

County Commissioners
 Garfield County
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GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 11, 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
		*PAC *County Boards

Time	Name	Subject
9:00am	Public Comment – Old Business/New Business	
9:30am	Commissioners	Timeclock Manager Approvals
10:00am	Krista Wright, Ken Harmon, Nadine Elmore	Health Center Updates
11:00am	Charlie Saylor – Clerk	Claims
12:00pm	LUNCH	
1:00pm	Sherlie Hains	Public Health Training
2:00pm	Library	Library Status
5:00pm	Adjourn	

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR SESSION

March 11, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Kerri Gipson

McWilliams called the meeting to order at 9:00am

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack McRae came in to discuss the Predator Control Fund, County Bounty Fund and potential petition to increase the tax on cattle in the county. Betty Lou Weeding stopped in to discuss a letter she had written to the commissioners, Chairman Witt listened to her concerns and informed her he would investigate her concerns.

KRISTA WRIGHT, KEN HARMON, NADINE ELMORE – HEALTH CENTER UPDATES

Those present for discussion were Krista Wright – Admin, Nadine Elmore, Ken Harmon, Jack King, Paige Powell, Charlotte Herbold, Betty Lou Weeding, Teddy Landers, Jennifer Crawford, Charlie Saylor and Earline Lawrence. Updates were given by Nadine, Ken and Jack regarding the REH conversion, and everything is going very well. Attached is information from them about everything that has been going on.

CHARLIE SAYLOR – CLERK – CLAIMS – REVIEW & SIGN

Claim Number 48287 through 48338 in the amount of \$107,054.59 were approved and paid.

Recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

SHERLIE HAINS – PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

Kerry Pride and Neva Loney with the MT System Improvement Dept joined via Zoom Video Chat, present in person were Sherlie Hains – Public Health, Dan Muniak – CHO and Joe Tate – Sheriff. Topics on the agenda were MT Codes, Understanding Public Health Framework, the need to update the Bylaws for the Public Health Board and updating the members of the board.

LIBRARY – STATUS UPDATE

Those present for discussion were Sharon Nelson, Sonja Turner, Chantel Benson, Lynn Stanton, Heather Gibson, Jennifer Crawford, Adam Forslund, Charlie Saylor. Still continuing to figure out how the board, accounts and library was originally set up and how things are going to be run going forward. Discussion tabled until April 22nd, 2026, meeting.

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 March 18th, 2026, at 9:00am.

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDING MINUTES ACCEPTED & APPROVED BY:

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



KELLY WITT, CHAIRMAN



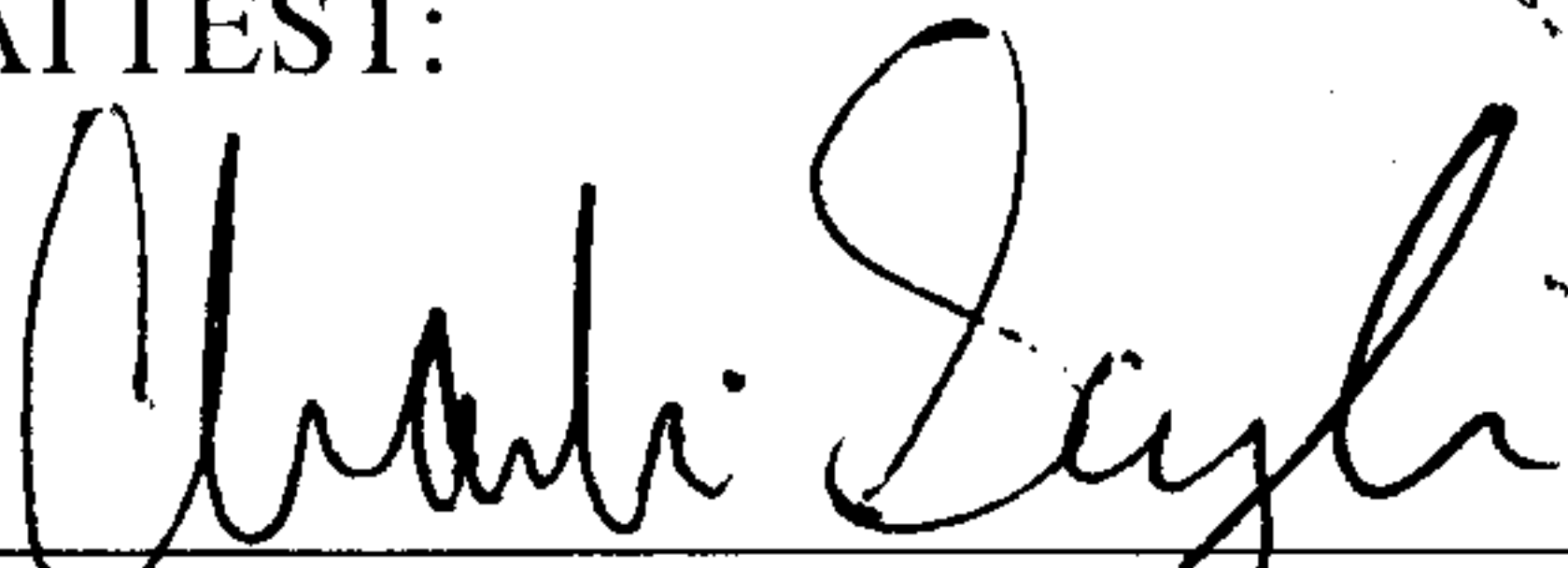
CARLA MCWILLIAMS, VICE-CHAIR



JERRY COLLINS, MEMBER



ATTEST:



CHARLIE SAYLOR, CLERK & RECORDER

Date: March 11, 2026

To: Board of County Commissioners, Garfield County

From: Ken Harman, Rural Health Redesign Center (RHRC); Jack King, Montana Hospital Association (MHA/MHREF); and Ward VanWichen and Nadine Elmore, Montana Health Network (MHN)

In February 2025, a collaborative effort was initiated by joining the efforts of RHRC, MHA, and MHN to support Garfield County in its decision to have Garfield County Health Center (GCHC) become a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH), the first in Montana. We all worked very closely and met regularly with the leadership team at GCHC. Krista Wright, Administrator; Char Herbold, Business Office Manager; Taylor Rameriez, RN, Interim DON; and Paige Powell, RN, Interim DON, have all been very professional and positive to work with. They completed a majority of the work and deserve most of the credit for this significant “project” being accomplished. We believe that this courageous and visionary decision will help ensure the sustainability of quality healthcare locally for many years to come for the residents of and visitors to Garfield County.

Since a year has passed, and the goals of this undertaking have become almost fully accomplished, we felt this would be a good opportunity to summarize all that has been accomplished. Below is the summary of all those efforts:

1. Update facility sprinkler system – This was required to be completed for all locations of the facility not just the nursing home – Completed September 11, 2025.
2. Update to Interstate alarm system fire panel – Completed October 2025.
3. Update facility nurse call system – The nurse call system for the nursing home and the REH needed to connect to their respective nurses’ stations – Completed January 2026.
4. Remodel clinic reception area and physical therapy room to establish an REH nurses’ station and patient rooms – Completed February 2026.
5. Develop a robust staffing plan to address the need for two nurses 24 hours per day. This includes the requirement to ensure at least 8 hours of RN coverage for the nursing home every 24 hours and the requirement to have an RN for the REH 24 hours per day – Completed December 2025.
6. Develop a comprehensive facility Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) plan – Completed February 2026 – This plan is still pending final approval from the County Commissioners.
7. Convert the long-term care facility to a distinct part skilled nursing facility (SNF)
 - a. Certificate of Need application and approval – Completed May 21, 2025

- b. Temporary SNF License – Completed December 22, 2025.
 - c. Obtain Medicare & Medicaid Certification – Pending – This process can take several months to complete as it depends on the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to survey the facility for substantial compliance.
 - d. Approval for reimbursement from payers – Medicare’s payments will be dependent on completion of the survey and substantial compliance. Medicaid payments will most likely be paid to the effective date of the temporary license. Private payers most likely won’t be dependent upon the status of certification of the facility.
8. Convert the remaining Critical Access Hospital (CAH) departments (lab, x-ray, etc.) to REH & obtain REH license – Completed January 5, 2026.
- a. Application Submitted and approved – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Financial Intermediary (Noridian) – Pending final approval in Washington DC (approved at the regional level and approved by Noridian).
 - b. REH License – Effective January 5, 2026.
 - c. Certification – The application included an attestation which serve as the initial certification survey. CMS recommends that the state survey within the next 18 months, but that is up to the state, so it could be sooner or later. After which it is expected to be roughly every 3 years for state surveys.
 - d. Approval for reimbursement from payers
 - i. For both Medicare and Medicaid patients, payment will take place upon official approval and certification.
 - ii. Medicare – This was accomplished with approval from CMS and Noridian.
 - iii. Medicaid – Montana DPHHS Medicaid program will need to develop rules for REH payments. This includes a public hearing, and we will be notified when that is being scheduled. Medicaid may pay like a CAH and calculate and make up differences once the rules are approved.
 - iv. Commercial Insurances – With the award of new provider numbers, commercial insurances will be able to credential the facility and pay GCHC.
 - v. The monthly REH facility payment for CY2026 is \$295,051.54 with the sequestration amount deducted. These payments should begin upon CMS providing the Medicare certification number and be back dated to January 5th.

9. Associated with the leadership changes at GGHC at both the Administrator and Director of Nursing positions we all provided leadership and management suggestions and insights. This will help guide the current, very capable leadership team and GCHC not only through this conversion process but also with leading and managing a healthcare facility in general.

The following actions will be our planning moving forward:

1. RHRC – Continue to provide technical assistance through the development of a TA plan to ensure the following needs are met for GCHC:
 - a. Ongoing operational support
 - b. Financial and revenue cycle support
 - c. REH regulatory compliance support
 - d. Education and templates to support QAPI, Infection Prevention, and other key organizational functions.
2. MHA/MHREF – Continued support as the Montana REH TA and liaison:
 - a. Support GCHC with both licensure and certification connections and issues
 - b. Support GCHC with issues related to Medicaid rules and support
 - c. As an MHA member, GCHC will continue to receive all the benefits available to members. Regarding technical assistance, the Flex program at MHREF will continue to provide as much TA and resources as possible and allowed by our grant guidance. This would include educational opportunities, affinity group membership, etc.
3. MHN
 - a. Continue mentorship with Administrator, Krista Wright, until she acquires permanent nursing home administrator license.
 - b. Provide Administrator of Record, Nadine Elmore, with DPHHS until May 1, 2026.
 - c. As identified and agreed upon, continue ongoing operational support and TA to the Administration and leadership team at GCHC with respect to the Clinic, the REH, and the SNF. This activity will include providing direct resources, solutions, and best practices available through MHN for any specifically identified activities. It will also include providing connections to healthcare resources that may assist in the leadership, management, clinical, operational, and financial viability and sustainability of the organization.
 - d. MHN offers some key educational programs (the Best on Boards training and the Management Excellence course) which provide formal training on

effective healthcare leadership and management for those in governance and leadership roles with GCHC.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for having this opportunity to support your goal of ensuring continued local access and availability to quality healthcare for your community. This has been a unique and visionary collaboration between our organizations and Garfield County. You are to be applauded for your courage in your decision to make such a significant and potentially beneficial change in the delivery of healthcare in Garfield County, especially being the first to become an REH in Montana. Additionally, you have assembled a quality, qualified, professional, and highly capable leadership team for GCHC. We have all worked diligently and invested a lot to achieve this milestone. We hope to continue collaborating and providing assistance and support for your community. The goal is to help ensure long-term access to healthcare for the residents of Garfield County through stability and consistency in those key positions. We have no doubts that GCHC will flourish under their continued leadership. Again, thank you for the opportunity to assist and work with you this last year.

Ken Harman, RHRC

Jack King, MHREF

Ward VanWichen & Nadine Elmore, MHN

Garfield County Local Board of Public Health

Member Information Sheet

Purpose of Local Public Health in Montana

Local Boards of Health ensure that essential public health obligations are met within their jurisdictions and help protect residents from health threats.

Foundational Public Health Duties

Local public health work in Montana includes identifying, preventing, and responding to health concerns through activities such as:

- **Epidemiological tracking & investigation** (monitoring health trends and disease cases)
- **Screening & testing** to detect health issues early
- **Isolation & quarantine measures** when needed to protect the community
- **Diagnosis, treatment & case management** for certain public health conditions
- **Mitigating public health nuisances** (e.g., environmental hazards)
- **Inspections** (facilities, sanitation, and other health-related reviews)
- **Collecting & maintaining health information** for monitoring and planning
- **Educating health professionals & the public** on health issues

Key Duties & Responsibilities of the Local Board of Health

Under **Montana Code Annotated 50-2-116**, each Local Board of Health must:

Governance & Administration

- **Recommend appointment of a Local Health Officer** (physician, MPH, or qualified equivalent)
- **Elect a presiding officer and other officers as needed**
- **Adopt bylaws** to guide board meetings and operations
- **Hold regular quarterly meetings** and special meetings when necessary
- **Designate an administrative liaison** (usually the Health Officer) to communicate with the state health department

Public Health Protection

- **Identify, assess & address public health conditions** within the county (through monitoring, investigation, mitigation, and education)
- **Protect the community from communicable diseases** and conditions that may harm health (including removal of filth or contaminants)
- **Conduct or oversee inspections** and issue written orders for correction or compliance when hazards are found

Legal & Regulatory Authority

- **Issue orders and pursue actions** needed to enforce public health laws and regulations
- **Propose local public health regulations** that meet or exceed state standards (e.g., wastewater or sanitation rules)

What This Means for Garfield County LBOH Members

As a member, you help ensure:

- The county meets its public health obligations
- Health threats are identified and addressed quickly
- Policies and actions protect residents' well-being
- Local public health operates effectively and in compliance with Montana law

Local Boards of Health are essential partners in maintaining a safe, healthy community.

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GARFIELD COUNTY
Check Register
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Claim Checks

Check #	Type	Vendor #/Name	Check Amount	Date Issued	Period Redeemed	Claim #	Claim Amount
48287	S	1549 AIRGAS, INC.	377.17	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33761	377.17
48288	S	1224 ALL ACTION CONSTRUCTION	500.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33760	500.00
48289	S	1301 AVEL ECARE MEDICAL GROUP, P.C.	3746.60	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33731	3746.60
48290	S	548 BRETT DORWART	1500.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33740	1500.00
48291	S	1543 CASPER MEDICAL IMAGING, PC	250.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33743	250.00
48292	S	1358 CONVERGINT TECHNOLOGIES LLC	9895.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33738	9895.00
48293	S	236 DIS TECHNOLOGIES	249.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33711	249.00
48294	S	1317 DIXIE PIERSON	25.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33759	25.00
48295	S	1218 eCLINICALWORKS, LLC	481.35	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33733	481.35
48296	S	139 ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	702.98	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33757	702.98
48297	S	1165 EXPRESS LAUNDRY CENTER	38.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33742	38.00
48298	S	FL0000 FARMER'S UNION OIL COMPANY	18467.68	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33715	18467.68
48299	S	495 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	547.62	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33754	547.62
48300	S	781 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	654.27	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33748	654.27
48301	S	911 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	793.95	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33747	793.95
48302	S	971 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	1285.39	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33755	1285.39
48303	S	992 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	177.74	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33752	177.74
48304	S	1031 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	106.41	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33749	106.41
48305	S	1378 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	178.74	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33751	178.74
48306	S	1536 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	160.52	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33750	160.52
48307	S	GI0000 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	50.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33714	50.00
48308	S	V70000 GARFIELD COUNTY BANK	250.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33766	250.00
48309	S	1189 GARFIELD GAZETTE	900.74	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33729	900.74
48310	S	522 INTERSTATE ALARM COMPANY	1884.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33736	1884.00

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48311	S	934 JERRY COLLINS	300.15	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33713	300.15
48312	S	545 JOHNSTONE SUPPLY	467.08	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33724	467.08
48313	S	1494 KRISTA WRIGHT	176.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33764	176.00
48314	S	710 LAMMERS BROTHERS LLC	4155.99	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33721 CL 33732	3897.82 258.17
48315	S	821 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES	2500.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33756	2500.00
48316	S	L25000 LORI RYAN	1700.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33741	1700.00
48317	S	M10000 MCCONE ELECTRIC COOP	6501.66	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33718	6501.66
48318	S	816 MEDICAL REVIEW CONSULTANTS	30.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33746	30.00
48319	S	958 MEDWORXS LLC	750.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33739	750.00
48320	S	M90000 MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE CO-OP	2880.97	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33727	2880.97
48321	S	1401 MIKE LOSINSKI	850.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33745	850.00
48322	S	MIL000 MILES CITY MOTOR SUPPLY	1219.41	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33726	1219.41
48323	S	1545 MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	2515.85	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33762	2515.85
48324	S	481 MONTANA HEALTH NETWORK	2873.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33734	2873.00
48325	S	1212 OLSON TRUCKING	903.75	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33716	903.75
48326	S	1425 OMNICARE, INC.	117.07	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33737	117.07
48327	S	1032 POINTCLICKCARE TECHNOLOGIES INC.	275.43	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33735	275.43
48328	S	1555 RADIATION DETECTION COMPANY	184.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33765	184.00
48329	S	63 RAYMOND A. HAGEMAN	55.98	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33720	55.98
48330	S	738 RITA WEMMER	69.60	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33725	69.60
48331	S	1127 SDI ARCHITECTS + DESIGN	3945.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33717	3945.00
48332	S	A70000 SERAPHINE CLINIC LLC	20000.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33730	20000.00
48333	S	S14000 STEADMAN'S ACE HARDWARE	13.99	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33723	13.99

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Check #	Type	Vendor #/Name	Check Amount	Date Issued	Period Redeemed	Claim #	Claim Amount
48334	S	146 TNT SPRINGS, INC.	673.36	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33758	673.36
48335	S	T20000 TOWN OF JORDAN	1330.24	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33722	1330.24
48336	S	1406 TWO RIVERS	72700.00	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33712	72700.00
48337	S	V40000 VERIZON WIRELESS	282.65	03/11/26	3/26	CL 33719	282.65
48338	S	479 VICKY J. SHIPE TUSLER	361.25	03/11/26	4/26	CL 33744	361.25

Total for Claim Checks 171054.59
Count for Claim Checks 52

* denotes missing check number(s)

of Checks: 52 Total: 171054.59