

Missoula Board of County Commissioners

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES COVER SHEET



THURSDAY, JANUARY 08, 2026 – 2 PM

**Hybrid meeting – Missoula County Courthouse Annex Sophie Moiese
Room/Microsoft Teams**

[Click here to view the meeting recording.](#)

Time stamps (in green) correspond to meeting recording above. Please click to
the time stamps listed to view a particular item in the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Chair Josh Slotnick
Commissioner Juanita Vero
Commissioner David Strohmaier

Staff Present:

Cheryl Hartman, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office
John Hart, Lead Civil County Attorney, Attorneys' Office
Andrew Hagemeyer, Director, Community and Economic Development
Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County
Karen Hughes, Director, Lands and Communities
Lauren Ryan, Planner, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Jordan Hulla, GIS Planning Specialist, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Jason Mitchell, Chief Officer, Public Works
Melissa Fisher, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Commissioners' Office
Patricia Spotted Wolf, Administrative Specialist, Commissioners' Office
Jill Johnson, Administrative Assistant, Lands and Communities
Allison Franz, Manager, Communications
Carey Powers, Communications Coordinator, Communications
Kevin Dantic, Planner, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Katy Reeder, Planner, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Mattie Scott, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office/Facilities
Patrick Swart, Planner, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Kyla Lehnerz, Office Manager, Lands and Communities
Ian Varley, Manager, Planning, Development, and Sustainability
Anne Hughes, Chief Operating Officer, Commissioners' Office
Sarah Bell, Deputy Elections Administrator, Elections Office
Chet Crowser, Chief Officer, Lands and Communities
Nathan Coyan, Deputy Elections Administrator, Elections Office
Christina Dewar, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office

1. CALL TO ORDER [Time stamp – 0:01]

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Time stamp – 0:04]

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT [Time stamp – 0:26]

Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.

4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS [Time stamp – 0:40]

a. Closed Captioning

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA [Time stamp – 1:42]

6. CURRENT CLAIMS LIST [Time stamp – 1:24]

Claims received as of November 25, 2025 to December 26, 2025 by the Commissioners' Office total \$21,213,626.04.

7. HEARINGS

a. Resolution: Lolo Sewer and Water Impact Fees [Time stamp – 4:16]

Karen Hughes, Planning, Development, and Sustainability

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County hereby approve and adopt the Impact Fee resolution for Lolo Sewer and Water systems as proposed by the Impact Fee Advisory Committee, based on the findings of fact and conclusions as presented by staff.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-014 Book:1123 Page:657]

b. Resolution: Missoula County Zoning Code Maintenance [Time stamp – 17:36]

Lauren Ryan, Planning, Development, and Sustainability

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners adopt and approve the resolution to adopt the updated Missoula County Zoning Code, as recommended by the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board, as a zoning regulation for a portion of Missoula County to implement the 2019 Missoula Area Land Use Element and the 2016 Missoula County Growth Policy, based on the findings of fact and conclusions contained in the staff report.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-008. Book:1123 Page:668]

c. Resolution: Wye Infrastructure Plan [Time stamp – 21:21]

Andrew Hagemeyer, Community and Economic Development

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed Resolution to Adopt the Wye Infrastructure Plan as an amendment to the Missoula County Growth Policy and as presented by staff.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-015. Book:1123 Page:669]

- d. **2nd Hearing Ordinance: Missoula County Community Council** *[Time stamp – 31:57]*
Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners adopt the Missoula County Community Council Ordinance 2026-001.

Commissioner Slotnick seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Ordinance 2026-001. Book:1123 Page:659]

- e. **Resolutions: Creating Community Councils under the new Community Council Ordinance** *[Time stamp – 33:59]*

Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

- | | |
|---|--|
| i) West Valley Community Council | [Resolution 2026-001. Book:1123 Page:684] |
| (ii) Swan Valley Community Council | [Resolution 2026-002. Book:1123 Page:685] |
| (iii) Seeley Lake Community Council | [Resolution 2026-003. Book:1123 Page:686] |
| (iv) East Missoula Community Council | [Resolution 2026-004. Book:1123 Page:687] |
| (v) Lolo Community Council | [Resolution 2026-005. Book:1123 Page:688] |
| (vi) Clinton Community Council | [Resolution 2026-006. Book:1123 Page:689] |
| (vii) Bonner-Milltown Community Council | [Resolution 2026-007. Book:1123 Page:690] |

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners approve the resolutions creating the following community councils in accordance with the Missoula County Community Council ordinance and that includes Bonner, Milltown, Clinton E, Missoula, Lolo, Cella, Lake, Swan and West Valley Community councils.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

- f. **Resolution: Appointing a Chair for Calendar Year 2026** *[Time stamp – 56:06]*

Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners adopt the resolution appointing Commissioner Josh Slotnick as the chair of Missoula County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2026

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-009. Book:1123 Page:660]

- g. **Resolution: Setting the Location for Posting of Public Notices** *[Time stamp – 57:36]*

Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners designating the county administrative building as the official location for posting of public notices.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-010. Book:1123 Page:661]

- h. Resolution: Setting the Date and Times of Public Meetings** *[Time stamp – 58:40]*
Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

Commissioner Strohmaier made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners approve the resolution establishing a regular meeting date for the Board of County Commissioners and notifying the public of that date. This resolution supersedes any and all previous resolutions that may have been adopted.

Commissioner Vero seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-011. Book:1123 Page:662]

- i. Resolution: Setting Office Hours** *[Time stamp – 59:07]*
Chris Lounsbury, Chief Administrative Officer, Missoula County

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners approve the resolution to establish the office hours for each of the various elected officials' offices.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 3-0.]

[Resolution 2026-015. Book:1123 Page:663]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 2026-016 setting the Daily Rate of Incarceration increase was on the commissioners' administrative meeting agenda at 10 am.**

9. ADJOURN

Chair Slotnick – Called the meeting to adjourn at 3:02 p.m.

BCC Public Meeting January 08, 2026– Transcription

This transcription was produced by transcription software. There may be discrepancies between this transcription and meeting dialogue. You can view the recording of the meeting on the county's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/missoulacounty> or contact the commissioners' office to obtain a copy.

Dialogue in the transcription attributed to "Sophie Moiese Room" is for all speakers that attended the meeting in person. Attendees that participated virtually are labeled individually.

0:01

Public meeting for Thursday, January 8th.

0:04

Would you please join me in the pledge?

0:08

Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

0:26

Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the Aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispell people.

0:32

Do you have any public announcements?

0:40

Hello everyone.

0:40

If you're joining us for this meeting virtually today, instructions for turning on closed captioning are on your screen.

0:46

If you're joining us in person, we'll have closed captioning on all the screens here in the soapy movies room.

0:51

Just as a friendly reminder, there will be multiple chances during the meeting for public comment in person and virtually.

0:57

The chair will open the discussion for public comment after each staff presentation.

1:01

Please respectfully keep your comments to 3 minutes.

1:04

If you're a Microsoft Teams, we ask that you use the Raise Hand feature.

1:08

This is the small hand button at the top of your screen.

1:10

If you're calling in on the phone, you'll need to push *5 to raise your hand.

1:14

Then once called upon, you'll need to push *6 to unmute.

1:17

If you have any questions, please come find me during the meeting.

1:20

Thank you.

1:22

Thank you.

1:24

Our current claims list claims received as of November 25th, 2025 to December 26th, 2025 by the Commissioner's Office total \$21,213,626.04.

1:40

Oh shoot, thank you.

1:42

Any public comment on anything not on the agenda?

1:45

Anybody wants to come talk about?

1:46

Hey Travis, thank you.

1:50

Hi, how's it going?

1:51

Happy 2026.

1:52

I'm going to refer to myself now as a 26 year resident of Missoula and Missoula County.

1:58

Different years, same issues.

2:00

One of the things that I would love for like a, you know, public communication specialist to be able to do is like respond to the inquiries I make specifically regarding the the dead body found down the Kim Williams Trail on November 14th.

2:13

We're now new year, almost two months in and there's been no finding of that body.

2:18

And so I continue to be concerned about things that, you know, Boston 25 TV was interested to hear me talk about which is Hotshots lethal overdose deaths among the homeless community.

2:28

He has a as a person that worked at the poverty Center for seven years and still maintains connections in that community.

2:33

I do maintain concerns about what is happening.

2:37

Yesterday it was really interesting.

2:39

I'm into drones and I've finished a book and there's this police operation.

2:43

I'm trying to get a, a city like specialist to respond to an e-mail, which, you know, that's they get paid to do that.

2:50

But I was curious because it was 330 right around sort of the Inez River Street.

2:57

There's a little counting parcel of land right there where the pink grizzly is.

3:00

So to make it relevant to you guys.

3:02

And this police response was pretty significant.

3:04

I don't know if it was maybe a training or an actual like let's go and arrest someone, but there were a lot of kids walking around and I recorded it.

3:11

The drone use was interesting.

3:12

I just want to know more about things happening in my community, and I don't know why I sometimes feel like a pariah because my curiosity is expressed in such passionate ways so often.

3:23

But I'm going to continue asking questions and the book that I've written that I'm going to get someone outside of Missoula hopefully to publish will help put this community on the map.

3:31

It's really funny to me that a smoke jumper is going to be like entering the political race.

3:34

I know a lot about smoke jumping the CIA newspapers and how citizen journalists apparently like when they get retweeted by Elon and they have travel budgets, they get, they go and find Somalian daycare fraud.

3:45

There's so much fraud and real citizen journalists that don't get retweeted by Elon, Even though I wrote about Elon hanging out at Positive Ranch with Peter Thiel and Sam Altman.

3:54

And I think Montana's really special and I, I think I'm almost at 3 minutes and I think I, I, I'm going to go play with Legos now.

4:00

I, I didn't bring any Legos with me today.

4:02

For that, I apologize.

4:04

Thank you, Trav Happy New Year.

4:06

Anybody else, you're welcome to speak on anything you like for three minutes.

4:14

OK.

4:14

We have 5 public hearings today.

4:16

Our first one is a resolution on the Lolo sewer and water impact fees and our own Karen Hughes will present.

4:24

Good afternoon, commissioners.

4:25

Karen Hughes So the county planning, development and sustainability, as you are aware, the water and wastewater system in low lows reach full capacity and no new connections are allowed, as well as the fact that the existing infrastructure has deficiencies needed to to be addressed.

4:43

One of the ways the county's pursuing paying for those deficiencies is looking at additional capacity for growth, which would be paid for through impact fees.

4:56

Missoula County Public Works has worked with HDR Engineering to develop an impact the study, which has been provided to you, and the the study following outreach to the development community to the community of Lolo, which was all done through a Missoula County Voice page in a series of emails.

5:20

The Impact The advisory committee met at the beginning of December to consider the study, to listen to public testimony and to get a presentation on it.

5:29

They, following their review, recommended unanimous approval of adoption of the impact fees at 100% as proposed in the study.

5:40

So I will pass this off to the Public Works Department and Cora from HDR to talk more about the study.

5:47

But the the next step in adoption would be for the commissioners to follow through on public hearing here, receive public comment and following that consider the resolution to adopt impact fees for Lolo sewer and water.

6:04

Assuming you do that, that would put it back on us to update our procedures and get that incorporated into the permitting system that is used by the county, which takes about a month total to do before we are actually collecting impact fees.

6:18

But before you today is the consideration of that resolution to adopt impact fees.

6:24

And with that, I'll hand it off to Cora to talk about the study.

6:27

Great, Thanks, Karen.

6:28

So I'm going to just go through really high level the study in broad terms because it's in your packet and I've presented before and I know you have a lot of your agenda today, but I'd be happy to take any other questions that come up as needed.

6:43

So the final study was published in October of 2025 in your packet.

6:48

And so it involves drinking water and wastewater impact fees.

6:52

We attempt to do a preliminary engineering report that looks at what are all the needs of the facility in both the drinking water and wastewater, what realm, and then estimate the cost of those things into the future and then assign a portion of those to what what part is due to growth and what part is due to the existing infrastructure needs.

7:15

So the existing sewer and water, wastewater impact fees are \$10,000 as shown here in Table 1.

7:24

And this looks to update the with additional information.

7:28

So I'll skip ahead to the planning and the planned growth.

7:35

And as Karen mentioned, there is unable to be any additional connections in Lolo right now.

7:40

So while that plan growth of 1300 and 50 homes or Ed US or economic dwelling units is shown in 2020, the system has not expanded since 2020.

7:52

So that's the current population.

7:54

And then we're looking at the growth here in the system for an estimate of the projected up to 2050 relating to the water system.

8:07

So this would be drinking water going to homes.

8:10

There was a phase one project that was completed with ARPA money.

8:14

So that's why we're mentioning phase two.

8:17

That project involves upgrading some existing wells to allow there to be more flow and redundancy so that we can meet requirements for when a well is out of service to meet the the Max day demand per the DEQ requirements.

8:32

So that project is around \$3,000,000 and it's about 23% growth related.

8:38

So it would allow for an additional 400 homes to be added.

8:43

So the capital cost of that is spread in that percentage to those homes.

8:48

Here in the spreadsheet.

8:50

There's additional projects that would need to be funded if that additional growth were to occur and that would be 100% due to growth.

8:57

And those things involve a new well in a new storage tank.

9:01

All of that to say, the amount dependent on growth of those projects would be around \$9483.

9:12

We do attempt to look at the existing infrastructure and what portion of that would be due to growth or new users coming online.

9:20

Typically that's a fairly small number because that has been amortized over time, funded by grants, etcetera.

9:25

So that adds an additional \$146 per user as well for a total impact fee on the water side of 9600 and \$29,000.

9:38

This would be assessed equally for single family homes, which in Lolo can be three quarter inch line sizes or one inch line sizes.

9:48

So we made those the same cost and then scaling up from there with the volume of water that can go through larger line sizes if there were a request for a larger line size for multi family units or industrial use or commercial use.

10:05

So you can see how that scales up in Table 5.

10:12

That is everything on the water side.

10:15

Looking at the wastewater related projects, the wastewater treatment plant also had a phase one project that was entirely funded by ARPA.

10:25

So I'm starting at Phase 2 here.

10:28

These projects are are partially needed for redundancy and renewal and replacement in the existing wastewater treatment plant, but they would be sized enough to allow an additional 802 Edu's to connect, which means they're 37% growth related.

10:48

And so the capital cost of those are assigned at the 30% due to growth in this table.

10:55

Additional disinfection in the UV would be needed and that would wouldn't be needed until you added enough flow.

11:00

And so that's 100% due to growth.

11:03

And there is some additional upsizing of a force main interceptor that the ratio is 44% due to growth.

11:10

So all of those costs for the treatment plant are around \$5000.

11:14

Additionally, there's some improvements needed in the collection system for renewal and replacement as well as upsizing.

11:21

So the total growth related capital improvements for wastewater would be 7357.

11:31

Same story on the wastewater for assigning value to the existing infrastructure.

11:37

That works out to be \$531.

11:40

So the total estimated impact fee for sewer is \$7888.

11:48

Similarly, this assessment is scaled based on water line size as shown in this Table 8.

12:00

I should point out that any additional developments within those areas and outside of these capital improvements, for example if you needed a water line extension to the specific area being developed would be entirely on that entity to provide.

12:17

This would just be the portion of the need of the system within the community and I'm skipping ahead to the total which is the sewer and wastewater added to together.

12:38

But I would be happy to take any questions while I'm trying to find that table.

12:46

Fine table.

12:46

I thought they were always separated waters.

12:48

OK, I could be wrong.

12:53

Thanks Jason, that might be why I'm struggling.

13:01

It would be roughly \$17,000, correct?

13:09

And that that the way we do that is we recommend the maximum conservative number that the Commission could choose to assign.

13:24

I'll stop.

13:29

We're open for questions.

13:29

If there are any in the room or online, please let us know.

13:33

Yeah, go ahead, Sir.

13:34

Just one on the percentages, but thank you very much.

13:40

Hang on, Hang on, Hang on.

13:41

Just a SEC.

13:41

Get my name.

13:44

I'm sorry.

13:45

Sorry about that.

13:45

Why don't you why don't you come on up.

13:49

We'll do it this way.

13:50

We'll be straight.

13:51

Anybody want to have want to speak on this?

13:52

You're welcome to.

13:53

So come on up to podium.

13:55

Say your name and we'll do our, we'll do our best we can to get your questions answered.

14:01

Thank you.

14:02

My name is Steve Major and mostly I have no qualms about what's been done.

14:09

I looked at it pretty and it looks pretty good.

14:11

I had put in a letter of some concerns I had earlier to the commissioners and was looking at the price range, what I thought would be good around between 20 and 30,000.

14:22

But seeing as I was done very well, I'm happy with that.

14:26

I just have a couple questions on it, Couple of the, I guess factors that you used, you mentioned the 44% for the force main.

14:36

How, how do you come up with a percentage on something like that?

14:42

Absolutely.

14:43

So the 44% on the force main is a ratio of the areas of the pipeline size, so a portion of replacing what's there and then the additional size if it were upsized of what water you could squeeze through in that area.

15:00

OK.

15:00

And just to follow up on that and that's you can kind of put that together mathematically to figure out what's the difference between growth and existing for the system.

15:10

All right, thank you, Cora.

15:16

Mainly I wanted to ask about the percentages.

15:18

Thank you very much.

15:25

Anybody else?

15:26

You're welcome to ask a question.

15:28

Speak on this.

15:32

Anything from the Commission?

15:35

Oh, Jason, you have something?

15:36

I was just trying to answer any questions.

15:39

OK.

15:39

Thank you.

15:44

I do not.

15:45

I'm ready to move forward.

15:46

Do we have a motion?

15:48

Yeah.

15:48

Anybody want to make a motion?

15:51

Karen?

15:51

Did you?

15:52

Well, I'll wing it.

15:53

OK.

15:54

I move that we approve the resolution to adopt Lolo sewer and water impact fees.

16:02

Seconds.

16:02

Oops, my microphone.

16:03

Second, any public comment.

16:06

I'll just say I think this is a significant step in the right direction to address some of the deficiencies and help fund them.

16:17

Fantastic, thanks.

16:18

Well, I'm going to let myself do some commenting.

16:22

Big shock, right?

16:23

1st, I want to thank the impact Fee Advisory Board.

16:27

These are folks who are professionals in this realm.

16:29

We have representatives from the development community, Realtors, engineers and planners, and they

worked through this with a fine tooth comb for many, many hours and the fact that they are giving us a unanimous recommendation really means a lot to me.

16:45

Also really want to say thanks to Jason and to Cora and especially to Karen for shepherding this process along for months and months.

16:53

For a long time we've been wrestling with how to improve the sewer and water system in Lolo for the users who are there right now and also to facilitate growth.

17:03

We're all very aware of the housing crisis we're in and we need more houses.

17:07

That's just a straight up fact.

17:08

Lolo's a beautiful place to live and there's space.

17:11

We need to get the water and sewer up to snuff, and it costs real money.

17:15

This is a mechanism by which we can have new growth, basically pay for itself and have existing users pay for the changes that they will enjoy.

17:23

So I'm really excited about doing this and about the fairness.

17:26

And I want to say thanks to everybody who made it.

17:28

Make it happen.

17:30

With that all in favor.

17:32

Aye, aye.

17:34

Thank you.

17:36

Next up, resolution, Missoula County zoning code maintenance.

17:40

Lauren Wright.

17:52

Oh, my goodness.

17:55

I did not.

17:56

Thank you.

17:56

IA 100% did not know that.

17:58

OK, this is the longest meeting we've ever had.

18:01

I was going to.

18:02

We'd be done.

18:05

You might be.

18:24

Thank you, Commissioners Lauren Ryan, planner with planning, development and Sustainability.

18:28

And for your consideration, I'm presenting the zoning regulation maintenance update final resolution to you all quickly going over the time frame here on November 13th, 2025 at your public hearing.

18:43

The resolution of intent was adopted on November 2020.

18:49

Second and 29th, we posted a legal notice as required for that resolution of intent.

18:55

December 13th, 2025 ended the 30 day comment period.

19:01

From that comment period, we did not receive any new comments received and therefore no changes are necessary to what was recommended.

19:11

And so with that, I have a motion in front of you and happy to answer any questions if you have any.

19:16

Thank you.

19:19

Thanks Lauren.

19:21

Any public comment on this not from you guys.

19:27

Well, it's an opportunity for Lauren to brag about the process.

19:30

What did what did we learn about this?

19:33

Oh, brag about the process.

19:36

There is now no concerns or comments.

19:40

And yeah, I mean, we when we do these maintenance updates, the goal is to get to a point that we identify issues within the regulations.

19:52

You know, we adopted this code in in 2022 and we work hard to update them on a yearly basis.

19:58

And the goal of these is to hopefully make issues in the regulations a little bit easier for folks to understand.

20:06

And so, yeah, we work really hard on the on the front end to work with the public, the development community and others to come to solutions here.

20:15

So when we get to this point in the process, we don't have a lot of public comment just because we've worked through a lot of the issues.

20:21

So yeah, I think with the lack of of public comment we've received, hopefully we've done a good job on the front end of coming to a conclusion with some of these issues.

20:31

So yeah, thanks for sharing that.

20:34

Well, well done.

20:35

Thank you.

20:37

And with that, I guess I'll, I'll make a motion request the our Board approve the resolution to adopt the updated Missoula County zoning code as recommended by the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board as a zoning regulation for a portion of Missoula County to implement the 2019 Missoula area land use element in the 2016 Missoula County Growth Policy.

21:00

Oh, wasn't even looking at the screen.

21:04

I move to adopt A resolution to amend the Missoula County zoning regulations based on the findings of facts and conclusions contained in the staff report.

21:11

Second, any public comment.

21:15

OK, all in favor.

21:17

Aye, aye.

21:18

Thanks, Lauren.

21:19

Thank you.

21:21

Next up is Andrew Hegemeyer with the Y Infrastructure plan.

22:04

All right, I'm Andrew Higemeyer, I'm the community and Academic Development Director for Missoula County and I'm here to present on the Y infrastructure plan All right what what I'm here to ask for today is a request from the county commissioners to adopt the Y infrastructure plan.

22:25

This plan has been in process for a couple of years now and we've finally ready to finish it off.

22:35

So I'm going to start with the Y on the Y infrastructure plan, that the plan is an implementation step identified in the 2019 Missoula Area Land Use Element.

22:47

That process, which involves, as you know, thousands of comments and years of public outreach, identified the Y as an area, a growth area for Missoula County.

23:00

However, that area today is not set up to handle to accommodate the type of development that the plan was really forecasting.

23:09

So we needed to think about infrastructure before it really develops.

23:14

So this plan will help us understand infrastructure needs and constraints in the area.

23:20

It will help us identify funding sources and think about funding infrastructure improvements over time.

23:27

And and it also keeps Missoula County in a proactive stance, thinking about the long term and how we should grow in that area.

23:40

So as I mentioned, we're at the end of the process here, but I wanted to talk a little bit about the process in 2004.

23:47

The consulting team led by WGM Jeff Smith also in balling some other folks here in the room today worked on drafting the plan itself In in 2005, we were really going through an agency review, a sort of back and forth with different agencies and we kind of completed that over the summer.

24:09

The final review period started in about July of 2005, where we, the final review period by the other agencies.

24:18

We pushed out the finally addressed all those agency comments and pushed out a public draft.

24:24

On October 21st of 2005.

24:26

We had a what's that, 2025?

24:30

What did I say, 2005?

24:31

Yeah.

24:32

So back in time, we have a DeLorean.

24:34

You were in 8th grade and pulling this off.

24:41

So yeah.

24:42

Yeah.

24:43

In 2025, October 21st, we released the draft to the public and we had an introductory presentation with the Planning Board and informational presentation with the Planning Board.

24:54

On November 4th, we had a public hearing with the Planning Board, which they reviewed the plan, took comment and recommended unanimous approval of the plan to the County commissioners a couple days later.

25:08

Jeff Smith from WGNIWGM and I presented to the Leadership Missoula group, which about 50 people on this plan took questions.

25:18

A couple weeks later I went out to West Valley Community Council, met with them, discussed the plan, heard what they thought about it.

25:25

And then on December 4th, we brought the plan to the county commissioners and we held the public hearing and we took some public comment and the commissioners adopted the resolution of intent, which gets us to where we are today, the final resolution.

25:46

So we talked about the public comments we had received up to the December 4th meeting at the December 4th meeting, but there were some comments made at the December 4th public hearing and we have opened, we've kept the public comment period open since then.

26:04

So on this slide, I'm just going to kind of walk through what the comments or were at that hearing and we've heard since then and how that affects the plan if at all.

26:14

So first, they don't exactly match up, but one-on-one is how it works here.

26:18

So the first comment we heard at the public hearing was has tourism and school bus traffic been accommodated for, considered in the plan.

26:26

And the answer is yes, all the traffic modelling factors and all the types of traffic and that we see in an area.

26:36

So that's already been that has been considered.

26:38

Number 2 was a comment at the public hearing, so should we?

26:42

The comment was shouldn't, would it be a good idea to maybe one school district at the Y or one fire district at the Y because it's made-up of multiple districts and why they the validity of that idea may or may not be great.

26:56

It's the reality is it's up to those districts, the fire districts, the school districts to consider that.

27:01

It's not up to the county to dictate that, but it is recommended in the plan that the county help those entities plan for future growth in the area.

27:13

Third comment that is brought up at the public hearing was is there enough water out at the Y, specifically concerns about groundwater.

27:22

And what we can tell you is that we legally can acquire enough water to accommodate all that growth.

27:28

That doesn't necessarily mean it's physically in the ground, but what the plan does recognize is that is unknown.

27:38

Unknown.

27:39

We and the plan recommends that we move forward with an additional groundwater study to really get to get an idea and really understand how the groundwater works at the Y and that would answer the question is is there enough physical water.

27:54

If we found that there is not enough physical water to support that level of growth, we have a couple of options as we start to study other ways to go water out there or be we don't grow as much as the area could potentially, but the carrying capacity area is reduced.

28:12

So #4 with this was a comment we received on Missoula County Voice just a couple days ago.

28:16

Is that the area more of a comment than a question.

28:19

The area needs more multi family housing and that the response is yes, that's kind of an outcome of the plan is that we get more housing out there.

28:28

And the final comment was I received through your e-mail that I wanted to bring up was just a thanks for all your hard work and the response is our pleasure.

28:37

And thanks, Susan out there if you're listening for making that comment.

28:43

So again, what is our request today?

28:45

It's to approve the final resolution adopting the Y infrastructure plan.

28:49

If that occurs, it's it will be considered an issue plan in the Missoula County growth policy.

28:55

And I like to remind people that is an official county policy document.

28:59

So this will become official county policy.

29:02

And I believe my next slide is the the motion, so I'll hand it over to.

29:15

So where, where does the OR anybody want to ask any questions or public comment on the why infrastructure plan?

29:25

Anybody online as well?

29:30

OK, up to you guys.

29:31

So where does the the water study fall into this or how?

29:35

Yeah.

29:35

So I mean, the, the, the, the plan itself acknowledges that there are questions about water quantity and you know, we, we can't see into the ground.

29:47

So we, it's not like looking at the river and being like, yeah, there's water there.

29:51

So, but that's the likely source of what where water will actually come from when we when that area develops will be from wells from big, you know, like public wells.

30:02

So the I, it, it the plan, it's of implementation step of the plan.

30:08

It's saying, hey, this to to really make this work to make development occur out here like you're anticipating it, you need to you need to study the the groundwater and how that would work would be we would work with the Missoula County Water Quality District would be our main county department that we would look to.

30:27

They're the more of the experts on what these studies look like, who has expertise to do them, what the scope of work would be like.

30:35

But we would move forward through the county budgeting process, which could include perhaps the tax increment finance districts that are out there to hold it to get a scope of work and then ask for money to complete the study.

30:52

Yeah, thank you.

30:54

So I mean, so the, the plan's approved.

30:57

The plan is its own separate thing, but ideally we don't want to be shelf art.

31:02

So we have to make sure that the water study happens.

31:06

Yeah, this, this is a, this is a really, really important implementation step.

31:10

That shouldn't be.

31:12

It should be.

31:13

We should move on as fast as possible.

31:16

The planning board in their recommendation wanted to communicate that to you as well.

31:21

Like, hey, you guys, really, we really need to do this study.

31:25

Thanks.

31:28

Ready for a motion.

31:30

Did did we take public comment?

31:32

I but did earlier.

31:34

We can.

31:34

Thank you.

31:36

Sometimes I forget these things.

31:38

Thank you.

31:39

I move to approve the final resolution adopting the Y infrastructure plan as an amendment to the Missoula County growth policy.

31:45

Second, any public comment on this?

31:49

OK.

31:50

All in favor.

31:51

Aye.

31:51

Aye.

31:52

Thanks, Andrew.

31:53

Yeah.

31:53

Thank you.

31:57

Next up, a second hearing ordinance.

31:59

Missoula County Community Councils and Chris Lowndesbury, our Cao will present.

32:24

Good afternoon.

32:25

Thanks, commissioners.

32:27

So today you're here for your second hearing on an ordinance around community councils.

32:33

So just a little bit of history, let's see if we can get it to advance.

32:37

There we go.

32:38

Missoula County created its first community council back in 1987 in the Seeley Lake area after receiving a petition from the community.

32:45

And our most recent one was formed just two, a little now three years ago, but it was two years ago when I wrote this slide in Clinton in 2023.

32:54

Since that first one, we've accumulated 7 community councils across Missoula County with the intention of making it easier for communities to share their voice with the Commission on items impacting their area.

33:07

So why we're looking at creating an ordinance as as we've been working through the process of reviewing our community councils, we came across an error in their original creation.

33:18

They were originally created by resolution and then went to a public vote.

33:22

And actually, under Montana Code Annotated, they need to be under an ordinance under the Board of County Commissioners as advisory boards.

33:29

And so the intent of this ordinance is to correct that error and bring them into compliance.

33:35

And so one of the things that will happen with this ordinance is we'll be able to standardize all of our community councils and their bylaws to make them more easily fit into both the Missoula County structure, but also create that uniformity across them for citizens as they interact and participate with them.

33:56

So what this ordinance does is it creates a common framework for all the community councils.

34:01

It standardizes the number of members for each of the districts, establishes uniform processes for accounting for the funding for the community councils and the public records and reporting requirements of community councils.

34:12

And then also establishes the process in the future by which we will establish additional community councils should they be needed, or adjust their boundaries or in rare circumstances, potentially dissolve them if there were incorporation or other needs by the Board.

34:30

So a couple of things that this ordinance does not do, it does not change the nature of the work done by community councils.

34:35

They'll still be advisory boards.

34:37

They'll still hear different issues from their community and pass that information on to the Commission.

34:42

It does not remove any of the current serving members on the community councils.

34:46

They will transition from elected positions to appointed positions through a staggered process so that they will continue to serve throughout their term and then be eligible for reappointment under the new process.

34:56

So it doesn't remove anybody who's currently serving and of course it doesn't give or remove any authority because these continue to be advisory boards under the Board of County Commissioners.

35:09

And so finally, just a little bit about the process that we've used for this.

35:12

So working closely with our County Attorney's office and our existing community councils, we went through and presented this to two of our all community council meetings to make sure that each of the community councils knew about this and to get feedback on the draft ordinance.

35:25

As well as looking at different changes or suggestions that they made and then incorporating these into the resolution or sorry, the ordinance that you have before you today.

35:36

This is the second of your two hearings.

35:38

So we had our first hearing back on December 4th to open the public comment period.

35:42

The only comments we've received on the ordinance were from the Clinton Community Council and those have been incorporated into the ordinance.

35:49

So today is your second hearing on the ordinance for community councils and then one more quick slide here before we get to the motion.

35:59

So what we're asking you to do today is take additional public comment on the ordinance and the subsequent resolutions that are underneath the ordinance that re establish all of the existing community councils.

36:09

And just for clarity for folks, that's the Bonner Milltown Community Council, the Clinton Community Council, E Missoula Community Council, Lolo Community Council, Seeley Lake Community Council, Swan Community Council and the West Valley Community Council.

36:25

So with that, commissioners, I would ask you to open the hearing and take public comment on that.

36:29

And then when you're ready, I have some motions for you.

36:33

Thanks a lot, Chris.

36:35

All right, anybody would like to speak on this?

36:37

I'm guessing.

36:37

Well, that's you all.

36:38

Are you all are here?

36:39

Please come on up.

36:40

And I don't know if this, so if you can see this, but everybody gets you get 3 minutes a shot.

36:44

So as soon as you start talking, I'm going to turn over the hourglass.

36:47

Fair enough.

36:51

And make sure you say your name and then the mic is on, OK, Mike is on I believe.

36:54

And Patrick Moore is my name.

36:56

And we represent the Lowell Community Council.

36:59

And I've read over this new ordinance that they that they was proposed here.

37:06

A couple questions I have just for clarity.

37:08

Mostly I see that the new community council members will be appointed by commissioners.

37:15

And my question about that is a representation for the community itself.

37:21

If the commissioners do this before they were voted and people would apply and it would be voted on.

37:27

And I'm wondering why we went to that instead of, you know, a voted means of people who apply from the community.

37:34

Yeah.

37:34

So the the short answer is, is there is under Montana Code Annotated, there is a section that allows for community councils and there is not a provision under our form of government for Missoula County that allows for them to be elected positions.

37:46

That is one of the errors in the original resolutions was that it, it references the wrong section of Montana code for the form of government that Missoula County is.

37:54

Technicality is what it sounds like.

37:56

It's, it's, it's not a technicality.

37:57

There is no allowance in law for it.

37:59

Understand.

38:00

I guess my concern is that the proper representation of our of our community and in all the communities, in fact, you know, if they're just appointed by somebody, we don't even know, how do we know there's appropriate representation?

38:13

I'd like to see that get fixed somehow.

38:16

However, we have to do that, not that we don't trust community council but or the commissioners, but we, you know, we have people in the community that put a desire, desire forward to have that position, even though it's advisory only would like to see something incorporated into that.

38:35

If that could be happen, it would feel like we would be better represented.

38:40

That's what it's all about.

38:42

That is why we're there to represent and bring information to the conditioners, right?

38:49

A couple other things here.

38:52

Does this new resolution change our our current bylaws?

39:02

Does it delete all of those, all of those items that were previously in existence with the councils in that regard?

39:08

So this ordinance just establishes the ordinance and the resolution that sets the boundaries and other information for that bylaws would be a separate item that's not before the board today.

39:18

So do we assume that the bylaws then that we have are currently in effect?

39:22

Is that what we're saying?

39:24

They are currently in effect.

39:26

And and during the all community Council meeting last month, Kyla Leonards talked a little bit about some of the updates that will be coming to the bylaws for the future.

39:33

But that is at a different at a different meeting.

39:35

It's not something that's before the board today.

39:37

OK.

39:37

So this doesn't change the bylaws.

39:38

That's my concern.

39:41

OK, correct.

39:42

The bylaws are not before the board today, right?

39:44

OK, good enough.

39:46

OK.

39:46

That's, that's the main concerns that I had with these.

39:50

And I guess the other thing, you know, it could pertain to what we're doing here, but it's a point of interest.

39:57

We have a hard time getting public to come to our meetings.

40:01

I think all the councils do and that's part of the problem and even getting people to sit on the on the Commission or on the the local community council and I believe and I've talked to neighbors and people that of our community.

40:13

And they feel that, you know, if they would come to the meetings, if they felt better represented.

40:18

And one way they could do that would be to have a vote when we bring up and talk about things.

40:22

So they they could actually vote yes or no on things rather than put the point forward and then have a few people, you know, that decide more of a a complete representation.

40:32

So just a point of interest on that.

40:34

Something to think about.

40:35

Maybe not today, but something for future that we should address.

40:39

I believe I've heard enough of of it from the some of our local people that I think it's important.

40:44

So that's all I have.

40:49

Juan, I have a question, Patrick, maybe I didn't quite understand your, your last point.

40:54

The voting not not not on the members of the council, but voting on the.

41:00

Help me understand.

41:01

Yeah, public that attends, you know, they feel that, yeah, they can say things, but when it comes time to make a decision, they can't vote.

41:07

And, you know, typically when with meetings, I belong to a union and and all the people in that union voted when we had meetings.

41:14

So everybody was represented and and it was a good feel for everybody.

41:18

Otherwise it's just verbiage.

41:19

And then OK, so there's no you're saying there's there's no discussion.

41:23

People don't feel they can discuss but but they can't vote how they feel.

41:29

Somebody else has to interpret what they said and then they vote.

41:32

You know, the the people on the council, in other words, vote.

41:35

They just feel, I feel like we'd have we'd have better attendance if we had them feel like more they had a say of what actually happens.

41:44

That's, you know, that's it.

41:45

That's the impression I get from people.

41:47

And I had a sounds like Patrick, you'd like the old fashioned kind of New England style town meeting where there is no representative democracy.

41:56

It's direct where everyone comes and everyone votes.

41:59

That's what that just to be clear, that's what your idea is.

42:02

Yes, yes, thanks.

42:03

Something like that.

42:04

However, it could be implemented.

42:05

I just think we just need more people there so we get more input.

42:09

That's kind of what that's all we want to do is get get more, more attendance.

42:12

You know, and then I kind of had a question about the appointed versus voted when I mean, it sounds just the words.

42:21

I, I can kind of understand what what Patrick was concerned about.

42:25

But when someone when we appoint folks that we're not just going out and and choosing someone people have applied and come to us.

42:34

I mean, so they are in a sense like they they've showed interest and and want to participate in this.

42:40

Would the application process be similar to what we have now, do you think?

42:44

Yeah, the same.

42:45

Yeah.

42:45

OK.

42:46

OK.

42:46

And and it's open and so sure you could anybody comment and observe it and share your your thoughts and comments.

42:54

OK.

42:55

OK.

42:56

All right.

42:58

I think I was just talking to myself, but I was looking at Chris, but OK, thank you.

43:02

Yeah, Thank you.

43:12

Kevin Nolan, I used to be a member of LOLO and the community council.

43:15

And I think maybe Patrick's question about the elected versus appointed, what what I found my experience being a a regular community member.

43:24

And then I went through the interview process and was appointed to the community council.

43:28

And it was really neat to eventually see names put on a ballot and have the people choose from that.

43:34

But the constitutional Republic gives a, as you said, Commissioner Stromar.

43:40

I'm sorry, Slotnick, do you?

43:41

I haven't been around you guys long time.

43:43

So sorry.

43:44

We get mixed up all the time.

43:46

Maybe I'll tell them how hard you work at the gym.

43:48

And then, yeah, but the representative style of government we have is, you know, if we can communicate that with the with the rest of the community members that that commissioners are doing the best they can with the information they have based on what the council provides to them in the meetings.

44:05

You know, that might help with your attendance.

44:07

The other way to get more attendance is to try to put a resort tax in Lowell.

44:12

People will come out, you'll have full meetings all the time.

44:15

But my, my input would be for this meeting's purpose, you know, to change the state laws and the Constitution and these provisions that would allow that.

44:24

I know that's a lengthy process, but you know, maybe the committee council, you know, members, if you want to have that, you know, there there is a process to change those laws and maybe start with those discussions and have the group participation for that.

44:37

But thank you guys for your time and the hard work that you do.

44:40

Thanks Kevin guys and gal.

44:43

Thanks Kevin.

44:52

Hi, Steve Major again, I'm from Lolo.

44:55

Couple questions for Mr.

44:57

Lansbury and and they're along what Pat said as well.

45:01

The the chief problem I have with this is the appointment versus the, the voting.

45:08

And I realized that it's some simpler to appoint.

45:14

I realized that probably most community councils, the vast majority of the members are appointed anyway because there's not enough people for an election.

45:23

I realized all of this and it makes it simpler to to appoint.

45:27

But it's plain and simple, I think representatively lies.

45:31

You did mention, you know, easier to share their voices, interact and participate.

45:37

If people get to vote at least that's almost like advertising for the community council meetings as well.

45:45

So we did have a vote in in Lolo.

45:48

So we've got a couple people that were actually voted in.

45:52

Pat ran and didn't make it, but eventually then he was able to be appointed.

45:56

I would say it makes more sense to the people of the communities that we are to represent that they would feel a lot better if we just kept things the way they are.

46:07

If you end up appointing most of the people anyway, great.

46:10

It's still the same application process, but it's the application process the same for a vote as well.

46:17

So I just think that does make people feel more represented and I think it does help with everybody's talking about participation at meetings helps with participation meetings when there is a vote in the community and there signs out and people go, Oh yeah, we have a community council.

46:38

So that that and a resort tax and LO does help with participation at meetings.

46:44

So I would I know this is 11th hour and sorry I missed out on some of the all community council meetings in the last vote.

46:51

But this is really a point that probably you guys should consider keeping it the way it is and having a vote if there's enough people that apply.

47:01

Thanks.

47:01

Thank you very much, Commissioners.

47:03

Please do so.

47:04

Chris.

47:05

Chris or John, just to clarify.

47:06

So my understanding is that to bring us into alignment with state law, that is the reason why we're contemplating what we're doing today.

47:15

And it is not an option by virtue of Montana State law to vote.

47:20

It's just we've been doing this incorrectly for a number of years.

47:25

Appointing will actually bring us into compliance with state law and the mechanism to change state law would be through the legislature.

47:35

It didn't add some to the the the only way, if I understand it right and please correct you can do 2 at once, is if we were to actually change our form of government.

47:43

I can say this to to you all.

47:44

There are multiple options for county forms of government, and we go through a process every 10 years

where we ask the voters, would you like to vote for a committee of people to consider our form of government and then make recommendations, put that on the ballot.

48:00

And then voters could decide if we want a new form of government, of which there are multiple available in Montana.

48:06

And we just did this a couple years ago and the voters said, no, we don't want to, we don't want to do it.

48:10

So it'll come around again eight years from now, we could do it again.

48:15

At which point maybe we could rally people together.

48:18

We want to change the form of government such that we could have elected community councils.

48:22

But right now our only option if we are to choose to have community councils is to appoint people at if we want to be consistent with the law.

48:31

And I'm going to let Chris correct me.

48:34

I, I wouldn't correct you, Commissioner Slotnick.

48:36

That is correct.

48:37

The, the section of law that controls community councils under what we have, which is called the elected official form of government, allows them only to be created by ordinance through an appointment process.

48:47

Other forms of government, there are sections that allow for community councils that are elected positions, but that does not comport with our form of government.

48:55

Years from now, we could, we could try it again.

49:00

Or you could change MCA, like, oh, oh, yes, yeah.

49:04

Or you could go to the legislature and get the laws changed.

49:06

Yeah, yeah.

49:08

Come on, we'll start again.

49:12

We're OK.

49:12

Come on up.

49:13

You know, I downloaded the the law of the 73417 Montana noted law and this one's dated 23.

49:23

I just did this this morning and it gives two options to to fund or not fund but but put people into the community councils.

49:33

One of them is through ordinance.

49:35

The other one is the one we're using currently, unless this law has recently changed.

49:40

I just like I say, printed this off this morning.

49:43

Yes, the the law has not changed.

49:45

That first section applies to a form of government known as the Commission form of government.

49:51

That second line that you're talking about, which is the one by ordinance reform refers to the elected official form of government.

49:56

Missoula County is an elected official form of government and we are required to use that subsection too, created by an ordinance.

50:03

So the references that this ordinance refers back to is this law and and it gives two options in that law.

50:11

So the reference seems irrelevant than in that ordinance to this law that's supposed to, you know, govern these decisions.

50:23

Those one those two choices.

50:25

In other words, I don't, I guess I don't understand how come it's it's listed, but yet we're not going to not going to acknowledge it.

50:32

So, so again, that that section of code, you have to start at the beginning, right?

50:36

And that beginning is you have to know what form of government you're referring to.

50:40

An elected official form of government points directly to subsection 2, that they have to be created by an ordinance, which means we can't use option one because we are an elected official form of government.

50:51

We must use option 2, which is an ordinance.

50:55

I think I understand what you're saying.

50:57

And eight years from now, we'll have the option to change our form of government or in the intervening time you could change the law.

51:03

OK, it's it's a bit confusing.

51:07

Yes, yes, which is why we were doing it wrong for years.

51:11

So understand.

51:14

OK, well, the main thing, you know, what it's really all about is there again to get good representation.

51:20

That's that's all we want.

51:22

You know, I think that's all we all want.

51:24

Thank you.

51:33

Yes, I would move that we close the hearing and I move to adopt the Missoula County Community Council Ordinance 2026-001.

51:44

Second, any public comment?

51:49

Thanks for your comment.

51:49

All right.

51:52

I would offer one bit of additional discussion on, on, on this and that.

51:57

And that is point well taken as far as attendance and engagement.

52:04

As you look around the room here, it's not, it's a little sparse today too.

52:07

And, and if maybe there's a different agenda item, it would bring out the crowds.

52:12

One thing that would absolutely pack the house probably would be a discussion of incorporation of, of Lolo.

52:21

And, and I, I don't say this, this is not meant to be tongue in cheek either.

52:24

There's a couple places in Missoula County, namely Lolo and Seeley Lake, that actually might be viable candidates for incorporation.

52:34

I say that because I think what some of our community councils are actually looking for is to be governing bodies themselves as opposed to just advisory to us.

52:45

And if that is part of the goal to have your own government in that locale, then incorporation is an option.

52:57

So I just put that out there and I'm supportive of bringing us into a compliance of state law.

53:07

OK, Kelly, sorry, can you guys hear me?

53:13

Yes, OK, great.

53:14

I would turn my camera on, but for whatever reason, I'm struggling to make that happen and I apologize.

53:19

The only other thing that I was trying to comment sooner was just as you consider this, one of the things and making it uniform was if it's still written, the way we had talked about in December was that the councils would be made-up of seven people.

53:35

And I know in West Valley we just finally got to five.

53:42

I know there are some councils, for example, Sealy and Lolo that I feel do a better job of fielding a team of seven.

53:50

But I, I just would say to you guys, if there's any way to leave the flexibility of having either 5 or 7, it would be, I think that would be helpful to us.

53:59

And as everybody, everybody commented on, attendance is challenging.

54:04

And it seems like if we're gonna take something that's already challenging and make it harder, I don't know.

54:10

So I just wanted to put that out there just so it's in the record that at least from my experience over the last two years in West Valley, it would it would feel more attainable if we had if we were able to stick to five counts community council members versus 7.

54:31

Thanks.

54:32

Kelly, you have a motion, right?

54:40

We got a second, second any more public comment?

54:45

OK, All in favor, Aye.

54:47

Thanks everybody.

54:50

Secondly, I would move to adopt the resolutions creating the following community councils in accordance with the Missoula County Community Council ordinance and that includes Bonner, Milltown, Clinton E, Missoula, Lolo, Cela, Lake, Swan and West Valley Community councils.

55:08

And before we entertain a second, Chris, the the RCA is different than this.

55:14

The RCA actually says adopt community council ordinance and adopting the bylaws.

55:22

I'm sorry.

55:22

It should, it should not say bylaws.

55:24

It should just say ordinance.

55:25

OK.

55:26

That might have caused some of the, yeah, confusion that folks felt.

55:29

So anyway, good catch.

55:32

I am second, right?

55:34

Any public comment?

55:37

OK, All in favor.

55:38

Aye, aye.

55:43

Chris gets to continue and thanks to the folks for Lolo for Yeah, thanks for coming out.

55:52

Thank you, Commissioner.

55:52

So Next up, we have your yearly resolutions.

55:55

You might remember this from last year, but each year at the beginning of the calendar year, we are required by statute to adopt certain resolutions related to the governance of county business throughout the year.

56:06

We'll start off with our favorite, which is appointing A presiding officer for the 2026 calendar year.

56:12

So the Montana Code annotated the references.

56:14

This is section 7721-09, and that requires that the Board appointed chair each year.

56:20

Traditionally, Missoula County has used a rotating system for that.

56:23

Juanita served as our chair last year.

56:25

Thank you, Commissioner Vero, for your service.

56:28

Under our normal rotation, it would be Commissioner Slotnick this year, but the Commission may choose any member to serve as the chair and so I have a recommended motion here where you can fill in the name who you would like.

56:39

Again, by rotation, it would be Commissioner Slotnick this year who would serve as the chair.

56:43

As a reminder for folks, the Chair obviously presides over the meetings here, but they serve two other important functions, which is during times of emergency or disaster, they can declare those states absent the entire board, and then the board ratifies that at its next meeting, which allows us access to state and other resources during those emergency and disaster times.

57:03

Thank you.

57:03

Good question.

57:05

Well, what if we're not satisfied with any of the choices?

57:08

Can we appoint A proxy like John Hart?

57:10

Maybe I don't know it.

57:11

It must be a member of the Commission.

57:15

Well, I enthusiastically move to adopt A resolution appointing Commissioner Josh Slotnick as the chair of Missoula County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 20267.

57:26

Any public comment?

57:29

OK.

57:30

All in favor, aye.

57:36

All right.

57:36

The next is we need to establish the locations where you will post your public notices.

57:40

So in addition to running them in the Mizulian, we're required to point at least one physical location.

57:46

Historically, we have designated the county administrative building at 199 W Pine St.

57:50

as the location where they are posted on the bulletin board as folks come through the main entrance there.

57:56

The particular section of code in this case is 712123 that requires this adoption each year.

58:02

And our recommendation from staff again, is that 199 W Pine St., your administrative building just inside the main entry, be the location for official postings of public notices in addition to the requirement that they be published in the Missoula.

58:18

OK, this is so 20th century.

58:20

I I moved to adopt A resolution designated designating 199 W Pine.

58:25

The county administrative building is the official location for posting of public notices.

58:30

Second, any public comment.

58:34

OK, all in favor.

58:36

Aye.

58:39

All right, commissioners.

58:40

The next is that you need to adopt A resolution that sets the dates and times of your regular reoccurring public meetings.

58:47

That section of code is 752122.

58:50

Missoula County has historically held administrative public meetings on the Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week and then these public hearing meetings on the first, second, and 4th Thursdays of each month.

59:02

Department meetings then with the Commission meet throughout various times, but are posted on your Commission calendar.

59:07

So the formal notice ones that we have to have are these, the administrative meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then these public hearing meetings on the first, second and 4th Thursdays of each month.

59:17

And the recommendation from staff is to continue that schedule.

59:24

I would move to adopt the resolution specifying the regular meeting date and notifying the public of those dates.

59:30

What do you think, Juan?

59:37

Oh, second, sorry, I was reading ahead.

59:39

Sorry.

59:39

Any public comment?

59:42

OK, All in favor.

59:44

Aye, aye.

59:47

Thank you, commissioners.

59:48

So the next resolution is setting the office hours.

59:52

Certain elected official offices must remain open Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00, with the exception of public holidays, in consultation with each of the elected officials.

1:00:02

So it's a reminder for folks.

1:00:03

There are 11 independently elected officials in Missoula County, including the Board of county.

1:00:07

Commissioners are justices of the peace, the County Attorney, clerk of District Court, county auditor, county Superintendent of schools.

1:00:14

Serving in those roles.

1:00:15

And so we consult with them to make sure that that 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday schedule matches with that.

1:00:21

And then in addition to that, we provide flexibility for departments recognizing that there are emergent circumstances that may occur, especially from some of our smaller offices that might only have one or two staff members to give them some limited flexibility if they need to deviate from those.

1:00:36

The recommendation from all of your other elected officials in the county was to continue that additional flexibility as well as the standard Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 business hours as required by state law.

1:00:48

And so you have a motion before you to continue that.

1:00:53

I move to adopt the resolution setting office hours as Monday through Friday for 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM except in circumstances of legal holidays, emergency circumstances or to meet the needs of the department.

1:01:03

Second, any public comment?

1:01:06

OK, All in favor, aye.

1:01:10

And then commissioners, just for folks who may have missed the Thursday administrative meeting, you do not need to take action on this, but normally as part of your yearly resolution, you were required to set the daily rate of incarceration credit.

1:01:19

And this is used by our court system to when folks are incarcerated to be able to credit against fines and fees that may be levied against them.

1:01:28

That is based off the actual costs for the preceding year, which would have been 2025, as well as the number of available days for each bed.

1:01:37

And so that did increase this year due to increased costs for personnel and medical costs to 2003 dollars.

1:01:44

You adopted this earlier today during your, I'm sorry, 203 dollars.

1:01:49

Thank you, John.

1:01:50

Not two or three dollars, \$203.00.

1:01:53

You did adopt that during your administrative meeting this morning because we were not able to make the notice requirement, but I did just want to put it up for members of the public in case they did not see that this morning.

1:02:03

But you do not need to readopt it today.

1:02:05

Thank you, Chris, thank you, thank you.

1:02:07

If any of you guys follow this stuff closely, this is indeed quite a big jump from last year and this is due to increase in pay for our deputies and huge increase in our medical costs at the jail, predominantly around pharmaceuticals.

1:02:23

Thanks and I do believe we are done.

1:02:27

Thank you all.

1:02:27

Thank you.