

March 2026

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

March 5, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday March 5, 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: Letter of support and approve District 11 Human Resource council works in Mineral County. Signed the consulting agreement with Tim Read for establishment inspections with Sanitarian office. Commissioners signed the MACO property and casualty insurance employee appointment or use an agent agreement. Commissioners chose Marsh and McLennan as agent again this year.

Administrative: Discussed state gas tax certification form and had it reviewed by the Road Foreman. Reviewed and discussed the MACO health care trust options for renewal this year. It will be on agenda next week.

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 March 6, 2026 and minutes of January 12, 2026.

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Dave Hannah- citizen, Dan Gingrich- citizen, Linda Forest-citizen, Kim Bird-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve payroll in the amount of \$191,608.40 dollars for check numbers 660485 thru 660500, and electronic payroll check numbers 59475 thru 59408, as well as Liability check numbers 660501 thru 660504 and electronic liability check numbers 59406 and 59407. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of February 12, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 10:30 AM St. Regis senior center -Money requested for a generator-Dave Hannah -ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Dave Hannah- citizen, Dan Gingrich- citizen, Linda Forest-citizen, Kim Bird-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen

Dave Hannah said that the other people present with him were the executive board for St. Regis senior center. He explained that during the December power outage he thought about how having a generator for the center would be a benefit to the community. He would like two generators for the center. One for the well, and one for running g the building. He said they could cook there and make it into a shelter for people without power. Commissioner Smalley thought that the school would be a better location since they had more space for cots and people up there. Commissioner Simons also mentioned that the center is situated in the flood plain. The ask is for \$6,000.00 dollars from the county. They have a donation already of \$8,000.00 dollars and the total for the generator is \$14,060.50 dollars. And the second generator they want for the well is \$10,504.50 dollars.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to table the decision and action on this for two weeks. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 10:45 AM Request to apply for Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant- April Quinlan- ACTION ITEM

Present: April Quinlan – Health Department, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

The Montana Healthcare foundation had a few cuts made on their grants, so April is looking for more funding. She found a one year \$50,000.00 dollar grant that she would like to apply for. It is a No match grant that helps assist people find resources for families and the elderly.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve the request for the No Match grant for \$50,000.00 dollars with Montana healthcare foundation. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 -12 Noon Public Comment * NONE Provided*

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM Jail Food Contract – Sheriff Funke- ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Bailey Moree- owner of Soup-N Sandz, Holly Seidel- citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney, Ryan Funke- Sheriff.

Bailey said that inflation and overhead costs have caused the price of meals to go up. Therefore, she is requesting a small increase of .50 cents per meal for the new year. The proposed new rate for breakfast per inmate would now be \$6.00 dollars, lunch=\$6.50 dollars, and dinner=\$8.00 dollars. This contract is an amendment to what already was in place, and a formal request for proposals for all new bids in the county will occur in June 2026. This will align future jail food contracts with the annual county budget year cycle of July 1 to July each year.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the increase of \$1.50 dollars a day per inmate through the fiscal year June 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

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, March 12, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

March 12, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday March 12, 2026. Present were Commissioner Roman Zylawy, and Commissioner Shawn Smalley. Commissioner Duane Simons was absent.

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

Documents Signed: Chute gulch Minor preliminary plat approval and amendment approval. Chair signed the Request #6 for AIP-3-30-0074-012-2025 for \$5867.93 dollars. And also, AIP-3-30-0074-013-2025 for \$83,444.98 dollars. Commissioners signed the MACO PCT by laws change form allowing a county employee to serve as agent.

Administrative: Discussed the topic of improving the military members bulletin board in foyer that was

started by Toots Bricker in 2001. Jamie in Clerk and Recorder office is an Army veteran, and she would like to donate her time to make the board better. She first off wants a different location out of the direct sunlight that has faded some Veterans pictures. Commissioners were in agreement it was a good idea. Zinke was here and presented Mineral County with a 725,000.00 dollar check for a multiple-county sheriff's office grant for patrol cars and equipment. The counties sharing the money are: Lake, Sanders, Mineral, and Beaverhead. Zinke also had a One Million dollar check for the Town of Alberton for a new city water storage tank. Commissioners reviewed JVs for FY 12-25 and FY 1-26.

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 March 13, 2026 and minutes of January 27, 2026 and February 26, 2026

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve claims in the amount of \$193,917.66 dollars for check numbers 773302 thru 773391, and claim numbers 47016 thru 47105. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026, and January 27, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 10:30 AM Blow down tree limb and branch temporary disposal site due to wind storm - ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen.

The Airport board checked with Montana aeronautics and said that the FAA is Okay with a burning of debris nearby as long as the airport is closed during the reduced visibility of smoke.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the use of county land on western edge of the Airport as a site for woody debris and branches. No garbage or other plastics allowed. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 10:45 AM MACO health care Trust renewal- ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder, Kasey Feasel-Deputy Clerk.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to renew the annual health insurance with MACO health Care trust. And to select the option plans of: RM1500, RM2000, RM3000, BP2000, and HD3500. The county will provide a \$1,135.00 dollar spending credit. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM Public Comment- 12:45 PM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Ted Hartman-citizen, Justin and Heather Boyes-citizens, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney.

Justin Boyes was in to talk about his pigs at Tarkio that sometimes get out and forage alongside the old highway there. He said that he received a citation from a deputy and wanted to explain his situation and his frustration with the application of the law. He said that he has a plugged in (not solar) electric fence with voltage tester that exceeds 10,000 volts. There is a hot wire, a ground wire, and several strands extra that contain the pigs. But still, occasionally a smart pig will escape. Justin also pointed out that Montana and Mineral County have clauses written that provide for 'a right to farm' within policies. Wally read aloud MCA 81-4-101 that states a farmer is not in violation of the animals running at large if he has a legal fence. Wally believes that according to the definition, Justin does in fact have a legal

fence. Justin said that he came in primarily to help people better understand the laws and stop believing that he is causing harm or violating the law.

Ted Hartman spoke about his appreciation in regards to the Writ of mandamus and how Commissioners complied with the settlement agreement. Ted read the agreement, that was signed back in May of 2023 where all parties agreed to not speak disparagingly towards others involved. Ted said it states that right in the agreement and he was happy that the Commissioners were abiding by that.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

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

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

March 19, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday March 19, 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: None

Administrative: Discussed the good audit with no findings that was completed by Strom and Associates on Mineral County. Reviewed newspaper ad to notice the debris pile location for blown down trees and limbs. Reviewed a bill from a survey company that was ordered by Wally Congdon. It will be on the agenda for discussion and action. Read a letter from DEQ about HB 685 and changes to the water quality portion.

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 March 20, 2026.

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Cory Claussen-DCI engineer, Jason McLees-Road Foreman, Kasey Feasel-Deputy clerk and Recorder, Steve and Lyn Reid-citizens, Justin Boyes-citizen.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll in the amount of \$194,248.74 dollars for check numbers 660508 thru 660513, and electronic payroll check numbers 59404 thru 59336, as well as Liability check numbers 660514 thru 660521 and electronic liability check numbers 59334 and 59335. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 10:30 AM Bid opening and awarding for Lozeau bridge rehabilitation construction contract- Jason McLees -ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Cory Claussen-DCI engineer, Jason McLees-Road Foreman, Kasey Feasel-Deputy clerk and Recorder, Steve and Lyn Reid-citizens, Justin Boyes-citizen. On the phone, Chris Anderson with Missouri River Contractors.

Jason said that only one bid was received for the project. Many of the bridge contractors weren't interested in a small bridge rehab and were doing bigger jobs. The bridge work can be done thanks to passage of recent SB 536 that provides funding. Between the removal of stringers and the replacement bearings on pads, the total lone bid was \$243,777.00 dollars. The amount was higher than anticipated and decided to not award it at this time.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to table the decision and not take action at this time. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 11:15 AM Review Final Attorney Bill submitted by L.P.J. Law firm due to the Writ of Mandamus. Decide which county funds to draw from -ACTION ITEM

Present: Justin Boyes-citizen, Steve and Lyn Reid-citizens, R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Ben Banks-citizen, Ted Hartman -citizen.

Commissioners reviewed the three invoices from the law firm that amounted to a total of \$62,215.36 dollars. This amount was recently decreed and ordered by District Judge Shane Vanatta to be paid by Mineral County to close out and end the cost of the Writ. Several options were discussed about having some come out of Sheriffs Legal fund, the County attorneys fund legal fund, and the Commissioners discretionary fund. Commissioner Zylawy suggested that it be a three-way split with the majority coming from County attorney and Commissioner's fund. And that \$3,000.00 dollars come from the already low balanced fund from the Sheriff.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to pay \$29,607.68 dollars from the County Attorney's legal fund, and \$29,607.68 dollars from the Commissioners discretionary fund, and \$3,000.00 dollars from the Sheriffs legal services fund. This would total \$62,215.36 dollars for L.P.J. law firm's bill. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:15 AM- 11:30 AM Airport Board Member appointment-ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen.

The Mineral County Airport Board had three expired terms and was advertised on the website. The only interested people were the current members whose term had expired. Therefore, the same were re-appointed.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to re-appoint Bill Woodford, Ron White, and Peggy Temple to the Mineral County Airport Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM-12 Noon- Public Comment- None provided.

1:00 PM- 1:30 PM St. Regis Senior center -requesting money for generators-David Hannah-ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Kat Thompson-St. Regis Fire, Kim Bird-St Regis senior center, Dave Hannah-St Regis center, Jerry Dockter-St Regis Fire Chief.

Commissioner Smalley talked about local government and assisting non-profits. Thought it better to explore the DES grants for generators. Commissioner Simons wondered about the fact that their location is in the Flood plain. Also, he mentioned that the St. Regis resort board has 50,000.00 dollar grants available currently. Fire chief Dockter said that the Department of Defense has grants and surplus equipment available to entities as long as they do not sell the equipment until 2 or three years have passed.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to deny the request for funds to pay for generators at the St Regis senior citizen center. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:30 PM- 2:00 PM St Regis fire district Trustee appointments- Jerry Doktor- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: R.J. Kroupa-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Kat Thompson-St. Regis Fire, Jerry Doktor- St Regis Fire Chief.

The Commissioners did not receive applications from interested parties to review.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to Table the appointments for the vacancies until applications were received. All in favor. Motion carried.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

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

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

March 26, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday March 26, 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: None

Administrative: None

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 March 27, 2026

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Matt Zacharias- Zinke Aide.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims in the amount of \$209,133.23 dollars for check numbers 773392 thru 773436 and claim numbers 47106 thru 47150. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of March 5, 2026, and also the minutes from February 19,2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 10:15 AM Salary Board Member Appointments. -ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Matt Zacharias- Zinke Aide.

There are three vacancies on the Salary Board, and we only have two applicants. One is Ginny Tubbs, and the other Chris Darlow.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to appoint Chris Darlow and Ginny Tubbs to the Mineral County Salary Board for a 3-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:15 AM- 10:30 AM Request to sign a letter urging Congressional reformation to allow timely permitting of Energy infrastructure projects- Alexandra Amonette- Possible ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Matt Zacharias- Zinke Aide, R.J Kroupa- citizen, Chris Gauger- USFS 9-mile Ranger, Alexandra Amonette- on the telephone.

Alexandra explained how Senator Daines had encouraged her to seek support from Mineral County Commissioners to add to the letter. She has obtained support letters from Sweetgrass county and many others for this suggestion. Environmental laws, Lawsuits stopping projects like the XL pipeline and others, are all needing more support.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to sign the letter of support urging Congress to reform laws and allow timely permitting of Energy Infrastructure projects. But, to first re-write it and tailor some of it for Mineral County. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 11:00 AM Forest Service Update- Chris Gauger from 9-Mile ranger district-DISCUSSION

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Matt Zacharias- Zinke Aide, R.J. Kroupa- citizen, Chris Gauger- USFS 9-mile Ranger.

Chris said that the forest service is still surveying the damage from the December flooding and the big wind storms too. The teams are gearing up to start prescribed fires now for springtime burning. They are getting a person to man the lookout this summer at the Stark lookout, and they can hire 18 seasonal employees. He said that they might also be getting volunteer help from the Great Burn society in clearing popular trails that have been blown in by windfallen trees. Currently there are 13 sales being let on the 9-mile. And the draft plan for the new Lolo travel map is out with five alternatives. A meeting is scheduled in Superior on 4-27-26 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM.

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM Review Surveyor Invoice submitted by Montana Northwest Company-Discuss who will pay for the bill- ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Matt Zacharias- Zinke Aide, R.J Kroupa- citizen, Andy Short- Land Planner, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Brandy Taylor- County Attorney's office Secretary

Wally said that he was asked by Commissioner Simons to 'do what he needed to do to make sure the lien was in place on the land". So, he assumed that meant to do whatever he thought it would need to be able to covert the real estate from the lien. Commissioner Simons explained that he did not intend for Wally to go out and order up a land survey. The Commissioners said that the department head- (The County Attorney)- Deb Jackson did not order it. And she has the budgetary authority, not the Deputy County Attorney. Wally Congdon suggested that the bill be paid for out of the CDBG revolving loan fund that was involved with the county lien to the landowner.

Commissioner Simons moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to table the action on the survey bill until next week. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM- 12 Noon – PUBLIC Comment. No comment was provided.

1:00 PM- 1:30 PM Montana Federation of Public Employees Union. Sheriff's Office Union Consultant representative- Justin Hawkaluk- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Wayne Cashman- Undersheriff, Micah Allard- Deputy, Kelann McLees- Clerk and Recorder, Kasey Feasel-Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Justin Hawkaluk- Union Representative.

Justin explained how over 10 years ago the employees disbanded from the Teamsters Union. He said that now the Sheriff's office Deputies and Detention officers voted to re-organize with the Montana Federation of Public Employees Union. Commissioners wondered if the vote numbers were enough to

have the Union legitimate and paid in by enough employees. Justin didn't have the numbers with him, but wanted to have this initial consultation meeting and present some of their proposals. The Commissioners found many of them to be the same perks that were already being provided for, only instead of being labeled as Shift differential or clothing allowance, they were now incorporated into their base pay. Something that they had asked Commissioners to do just a short time ago last summer. The half hour time slot was not long enough and the meeting ended with several more topics to be discussed. The meeting will be followed up with again later, and after confirmation that enough employees did indeed cast enough votes to meet the threshold of being Unionized.

1:30 PM- 2:00 PM New FEMA maps and a shed in St. Regis floodplain-POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Ken Jasper-St Regis citizen, Joe Cantrell-St. Regis citizen, Wally Congdon-Deputy County Attorney, Andy Short- Land Planner.

Five years ago, Ken bought the fly shop and Joe needed a spot to have his summertime shop for 7 months out of a year. So, they bought a small wooden shed and moved it in and wired it with electricity. Joe said he talked with Andy and asked what all he needed to do, one of which was to apply for a flood plain permit. Joe and Ken said that a flood plain permit process would cost more than the entire building did. They wanted to know what kind of a compromise could be met so that small sheds in St. Regis didn't require such an extensive process. A follow up meeting to discuss with DNRC and others agencies would be arranged for a later date.

2:00 PM- 2:15 PM Library Board Member Appointment -Guna Chabarek. -ACTION ITEM

Present: Kasey Feasel-Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Guna Chabarek- Head County Librarian.

There was one vacancy on the Library Board, and only one application from Gaylene Borden.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to appoint Gaylene Borden to the Mineral County Library Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

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

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

MINERAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**ATTEST: _____
Kelann McLees, Clerk & Recorder**

Roman Zylawy, Chairman of the Board

Duane Simons, Member

Shawn Smalley, Member