

January 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

January 8, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday January 8, 2026. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Shawn Smalley

9:00 AM- 9:45 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners

Documents Signed: Commissioners signed a 40-hour sick leave donation form from Lisa Denn for Stefani Midas.

Administrative: Commissioner Simons talked about the annual audit by Strom and associates and how there were no findings.

9:46 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Zylawy

9:46 AM- 10:00 AM Approve payroll for week of January 9, 2026 and minutes of December 24, 2025.

Present: nobody

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve payroll in the amount of \$199,671.82 dollars for check numbers 660432 thru 660437, and electronic payroll check numbers 59696 thru 59764, as well as Liability quarterly check numbers 660438 thru 660446 and electronic liability check # 59694 and 59695. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of December 24, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:0 AM- 10:15 AM Resolution # 1-8-2026 implementing Secure Rural Schools Title III Firewise Communities Program standards and obligating the Title III funds -ACTION ITEM

Present: Mike Frawley- Forest service.

Commissioners had decided in the previous week how they wanted the resolution to be written and have it as an action item today.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Resolution # 1-8-2026 and obligate the remaining \$44,040.83 dollars for the funding of the Mineral County Resource advisor position. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:15 AM- 10:30 AM Schedule A roads and Maintenance agreement- Michael Frawley Forest service- ACTION ITEM

Present: Mike Frawley- Forest service, Brett Karow- citizen.

Mike presented the list of roads in the schedule 'A' agreement. He said that the only difference on it from last years is that the Deer creek road with all of the wind and flood damage was extended, so now it is a 10-mile road agreement.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the new Schedule 'A' roads and maintenance agreement for the year 2026 with the Forest service. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 11:00 AM 2026 Resolutions regarding County hours and business meeting days-ACTION ITEMS. Res. # 1-8-2026(A), #1-8-2026(B), #1-8-2026(C), #1-8-2026(D), #1-8-2026 (E)

Present: Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Norm Naef- Maintenance supervisor.

Resolution-A-to establish organization of the board and other county responsibilities.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution# 1-8-2026(A) Establishing Organization of the Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution-B-providing for public participation.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve Resolution # 1-8-2026(B) Providing for Public Participation. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution setting the Daily rate for payment of costs for use of Detention center. Resolution # 1-8-2026 (C). Commissioner Smalley wanted to change the language regarding medical costs when dealing with out of state inmates. This resolution will be re-written and approved next week at the January 15, 2026 meeting. **No Action until next week.**

Resolution-D-Establishing travel, meals and lodging rates or calendar year 2026. The Board typically follows the State rates from Montana.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve Resolution # 1-8-2026(D) Establishing Travel, meals and lodging rates for calendar year 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution-E-to set officially recognized Holidays for calendar year 2026. Mineral County follows the State of Montana's recognized Holidays.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Resolution # 1-8-2026(E) Setting the recognized official holidays for calendar year 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM Mineral County Courthouse Construction Projects: Roof, Main Portico front entrance- ACTION ITEM

Present: Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Norm Naef- Maintenance supervisor, Steve Wilmer-citizen.

The jail roof, Front Portico are needing quick attention as well as considering some propane heat back in the deputy work area of the building. After some discussion, it was decided to move ahead with an RFP from contractors to start on the projects.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to put together a Request for Proposal from qualified contractors and begin a selection process for the front portico, Jail roof, and HVAC in Detention center. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM- 12 Noon Public Comment

Present: Steve Wilmer-citizen.

Wilmer commented that he felt he was being denied a variance by the County planner for his additional trailers and mobile homes on his land. He is upset and believes it is illegal to deny him, since the DEQ came out and inspected his mobile homes.

The regular business meetings adjourned at 12 Noon. The Commissioners re-convened at 1:00 PM for a Board of Health meeting from 1 to 5 pm. The minutes are kept separately by the board of health secretary Chris Acheson.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

January 15, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday January 15, 2026. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Shawn Smalley

9:00 AM- 9:45 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners

Documents Signed: Commissioners signed a 40-hour sick leave donation form from Kristina Scott for Stefani Midas. Chair signed the Mineral County elections form for appointed/elected board members (Veterans Services Board).

Administrative: Commissioner Smalley talked about an Energy Efficient grant that might work well to help repair the Jail roof. Commissioners reviewed JVs for 11-25 FY 25-26, and the town of Superior Notice of sewer rate increase. And a Notice of Contractor right of action on security.

9:46 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Zylawy

9:46 AM- 10:00 AM Approve claims for week of January 16, 2026 and minutes of December 31, 2025

Present: nobody

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$134,173.73 dollars for check numbers 773032 thru 773092, and claim numbers 46757 thru 46817. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of December 31, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:0 AM- 10:15 AM Resolution # 1-15-2026 setting the daily rate for payment of costs for use of detention center for year 2026 -ACTION ITEM

Present: Nobody

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Resolution #1-15-2026 setting the new rates for payment of costs at the Mineral County Detention center FY 2026.

11:30 AM- 12 Noon- Public comment- No comment was provided

Present: no one

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 3:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 22, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

January 22, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday January 22, 2026. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Shawn Smalley

9:00 AM- 9:45 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners

Documents Signed: Chair signed the project management plan with the Department of Commerce and CDBG block grant for housing stabilization plan. Commissioners signed the property and casualty agent appointment agreement.

Administrative: None discussed

9:46 AM Call Meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Zylawy

9:46 AM- 10:00 AM Approve payroll for week of January 23, 2026 and minutes of January 8, 2026.

Present: Jelena Banks-citizen, R.J. Kroupa-citizen.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll in the amount of \$188,197.94 dollars for check numbers 660447 thru 660451, and electronic payroll check numbers 59625 thru 59693, as well as Liability quarterly check numbers 660452 thru 660454 and electronic liability check # 59624 and 59623. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of January 8, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 11:00 AM Forest Service update-Abby Lane of Superior, and Chris Gauger of the 9-mile district- DISCUSSION

Present: Jelena Banks-citizen, R.J. Kroupa-citizen.

Abby said that the district got hit really hard this winter with first the big rain water and flooding event, and then the big wind event. The number of trees that blew over or broke off is astounding. The rains flooded out the deer creek bridge over the St. Regis River, and plugged a culvert with debris on Ward

Creek. There are millions of dollars of damage with roads washed out. The Superior District had to pay \$80,000.00 dollars to have the trees cleaned up.

The Lolo Forest has exceeded their target for timber harvest by 39%. There is 20 million board feet in the Miller sale up Pardee creek. The 9-mile ranger, Chris Gauger talked about damage areas of blowdown up Stony creek and Meadow Creek. The Fire hires went well and they filled all but one position. It is a smaller crew than years past. The new Forest plan is still being worked on, because there were some amendments and they had to extend out the public comment period to July 2026.

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM Marsh McLennan Property and Liability Insurance renewal agreement- ACTION ITEM

Present: Nobody

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to sign the Agent appointment agreement with MACO and select Marsh and McLennan agency as the agent. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM Public Comment. No Comment Provided*

Present: Nobody

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 3:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 22, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

January 27,2026 2:35 pm.

A sudden and unanticipated quorum of Commissioners occurred when Aides from Congressman Zinke Office called together Commissioners for a meeting about financial grants and opportunities.

January 27-2026 at 2:35 pm. in the Commissioners meeting room. Those present: Matt Zacharias-Zinke Aide, Monte Turner- Mineral Independent, Ryan Funke-Sheriff, Wayne Cashman-Undersheriff, John Bockmier-Zinke aide, Steve Howek-Zinke Aide, Garrett Brown-Zinke Aide, Ben Vansickle- Zinke Aide, Denley Loge-State Senator, Curtis Cochran- House Didt Representative, Commissioner Duane Simons, and Commissioner Roman Zylawy.

Stewve Howek spoke about how Zinke was able to secure a CJS- (commerce, Justice, Science)- grant for five area Counties to receive monies for Sheriffs offices in the form of cars and equipment. He also talked about the need for forest health and keeping sawmills open. Commissioner Zylawy explained how the loss of sawmills in Mineral County have made it super important that we continue to receive SRS and PILT monies. The issue of chronic litigation for forest supply came up and how the matter of district judges finding in favor of closing the forest to treatments and harvest. Steve also mentioned the Helper Act which helps first time homebuyers. It could be useful for new teachers, deputies, of health care workers needing a place to live. John Bockmier and Ben Vansickle said that we should try to send them an estimate ofr repaving the old highway 10 road between Cyr and Fish creek. They might be able to find a committee grant to help with that. They will be coming over in March with Congressman Zinke to present the check for Sheriff cars and equipment in the amount of \$725,000.00 dollars

The discussion ended at 3:45 pm. and no county business decisions were discussed. Only the financial grants and support available from Congressman Zinke's office. Minutes were taken by Commissioner Roman Zylawy.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA**

January 29, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday January 22, 2026. Present were Commissioner Duane Simons and Commissioner Shawn Smalley. Commissioner Roman Zylawy was absent. ** Minutes taken by Samalley**

9:00 AM- 9:45 AM Administrative Business- in individual offices of Commissioners

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM Call Meeting to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Smalley

Approve January 29, 2026 Claims-ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims for the week of January 29, 2026 in the amount of \$278,194.29 dollars for check numbers 773093 thru 773184 & 773185 and claim numbers 46818 thru 46909 and liabilities in the amount of \$20,054.76 dollars check numbers 660455 through 660457. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Equipment Purchase-Road Foreman-ACTION ITEM

Present- Jason McLees-Road Foreman, Citizen Ginny Tubbs, Sheriff Ryan Funke

Jason McLees the county road department foreman requested approval to begin the process of purchasing a new dump truck using **Secure Rural Schools Program (SRS)** funds that are designated for road maintenance and equipment. The current fleet includes three dump trucks, one of which (a 1996 model) has over 230,000 miles and is aging.

J. Mclees explained that three trucks are necessary to keep up with work such as hauling road chips, sand, asphalt and other materials. They noted that having three trucks allows them to maximize productivity on days when asphalt is available from the local plant.

The request is not yet for the final purchase, approximately 200,000 finished but for approval to start the procurement process to potentially replace the older truck and maintain adequate equipment for road maintenance operations.

No formal action was taken on the matter, J. Mclees will bring back quotes for the truck.

11: 00 AM – 11:30 AM St Regis Park Board Request for funding-Judy Stang-Possible

Present- Judy Stang-St Regis Park board member, Jane Allen, Linda Shiflett

Judy Stang requested funding from the county to help improve facilities at the community park, including work related to the baseball fields and dugouts used by local youth programs. Commissioners encouraged the park board to also seek additional support through local business sponsorships, community fundraising, and other grants to help cover remaining costs and support future improvements.

Commissioner Simon moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve \$10,500 from the county park/open space fund as initial support for the project.

All in favor. Motion carried.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.
The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February, 5, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Minutes were taken by Shawn Smalley

MINERAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: _____
Kelann McLees, Clerk & Recorder

Roman Zylawy, Chairman of the Board

Duane Simons, Member

Shawn Smalley, Member