

February 8, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Vice Chairman Mike McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Chairman John H. Jackson was absent picking up a truck for the Road Department.

Updates on County Projects:

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. The crew is busy moving snow today from here north. Evidently, there is about 2 feet of snow up Trapper Creek. It is a strange thing, but the Centennial doesn't have much snow at all. The extreme cold temperatures are concerning right now.

Sheriff Paul Craft, Facilities Manager Chris Booth and County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting. Paul stated that 966 Wise River and Wise River Sheriff are working well finally. There will be a lot of radio programming this next week. They have suffered a loss of the Ali-Ani line in 911 dispatch. This gives the GIS Coordinates for GPS. It will be worked on today and this week.

Paul advised that by statute, the commissioners need to review the fee schedule charged in the Sheriff's Office. This will be on the agenda in the near future. Paul also advised that the jail inmates will be able to be tested for Covid now. Most of his staff has all been vaccinated.

Chris advised that the leak in the boilers has been fixed. Also, the lights in the front hallway will be changed and a separate switch will be installed so the lights can be turned off if need be. Paul asked Chris what the status is on the breaker in the Sheriff's Office. Chris will check into that.

DES Coordinator/Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting and stated that he has finished and sent off the EMPG. Now he will focus on the Homeland Security grant. He will be speaking with Chris and Paul to get their input.

The internal hiring committee in the Sheriff's office recommends hiring John White as the new detention officer.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that John White be hired as the new Detention Officer. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

Jamie advised that there will be an Airport Appeals Board meeting tomorrow.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
January 31st to February 6th, 2021
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway, Bannack Pass (Highway 324), Horse Prairie and local area roads.
- Hauled gravel to the Sweetwater Road.
- Shop maintenance.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Little Sheep Creek, South Valley, and Big Sheep Creek.
- Yard maintenance.
- Shop maintenance.
- Hauled scrap metal to the old landfill.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Miner Lake, Little Lake Creek, Big Swamp Creek, Big Lake Creek, Twin Lakes, Steel Creek, Skinner Meadows, Moose Creek, River, Rock Creek, Gibbonsville, Lower North Fork, Warm Springs, Upper North Fork, Lower Bender Creek, Lower Mussigbrod, and Jackson and Wisdom.
- Shop maintenance.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the February 1, 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 ~ Renewal of GreatWest Engineering Contract**

Planner Rob Macioroski and County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting. Mike began the discussion by stating that the 2nd amendment to the contract for Great West Engineering Contract for On Call Services expires this month. Rob stated that he greatly appreciates the work that Great West has done over the years.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the 3rd Amendment to the Great West Engineering Contract for On Call Services be renewed to expire February 28, 2022. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike commented that we will most likely go out for RFP/RFQ next year. Cindy reminded them that the original score sheets are in the Great West file in the Road/Public Works office.

Discussion ~ City of Dillon Water Line Replacement & Potential Easement Across County Property

Planner Rob Macioroski, DES/Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, City Attorney Jim Dolan, Mayor Mike Klakken, Water Director Jason Johnson

for the City of Dillon and Director of Operations for the City of Dillon Todd Hazelbaker joined the meeting.

Jed stated that Jim had previously come to him with the new proposed line and it comes right to the county shop basically. Right now, there is no existing easement for the existing water line nor has there been from the day it was installed.

Jed stated that it won't affect any of our structures and he feels that it is a good proposal. Tom R. asked about a timeline to which Mayor replied it will probably be in October or November of this year and would only take a couple days maximum to be completed. The whole project will hopefully start between April and June.

Mike M. asked if all the hookups will be replaced. Mike K. stated that they will be replaced at no cost to the county. Mike M. replied that this might be a good time to install one water meter at the fairgrounds so we could have one flat fee. Jason commented that the metering should stay the way it is right now because it would be way too complicated to do that. Tracy had prepared a map of the existing lines which was discussed at length.

Mike K. stated that his main concern is the irrigation of the fairgrounds field as far as water usage. Jed stated that we could exclude irrigation from the flat fee document. Mike K. agreed that it would be much easier to sell to the council that way.

Jed and Jim Dolan will meet together to create the draft easement agreement to be on the agenda soon.

Recess

At 12:00 noon, recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Vice Chairman Mike McGinley reconvened the meeting with Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present. Chairman Jackson was absent picking up a truck for the Road Department.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day. At 1:00 p.m. Jed Fitch, Tom Rice and Jason Johnson took a field trip to the fairgrounds to get a better idea of the locations of existing hydrants and water lines.

Legislative Update

Mike began the discussion by stating that Representative Tom Welch picked up the Solar Bill and will introduce it this week and it is scheduled for a hearing next week. There will be a bill this afternoon called Revised County Road Adoption Procedure as Subdivision Plats. This is a discussion we have all the time regarding subdivision roads. Ravalli County is really pushing this bill but Gallatin County is arguing this bill because they claim that all subdivision roads are county roads. It is quite a controversial bill. That hearing is this afternoon as well.

There are a couple state admin bills including "Revised Dates for Special Purposed Elections" which would include verbiage that special elections could be held during the general election.

Governor Gianforte has a bill called "Revised Business Equipment Tax Laws" which gets back into the tax codes of Montana. It will be complicated but Mike feels it will be a good idea; however, the process will be cumbersome at best.

MT Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Association is running a bill trying to raise the Sheriff's salary so the deputies get a raise. Instead of getting \$2000 a year, they proposed \$5000 but that got shot down. So, they came back with another bill "raising it \$2000 other than the county sheriff may receive additional salary as determined by the county commissioners". So, it would be giving one special elected official more money than the other elected officials. Maco's philosophy is that maybe deputies should be uncoupled from elected officials then just give them a raise. MACo objects to the language in this bill. Mike feels that maybe a law should be passed that separates deputies from the sheriff's salary and if the deputies get a raise, then they could just do it.

Mike will be busy working on the Solar bill so he can present in Helena next week.

All elected officials' salaries are tied to the Clerk & Recorder's salary as of right now.

Payment of Invoices:

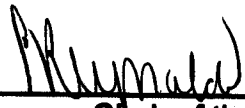
The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$233,983.57, beginning with check #206539 and ending with check #206607. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.


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: 
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Chairman of the Board