

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Commissioners Conference Room (308)
located in the Ostlund Building @ 2825 3rd Ave N (3rd Floor)
and are open to the public unless otherwise noted

THURSDAY - MAY 14, 2026

8:45 Calendar

9:00 COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION

PLEDGE

DEPARTMENTS

1. **Human Resources** - Ostlund Building Use Policy
2. **Elections** - April 2026 Monthly Update
3. **IT** - Data Center Expansion
4. **Public Works** -
 - a. Centennial Ice Arena
 - b. Junk Vehicle Yard
5. **DES** - Follow-Up to Previous Rural Fire Program Future
6. **County Attorney** - Ostlund Building Rental Agreement - BMO
7. **Dianne Lehm** - CDBG Program
8. **Finance** - MetraPark/Cedar Hall Bathrooms
9. Rimrock 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. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per individual.*

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Ostlund Building Use Policy

Submitted By: Teri Reitz, Board Clerk

TOPIC:

Human Resources - Ostlund Building Use Policy

BACKGROUND:

N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

2.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: April 2026 Monthly Update

Submitted By: Dayna Causby, Election Administrator

TOPIC:

Elections - April 2026 Monthly Update

BACKGROUND:

April 2026 Monthly Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Data Center Expansion

Submitted For: Larry Ziler, IT Director

Submitted By: Larry Ziler, IT Director

TOPIC:

IT - Data Center Expansion

BACKGROUND:

Yellowstone County's current technology infrastructure lacks the redundancy required to ensure continuity of operations during a major outage. The County operates a single primary data center, and if that facility becomes unavailable, critical systems—including public safety, justice, finance, and administrative services—would be at risk of prolonged disruption. Strengthening the County's technological survivability is essential to maintaining reliable public services. This can be done with minimal additional cost investment and redirecting current IT expenditures into different areas.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is my recommendation to accept the 5-year agreement for Dell Apex DCaaS to provide additional data center hardware allowing the creation of secondary data center location that can provide failover availability.

Attachments

Executive Summary - Data Center

Executive Summary – Data Center Expansion

Yellowstone County’s current technology infrastructure lacks the redundancy required to ensure continuity of operations during a major outage. The County operates a single primary data center, and if that facility becomes unavailable, critical systems—including public safety, justice, finance, and administrative services—would be at risk of prolonged disruption. Strengthening the County’s technological survivability is essential to maintaining reliable public services.

This proposal establishes a secondary data center at Metra Park, utilizing an existing facility (closet #3) that already meets the physical requirements for hosting County infrastructure. No construction, remodeling, or additional operational costs are required at the site. The County’s current hardware, which remains fully capable, would be repurposed for the secondary data center, while new hardware would be installed in the primary data center. This rotation ensures that the newest equipment supports active workloads, while the previous generation provides a reliable failover environment.

To implement this strategy, it is recommended that the County enter a 5-year agreement with Dell Technologies through their APEX Data-Center-as-a-Service (DCaaS) program. Compared to a traditional capital purchase, the APEX model reduces upfront cost, provides predictable monthly budgeting, and includes full hardware lifecycle management and support.

- **Traditional Capital Purchase:** \$1,310,000 upfront for hardware and 5 years of maintenance
- **APEX DCaaS:** \$19,103 per month, totaling \$1,146,180 over 5 years
- **Cost Offset:** The County currently spends an average of \$17,893.65 per month on Azure backup storage. This cost has increased 17% over the past 12 months. This storage provides no operational survivability and could incur more than \$30,000 in egress fees during a full system restore.

Implementing this expansion will significantly improve the County’s resilience, reduce operational risk, and modernize the technology environment while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This approach ensures that essential County services remain available to the public—even in the event of a primary data center failure.

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

4. a.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Centennial Ice Arena

Submitted By: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

TOPIC:

Centennial Ice Arena

BACKGROUND:

The Billings Amateur Hockey League (BAHL) and Yellowstone Ice Foundation (YIF) would like to present the BOCC with information in regard to Centennial Ice Arena and future plans for the existing facility.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

4. b.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Junk Vehicle Yard

Submitted By: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

TOPIC:

Junk Vehicle Yard

BACKGROUND:

In April 2025, the BOCC provided direction to Public Works staff to pursue relocating CE/Junk Vehicle to King Ave E. As such, staff has completed the necessary permitting steps. In the interim, the BOCC wanted to explore land trade options with the City of Billings. Those efforts did not materialize into a working solution. This week, Public Works was notified of its conditional approval from MDEQ for the yard relocation on King Avenue East. PW staff is prepared to move forward with the current approval and would like to discuss with the BOCC.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

Attachments

Conditional Approval Letter



May 11, 2026

Mike Schieno
Yellowstone County Junk Vehicle
1200 Shiloh Rd
Billings, MT 59106

Dear Mr. Schieno:

The review of your application and issuance of a license for a Junk Vehicle County Graveyard (JVCG) at 3246 King Ave. E., Billings, Montana is almost complete. Your facility has met all the requirements for the licensure of a JVCG with the exception that it is not shielded from public view as required by Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 17.50.202 and 17.50.203).

In order for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to complete the licensure of your facility, the following items must be completed in the order given below:

1. Complete the shielding at the proposed facility within eight months of the receipt of this letter. **Shielding must be approved by DEQ before it is installed, please contact me to discuss this.**
2. Place all junk vehicles behind the completed shielding.
3. Contact DEQ Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program for a pre-operational inspection.

Upon determining that the facility is in full compliance with the shielding requirements and all other state junk vehicle regulations, your license to operate a JVCG will be issued.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Please contact me to schedule a pre-operational inspection at the appropriate time. I have enclosed a copy of the above cited regulations for your review. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Christensen".

Brady Christensen, CHMM
Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Program
(406) 444-3048 or email at bchristensen@mt.gov

Enc: Copy of ARM 17.50.202 and 17.50.203

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

5.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Follow-Up Discussion on Rural Fire Program Future

Submitted By: Derek Yeager

TOPIC:

DES - Follow-Up to Previous Rural Fire Program Future

BACKGROUND:

A continuation of the ongoing discussion around the future of rural volunteer firefighting in Yellowstone County including the Rural Fire Councils, an advisory council to the BOCC, position after Tuesday 5/12 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion on the Rural Fire Councils position and options.

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

6.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Ostlund Building Rental Agreement

Submitted By: Steve Williams

TOPIC:

County Attorney - Ostlund Building Rental Agreement - BMO

BACKGROUND:

When the County purchased the Ostlund building, it inherited the lease agreement for the 5th floor. BMO is the tenant. Per the lease agreement, BMO has renewed a five-year term of rent, which will begin in March of 2027, and run through 2032. The county has been in negotiations with BMO regarding the rent value which it will present to the board. If no agreement on rent can be reached, a 3-realtor board would be set to establish a rental rate at 95% of the fair market value.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

7.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Dianne Lehm - CDBG Program

Submitted By: Erika Guy

TOPIC:

Dianne Lehm - CDBG Program

BACKGROUND:

Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

8.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: MetraPark/Cedar Hall Bathrooms

Submitted For: Matt Kessler, Purchasing Agent

Submitted By: Matt Kessler, Purchasing Agent

TOPIC:

Finance - MetraPark/Cedar Hall Bathrooms

BACKGROUND:

Discuss options for getting heat operational to the bathrooms next to Cedar Hall at the MetraPark campus.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

9.

Meeting Date: 05/14/2026

Title: Rimrock Update

Submitted By: Erika Guy

TOPIC:

Rimrock Update

BACKGROUND:

NA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss
