

PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2026

Petroleum County Courthouse

302 E. Main – Winnett, Montana

Commissioners:

Chair: Paul McKenna
Commissioner: Craig Iverson
Commissioner: Sig Pugrud

057506 Fee: \$0.00 Pgs: 3

PETROLEUM COUNTY, MT Filed 10/5/2026 At 4:04 PM

Nikki White, Clerk & Recorder

by

Glenne Wheeler

Return To: PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WINNETT, MT 59087

Staff:

Clerk: Nikki White
Treasurer: Krista Rowton
Road: Ray Rowton

Appearances: Brandon Arntson; via Teams: Glen Gillett, Courtney Long, Shylea Wingard, Robie Culver, Brad Kahler

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Craig motions to approve the September 21st agenda with additions. Sig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Craig motions to approve the August 24th meeting minutes with corrections. Sig seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Brandon Arntson was present with concerns with the upcoming road construction at South Fork of Dry Blood and how the traffic will be diverted. The BLM has advised Ray that no detour road for through traffic will be allowed. It is anticipated that the work will take 3 days. Brandon also had concerns about the cattle guard on poverty flats between Brady and Lewis's property. There will be letter sent to property owners to fix the issue as it is their responsibility to maintain.

ROAD DEPARTMENT- RAY ROWTON

- Advised working on Kelly Road, Jitney, and Dunn Ridge and will be moving to North of Welter Divide
- Discussion on purchase of the Grader from RDO. Anticipated to be here by the middle of October.
- Reviewed the 1 bid received for South Fork of Dry Blood project.
- Question on the road at Jordan Brinkerhoff's and if it is abandoned county road as they want to post no trespassing signs. Paul advised it was abandoned.

TREASURER-KRISTA ROWTON

- Discussion on Treasurer's Convention in Miles City
- Advised that personalized plates will now be mailed to the customer that ordered them instead of having each county mail them out
- Discussion on possible fee increase. Advised review the list of fees the county charges and bring recommended changes to the next meeting.
- Discussion on meeting about possible credit card machines that are fully integrated to BMS for each office.

- Sage Flats will be invoiced for the HTC's from the courthouse rehab project as determined by HTP based on the QRE's.

COUNTY CLERK-NIKKI WHITE

- Sig moves to approve and pay claims #2541 - #2644 and #2633-#2643. Craig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Sig moves to approve timecards. Craig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Sig moves to approve District Court claims #2549 - #2632. Craig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Advised of concerns amongst Clerk and Recorders of potential conflict of interest when Clerks notarize documents that they then record. In the future the Treasurer's office will have to notarize such documents.
- Discussion on lack of adequate budgeting for costs of trial.
- Discussion on closing out construction related accounts when project is finished.

COMMISSIONERS

- Glen Gillett advised that the Stage 1 Fire Restrictions can be lifted as of September 26, 2026.
- Craig motions to approve Resolution 2026-20 Budget Amendment for InterCap Loan. Sig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Craig motions to approve Resolution 2026-21 Millage of Permissive Levy. Sig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Sig motions to approve Resolution 2026-22 Remove Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Craig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Sig motions to sign the Lease agreement with Michael Crutchley. Craig seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Discussion on whether the Planning Board may want to have a meeting with Stahly Engineering for advice on their role regarding reviewing Conservation Easements.
- Confirmed that the Brownfields Abatement Loan that was used for asbestos abatement in the rehab project is for a total of \$50,500. It is a no interest loan with a 5 year term.
- Discussion on being in compliance with HUD guidelines on the rental rates for apartments on 2nd floor.
- Reviewed and discussion on apartment rental applications and agreements for apartments. The office leases have been sent out for signatures; based on having passed the testing, the office tenants are free to move in immediately.
- Floodplain Review: There was an update with Courtney Long (GWE) and Shylea Wingard (DNRC) about the mailings done in July to all the landowners within the floodplains regarding their need to understand and comply with the regulations. It also introduced them to Courtney as the person they are to contact with questions. There was discussion on how we are addressing the few people who are still not in compliance with the regulations.

COURTHOUSE REHAB

- TW to be back on the 28th of September to finish.
- Transom windows still major holdup. Punchlist of items from Brad and Sig for the crew to also finish. Attempting to set an on-site meeting with HPA and TW to review the list prior to TW returning. Depending on number of guys on the crew, could take an additional couple weeks to finish everything.
- Brad will update the certificate of Substantial Completion with date agreed upon
- Discussion on success in passing floor lead-wipe tests on all but 3 apartment rooms. Those rooms have been repainted and the testing is being done as of today; results within a few days.

Adjournment 2:41 p.m.

Signed: Craig

Attest: Nikki L. White

