

Clinton Community Council Meeting Minutes April 21, 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 – 6:01 PM

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Kris Handley

C. Roll Call and Introductions: Council Members: Chris Saale, Frankie Feinstein, Kris Handley

Community Attendees: Jim Caron, Faith Murphy Hewitt, John Hewitt, Susan Montelius, Roy Handley, Claudia Quinlivan, Ben Davis, Maureen Lynch, Nick Kujawa, Chelsea Walmsley, Levi Loftis, Julie Harris

On-line Attendee: Janice Goldsby During introductions, Frankie noted that there were 3 of the candidates for house District 93 in attendance, and she thanked them for attending.

D. Approval of Agenda: Frankie F. moved to discuss the candidate forum discussion to after the Treasurer report, rather than waiting until Old Business. Kris H seconded. The motion carried.

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

F. Public Comments on items NOT on the agenda. None.

G. Treasurer's Report: Kris Handley: Balance on 4/14, date of agenda being posted was \$404.29.

Current Balance as of 4/21/26: 200.94 after the following expenses.

- a. check to Visa for Google Workspace: \$8.40
- b. check for improved signage notifying public of meetings: \$194.95

J. Old Business – Candidate Forum (per Frankie's motion to move this discussion to after Treasurer's report.) Frankie explained that invitations to attend a candidate forum were sent to the four House District 93 candidates, and all said they would try to participate. Since candidates accepted the invitation, **Frankie moved to host a Candidate forum of HD 93 candidates on May 19. Chris S. seconded. Motion Carried**

Frankie reported for the Forum committee (Frankie, Chris S. Bonnie) She said they are expecting a bigger crowd for the forum than there is for our regular meetings, and thus looking into using the school's gym. She also gave a report from Bonnie R, (not present) who has done some work on investigating advertising avenues for the forum.

Frankie continued to discuss the format of the Forum. Each candidate will be given 2 minutes for an introduction. All questions for the candidates will be submitted to a moderator. Each candidate will have their turn to answer each question.

Frankie moved to make the Council's business meeting to be on May 19 at 5:30 pm, with the Candidate forum being held at 6:30 pm that evening as well. Kris H seconded. Motion carried

H. Communications/Announcements:

- a. Information on the May school levy was presented by Micah Hill, Superintendent of Missoula County Public schools. This is a mail in ballot and is due to Elections office on May 5. He recommended mailing the ballot by April 28 to insure it gets there in time. He provided a handout with information on Public School Operational levies, which is attached to the end of these minutes.
- b. Jason Mitchell Missoula County Public Works fielded discussed condition of roads around the Clinton Area. He explained what a Rural Special Improvement District is – where citizens from a specific area pay an extra tax to improve a particular road, or other infrastructure. An RSID needs 60% of the people in the RSID to be on-board. These specific tax monies can only be used for the special project in the RSID. Some people in the audience were interested in learning more about an RSID in Clinton. There was discussion amongst those in attendance about having the Commissioners come out to a Council meeting to discuss this, or perhaps having a special meeting about an RSID, separate from a Council meeting.
- c. Clinton PTSA Update – Chelsea Walmsley gave a report and provided a flyer about the PTSA activities and events. See flyer at the end of these minutes
- d. Local Business Directory update – Chelsea W. reported that she has 5 people wanting to be included in the local business directory. She calls it Clinton Community Connect. See the handout at the end of these minutes for more information.
- e. Fun things Happening in Missoula County. The attached flyer on last page of these minutes was made available to attendees.
- f. The following Updates and Announcements from Missoula County Offices were shared:
 - Kris H reported that positions are open for 2 new Clinton Council members. Applications due May 1.
 - Other announcements shared are at the end of these minutes.

I. Reports from Council Members

Kris H reported that Amy Helena with DNRC contacted her about a Land Exchange in the Wallace Creek/ Starvation Creek/ Cramer Creek area. She contacted a Council member as a way to get the word out.

It is a 3-way exchange. DNRC (State of MT) owns 1804.85 ac of inaccessible state trust land in Miller Creek Area which the State cannot access, thus cannot manage it.

As part of the proposal, The MPG Ranch (private Ranch) will be purchasing 8139.94 ac of land from the Nature Conservancy, said land located in the Wallace-Starvation-Cramer Creek Area not far from Clinton. MPG Ranch, after acquiring the 8140 from TNC, will exchange it with DNRC's 1805 ac.

So in the end, the MPG Ranch will own the inaccessible 1804 ac of land in Miller Creek, and the State DNRC will own 8140 ac of land in Cramer Creek area, which is accessible for DNRC's management. If anyone wants to comment on this, do so by May 1, 5pm. To Sierra Farmer, DNRC Southwestern Land Office 406-542-4261 or email DNRCLandExchangePublic@mt.gov

This info is also on the Clinton Council's Facebook page.

Someone asked if there are maps of the exchange. They could not find maps on the DNRC webpage.

Amy sent Kris some hardcopy maps which were made available to attendees. She said she would scan the maps and post to our Facebook page.

J. Old Business – Discuss to which local organization the Council should donate remaining checking account balance. Kris Handley researched 2 options:

1. Refurbishing of the Cougar Kingdom Playground at School, which is an Eagle Scout's senior project. Kris spoke to the Scout's mom. His project ended around April 15. But specialized wood chips are still needed. The mom did not have an estimate of cost for the wood chips. And it is unclear who will be taking this on.
2. Fund for Teachers, for special projects. Kris asked Kathy Schneider, Superintendent of Clinton School if there was a fund for teachers to buy classroom supplies. Kathy reported that currently each teacher is provided a budget for supplies, but it is minimal. She said "We would be extremely grateful for a donation to assist in providing funding for our teachers to purchase supplies for student projects", and that "Any additional resources would be terrific"

Kris noted that the amount of money to donate to an organization will be around \$180. A few attendees felt that donating to the school was a good idea. **Kris H moved to donate the remainder of the funds in the Council's checking account to the Clinton School for the Teacher's Classroom supply / Special Project fund. Frankie Feinstein seconded. Motion passed.**

K. New Business:

- a. Annual Expense Report is due to the County by June 1. This includes what the Council spent money on in FY 26 and what we anticipate to spend in 2027. Kris H said she will prepare the report for the May 19 meeting.
- b. Timeline of closing out Council's checking and credit card accounts. Kris H explained Lands and Communities asked for a timeline of closing out accounts and giving the County access to the Council's communications and social media. Kris prepared such a timeline, which was sent to all council members (See below). **Frankie F. moved to approve the timeline and Chris S. seconded. Motion passed.**

CLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TIMELINE FOR CLOSING OUT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AND PROVIDING COUNTY ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL, AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Prepared by Kris Handley, 4/20/26

Approved by Council at 4/21/26 meeting

ITEM / TASK	ESTIMATED DATE	ACTUAL COMPLETION DATE
County as admin on Facebook account	N/A	Feb 11, 2026 (Allison Franz assisted with this)
County given access to clintonmtcommunitycouncil@gmail.com account	N/A	April 9, 2026 (Gave Jill Johnson password to access the account)
County as admin on NextDoor Account	June 15	
Clinton Council's credit card taken off of Google Workspace account and replaced with County's card.	N/A	April 9, 2026 (Jill Johnson assisted with this)
Last transaction charged to Clinton Council's credit card – for refreshments for May meeting and Candidate Forum	April 25	
Write check from Clinton Council's First Security Checking Account to pay off credit card.	May 10	
Final check written from Clinton Council's First Security Checking Account – Donated funds to local organization / project (This is estimated to be \$180)	May 20	
Submit Letter to close out Clinton Council's Visa Card through First Security Bank	June 1	
Complete Paperwork with Bank to close Clinton Council's First Security Checking Account	June 1	
Submit Invoice to County (LAC?) for last expense of FY 2026 – Annual printing bill from Clinton Elementary School (This bill is Estimated to be between \$105 and \$110)	June 1	

L. Next Steps: Agenda for April:

Council Business for April Agenda:

- a. Approve Annual Expense Report
- b. Donation of Remaining Council Funds
- c. Vote to close out checking and credit card accounts.

M. Public Comment : none

N. Adjournment: Kris H moved to adjourn the meeting; Frankie seconded, the motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 pm, Clinton School

Meetings are held 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to November, and from January to May. Meetings do not occur in June, July, August, or December.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGES



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATIONAL LEVIES

A local levy is the normal mechanism for funding education in Montana. The state provides 80% for basic needs. The remaining 20% must be approved locally through voter levies. Therefore, school districts need to ASK their community for this support.

Like most school districts, Missoula County Public Schools continues to face three critical challenges.

1. **Steeply rising operational costs**
2. **Federal funding cuts**
3. **Declining enrollment**



WHAT do operational levies pay for?

Operational levies support the day-to-day costs of running schools, including instructional programs and materials, employee salaries and benefits, electricity, natural gas, and water.

WHY are fewer students enrolled?

Many districts across Montana and the country are experiencing declining student enrollment. Some significant factors include lower birth rates and rising housing costs.

HOW does Lower enrollment impact schools?

Montana school funding is based on the number of students enrolled. Fewer students means less state funding. HOWEVER, many costs remain fixed. Schools still need to pay the bills for staff and operations, even with fewer students.



WHY are there two levies?

Missoula County Public Schools functions as one school system but includes two separate districts (K-8 and 9-12.) Each must run its own levy to support school operations.



HOW MUCH will the levies cost taxpayers?



Elementary District

- Total levy amount: \$1,356,027
- Cost: \$6.21/year for every \$100,000 in assessed property value

High School District

- Total levy amount: \$1,132,187
- Cost: \$2.77/year for every \$100,000 in assessed property value.



To learn more:

- Scan the QR Code
- Visit www.mcpsmt.org





MCPS OPERATIONAL LEVIES Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you proposing levies again?

Montana school funding is designed as a partnership between the state and local communities. 80% of our funding comes from the state, while the remaining 20% must be raised locally through voter-approved levies. Because of this structure, districts need to ask their communities for continued support to help maintain school operations, programs, and staffing.

Why is MCPS still facing budget shortfalls?

Like most districts, we continue to face three critical challenges: steeply rising operational costs, federal funding cuts, and declining enrollment. Maintaining current programs and staffing levels given these factors is financially very difficult. To balance the budget, we must find an appropriate mix of increased revenue and expenditure reductions.

Why are fewer students enrolled?

Enrollment declines are happening in many districts across Montana and the country. Contributing factors include lower birth rates and the rising cost of living, which can make it harder for young families to live in many communities, including Missoula. Because our state funding is largely based on student enrollment, fewer students means less funding from the state to support school operations.

Why are you running TWO levies?

MCPS functions as one school system, but it includes two separate districts: an elementary district (K-8) and a high school district (9-12). The high school district serves a larger regional area that includes students from surrounding communities like Hellgate Elementary, Desmet, Bonner, Clinton, and Lolo. Because these are separate districts, each must run its own levy to support school operations.

How will operational levies be used?

Operational levies enable the District to fund day-to-day operational expenses such as: teachers, paraeducators, custodial and grounds personnel, office staff, health services, along with curriculum and classroom materials, programs, technology, utilities, and insurance. These funds are vital in helping the District sustain essential staffing and programs.

Nearly 90% of our general fund is made up of salaries and benefits. To make any sizable budget reductions, it would have to be in the area of personnel. We highly value and care about our staff as they are one of our greatest assets and we prioritize supporting and retaining quality teachers. Operational levies are significant in helping us do this.

What if the levies do not pass?

Because school funding is directly tied to enrollment, MCPS is already facing the need to make adjustments to align staffing and spending with current funding levels. Some reductions will be necessary regardless of the levy outcome. If the levies do not pass, the District will need to make additional reductions to balance the budget, which could include further impacts to staffing and educational programs.

Completed ballots can be returned by mail or in-person to the Missoula County Elections office at 140 N Russell St. by **May 5.**



CLINTON PTSA NEWSLETTER

Teacher Appreciation Week

This year Teacher Appreciation Week falls on May the 4th and goes through May the 8th. We would love it if some of our parents would like to help make some Star Wars Treats throughout the week to help us celebrate our wonderful teachers and staff. Please visit our Pinterest page and email us to let us know what you can do to help us out!



Craft Fair

Craft Fair will be held in our gym on Saturday, May 2nd from 11am-2pm. If you would like to be a vendor please fill out our application by scanning the QR code.



Clinton Community Connect

Do you have a local business or provide a service within the 59825 zip code you would like your neighbors to be aware of? Please follow the QR code to fill out the questionnaire to have you business listed in the new Clinton Community Connect Directory! Have questions? Please contact us by emailing us at

Chelsea@clintonptsa.com



Contact Info

Email:

info@clintonptsa.com
chelsea@clintonptsa.com

Facebook:

Clinton Cougars PTSA

Website:

www.clintonptsa.com

MPH hosting pop up pediatric vaccine clinics in May

The Missoula Public Health Immunization Clinic is hosting off-site vaccine clinics in May. Participants should bring a photo ID and an insurance card if they have one. No one will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

Available vaccines include tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (Tdap and Dtap), Meningitis, HPV, Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Chicken Pox (varicella), and polio.

Call the Missoula Public Health Immunization Clinic at 406-258-3363 with questions. Clinics near Clinton

- Wednesday, May 6, 3 to 5 p.m.: Clinton School
- Thursday, May 7, 3 to 5 p.m.: Bonner Elementary School

Grant funding available to support services for at-risk populations, substance abuse prevention

Missoula County is accepting grant applications for both the Substance Abuse Prevention Mill Levy and Community Assistance Fund. Government and nonprofit organizations are [encouraged to apply online](#) by 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 8. Funding is for fiscal year 2027, which runs July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Missoula County voters approved the Substance Abuse Prevention Mill Levy (SAP ML) in 2008 to support prevention programs that help build healthy youth and families and reduce the negative consequences and high costs of underage substance abuse. The total funding amount available for fiscal year 2027 is \$384,539.

Missoula County levies the Community Assistance Fund (CAF) to support human services and establish a safety net or continuum of services to meet basic human needs. Projects funded through CAF prioritize services that address the most fundamental needs of at-risk populations, including food, shelter, medical services and emergency transportation. The total funding amount available for fiscal year 2027 is approximately \$895,000.

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!

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/>

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.

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)

APRIL LOCAL INTERESTING AND FUN HAPPENINGS.

IN CLINTON AND AT CLINTON SCHOOL:

May 6, 3pm to 5 pm Pop-up Vaccination Clinic, Clinton School

IN THE SKIES

April 21-24, Lyrid meteor shower. Best Viewing is said to be April 22 from 1 am until dawn

ELSEWHERE IN MISSOULA AREA

4/25 (7:30-12pm) 65 Annual Pancake Breakfast, \$5/per person; 300 Edith St. St. Anthony Catholic Parish

4/30 (6pm-8pm) Sip & Swirl Cupcakes, Tickets: sugarandskillsstudio.square.site; 2413 S Higgins Cambie Taphouse + Coffee

4/30 (7pm) The M Factor: Shredding the Silence on Menopause; 718 S Higgins, Roxy Theater, free admission but requires admission ticket: theRoxytheater.org

4/30 (4pm) 2026 River City Roots Festival Lineup Release Party; 229 W Main St.

5/2 (10am -4pm) The Prairie Sisters Vintage Market, Tickets: theprairesisters.com, 3005 South Ave West Fort Missoula Regional Park

5/2 Serve 406 Affiliated thru local churches. (www.serve406.org) For more information in volunteering, either contact your local churches or any church involved.

5/2 (12pm) 32nd Annual Garden City Brewfest; Cara's Park

5/3 (3-5pm) The Stars Touch the Earth (Choir), Tickets: events.humanitix.com; University of Montana, Dennison Theater

5/8 (4-9pm) Cancer Support Community Montana Missoula's Food Truck Festival; Ogden Park at Allegiance Field

5/10 (11am- 2pm) Mother's Day Brunch, \$48 adult, \$25/12 and under; 100 Madison St.

5/12 (4:30 pm) Watsonville Healthy Foundations Community Baby Shower, RSVP on Facebook page; 1720 Wyoming St.

5/15 (6 - 10pm) Peace Party Tickets: irpc.org (\$75); 32 Campus Dr.

5/16 & 5/17 (2pm) 406 Cosignery Missoula Kids Consignment Boutique Pop Up; Missoula Fairgrounds

For those that don't mind the travel:

5/2 (10am) 5/3 (5pm) 2026 Spring Sale; 100 Old Corvallis Rd, Hamilton

5/16 (7pm - 11pm) 80's & 90's Rockfest with Ticket Sauce; \$10 ticket price, 168 S Frontage Rd E, Alberton