

County Commissioners
 Garfield County
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GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 18, 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	Tasha Powell – Payroll	Hourly Wage Discussion
12:00pm	LUNCH	
1:00pm	Sherlie Hains – Public Health	Public Health Board Bylaws
2:00pm	Robyn Boyle – Stahly, Tara Green – MT Dept of Commerce	MCEP PL Grant
3:00pm	Health Center Advisory Board	Health Center Updates & Concerns
5:00pm	Adjourn	

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR SESSION

March 18, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN: KELLY WITT

VICE-CHAIR: CARLA MCWILLIAMS

MEMBER: JERRY COLLINS

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Kerri Gipson

Witt called the meeting to order at 9:05am

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

Collins made a motion to approve the FAA Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program (EMPP), McWilliams 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

TASHA POWELL – PAYROLL – HOURLY WAGE DISCUSSION

More discussion was held regarding needing to get everyone as hourly employees in the system, excluding elected officials. No decisions were made.

Recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

SHERLIE HAINS – PUBLIC HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD BYLAWS

Sherlie Hains and Mega McDonald informed the commissioners that they have not been able to locate the original bylaws for the Public Health Board so they have been working to put together bylaws that coincide with MCA codes and what will work best for the community. Suggested board members would include, in Advisory roles, the CHO, Commissioner, Sanitarian, Sheriff, Public Health Officer and 5 appointed community members that would be the voting members. The PHEP fund was also discussed, they advised that there is only a 30-day processing period until we receive the funds.

ROBYN BOYLE – STAHLY – MCEP PLANNING GRANT

Robyn Boyle, Kathy Thompson and Jamey Ereth with the planning and grants department with Stahly Engineering joined via Zoom Video chat to discuss the \$30,000 MCEP Planning Grant that was awarded to Garfield County and to go over what is needed from the county to receive and distribute the grant funds.

HEALTH CENTER ADVISORY BOARD – HEALTH CENTER UPDATES & CONCERNS.

Those present for discussion were Krista Wright, Rex Phipps, Teddy Landers, Earline Lawrence, Angie Chamberlain, Paige Powell, Charlie Saylor and Tasha Powell. Krista and Page gave updates on residents' numbers, possibly reducing staff hours until the numbers come back up, more updates on policies etc. Official Health Board Advisory Minutes are attached.


ADJOURN

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

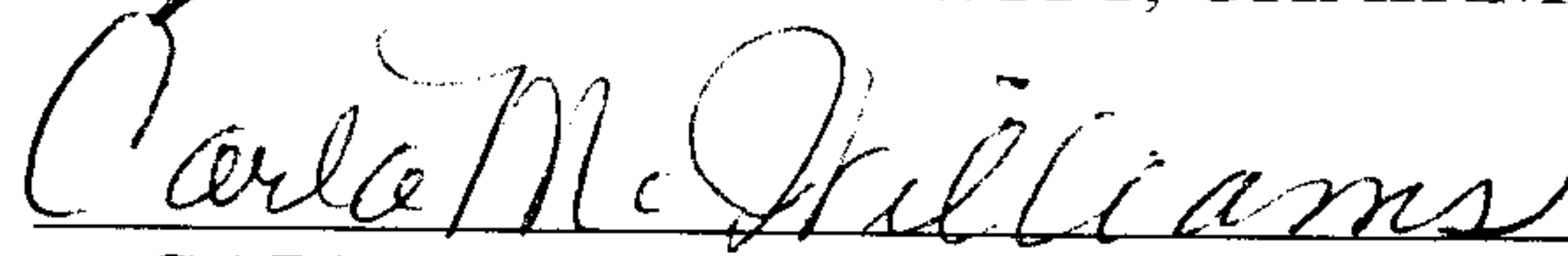
Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 30th, 2026, at 9:00am.

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDING MINUTES ACCEPTED & APPROVED BY:

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



KELLY WITT, CHAIRMAN



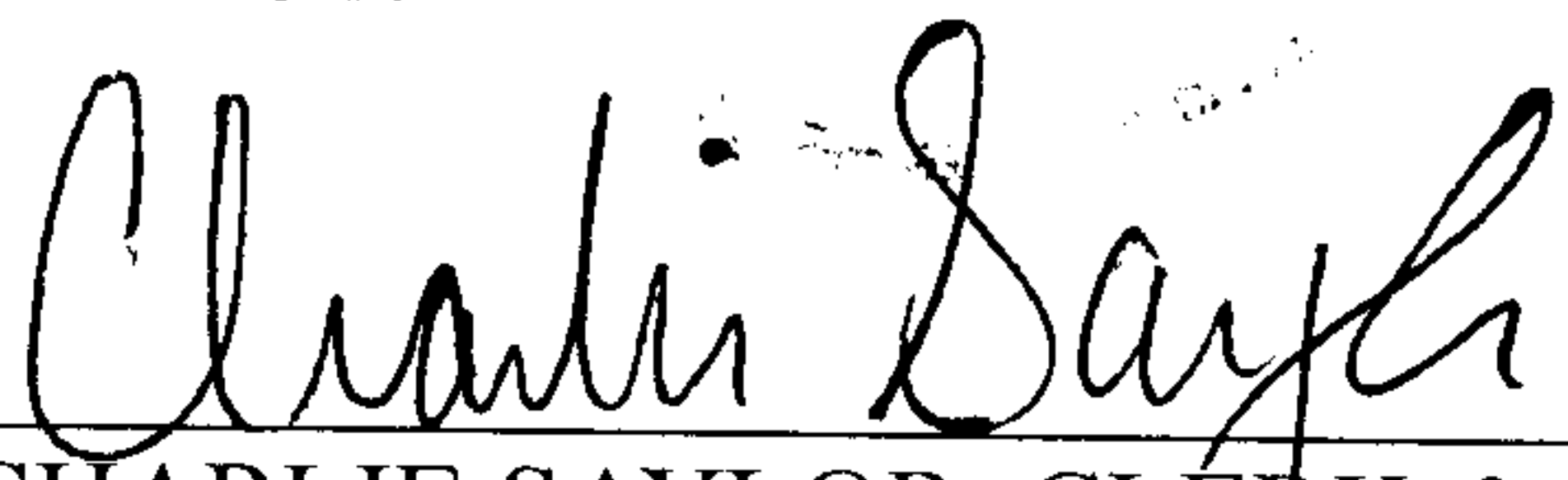
CARLA MCWILLIAMS, VICE-CHAIR



JERRY COLLINS, MEMBER



ATTEST:



CHARLIE SAYLOR, CLERK & RECORDER

**Garfield County Health Center Board Meeting Minutes
With Garfield County Commissioners
Wednesday March 18,2026**

**Advisory Board Members Present: Pres. Rex Phipps, Sec. Teddy R Landers,
Angie Chamberlain, Earline Lawrence**

Absent: Shelia Johnson

**Commissioners Present: Carla McWilliams, Kelly Witt, Jerry Collins
Sec. Kerri Gipson**

Absent: Adam Forslund, Garfield County Attorney

**Others Present: Krista Wright Hosp. admin, Paige Powell, Don ,Charley
Saylor, Tasha Powell**

3:00PM

Brian Nelson, the DPHHS construction consultant has plans to be here on possibly the 7th or 8th. He'll come to finish up and finalize the survey as we are completed downstairs. There have been repairs done in the lab and some painting. ER has been partially painted and still working on it. We have contracted in the clinic Stacy Lafountain, she is ASCP, consultant medical technologist out of Billings Clinic and is our new lab director. She was here yesterday to go through everything on lab. Sending findings on to CMS by 5PM tomorrow as it is the deadline. Although Sara Tate can draw blood and do non waived clia based labs, it is at this point that she cannot do them without proper training unless it's in an absolute emergency setting. She cannot do any labs until she is officially trained by Stacy. There hasn't been updated training since 2025. These are just formalities that need to be done. Due to the survey pending, Stacy Lafountain is doing our plan of correction and is turning in results to CMS by 5:00pm on the 19th being the deadline is on the 20th.

Dr. Rauh will be here the 25th and there is interest in providing the Plasma Rich Platelets (PRP) injections for your joints, as an alternative to cortisone, which doesn't have joint protection. PRP has healing properties and significant joint comfort.

Paige Powell, DON: In 2026 We've had 39, ER 278 clinic visits, 60 X-Rays, 682 Labs. For the month of March Brooke has had 36 PT visits; which averages out to 6 visits per scheduling date.

**Garfield County Health Center Board Meeting Minutes
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Clinical's on the lab, would like to do interfacing with E clinical and Point, click care. Gives the ability to to print out labels for tubes, something we haven't been doing and we were called on it. Labels for Tubes weren't being completed as throughly as needed. Date, name, initial, time etc. By interfacing we can do it all digitally making your information available to Billings hospitals when needed as well as streaming for our facility.

Checking on cost for this service. E Clinical's is already in the clinic. Temporary Staff reduction in hours because the census has dropped to 8 residents. Our Ombudsman was here yesterday and let us know there's an organization in Helena to help with placement of long term care patients. We asked to have our name put on the list. An ad has been put in the local paper along with going live with Big Sky Broadcasting and an article in Healthy Living magazine. It is suggested to use radio ads with Christian radio, 770,790 etc. Adult daycare is being looked at seriously. Working on building the censes too at least 18. The facility can carry itself with that number. We have 6 travelers, 2 that are in house. Jessica Lawson, who is the wife of the Garfield Hotel owner, has been hired to work the day shifts on the Nursing Home side. Eventually working her into the ER side for all around experience.

Mark Benjamin out of Havre is working on a World Transformation Grant. He is a former flight nurse. He has some wonderful ideas that would help our area; One of which is acquiring a handicap van to go to rural areas to create a house call style visit. It can be a billed service. There has been occasions that an RN has made a house call for blood draws. Oxygen could be delivered among other things.

**Garfield County Health Center Board Meeting Minutes
With Garfield County Commissioners
Wednesday March 18,2026**

Krista is scheduled to take her admin test on April 2nd & 7th, 2026 in Billings. Kelly stated we are eligible for the intergovernmental transfer program again. The deadline is today. What that means is that Garfield County gives them \$260,000.00 (Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars) and they send us \$314,000.00 (Three Hundred Fourteen Thousand Dollars). We have participated in the past. Tasha asked if the kitchen staff needed to be adjusted as there are 5 staff in the kitchen. Keep the staff but float them where they are needed. A temporary shift until the census is raised. The ombudsman is going to send all of her facility information next week and will set up a time when they can be here and hopefully by the end of April we will have some resident referrals.

Rex accepting a motion to approve advisory board minutes for July 15,2025-No meeting was held; November 19,2025; January 14,2026; February 18,2026- No meeting was held. Angie Chamberlain made the motion, Earline Lawrence 2nd, so carried

Next meeting is May 20, 2026. Move to adjourn, Angie motioned, Earline 2nd, so carried. Meeting ended at 4:28

President: Rex Phipps_____

Secretary: Teddy R Landers_____