

Clinton Community Council Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026

Clinton School-- 20397 E Mullan Rd, Clinton MT 59825

clintonmtcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Council mailing address: PO Box 404, Clinton MT 59825

Virtual meeting link: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nfx-tjic-yne>

A. Call to Order and Welcome – 6:00 PM

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Bonnie Roberts

C. Roll Call and Introductions:

Council Members: Chris Saale, Frankie Feinstein, Kris Handley, Deborah Bissell, Bonnie Roberts.

Community Attendees: Jim Caron, Faith Murphy Hewitt, Susan Montelius, Barb Robinson, Floyd Robinson, Claudia Quinlivan

On-line Attendees: Chelsea Walmsley, Janice Goldsby

D. Approval of Agenda: Kris H. moved to approve the agenda with an addition under new business to discuss purchase of new signage; Frankie seconded; no discussion; motion carried.

E. Approval of Minutes: Kris H. moved to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes; Chris S seconded; no discussion; motion carried.

F. Public Comments on items NOT on the agenda.

- a. Frankie reported that Horticulture Extension Office will set up outside the school on May 19, 2026.
- b. Jim Caron spoke regarding the American Legion Post. They are in need of 6 people to join. If they do not get them, there is a chance that the Clinton Post be absorbed into the Missoula Post. The new members would have to be a Veteran and join no later than July.

G. Treasurer's Report: Kris Handley: CURRENT BALANCE \$408.35 as of 3/10/26, at posting of agenda.

- a. One check written #525 for \$4.06 for water and google workspace
- b. Current balance as of 3/16 is now \$404.29

H. Communications/Announcements:

Clinton School PTSA Update: Chelsea Walmsley

- a. PTSA First Annual Pi Day Bake Sale March 14, -11-2pm. We are excited to bring back the classic bake sale to celebrate Pi Day! We invite all community members to bake their favorite recipes, including pies, cakes, brownies, cookies, breads and more, to donate to the first ever Pi Day Bake Sale! This event became a Rational Bake Sale due to the school's loss of power.
- b. PTSA Annual Easter Egg Hunt April 4, 11:00 am. All are invited to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt Time will be posted as we get closer to the event. For ages from baby through 5th grade and we hope to have a middle school option again this year. If you would like to donate candy and/or prizes for the eggs (or plastic eggs) please notify us or you may bring items to the office during school hours.

- c. PTSA will have a Spring Craft Fair May 2. 10 x 10 space \$25.00 or 10 x 10 \$30.00 with power
- d. There will be an Adult Prom/Dress Up June 13, 2026 at Poor Henry's. This is a fundraising event for Close Up / Girl Scout.
- e. Local Business Directory – Nothing has been done on it as of yet.

Private Development Projects and Fun Happenings: Bonnie Roberts

- a. **Private Development Projects:** Nothing to Report
- b. **"Fun things Happening in Missoula County"** The attached flyer on last page of these minutes was made available to attendees.

The following Updates and Announcements from Missoula County Offices were shared:

County staff to host open houses on changes to floodplain maps

FEMA recently released new floodplain maps, and Missoula County is here to help residents near affected waterways navigate these changes. The County is hosting open houses in impacted communities to provide info and answer questions about the recent floodplain mapping update for Clark Fork River, Bitterroot River and Rock Creek. Residents with affected properties will also receive a postcard about open house options. These events will not include formal presentations; residents can stop by any time from 6 to 7:30 p.m.:

Clinton: Tuesday, March 31 6 pm – 7:30pm

- Clinton School, 20397 E. Mullan Road

Missoula: Monday, March 23

- Missoula County Fairgrounds (Floriculture Building), 1101 South Ave. W

Lolo: Thursday, March 26

- Lolo School, 5305 Farm Lane

Frenchtown: Monday, March 30

- Frenchtown Fire Hall, 6875 Marion Street

Monthly "Gardening in Montana" Learning Series

This monthly series helps gardeners of all levels navigate the specific challenges of gardening in western Montana — from the short growing seasons and diverse soils to plant selection and pest dynamics. Each month's class will highlight a new topic designed to build confidence and practical skills for success in our climate. Topics include region-specific growing strategies, how to interpret local climate and hardiness, crop selection suited to the Missoula area, soil health, composting, native plants and more.

When: starting March 25, then running the third Wednesday of each month through December. Participants can attend one of two identical sessions: noon to 1 p.m. or from 6 to 7 p.m.

Where: Exploration Center Lupine Lab, 1075 South Ave. W. in Missoula

Cost: March is free; \$10 per class April-December

Master Gardener Volunteer Certification Program

For residents seeking a deeper commitment and the opportunity to give back through service, the Master Gardener program offers a structured volunteer training that expands on the Gardening in Montana content with more specific horticultural education and community outreach skills. [Register online.](#)

When: Tuesdays, April 7 through June 2, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Exploration Center, 1075 South Ave. W., Missoula

Cost: \$250 (includes Master Gardener manual and all materials)

Annual housing, community development survey open now

Missoula County invites residents to participate in the 2026 Housing and Community Development Survey. The survey helps to identify needs and gaps in services related to public infrastructure and facilities, economic development and housing. Public input will inform Missoula County's federal grant acquisition efforts through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. Community participation is an essential part of the planning process and helps ensure that funding decisions reflect local priorities. The survey opens Monday, March 2, and closes at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential and anonymous.

Outdoor burning open now, permits available

The General, Essential Agriculture, and Prescribed Wildland Outdoor Burning Seasons in Missoula County opened March 1. If you are planning to burn any natural vegetation or untreated wood from your property, you must purchase an outdoor burn permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and activate it the day you plan to burn. Permits cost \$7 annually and can be purchased or [renewed online](#) or in person at most local fire protection agencies.

Within Missoula City limits, parcels must be at least one acre or more in size to be eligible for an outdoor burn permit; recreational fires are banned year-round in City limits. Only natural vegetation and untreated wood generated on site can be burned with a permit. Additionally, inside the [Missoula Air Stagnation Zone](#) (an area that stretches about four miles outside Missoula City limits), it is illegal to burn piles of leaves and grasses because of the excessive and irritating smoke that it produces. If you are within the Air Stagnation Zone, dispose of leaves and grass by composting them or delivering them to a facility such as Garden City Compost. Dumping of any type of yard debris on public lands is prohibited.

Before lighting your fire, you must activate your permit each day you plan to burn by visiting burn.egovmt.com or by calling the automated activation phone line at 1-888-583-6497. Burning is allowed after 9 a.m. and the fire needs to be extinguished by 4 p.m.

Dept. of Revenue extends homestead exemption deadline to Friday, March 20

Have you confirmed your property is enrolled to receive the homestead property tax exemption? If you received a property tax rebate in 2025, you are likely already enrolled.

[Click here to check.](#) You'll need your geocode, which you can find by entering your address [in the Missoula County property information system](#).

The previous deadline was March 1, and has been extended to Friday, March 20. [Learn more from the Montana Department of Revenue by clicking here.](#)

What do all these property taxes pay for, anyway?

Curious about how your taxes are used by county government? County government provides a range of services, from public safety and paving and plowing roads to running elections and answering 9-1-1 calls.

[Each line item you see on the County portion of your tax bill](#) helps fund these and other essential community services. After looking at your personal tax bill, you can trace these line items to their respective funds to find out what County services your taxes pay for.

Learn more by visiting this link:

<https://www.missoulacounty.gov/topics/tax-funds/>

Are you ready to vote in this year's elections?

It's a federal election year, which means there will be both a primary in June and a general election in November. Missoula County also has annual school and special district elections in May.

It's never too early to make sure your voter registration is up to date. [Head to missoulavotes.com](https://missoulavotes.com) to see how you can check that your address is correct and for more information what elections are happening in 2026!

Missoula County Zoning Regulations Billboard Amendment

Share Missoula County Zoning Regulations Billboard Amendment on Facebook Share Missoula County Zoning Regulations Billboard Amendment on Twitter Share Missoula County Zoning Regulations Billboard Amendment on LinkedIn Email Missoula County Zoning Regulations Billboard Amendment link

The Missoula County Consolidated Land Use Board voted 4 - 3 to recommend that the county commissioners adopt the proposed amendments to the Missoula County Zoning Regulations at their March 4 public meeting. This project will now go to the county commissioners at their March 26 public hearing meeting.

Project Description:

The Missoula County Commissioners have proposed to amend the sign code in the Missoula County Zoning Regulations (MCZR) to prohibit billboards as a sign type in areas zoned Industrial Center, Light (ICL), and Industrial Center, Heavy (ICH). They are also proposing to prohibit conversion of existing static copy billboards to electronic message display billboards.

Current zoning regulations outlined in Section 8.8.B. (MCZR) allow billboards, including digital or electronic copy billboards, up to 300 square feet in size, in industrial zoned areas.

If approved, the amendment will:

1. Prohibit installation of new billboards in areas subject to Part 2 zoning applied in 2022, including adding a second face on an opposite side of an existing billboard.
2. Permit existing billboards to remain in place as nonconforming signs subject to Section 10.6 and allow upkeep and maintenance.
3. Prohibit reconstruction of existing billboards that are damaged or destroyed where the cost of reconstruction exceeds 50% of the replacement cost.
4. Permit only external illumination of billboard signs.
5. Prohibit the conversion of any static copy billboard to an electronic message display (digital billboard).

Project Timeline:

Missoula County Consolidated Land Use Board public meeting: **6 p.m. Wednesday, March 4**

- **In-person location:** 200 W. Broadway, Missoula County Courthouse Annex, Sophie Moiese Room
- **Virtual option:** Residents can attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting on your device, follow the links on the agenda that will be published on the [Missoula County's public meeting portal\(External link\)](#).

County Commissioners' public hearing meeting: **2 p.m. Thursday, March 26**

- **In-person location:** 200 W. Broadway, Missoula County Courthouse Annex, Sophie Moiese Room
- **Virtual option:** Residents can attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams. To join the call on your phone, call 406-272-4824, Conference ID 467 457 758#. To join the meeting on your device, follow the links on the agenda that will be published at <http://missoula.co/bccmeetings>.(External link)

Public Comment:

We welcome your comments up until the close of the public hearing, so **please submit public comment by March 25 by visiting** <https://missoulacountyvoice.com>

Missoula County Subdivision Regulations: “Urban Area” Amendments

Share Missoula County Subdivision Regulations: “Urban Area” Amendments on Facebook Share Missoula County Subdivision Regulations: “Urban Area” Amendments on Twitter Share Missoula County Subdivision Regulations: “Urban Area” Amendments on LinkedIn Email Missoula County Subdivision Regulations: “Urban Area” Amendments link

Project Description:

The Missoula County Department of Planning, Development and Sustainability proposes to update the [Missoula County Subdivision Regulations\(External link\)](#) after finding some mapping errors in Appendix A of the Missoula County Subdivision Regulations. This error is also reflected in the county’s [Property Information System.\(External link\)](#) This correction, along with a mapping update, will be reflected in the urban area of Lolo within the [Lolo Water and Sewer District \(RSID 901\).\(External link\)](#)

In addition to this mapping correction and update, staff also proposes updating [Chapter 2 of the subdivision regulations](#) by clarifying the definition between urban and rural areas, and [Chapter 3 of the subdivision regulations](#) by amending the distinction between these two areas. Both updates will clarify Lolo’s current urban area.

Project Timeline:

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Public Comment:

Comments can be submitted until the close of the public hearing. You can submit public comment by visiting <https://missoulacountyvoice.com>

Western Montana Fair seeking live music, performers

The Western Montana Fair is now accepting applications from bands interested in providing evening entertainment at the fair. There will be two bands each night of the nine-day fair, which runs from Friday, July 31, through Saturday, Aug. 8.

All genres are welcome, provided the performance is upbeat and family-friendly. Bands should be comfortable performing for a large, diverse audience and delivering a full 90-minute set. The first set starts at 6 p.m. followed by a 30-minute scheduled set change. The second set will begin around 8:15 p.m. The Fairgrounds will provide professional sound equipment and technical support.

END OF COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENTS SHARED AT MEETING

I. Reports from Council Members: Kris Handley reported on progress of new Facebook Page. She is regularly posting on it. We have 59 followers! And during the meeting, we checked and there were 62 followers! A big plus of the new page is we don’t have to watch for friend requests, people just like and follow our page. Go to our facebook page and click like or follow. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61587912422537>
[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

J. Old Business:

- a. Progress on discussion for a Town Hall-type meeting with Senators or other Legislative Representatives. Since an election of state legislators is coming up this year, the community members present discussed a Candidate Forum at this point would be appropriate rather than a Town Hall. Chris S and 2 other Council Members are working on getting Legislature here to speak to us. To have a Town Hall they would have to already be elected.

K. New Business:

- a. Discussed to which local organization (s) Council should donate its remaining checking account balance. The Council will no longer have a checking account. Kyla said we can vote to give remaining balance to a local organization or give it back to the County. There is no need to decide at this meeting. Possible projects / groups to donate the money:
 - 1) Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Community Projects. Eagle Scout Robert Gasner will be working on the Cougar Kingdom for his project. It needs new wood chips, the structure needs repair as well. The school is hoping to replace it in 1 – 3 years with a new one. In the meantime, it needs to be maintained for safety of children.
 - 2) Donate to a Fund at Clinton School for Teacher supplies – oftentimes, teachers spend money of their own for the classroom.

Kris H. said she will research some of the ideas and bring information to the next Council meeting.

- b. Discussed Monthly meeting schedule – Kris H moved that the Clinton Community Council change their schedule to meet 8 times per year, with no regular meetings in June, July, August and December. Chris S seconded; motion carried.
- c. Frankie moved that we send all four House District 93 candidates invitations to a candidate forum to be held on the day of the Council's regular meeting May 19. Bonnie seconded; motion carried. Kris Handley recused herself from the vote as her husband is one of the candidates.
- d. Chris Saale reported that the sandwich board signs are showing wear. He has acquired 2 plastic sandwich board signs. And all the Council would have to do is pay for the signs on the new boards. A sign company will charge \$39.00 for a 24 x 36 sign. Chris recommends 2 signs per sandwich board (one on each side) Thus, 4 signs total equals - \$156.00. Kris H moved to approve purchase of the signs, Frankie seconded; motion carried

L. Next Steps: Agenda for April:

Scheduled Speakers for April:

- a. Jason Mitchell, Missoula County Public Works Director -Roads and bridges updates
- b. Micah Hill, Superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools – Info on May school levy.

Council Business for April Agenda:

- a. Candidate Forum
- b. Schedule for Closing out Council Checking Account
- c. Vote on Community Project / Organization(s) to receive remainder of Council funds from checking account

M. Public Comment : Jim Caron asked if there are any trails in the Clinton Area. We mentioned that at our February meeting Nick Zanetos had discussed briefly at our February meeting the County's plan for trails in the Clinton Area for the future.

N. Adjournment: Kris H moved to adjourn the meeting; Frankie seconded, the motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 6PM

CLINTON AND MISSOULA COUNTY EVENTS MARCH 18TH THROUGH APRIL 21ST 2026

CLINTON SCHOOL EVENTS:

4/4- PTSA Easter Egg Hunt – Time to Be Announced, Check Facebook.

4/6TH TO 10TH – No School – Spring Break

IN AND AROUND CLINTON:

3/31 - (6pm-7:30pm) Open House hosted by Missoula County - for community members to learn about Floodplain Mapping Changes, Clinton School

4/11 (7pm) Cahoots Band at Rock Creek Lodge; 7 Rock Creek Rd, Clinton

4/21 – (6 pm) Clinton Community Council Meeting – Clinton School

ELSEWHERE IN MISSOULA COUNTY:

3/20 (5pm-8pm) 3/21 (10am-4pm) Little Red Truck's Missoula Spring Market,
tickets: littleredtruckvintagemarket.com; Missoula Fairgrounds

3/21 (4-7pm) Annual Crawfish boil; 119 W Main St (Confluence Center) tickets: (\$40) secure.qgiv.com

3/28 (1pm) Easter Egg Hunt; 2640 Cardinal Dr.

3/28 (10am-1pm) Missoula's Best Easter Egg Hunt; tickets: missoula.egghuntenvent.com, (the event is free but you must sign your child up to attend. Missoula Fairgrounds

3/28 (7:30-10:30pm) Dance Til Dusk; The Badlander, 208 Ryman Street

4/4 (10am-6pm) Miscon Game Day (Muse Comics and Games); 1940 Harve Ave

4/4 (4:30) Five Valleys Chapter Big Game Banquet; University Center Ballroom, 32 Campus Dr. tickets: (\$60) tickets.rmef.org

For those that don't mind the travel:

3/21 (10am-3pm) Stevensville Spring Spectacular; 300 Park Street (Stevensville High School), Stevensville

Places to find things to do in Missoula:

www.Destinationmissoula.org

www.baselocal.com/mt/missoula