

**BIG HORN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

121 3rd St W
Room 301
Hardin, MT 59034



**BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
February 12, 2026
9:30 AM**

Members
George Real Bird III, Presiding Officer
Larry Vandersloot, Member
Lawrence Big Hair, Member

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Real Bird, Presiding Officer calls meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Presiding Officer District 1 Real Bird III, and Commissioner District 3 Vandersloot were both in attendance. AJ Espinoza, Road Superintendent, Mike Opie, Accountant, Heather Ready, Deputy County Attorney, and Patty Medicine Horse, Ambulance Director were also in attendance.

3. Claim Approvals

Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve claims 1206. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve February 5, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

5. Personnel/Legal

Personnel

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

The Board resumed regular session at 10:02 AM. Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve the termination recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Ft. Smith First Street

Commissioner Real Bird explains they had a public hearing at the Yellowtail Dam visitor center and everyone in attendance was for the road becoming a county road. Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17, a resolution making First Street in Fort Smith a county road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

Off site meetings

- Maco
- Stahly
- City Council

Commissioner Real Bird explains that they will be at MACo next week. They will be meeting with Carbon County and Stillwater County Commissioners to discuss a

regional jail. They will also attend meetings at Stahly and attend a City of Hardin Council meeting. Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2026-18. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

8. Public Comments

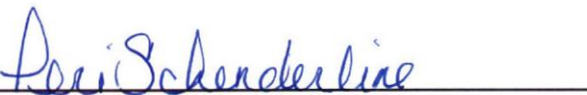
9. Discussion

10. Adjourn

There being no other business, the board adjourned.

Approved: 

Larry Vandersloot, Pro Tempore

Attest: 

Peri Schenderline, Deputy Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY OF BIG HORN, MONTANA

RESOLUTION 2026- 17

PREAMBLE:

A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners to making First Street in Fort Smith a county road.

RECITALS:

Pursuant to MCA 7-14-2101(1)(a)(i), the board of county commissioners, under the limitations and restrictions that are prescribed by law, may lay out, maintain, control, and manage county roads and bridges within the county.

In accordance with MCA 7-14-2101(2)(a), following a public hearing, a board of county commissioners may accept by resolution a road that has not previously been considered a county road but that has been laid out, constructed, and maintained with state department of transportation or county funds.

In accordance with MCA 7-14-2101(2)(d), a road on a final subdivision plat this is dedicated to public use is not considered a county road until the board of county commissioners approves by resolution the adoption of the road as a county road.

First Street in Fort Smith was dedicated to the public on the plat map of the Yellowtail Subdivision, which was recorded on August 7, 1961.

The County has historically maintained First Street in Fort Smith with County funds.

The Board held a public meeting on January 21, 2026 at the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center located in Fort Smith. At the public meeting, the Board received comments in favor of making First Street a county road.

THEREFORE:

The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that First Street in Fort Smith was dedicated to the public and has been historically maintained with County funds.

The Board of County Commissioners hereby approves by this resolution the adoption of First Street in Fort Smith as a county road.

ENACTED:

This 12th day of February, 2026, in Hardin, Montana.

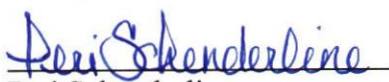
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA


George Real Bird III, Member


Lawrence Big Hair, Member


Larry Vandersloot, Member

ATTEST:


Peri Schenderline
Deputy Clerk and Recorder

COUNTY OF BIG HORN, MONTANA

RESOLUTION 2026- 18

PREAMBLE:

A Resolution that a quorum of the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County will attend the following offsite meetings: a meeting with the Carbon County Commissioners and Stillwater County Commissioners, a meeting with Stahly Engineering, and a City of Hardin Council meeting.

RECITALS:

In accordance with MCA 7-5-2101(1), the board of county commissioners has jurisdiction and power, under such limitations and restrictions as are prescribed by law, to represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the business and concerns of the county.

Pursuant to MCA 7-5-2122(1), the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County has adopted a resolution establishing regular business meetings on Thursdays at 9:30 AM in Room 301 of the Big Horn County Courthouse.

Pursuant to MCA 7-5-2122(3), a board of commissioners may, by resolution and having provided at least two days' posted public notice in accordance with MCA 7-1-2123, designate another meeting time or place.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners desires to meet with the Carbon County Commissioners and Stillwater County Commissioners at the MACo Midwinter Conference.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners desires to meet with Stahly Engineering at their office.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners desires to attend the March 3, 2026 Hardin City Council meeting.

THEREFORE:

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County hereby resolves to meet with the Stillwater County Commissioners and Carbon County Commissioners on February 17th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 1223 Mallowney Ln., Billings, Montana.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County hereby resolves to attend a meeting with Stahly Engineering on February 17, 2026 at 1:00 PM at 2817 2nd Ave N, Suite 300, Billings, Montana.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County hereby resolves to attend the Hardin City Council meeting held on March 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM at 406 N Cheyenne Ave., Hardin, Montana.

The Board further directs that notice shall be published in conformity with MCA 7-1-2123.

ENACTED:

This 12th day of February, 2026, in Hardin, Montana.

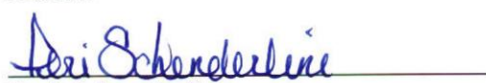
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA


Member


Member


Member

Attest:


Peri Schenderline
Deputy Clerk and Recorder