

County Commissioners
 Garfield County
 P.O. Box 7
 Jordan, Montana 59337

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GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 07, 2026

Commissioners will hear public comments on any matter during the time allotted for public comment.

The Commissioners are unable to take any action on any matter not on the agenda.

To appear on the agenda please contact the Commissioner Secretary, Kerri Gipson.

The Commissioners will recess at the noon hour, unless noted on the agenda.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| OLD BUSINESS: | | |
| *REH | *Roads | *Groundskeeping |
| | | *Coal Hauling |
| | | *Staircase & Landing |
| *IT Changeover/Security Upgrade | | |

| Time | Name | Subject |
|---------|--|--|
| 9:00am | Commissioners | Commissioner Board Reorganization |
| 9:15am | Resolutions | Resolutions to Establish 2026 Holidays, Mileage & Meal Rates, Commissioner Meeting Days, Procurement of Sand & Sanding |
| 9:30 am | Public Comment – Old Business/New Business | |
| 10:00am | Annette Thomas – Senior Center/Transit | Transit Coordination Plan |
| 11:00am | Branden Janshen | Virtual Walkthrough Remodel - Steps |
| 12:00pm | LUNCH | |
| 1:00pm | Maddi Saylor | Great Northern Development/Grow Garfield County Grant |
| 2:00pm | Pam Walling | Maco Trust |
| 3:00pm | Adam Forslund – County Attorney | County Matters |
| 5:00pm | Adjourn | |

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR SESSION

January 07, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN: KELLY WITT
VICE-CHAIR: CARLA MCWILLIAMS
MEMBER: JERRY COLLINS

MINUTES TAKEN BY: KERRI GIPSON

Vice-Chair McWilliams called the meeting to order at 9:08am

AGENDA

Motion by Collins, seconded by McWilliams to approve the agenda as posted 48 hours ago. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER BOARD REORGANIZATION –

McWilliams nominated Witt for Chairman, 2nd by Collins. Witt accepted, all were in favor, motion passed for Kelly Witt as Chairman. Collins nominated McWilliams for Vice-Chair, 2nd by Witt. McWilliams accepted, all in favor, motion passed for Carla McWilliams as Vice-Chair. Witt nominated Collins as a Member, 2nd by McWilliams. Collins accepted, all in favor, motion passed for Jerry Collins as a Member.

RESOLUTIONS – RESOLUTIONS TO Establish 2026 Holidays, Mileage & Meal Rates, Commissioner Meeting Days, Procurement of Sand & Sanding.

Resolution 1-2026, A Resolution Establishing 2026 Holidays, Mileage and Meal Rates (attached); Resolution 2-2026, A Resolution Establishing the 2026 Commissioner Meeting Days (attached); Resolution 3-2026, A Resolution for the procurement of sand and sanding from the State of Montana Department of Transportation (attached), were reviewed, discussed and voted upon. McWilliams made a motion to approve all 3 Resolutions, Collins 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
Signed the list of Garfield County Legal Holidays 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ANNETTE THOMAS – Senior Center/Big Dry Transit – TRANSIT COORDINATION PLAN

Annette presented to the Commissioners the Big Dry Transit Coordination Plan for Fiscal Year 2027 to review and approve. McWilliams made a motion to approve the Plan as presented, Collins 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Annette also informed that she had put in an application to replace the current 2020 Honda Odyssey and discussed the possibility of meeting with others in the county regarding Emergency Preparedness during cold temperature power outages. Commissioners agreed that this does need attention and will put together a list of those to include in a meeting in a couple of weeks.

BRANDON JANSSEN – VIRTUAL WALK THROUGH OF COURTHOUSE STEPS REMODEL

Brandon walked the Commissioners through the details of the current Courthouse steps as well as how they are wanting to do the new steps. After the discussion the following timeline is in place:

- *Wednesday, January 14 @ 11AM - Final Review of Drawings & Specifications
- *Thursday, January 29 @ 11AM - Pre-Bid Conference (Video)
- *Bid Advertisement will be published on Mondays: January 12, 26, and February 2, 2026
- *Wednesday, February 4 @ 11AM - Bid Opening
- *Wednesday, February 11 - Award project.
- *Projected Completion Date of June 30, 2026

Recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.
Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

MADISON SAYLOR – GREAT NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT/GROW GARFIELD COUNTY GRANT

Madison Saylor & Tory Matejovsky with Great Northern Development (GND) along with Adam Forslund, County Attorney, and Charlie Saylor, Clerk & Recorder discussed many aspects of the current and upcoming projects that GND & the Grow Garfield County Board are working towards. Tory emphasized that GND foots the bill for the projects and they wait to be reimbursed from the state, the city & county do not have to provide funding upfront. Future project ideas include:

- *Updating playground equipment in the Lucky Charms Park
- *Updating restroom facilities and possibly adding a Shelter House in Kariotis Park
- *One Mile Walking Trail
- *Informational Signs

PAM WALLING -MACO TRUST

Pam came in to discuss MACo Trust & Insurance. Present for the discussion were Charlie Saylor, Jennifer Crawford & Tasha Powell. Multiple topics were discussed including the differences between group insurance, private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid; options and reasons people can choose to opt out of county insurance; possibility of creating a HRA or cash-in-lieu of insurance options if a person has proof of other insurance coverage; Covid Era subsidies that have been cut; and ideas on shopping for other Insurance options.

ADAM FORSLUND – COUNTY ATTORNEY – COUNTY MATTERS

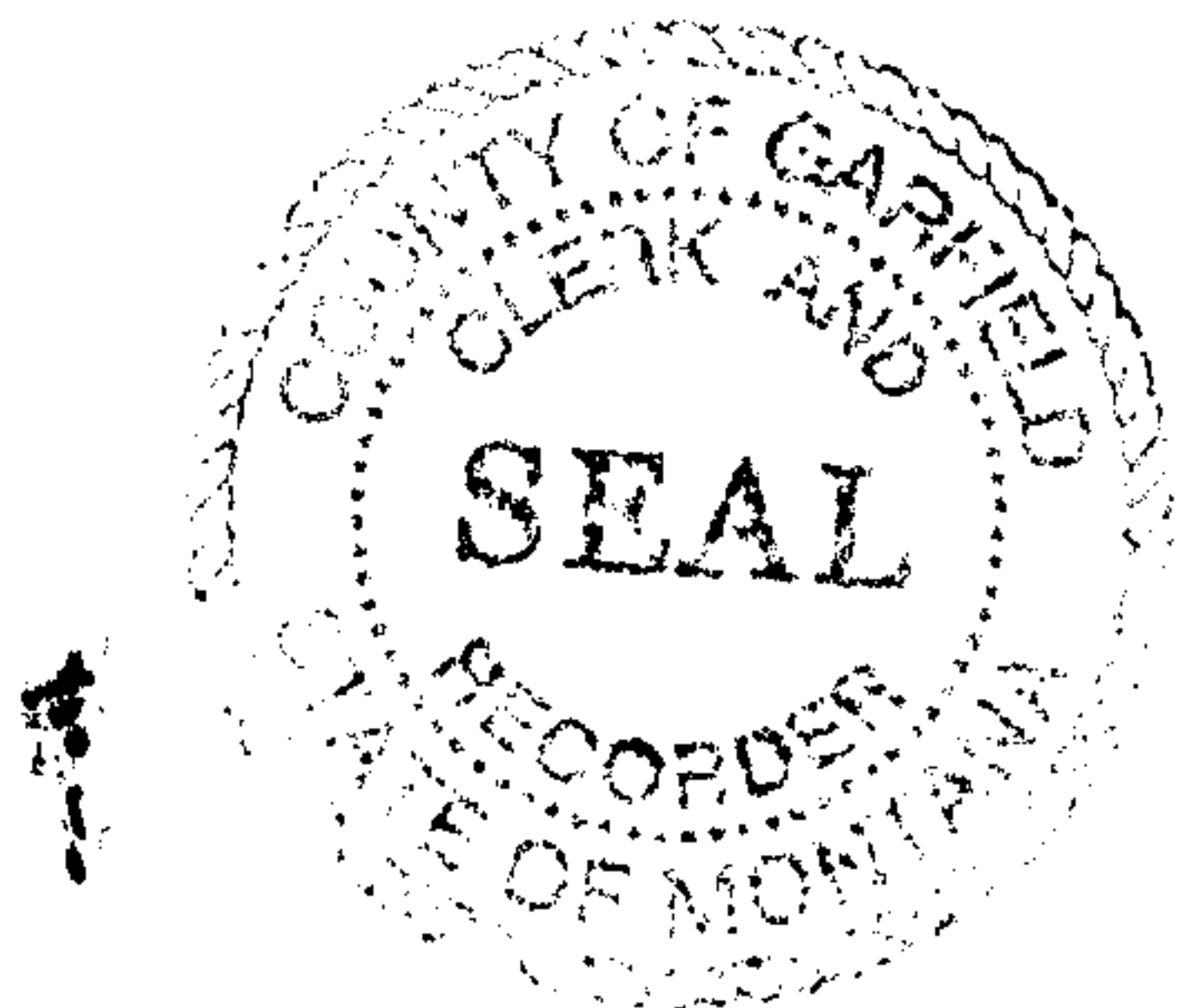
Present for discussion were Jennifer Crawford, Charlie Saylor & Tasha Powell. Adam discussed getting Bryan Woods with the Road Dept to hash out a Road Maintenance Plan, Commissioners advised this is a priority and a meeting with Bryan is in the works as well as including the Roads in the Capital Improvement Plan. Also discussed were Mill Levy’s, Health Center Advisory Board (meeting next week), updating probationary periods and predator control/county bounty.

ADJOURN

Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 5:00pm, McWilliams 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion to adjourn carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at 9:00am.

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDING MINUTES ACCEPTED & APPROVED BY:



GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kelly Witt
KELLY WITT, CHAIRMAN
Carla McWilliams
CARLA MCWILLIAMS, VICE-CHAIR
Jerry Collins
JERRY COLLINS, MEMBER

ATTEST:

Charlie Saylor
CHARLIE SAYLOR, CLERK & RECORDER

Big Dry Transit Coordination Plan

Fiscal Year 2027

The Transit Coordination Plan was developed with the input from a broad group of transportation system users, including the general public, low-income residents, older adults, nursing home residents, and individuals with disabilities. Members of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), County Commissioners, and the Council on Aging also actively contribute to the development of this plan.

Garfield County maintains 1,361 miles of roads, the majority of which are gravel or dirt. MT 59 connects Jordan to Miles City, while Highway 200 runs east to west across the county. As of 2022, Garfield County's population is 1,218 residents.

Big Dry Transit is the county's sole provider of general transportation since the late 70's. There are no fixed routes, bus systems, railways, or private taxi services. The current system operates on a demand-response basis within the city limits. There is significant demand for travel to Miles City, Glasgow, and Billings- trips that range from 166 – 340 miles round -trip. We request a minimum 48-hour notice for scheduling out-of-town trips. Big Dry Transit operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our fleet consists of five vehicles:

- **2007 Chevy Starcraft** – 59,582 miles, accessible
- **2017 Ford Mobility Works** – 50,952 miles, accessible
- **2019 Toyota Sienna** – 169,466 miles, not accessible
- **2020 Honda Odyssey** – 84,144 miles, not accessible
- **2023 Ford 9-passenger** – 11,572 miles, accessible

Big Dry Transit is the only non-emergency transportation option available to the community and local nursing home. Low-income residents, minority populations, and the general public rely on this

service. We transport many residents to medical appointments out of town, particularly those who are uncomfortable driving long distances or navigating larger cities, as well as those who do not own a vehicle. Public transportation offers people not just a way to get around, but also the chance for social interaction, something especially meaningful for those without family close by. The transit system also coordinates trips with Council on Aging, and other community groups. These trips are advertised in the same manner as medical trips.

We maintain a memorandum of understanding with the Nursing Home to provide transportation for residents and staff during emergencies, such as disasters or evacuations.

Garfield County's elderly, disabled, and general public populations must travel to Miles City, Glasgow, and Billings for medical and health-care services not available locally. Out-of-town trip schedules are advertised in the Garfield Gazette, local health clinic, nursing home, Garfield County website, Post Office, County Courthouse, Senior Center, and distributed through the Home Delivered Meals program.

Due to the high percentage of older adults in our community, ridership and total mileage continue to increase. We consistently receive new participants seeking transportation for medical needs, and fuel-price fluctuations also impact both demand and operations. While Big Dry Transit does not charge fares, donations are appreciated. During Fiscal Year 2025, we drove more than 103,109 miles.

To maintain reliable rotation of vehicles, Big Dry Transit will apply this year for a new 6-7 passenger – not accessible minivan to replace the 2020 Honda Odyssey, which currently has 84,144 miles and is used almost daily due to the needs of ambulatory riders.

The Garfield County Transit System is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under its transit services on the basis of

race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI under Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1A.

RESOLUTION 1-2026

A Resolution Establishing 2026 Holidays, Mileage and Meal Rates

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR GARFIELD COUNTY MONTANA FINDS:

Whereas MCA § 1-1-216 establishes legal holidays in the state of Montana.

New Year's Day, January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19

President's Day, February 16

Memorial Day, May 25

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, September 7

Columbus Day, October 12

Election Day, November 3

Veterans' Day, November 11

Thanksgiving Day, November 26

Christmas Day, December 25

1. The Garfield County Board of Commissioners did approve the mileage rate for travel for the county to be 72.5 cents per mile as of January 1, 2026, as reported by the Internal Revenue Service and.
2. Employees who desire to use their personal vehicle for travel rather than a county vehicle shall be reimbursed at 48.15% of the rate established by the I.R.S. The current I.R.S. travel rate is 72.5 cents, therefore the current county rate for personal vehicles is set at .35 per miles. If county vehicles are unavailable at the employee's work location for required travel, mileage for personal vehicles will be reimbursed at the current full I.R.S. rate.
3. The Garfield County Board of Commissioners did set the Meal Reimbursement Rates as follows:
In-State Meal Rates: \$13.00 for morning meal, \$15.00 for midday meal and \$22.00 for evening meal.
Out-of-State Rates: \$16 for morning meal, \$19 for midday meal and \$28 for evening meal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That upon signature of this resolution the holiday schedule, mileage and meal rates have been set by the Board of County Commissioners.

THE BOARD FURTHER RESOLVES:

1. If a provision of this resolution conflicts with a provision of a previously adopted resolution, this

resolution will prevail.


2. This resolution and its various sections, clauses and paragraphs are severable. If any part, sentence, clause, or phrase is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the resolution will not be affected.
3. This resolution will be effective immediately upon adoption, in accordance with § 7-5-123, MCA.
4. This Board directs that this resolution be entered into the minutes and signed by the Chair of the Board in accordance with § 7-5-121, MCA.

Adopted this 7th day of January 2026.

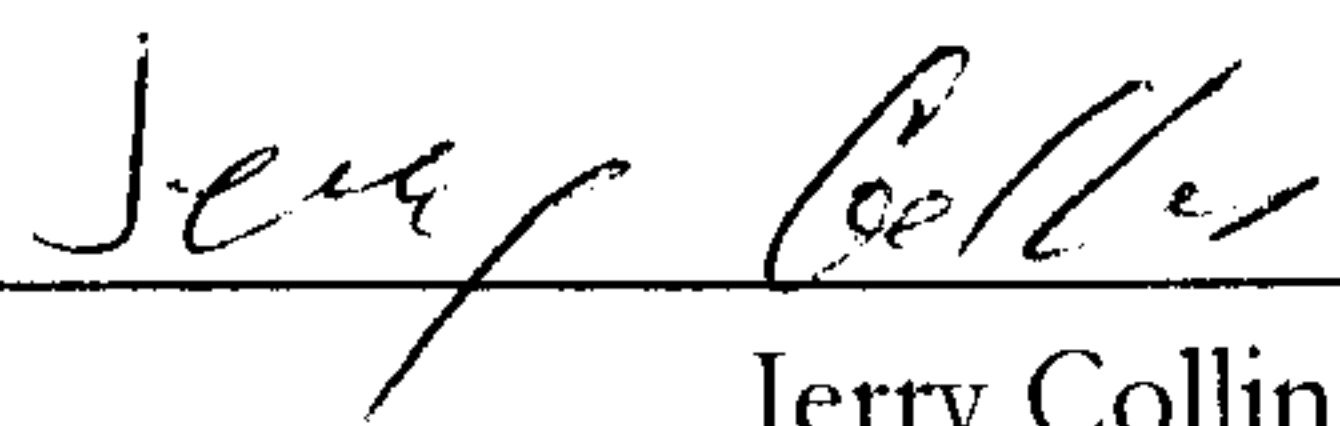
GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Kelly Witt, Chairman



Carla McWilliams, Vice-Chair



Jerry Collins, Member

ATTEST:

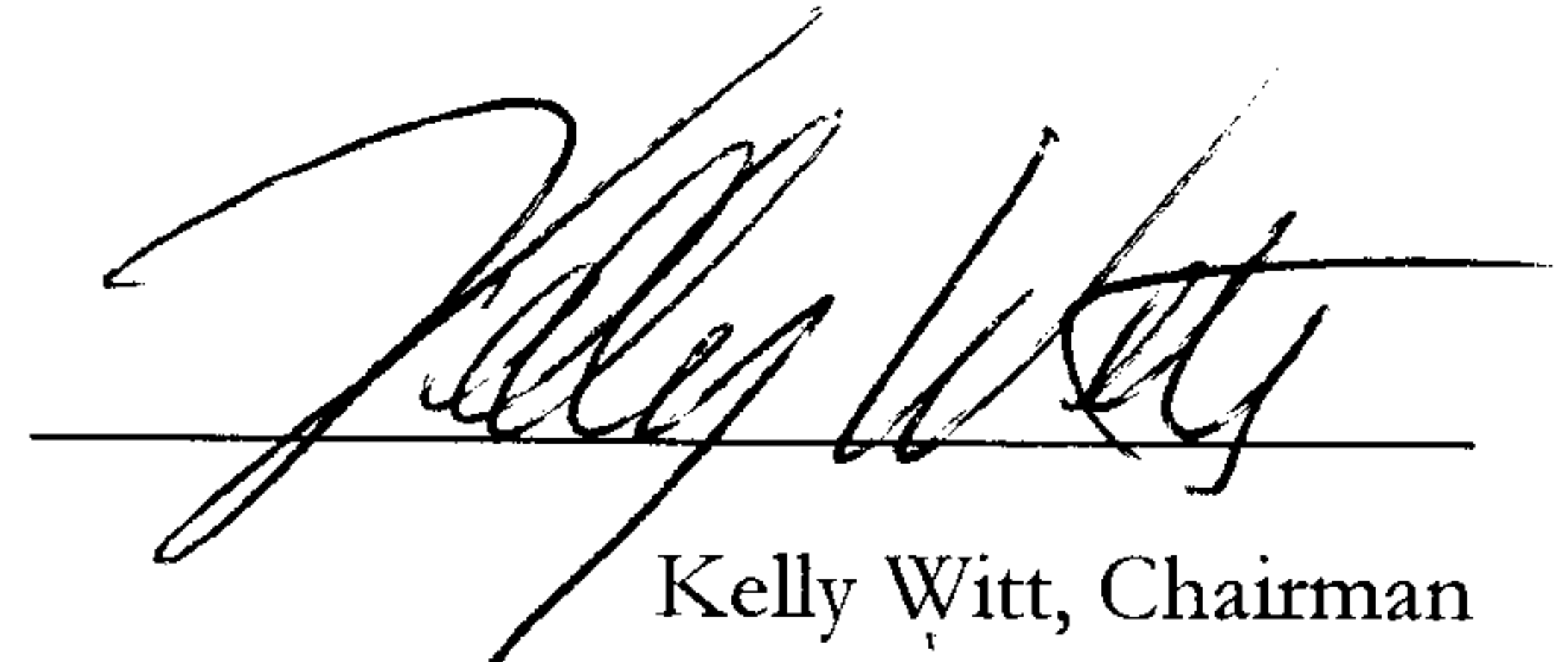


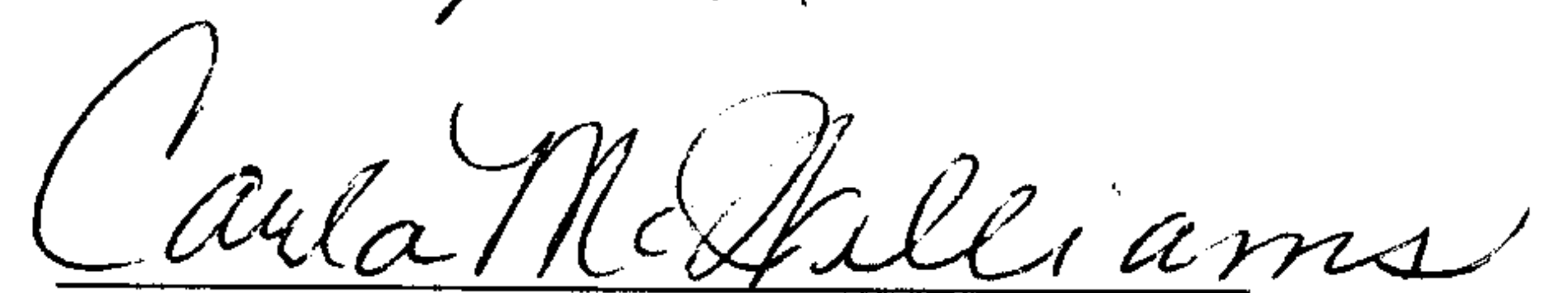
Charlie Saylor, Clerk of the Board

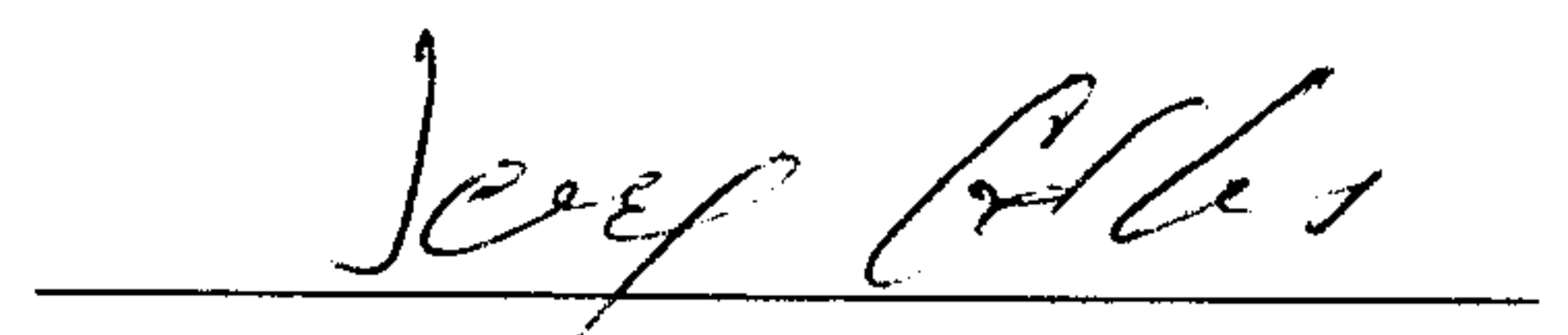


Garfield County Legal Holidays 2026

New Year's Day, January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19
President's Day, February 16
Memorial Day, May 25
Independence Day, July 4
Labor Day, September 7
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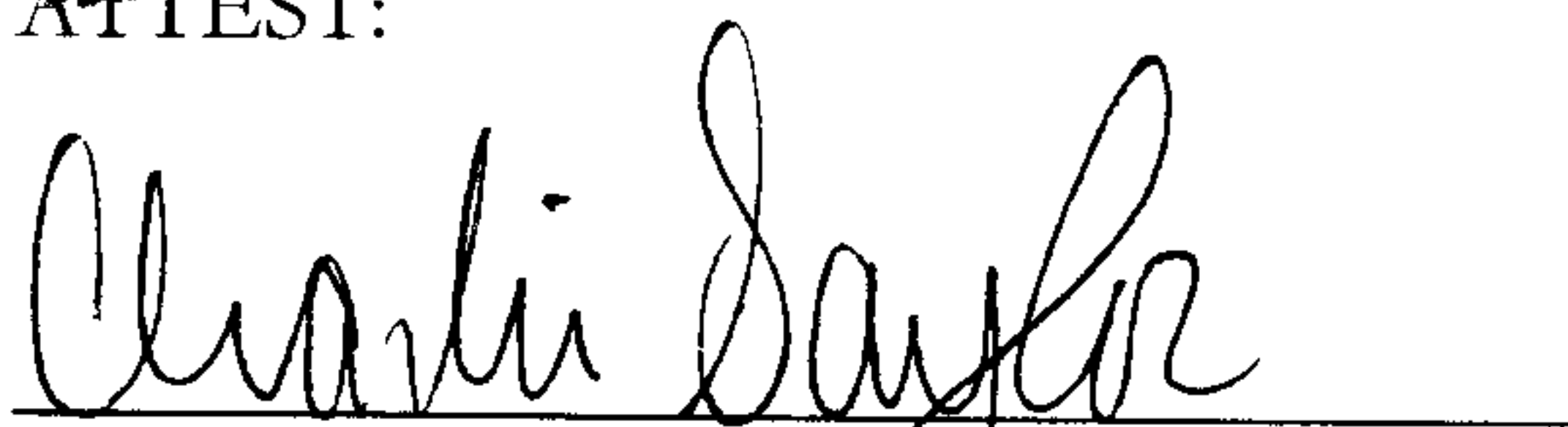

Kelly Witt, Chairman


Carla McWilliams, Vice-Chair


Jerry Collins, Member



ATTEST:



Charlie Saylor, Clerk & Recorder

RESOLUTION – 2 – 2026

Commissioner Meeting Days

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County schedule says to be in session, and


WHEREAS, on the first regularly scheduled meeting day of 2026, which is January 7, 2026, the Commissioners moved, seconded, and approved to se the meeting days as follows: the first, second and third Wednesday of the month, and the second to last working day of the month, and

WHEREAS, if a holiday falls on one of the regularly scheduled days, the meeting day will be the day before the regularly scheduled day, and

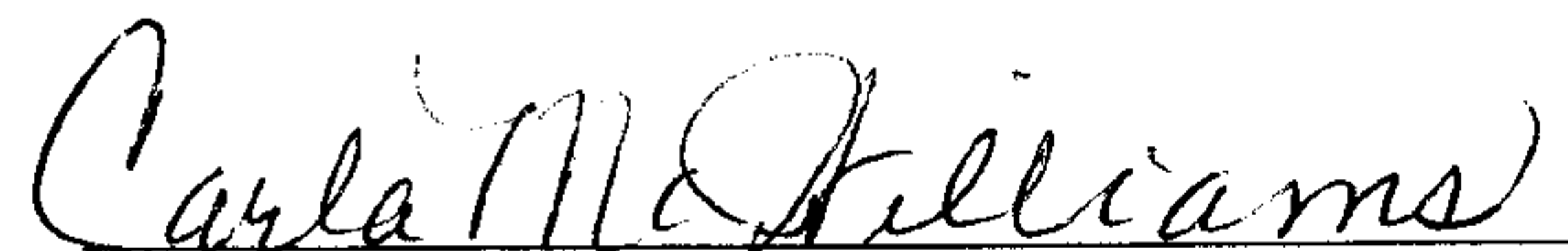
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as of this date, January 7, 2026, regularly scheduled sessions of the Board of County Commissioners are as stated above.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of January 2026.

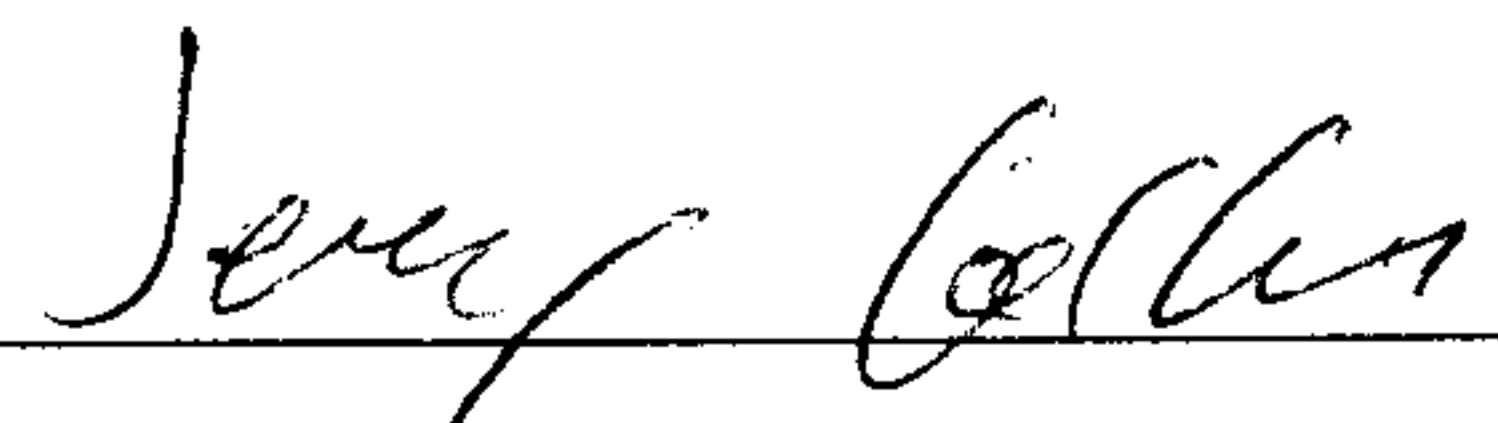
GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



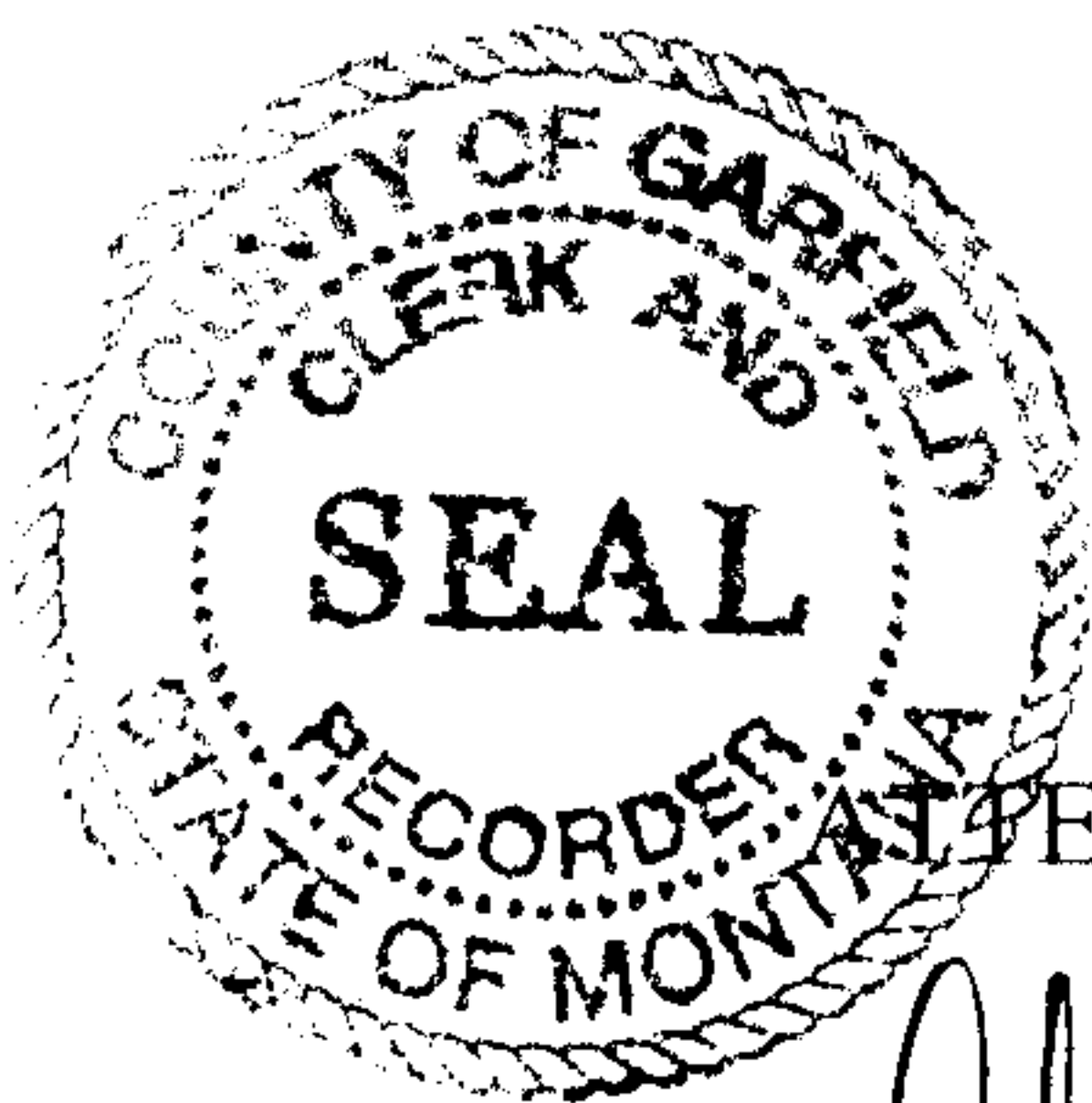
Kelly Witt, Chairman



Carla McWilliams, Vice-Chair



Jerry Collins, Member



ATTEST:


Charlie Saylor, Clerk & Recorder

RESOLUTION 3 – 2026

A RESOLUTION FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SAND AND SANDING FROM THE
STATE OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS The Garfield County Commissioners, in regular session on the 7th day of January 2026, have determined that it is in best interests of Garfield County to hereby adopt the following resolution:

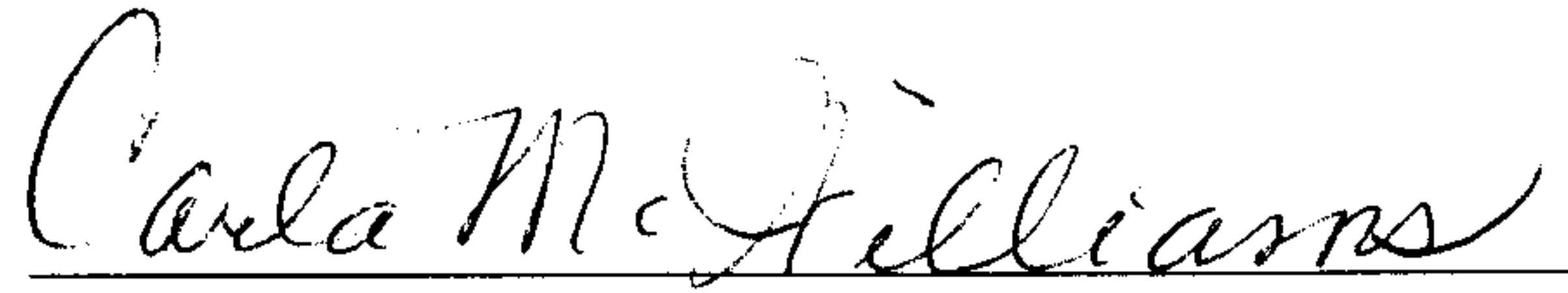
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Garfield County will enter into an agreement with the State of Montana Department of Transportation to purchase sand for the use on county property under icy conditions. Reasonable reimbursement will be made to the Montana Department of Transportation by Garfield County upon receipt of billing for the services requested.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of January 2026.

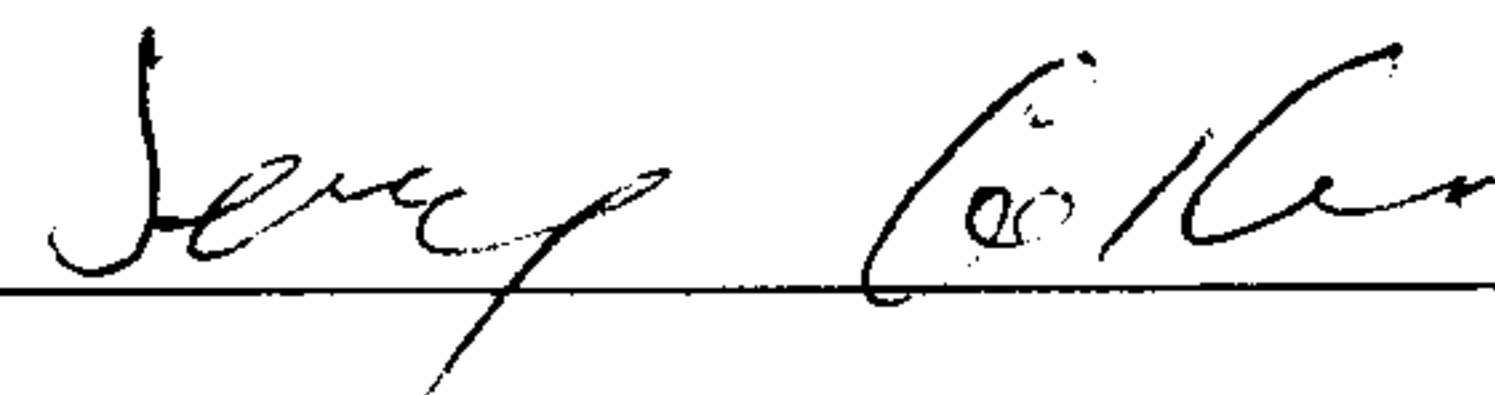
GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



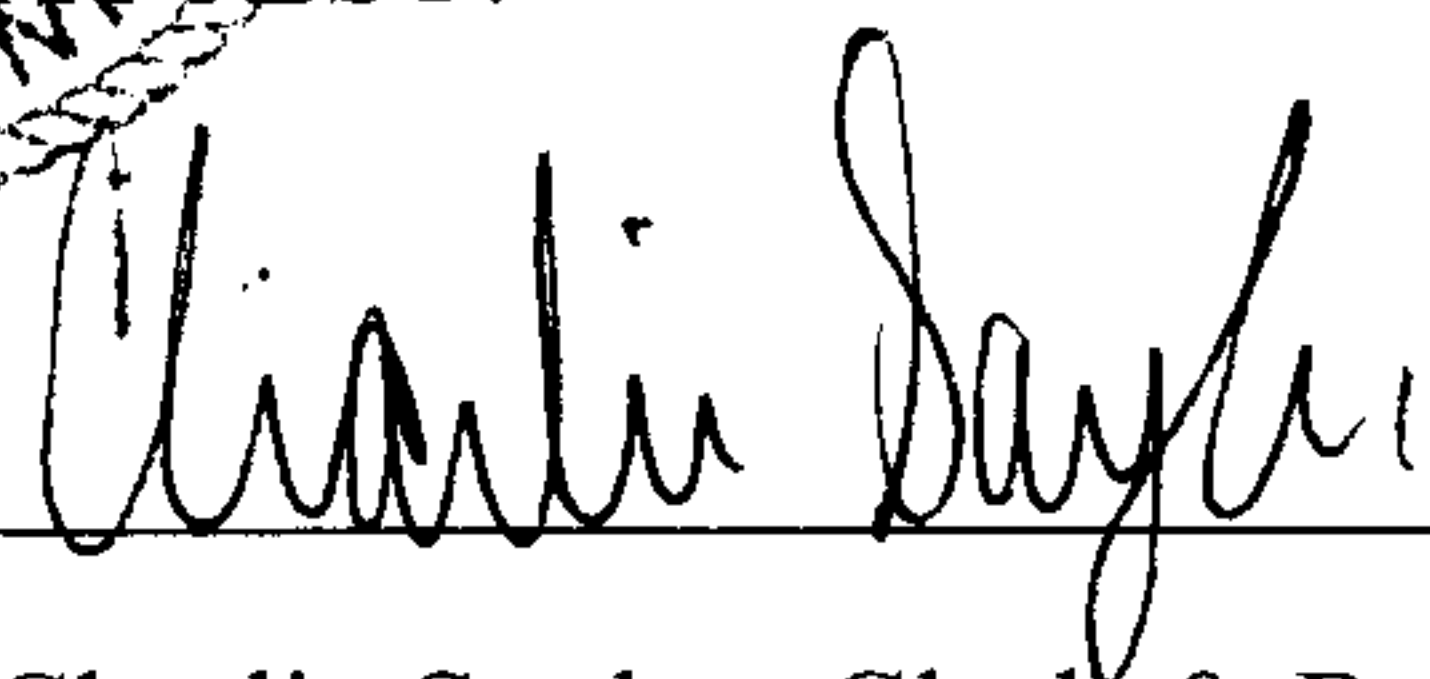
Kelly Witt, Chairman



Carla McWilliams, Vice-Chair



Jerry Collins, Member



Charlie Saylor, Clerk & Recorder