

JUNE 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

June 4, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday June 4, 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: Commissioner Zylawy signed temporary road easements for using Panther Pass with private landowners, Dave Tomlinson, Linda Clark, and the Wesleyan church on Bible Lane. He also DocuSigned the amended monies for Immunization services from the State with the Mineral County Health department. Task order # 26-07-4-31-29-0, \$8,813.95 dollars. Commissioners signed Resolution # 6-4-2026. Zylawy signed the Better Local Bridge (BLB) grant for \$513,600.00 dollars, with a percentage contribution from Mineral County to equal \$85,600.00 dollars. Commissioner Simons signed for attorney and office of the court the admissions document for case regarding the Allard lawsuit. Commissioners signed the addendum for the Lozeau bridge grant.

Administrative: Commissioner Zylawy discussed the new petition that may be appearing in parking lots with people asking for signatures. Its CI-134 and designed to amend the state constitution where property taxes may never exceed 2-3 percent from year to year. It would only be applicable to the local government side of taxes, and not affect school property taxes. Commissioners read a letter received from a Shawn Cielke expressing interest to be on the West End fire Board. The Big Sky Rail authority sent a letter asking for a monetary contribution from Mineral County. Commissioners have maintained from the beginning that taxpayer money would not be used to fund the movement to rebuild passenger rail service. It is too costly a proposition. Commissioners discussed the direction from the Forest service that our own Mineral County RAC committee be joined with the Missoula County group. Mineral County prefers to be joined with Sanders County since we share more common ideas.

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 June 5, 2026.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims in the amount of \$65,126.50 dollars with check numbers 773684 thru 773717 and associated claim numbers 47390 thru 47423. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of 4-22-2026 and 4-9-2026 with some grammatical changes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims in the amount of \$218,527.23 dollars for check numbers 773570 thru 773628 and claim numbers 47276 thru 47334. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM MACO PCT Renewal -Kruiz Siewing and Hope Barker- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Hope Barker- MACO property casualty, Kruiz Siewing- Insurance agent Marsh/McLennan, Kelann McLees-Clerk and Recorder.

Hope said that with normal inflation and increased construction costs, counties will see an increase in property insurance this year. Lawsuits and workman comp claims also affect rates. Mineral county's claims and lawsuits will result in a 13.96% increase from previous years.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the increase request and renew with Marsh McLennan as agent utilizing the MACO property and casualty Trust. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM- 11:15 AM Title III Resolution- how to spend the federal monies-ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelann McLees-Clerk and Recorder.

Kelann presented the balance of title III money we have in the fund, \$151,694.18 dollars total.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to allocate \$100,000.00 dollars for the Resource advisor Position, and \$51,694.18 for the Fuel Reduction Projects. All in favor. Motion carried.

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM Collective Bargaining agreement between Mineral County and Montana Federation of Public Employees and Sheriff's Office employees

Present: Tony Augustino- Sheriff Deputy, Ben Banks- Sheriff Elect for 2027,

Commissioners discussed some of the proposals on overtime, shift differential, more money for uniforms and to not have written warnings issued to them be allowed to remain in their file beyond 12 months. There was no representative from the Union present. Meeting adjourned after 15 minutes, and will meet again on June 18.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 3:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 11, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

June 11, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday June 11, 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: Commissioner Zylawy said that the new petition (CI-134) was withdrawn by Wylie Galt. He decided to try to solve the property tax issue in the 2027 legislature instead of through a Constitutional amendment. Discussion was had about the library and the trees on the east side. And an update about the Natural pier bridge.

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 June 12, 2026

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve payroll in the amount of \$230,164.35 dollars with check numbers 660586 thru 660591 and electronic check numbers 58976 thru 58906 as well as liability check numbers 660592 thru 660598 and electronic liability checks numbers 58904 and 58905. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of April 16, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM June 2, 2026 Federal Primary Election Canvass- Kelann McLees, Election administrator-ACTION ITEM

Present: Kelann McLees- Clerk and recorder/Election administrator.

Commissioners reviewed the tally sheets, voting rolls, and the hand counted portion of the election.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to accept the 2026 Mineral County results of the Federal Primary election Canvass. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM 2026 Inmate Food service Contract for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Bid Opening and Award-ACTION ITEM

Present: Ben Banks-2027 Sheriff Elect, Danielle Hagamo-citizen, Wayne Cashman-Undersheriff, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Sue McLees and Husband-citizens, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Jenn Dague-citizen, Bailey Mores-Owner of soup and Sandz, Ryan Funke- Sheriff.

There were zero bids turned in for the advertised invitation to bid. Bailey said that when she first started providing the food years ago, there were 19 inmates in jail. But now the average is about 12 inmates a day, and she said that is too hard to bank on and make the contract worth the uncertainty of a return on her labor. She said that the communication from the sheriff's office has been poor and she is unaware of whether her last extended contract ever got signed. Ryan said that he has 7 US marshal inmates, and 7 are from DOC. He is looking into purchasing a range and fridge so that inmate trustees can prepare the meals. It was decided to re-advertise on the website and have a new date for bids to be turned in. Maybe if the advertisement allows for just one or two meals a day, instead of providing all three, it could generate more interest.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to re-advertise and have bids turned in to the Clerk and Records office by 9:00 AM on June 18,2026. The bidder could submit for all meals, or just lunch and dinner, or just dinner only. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM-Public Comment

Present: Ben Banks-2027 Sheriff Elect, Danielle Hagamo-citizen, Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Sue McLees and Husband-citizens, Gordon Hendrick-citizen, Kim Best-citizen, Shelby Ritchie-citizen, Dylan Loy-citizen, Florence Evans-citizen.

Kim spoke about opposition to the proposed concrete pad and pavilion the Museum intends to build on the grounds. Sue is vice president of historical society and said that the pad is only 26x46 with a 20x40 foot shed roof over it. Danielle said that minutes need to be more in depth and the county website doesn't have some of the video available to watch. She thinks that the Jail food contract should be on the website under 'Jobs'. She also wants a record of the deputies and sheriff's Stonegarden hours and their productivity

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM Salary Compensation Board meeting-ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Chris Darlow-business man, Kasey Feasel-Deputy Clerk and Recorder, Kelann McLees-Clerk and recorder, Merry Mueller-Treasurer, Jaime Talbot-District Court Clerk.

The Salary board discussed the cost-of-living increase and the Consumer price index increase. The standard recommended increase from other counties was 2.7% increase. The Salary board thought that if the county budget could afford it, the increase for elected official should be a 3% raise in pay.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the Salary board's recommendation for a 3% raise to Elected officials' salary for the new year if the budget numbers could allow it. All in favor. Motion carried.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 3:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 18, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

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

June 18, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday June 18, 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: Commissioner Simons signed DES grant for Amy Parks. Zylawy signed the Airport reimbursement for grant # 3-30-0074-012-2025 and also # 3-30-0074-013-2025. Commissioners signed Resolution # 6-4-2026.

Administrative: Commissioners received the resignation letter from fellow Commissioner Shawn Smalley to be effective on July 24, 2026. Reviewed JV's for 2/26, 3/26, 4/26, FY25-26. Reviewed cyber security Insurance policy for either 2 million or 3 million dollars of coverage. Discussed the County auction and DES funding grant. Received a letter on the library from Dan Arnsan. Commissioner Smalley announced his resignation.

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 June 12, 2026.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve Claims in the amount of \$411,914.07 dollars with check numbers 773721 thru 773830 and claim numbers 47424 thru 47533. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Simons seconded to approve the minutes of April 23, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM 2026 Inmate Food Service Contract for fiscal year 27-27 Bid opening -ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Ryan Funke-Sheriff, Ben Banks-Sheriff Elect in 2027.

Zero bids were received. The Sheriff will visit Michele Hahn, owner of Durango's, to see about temporary help in obtaining inmate meals. He also wants to put on the agenda, the subject of purchasing a range, fridge, and a freezer so he can provide meals within the jail.

11:30 AM – Public Comment-

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen

Ginny spoke about her role with the Fair board and a grant she received to decorate the cyclone fence with colored cups that fit in the squares of the fence. She explained what sorts of images would be there to enhance the showing at the fairgrounds.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Mt. Federation of Public Employees Union and Mineral County Sheriffs Office employees Bargaining unit talks. POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Tony Augustino- Deputy Sheriff, Ryan Funke- Sheriff, Justin Hawkaluk-Union representative.

Discussion about clothing allowance, overtime and call outs. No Action was taken.

3:15 PM- 3:45 PM Museum Pavillion -Ginny Tubbs- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Ginny Tubbs-citizen, Debra Regan-citizen, Florence Evans-Librarian, Guna Chabarek-Head Librarian, Tammy Wiewick-citizen, Kim Best-citizen, Shelbie Ritchie-citizen, Dylan Loy-citizen, Peggy Temple-Museum Member, Mr. and Mrs. White-citizens, Kathy Kuhl-citizen, Dan Arnsan-library Board member, Heather Miles-citizen, Sue McLees-museum member, Cathy Steele-citizen, Heather Pecora-library board, Leroy and Joellen Godin-Museum, Jim Goss-museum, Deb Sheppard-citizen.

Ginny gave a summary of the history on the subject of a pavilion on the grounds. It started in 2023 and there was no opposition at that time. There was a public meeting in the Commissioner meeting room where the matter was discussed and saw zero opposition to it. Therefore, it was eventually approved to allow the removal of trees to accommodate the concrete slab and pavilion cover on the library grounds. Deb Regan read aloud the lifespan and fact sheet about Norway Maple trees and their normal climate. Kim Best asked if the decision needed to be revisited since the slab has gotten a bit bigger than originally presented. Dan Arnsan said that he thought there were better locations for it, such as Eva Horning Park, Timberman park, or even the courthouse lawn. Friends of the library, the library Board, and the Library staff are all against it. Commissioner Zylawy asked Guna why she didn't oppose the idea there years ago when it was being discussed, and she replied that she thought it had already been decided. And that her voice would not have mattered since it was already moving forward. Zylawy said that was not the case. It was a subject that was still open for public comment and especially comment from the library folks. Peggy suggested that people don't really say much until the shovels show up and actually begin the work. Then everyone comes out to oppose it.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 5:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 25, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Room

Minutes were taken by Roman Zylawy

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

June 25, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Mineral County, Montana, met in a regular session on Thursday June 25, 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: PHEP master task order immunization program grant, task order # 27-07-4-31-129-0. Signed the Public Health Emergency preparedness task order # 27-07-6-11-036-0.

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 Payroll for week of June 12, 2026.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to approve Payroll in the amount of \$193,209.76 dollars with check numbers 660599 thru 660604 and electronic check numbers 58903 thru 58832 and liability check numbers 660605 thru 660607 and electronic liability checks 588330 and 58331. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the minutes of May 7, 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:00 AM- 10:15 AM West End Fire District Board Trustee appointment -ACTION ITEM

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Frank Magee-West End fire chief.

There were two applicants for the board, Shawn Cielke, and Michele Lower. The Fire chief recommended Michele.

Commissioner Zylawy moved, and Commissioner Smalley seconded to appoint Michele Lower to the West End Fire District Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:15 AM- 10:30 AM Request to purchase equipment trailer-Road Dept. , Jason McLees-ACTION ITEM

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Jason McLees-Road Foreman.

Jason said that he received \$28,000 dollars from the sale at the county auction and that he would like to purchase a trailer with it. He needs a larger and better trailer to haul equipment on and nice 3 axel trailer that would be nice for the county to own.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to authorize the \$28,000.00 dollars from the auction to be used towards the purchase of the new equipment trailer. All in favor. Motion carried.

10:30 AM- 11:00 AM Request to add additional lighting to the St. Regis Resort board- Jessica Connolly-ACTION ITEM

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Jessica Connolly-St Regis lighting district, Ben Banks-Sheriff elect 2027.

Jessica said that there isn't a lighting district board, so the St Regis resort board serves as the lighting board. They would like to add decorative lights along highway 35 and the resort board would pay for the infrastructure piece of it, and the additional power usage would be a very minimal tax increase.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the additional lighting proposal on highway 135 in the St. Regis lighting district, with the infrastructure improvements to be paid by the resort board. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:00 AM- 11:30 AM Request to purchase Kitchen appliances for detention center-Ryan Funke-ACTION ITEM

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Glen Koepke-citizen, Jessica Connolly-St Regis lighting district, Ryan Funke-Sheriff.

In light of the zero bids for inmate meals, the Sheriff is asking to seek out and purchase kitchen appliances for in the jail. He would like to spend from his budget money for a commercial fridge, Range, freezer, and a dishwasher. The detention officers and inmate trustees could make and serve the meals if finding food contracts became too difficult.

Commissioner Smalley moved, and Commissioner Zylawy seconded to approve the Sheriff to spend \$25,000.00 dollars to purchase four appliances: a fridge, Range, dishwasher, and a freezer. All in favor. Motion carried.

11:30 AM- 12:00 PM PUBLIC COMMENT- NONE

1:00 PM- 1:15 PM Meeting with Zinke Staff- Steve Howek-DISCUSSION

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Elaine Robinson-citizen, Amy Parks- DES manager, Ben Banks-Sheriff elect 2027, Steve Howek-Zinke aide, Jacob Gruber-Zinke aide, Ryan Funke-Sheriff.

Steve said that the 5-county money for sheriff vehicles was approved, but that the NOFO (notice of funding opportunity) committee has not yet met to distribute the monies. There is no problem with the grant or application, it is a federal hang-up with the committee. Mineral County has the SAM # and can withhold 20% of the grant for administrative purposes. But this will also subtract from the total amount.

1:30 PM- 2:45 PM Grant DES discussion-Amy Parks- POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM

Present: Carl Robinson-citizen, Amy Parks- DES manager, Ben Banks-Sheriff elect 2027,

Amy updated the Board on grant funding she is applying for. So far, she has acquired \$161,056.80 dollars in funding, with another \$209,926.00 dollars pending approval. Slate architecture will help with the asbestos inspection required for the energy grant in jail roof. The DES and emergency planning grant has \$7,000.00 dollars left in it until June 30 2026.

The regular County Business Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Commissioners adjourned for the day at 4:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, July 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