January 25, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on January 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman John H. Jackson, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker.

Updates on County Projects:

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob said that the project up on Carter Creek turned out great.
There was discussion regarding the tractor that the crew uses to mow in the summer. It has been nothing but trouble as far as being broken down. Bob is thinking about selling it and then leasing a tractor for the mowing season.

County Attorney Jed Fitch, Sheriff Paul Craft, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer and Facilities Manager Chris Booth joined the meeting.

Tracy advised that the new CAD system has changed the GIS Coordinator position forever. He wanted it to be clear that the job description should reflect these new duties.

Chris commented that there is a leaking pump on the boiler and he has gotten an estimate of $4375 if the pump needs to be completely replaced and $1850 if it's just replacing the chemical seals. Now another pump has started leaking but everything is fine as far as safety is concerned. He stated that it needs to be taken care of however. Chris mentioned that we could save money if we wait and just "tag team" with another jurisdiction that needs repairs. Tom asked if the flow of the leak is increasing to which Chris replied that it actually has decreased. He thinks maybe the chemicals are clogging up some of the leak.

Jed stated that the new touch screen Surface Pros have been received and programmed by Russ. He is also ready to coordinate his new program with the Sheriff's office. Jed went to Helena last week and spoke in the Legislature regarding a bill. Kayla is working on her VOCA or Victim Witness grant.

Paul stated that they are half way through the training on the new CAD system. He also advised that he got a bill for the entire project but the project is not completed as of yet. Paul has called Dunne Communications and told them the entire bill will not be paid until the entire project is completed. He will pay 75% of the bill because only 75% of the work is done. This will come out of the Homeland Security grant. If someone from Dunne Communications isn't here by this Wednesday, Paul will call again.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
January 17th to January 23rd, 2021
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA
- Plowed snow on the following roads: Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway, Bannack Pass (Highway 324), Bannack, Lemhi Pass, and Bloody Dick.
- Sanded on the local roads.
- Bladed on the following roads: Anderson, Bond and Nissen.
- Hauled gravel to Carter Creek Road and Sweetwater Road.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA
- Plowed snow on the South Valley Road.
- Flood control on Little Sheep Creek Road.
- Shop cleaning and maintenance.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA
- Plowed snow on the Lower North Fork Road.
- Sanded roads.
- Shop cleaning and maintenance.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Discussion & Action ~ Fire District #2 Boundary Correction

Casey Elliott from the Tribune, Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds, DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht, Fire Chief BJ Klose, County Attorney Jed Fitch and GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting.

Tracy explained that there was a Scrivener error when the map was originally done. The residents have been paying taxes and have been receiving services however. This was discovered when the ambulance district was being discussed. The previous GIS Coordinator and fire Chief Scott Marsh has given his input on this as well. Even one of the original Fire Chiefs, Roy Cornell, was consulted and he concurred that it was just an oversite. Everyone agrees that this needs to be remedied.

This district was formed in 1967 by the commissioners at that time. Jed stated that a resolution will be prepared for action next week. The district #2 Trustees have discussed this and are well aware of it; in fact, a letter has been prepared by them to the commissioners, a copy of which can be viewed below:

Beaverhead Fire Dist #2
405 N Idaho st
DILLON, MT 59725
406-683-5051
dillonfire1830@gmail.com

January 19, 2021

Beaverhead County Commissioners
2 S Pacific St
DILLON, MT 59725

County Commissioners

It appears that a scrivener's error has been found in the legal description of Beaverhead Fire District 2 and this letter is to inform you that the legal definition for Beaverhead Fire District 2 needs to be corrected to include the parcels that were overlooked.

Fire District 2 was created in May, 1967 by the Beaverhead County Commissioners and was legally defined as land comprising 54 Township-Ranges within Beaverhead County. However, through oversight or neglect, Township-6-South Range-7-West was absent from the legal description. The attached image depicts the land area that was inadvertently excluded.

Taxpayers in this area have been treated as if they were contained in Fire District 2, being assessed taxes for Fire District 2 and voting for the Fire Hall Levy. Several retired Fire Chiefs of Fire District 2 have been contacted with all concluding that this area must have been omitted by mistake.

Therefore, the legal description for Fire District 2 will be corrected to include parcels of land in Township-6-South Range-7-West inclusive to Beaverhead County. No changes will be apparent as there are already taxes paid on the

land area in question to Fire District 2 and Emergency Services will continue to respond to situations in this area.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Regards

Jon G Watkins, ACTING CHAIRMAN
Board of Trustees Fire District 2

Recess

At 12:00 noon, Chairman Jackson recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Jackson reconvened the meeting with Commissioner McGinley, Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present.

Recess Commission Meeting for Public Hearing.

Public Hearing – Intent of Ordering a Referendum on the Creation of the Beaverhead Ambulance Special District

A Public Hearing concerning the Intent of Ordering a Referendum on the Creation of the Beaverhead Ambulance Special District came on at the predetermined time and place pursuant to notice duly given.

A sign in sheet was passed around, a copy of which can be viewed below:

PUBLIC HEARING
Intent of Ordering a Referendum on the Creation of the Beaverhead Ambulance Special District
Monday, January 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
In the Commissioners' Room – Beaverhead County Courthouse

PLEASE PRINT

NAME
Russ Sigman
Swede Troedsson
Casey Fillo
Stacy Reynolds
Rick LATER
Jean Bergeson
Jed C. Fitch
KATHY C. HILTON
Tom Wolfenbarger

Jean Bergeson began the discussion advising of a slight revision in some of the numbers of 2020 ambulance runs. She then handed out a Summary Report of the last four years and reviewed it aloud for those present.

Most of the funding will still come from Beaverhead EMS to keep them going. None of the money from this district will be used for equipment. Rick L. commented that they will need a new ambulance very soon. Also, when you purchase an ambulance, it comes with absolutely nothing in it. Jean said that equipment such as a new ambulance is included when they do the budget.

Jed commented that the Special District statute is very confusing and not written well at all. Usually when there is a Public Hearing, the decision will be made by the commissioners on whatever the topic is. In this instance, however, the decision will be made by the tax payers.
He feels that this service will be something very worthwhile to spend money on. Most folks don't realize how the ambulance service really works. It is a private enterprise – nonprofit – but it's not a government entity.
Jean is very proud of this long-standing ambulance service; the oldest service in the state which began in 1954.
A Resolution will be on the commission agenda next Monday.

Reconvene Commission Meeting

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion:

Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.

Payment of Invoices:

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of $34,046.19, beginning with check #206477 and ending with check #206509. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction:

There were no public comments.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approved: _____
Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board