friday this week.

Joyce mentioned she has been working on the FDA grants and got them submitted. She is finishing up inspections and working on a few change of ownership cases and enforcement issues.

Tina added there is nothing new, just continuing to deal with issues around the county.

Adam commented that he entered new addresses last week. There were phone and internet issues. He has been working on getting Kelly Rowe's computer set up so he is ready when he starts next week.

Mike mentioned that he was in Wisdom last week. The teacher has 11 kids this year with Jackson non-operational but is doing very well without an aid. He was asked to serve as investigator for a Title 9 issue.

Sky added that they have trials coming up that he is prepping for.

McGinley added that next week he will be in Helena but the county canvass will be at 11a and they can swear in Kelly Rowe after the official canvass.

Discussion and Action-East Hills Minor Subdivision Road Agreement

Present: Tina Caron, Mark Boka, Kelly Rowe, Adam Braddock, Bob Ferris, Sky Jones, Paul Lacey, Josh Schafel, Tom Wagenknecht

Copies of the agreement were passed around to review. McGinley began with stating the county is hesitant to spend money on a county road for one subdivision. He has done some research on it since. This agreement is the developers putting down the road base and the Commissioners will move forward with approving the subdivision. The county will not accept any more work for this road than is currently being done as far a grading and snow plow.

Josh added that there is additional material needed to make sure the water sheds correctly.

Kelly added that if they put gravel on the top of it, that is still not ready for a subdivision as some areas need culverts. He is concerned about the county being liable if the weather makes the roads bad. He questioned Sky about the county being sued because the county road is not made to standards.

Tina and Sky added that the agreement says the county is not liable, the developer is.

Kelly mentioned that road has drainage issues which causes ruts and pooling. McGinley added that the road will not cost the county money, if the people that move in want the road to standards, they can start a SID.
Discussion ensued about county roads being up to standards.

Paul reiterated that the road will be passable- they are bringing in gravel to fill in the ruts and help with drainage.

Tina added that a provision needs to be put in the covenants that the county maintains minimal on the main road. Subdivision regulations state that it would be an equal cost share. *

McGinley asked what other checks are needed to pass subdivision review. Paul answered covenants, and a few other items.
McGinley commented that he is not a fan of the county spending money to improve for developers that benefits a few, not the county. The county is not building these roads, the landowners can build a SID in the future if they want it up to standards.

Kelly asked about an engineer signing off on it. Paul answered since it is a county road, that is not needed. The best compromise is investing in getting the road passable but not completely up to standards.

McGinley added that the county already has a priority list of projects on county roads and if they need the county then it will not be able to get on for a few years.

Kelly is concerned with the road being prepped properly so the work isn't doubled in the future when it is brought to standards.

McGinley motioned to accept the road agreement as written.

Bob asked clarification on if they are only working the road to the subdivision or further. Paul answered just to the subdivision road.

Rice seconded the motion.

Kelly asked if the agreement is put on the final plat so the future landowners are buyer aware. Tina said yes on the covenants and the final plat.

Paul answered that it will be included in the deed packet.

Rice asked all in favor. Motion passed.

*During the minutes approval on 11/23/2026; a correction was made that in the subdivision regulations it does not say "equal share" it states it is a proportional share cost to the direct impact of the subdivision to bring the road to County standards.

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 November 2, 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#221647 CRS $25,509.89 (Inmate Medical)
Ck#221648 BVHD County Premium Fund $9,472.03 (Fair)
Ck#221649 Safeway Detention Meals $5,120.00

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of $63,153.72 beginning with claim warrant #221650 and ending with claim warrant #221698. 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 4:00 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approved: C. Thomas Rice
Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board