

## COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Commissioners Conference Room (3107)  
located in City Hall @ 316 North 26th Street (3rd Floor)  
and are open to the public unless otherwise noted

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THURSDAY - OCTOBER 16, 2025

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8:45 Calendar

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9:00 COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION

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### PLEDGE

### DEPARTMENTS

1. **Elections** - Yellowstone County Election Office Social Media Accounts Request
2. **Public Works** - 5337 Abby Road Approach Variance Appeal
3. **Finance** - RSID Final FY25 Budget Adjustment
4. **Melanie Schwarz & Karen Sylvester** - Community Prevention Quarterly Update

### COMMISSIONERS

1. Commissioner Board Reports

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS

*Public comment is an opportunity for individuals to address the Board, however, the Board cannot engage in discussion or take action on items not properly noticed on the agenda.*

**Closed:** Personnel Matter

**Closed:** Litigation Update

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: Social Media Account Request

Submitted By: Dayna Causby, Election Administrator

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TOPIC:

**Elections** - Yellowstone County Election Office Social Media Accounts Request

BACKGROUND:

Per Policy 23-132 Yellowstone County Cybersecurity and Standards Policy revised February 2024 page 11 section Social Media:

“Creating a public social media account intended to represent Yellowstone County, requires permission of the Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners.”

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion

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Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: 5337 Abby Road Approach Variance Appeal

Submitted For: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

Submitted By: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

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TOPIC:

**Public Works** - 5337 Abby Road Approach Variance Appeal

BACKGROUND:

Mackenzie Sparks has requested a variance to exceed the allowable approach width from the County's Road Policy. The applicant received a permit granting the authority for a 30' approach. County staff was in the vicinity when the site was being prepped. Ronni Tallerico a PW staff member stopped at the site and informed one of the workers on site the driveway should not be poured. She asked who the builder was and asked the worker to call Sam Sparks and inform him. Within 24 hours the approach was poured at a width of 55 feet. Upon review of the request, staff was not able to deny the variance request. As such, the determination is being appealed and the Board of County Commissioners shall determine whether it will approve or deny the variance request. The applicant's request is attached to this staff report and provides their proposed justification for the variance.

Justification for staff denial:

1. The property does not present any unusual or unique physical features that require a driveway approach to be nearly twice the allowable width. 30' is a statewide standard that allows for sufficient access.
2. To be consistent with adopted standards, the driveway approaches should be uniform. Maintaining, order, property distancing and managing stormwater.
3. While it is recognized that non-compliant driveways exist throughout the county, many were constructed without permits or without the County's knowledge. The presence of past violations is not justification for approving new ones.
4. Oversized approaches create wider conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians along subdivision roads.

The Board of County commissioners may approve or deny the appeal. It is recommended if the Board approves the appeal, they should provide justification for doing so.

It should be noted, PW staff did observe other violations within the subdivision. Research shows these violations occurred without obtaining a permit and do not have approvals.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

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Attachments

Variance Request

Site Plan

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**Monica Plecker**

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**From:** Mackenzie Sparks <mackenzie@sparksinc.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 4:07 PM  
**To:** Monica Plecker  
**Subject:** 5337 Abby Rd

Monica,

I am writing to request reconsideration of the removal of the extra footage of driveway at 5337 Abby Road. I understand the county's commitment to maintaining county standards and safety; however, I believe keeping the existing driveway in place provides significant benefits and value to the home and safety to the community.

I often see teachers walking children around the neighborhood from the daycare located just down the road from the address, pedestrians, and dog walkers. The subdivision streets are not compatible with excess roadside parking. The larger driveway keeps most vehicles off the road, out of the way of pedestrians, and the visibility clear for other drivers to prevent accidents. Even with no pedestrians when vehicles are parked on the road, it is extremely difficult to navigate through those vehicles. Furthermore, it is impossible for 2-way traffic.

Due to the number of driveways larger than county standards in Yellowstone County, the expense encured for all homeowners to remove existing driveways whether recent or aged, would cause more harm than good on an already burdened community. As the driveway is well constructed, in good condition, and does not pose any issues such as drainage, removing the existing driveway does not provide a clear benefit.

The culvert will be removed and ditch will be re-constructed and maintained to its original condition around the driveway and the rest of the lot.

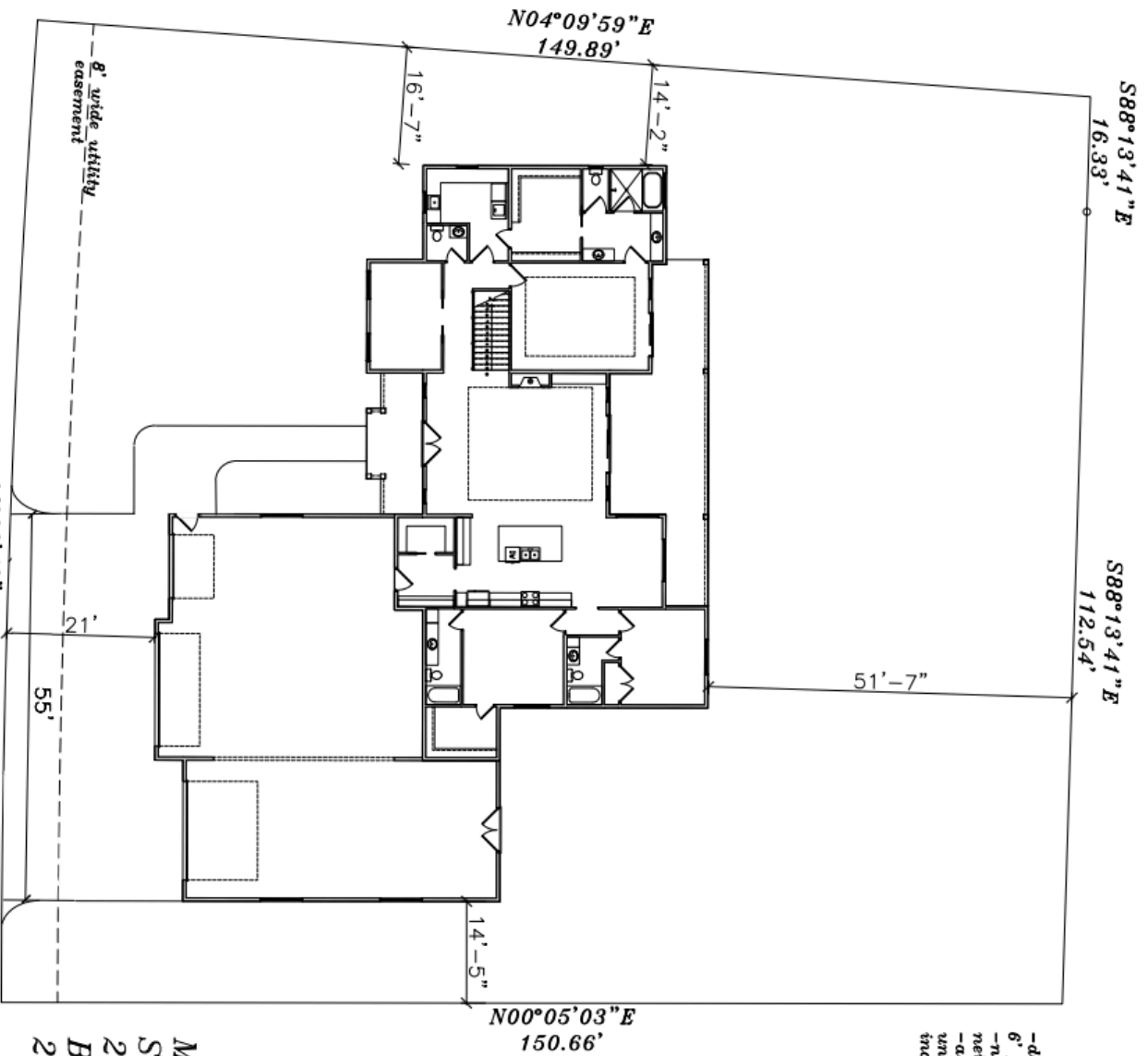
I fully understand the county's responsibility to enforce standards. I am requesting reconsideration and a variance for this driveway providing a safer and more practical solution, aligning the broader goal of keeping traffic patterns and protecting pedestrians and other vehicles.

Thank you for your time and consideration, if any additional information is needed, please feel free to reach out.

Mackenzie Sparks  
(406)413-0290

# SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 10'



-downspouts to extend  
6' from foundation  
-no drainage to  
neighbors  
-all drainage to street  
unless otherwise  
indicated

Mackenzie Meadows  
Subdivision  
2nd filing  
Block 6, Lot 8  
20,272 sq.ft.

$\Delta = 08^{\circ}22'46''$   
 $R = 1959.92'$   
 $L = 139.60'$

ABBY ROAD

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

3.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: FY25 Final Budget Adjustment

Submitted For: Jennifer Jones, Finance Director

Submitted By: Jennifer Jones, Finance Director

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TOPIC:

**Finance** - RSID Final FY25 Budget Adjustment

BACKGROUND:

Additional budget adjustment for RSID activity in FY25.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve.

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Attachments

RSID Budget

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# *Yellowstone County*

FINANCE  
(406) 256-2754  
(406) 254-7929 (FAX)



P.O. Box 35003  
Billings, MT 59107-5003

October 8, 2025

Board of Yellowstone County Commissioners

Dear Board Members:

Please accept this letter as a written request for you to formally approve one end of year budget adjustment to keep us in compliance with budget statutes. This request will be presented to you at a public discussion meeting on October 16, 2025, then as a regular item requiring your formal approval at your public agenda meeting on October 21, 2025. This action on your part is authorized under MCA 7-6-4006 (4).

1. Requesting to increase spending authority for the following with unanticipated revenue as the offset:
  - a. RSID Maint-- \$26,000 for various RSID repairs where the revenue/cash has already been received for those repairs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Jones".

Jennifer Jones  
Finance & Budget Director

**FINAL FY25 PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

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2500.000.000.430200.362	BE27:RSID MAINT REPAIRS	26,000.00	-
2500.000.000.363010.000	BE27:RSID MAINT ASSESSMENTS	-	26,000.00



B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

4.

Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: Melanie Schwarz & Karen Sylvester - Community Prevention Quarterly Update

Submitted By: Erika Guy

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TOPIC:

**Melanie Schwarz & Karen Sylvester** - Community Prevention Quarterly Update

BACKGROUND:

NA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

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B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: Closed: Personnel Matter

Submitted By: Erika Guy

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TOPIC:

**Closed:** Personnel Matter

BACKGROUND:

Closed

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Closed

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B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

Meeting Date: 10/16/2025

Title: Litigation update

Submitted By: Steve Williams

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TOPIC:

**Closed:** Litigation Update

BACKGROUND:

Firebaugh arbitration update.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

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