

August 10, 2020 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on August 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Commissioner John H. Jackson and their Assistant Cindy Decker.

Updates on County Projects:

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob reported that the crew has been blading roads. They are aiming for mid August to do the millings from the interstate on Carrigan Lane. Commissioner Rice brought up the striping on the By-Way. He will call Karl Yakawich at Great West Engineering to see what the plan is. He also brought up Downing Lane for discussion again. There are 6 cattle guards in a one-mile stretch. Commissioner Jackson will take a drive out there to check it out.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth and County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting.

Jed commented that they have picked out the paint for his office so it is progressing nicely. Chris concurred.

Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds joined the meeting to discuss the Governor's Directive regarding mail ballot election. She has concerns that there will be some polling places that will not be available because of Covid19. She has reached out to the counting judges and most of them are willing to work a polling place. She has to make a decision by next Monday.

The following Road Department Report was submitted and scanned into the minutes:

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
August 2nd to August 8th, 2020
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Blacktail, Sweetwater, Birch Creek, Anderson, Stibal, Ruby Divide, Carter Creek, Bannack Pass (Hwy 324), Chinatown and Medicine Lodge.
- Mowed on the Scenic Byway.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: South Valley, Lima Dam and North Valley.
- Shop maintenance.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Upper North Fork, Lower North Fork, and Gibbonsville.
- Attended a Safety Meeting.
- Shop maintenance.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the July 27 and August 3, 2020 meetings were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the July 27 and August 3, 2020 meetings be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Travis Wilson with CornerStone Land Surveying, Inc. turned in the Fox Run Special District Boundaries and Map to the commissioners. Cindy will take this to the Clerk & Recorder for filing and will send a copy to each Fox Run Special District board member.

Clenera Solar ~ Set Public Hearing

DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, County Attorney Jed Fitch and Planner Rob Macioroski joined the meeting. Commissioner McGinley began the discussion by stating that we have received 2 applications that were sent to the Department of Revenue. This begins the 60-day deadline to hold a hearing and then 120 days to decide. A Public Hearing needs to be set and it must be published twice before the hearing.

It was decided that there will be a Public Hearing set for August 31 during the regular commissioner meeting. This will not be to decide whether there will actually be a solar farm but to discuss tax abatement for Clenera.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that a Public Hearing for Clenera Solar Tax Abatement Request be set for August 31, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Cindy will take care of advertising.

Discussion & Action ~ Refuge Revenue Sharing (RRS)

Lima School Superintendent Tracy Fisher, Treasurer Cathy Hucke and Shay Baize joined the meeting. Shay began the discussion. Commissioner McGinley asked how changing to mills would work. He randomly picked some properties in Lima and checked out the numbers. If you are in the city limits, the percentage that the school receives is right around 45%. If you live outside the city limits, it is closer to 60%. The Lima School district only receives 1/3 of that.

Shay asked when the Feds calculate the revenue sharing amount, if there are other "buckets" that get money. Mike replied that no, the Lima school and the County are the only ones who receive RRS. Cathy stated that it would be no problem at all to change the percentage to 60%.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that we readjust the RRS payments to 60% to schools and 40% to the county beginning next May. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Drought Task Force

DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht set up the Drought Task Force Meeting. Chairman Rice opened the meeting at 11:00 A.M. A copy of the sign in sheet can be viewed below: