

## February 16, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 16, 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 stated that the crew has been plowing snow steadily. There still is not much snow to the south of Dillon. Elkhorn got about 3 feet however.

Sheriff Paul Craft, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer and DES/Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Tom W. commented that he is working on the Homeland Security Grant along with Chris Booth and Paul Craft. He is really thinking about an external surveillance camera system around the courthouse.

Paul added that in order to have it fully funded, we need to make sure it is strictly for courthouse security. However, to have the cameras monitored 24/7 is just way out of the realm of possibility.

Tracy expressed concern about the server and the backup batteries being downstairs and exposed to way too much heat. He will get more information about what it would take to move them to a more climate-controlled spot.

Mike asked if *election* is still an important part of this grant. Tom W. doesn't think so but he will check.

There was much discussion regarding fencing, more signage, lighting and cameras. The commissioners are all against fencing off the courthouse grounds. Tom W. will focus more on cameras.

Tracy mentioned that the issue of keys for the courthouse needs to be addressed. There have been many employees that have left over the years that may still have keys. The idea of getting ID cards with fobs was discussed.

The grant is due by March 5<sup>th</sup> so Tom will be diligently working on that. Mike advised Tom W. to include the costs of attending the Security course and having the Courthouse Security Assessment done. Cindy will forward this info on to Tom.

Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

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

#### BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK February 7<sup>th</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

##### DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway, Bannack Pass (Highway 324), Trapper Creek, Cherry Creek, Big Horn, Horse Prairie and local area roads.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

##### LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Big Sheep Creek and South Valley.
- Sign installation on Old Armstead Road.
- Fire extinguishers and safety work.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads and from Monida to Clark Canyon.
- Equipment service and repair.

##### WISDOM AREA

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

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the February 8, 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 ~ Joint Resolution LC3331 ~ Urging Congress to Remove Hidden Pasture WSA from Further Wilderness Study Designation**

Dillon resident JS Turner joined the meeting. Tom R. began by stating that there are 2 or 3 other Conservation Districts that have these that have the most effect on the stakeholders around it. The Conservation District wanted to do it as a grass roots thing. Tom thinks it will sail through the legislature with no problem, but when it gets to DC, it will be an uphill battle.

JS stated that he thinks it's a good test case and is in favor of the commissioners approving this resolution. He thinks this should have been dealt with at least 20 years ago. JS stated that it would be good to push Congress to act and follow their own guidelines and rules.

Mike questions why there is just one. There should be statewide resolutions. JS thought they did try to do that years ago but it didn't go through. Tom R. mentioned that he thinks there is one in Fergus County and 4 others in the county but none of them have so many variables.

Byron Martinell is also in favor of the commissioners supporting this resolution. It is now Senate Joint Resolution #7 carried by Jeff Welborn.

Action will take place on this agenda item next Monday.

**Discussion & Action ~ City of Dillon Water Line Replacement and Easement Across County Property**

County Attorney Jed Fitch, City Attorney Jim Dolan, Planner Rob Macioroski, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, DES/Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht and Mayor Mike Klakken joined the meeting.

Jed began the discussion by stating that he has reviewed the excellent draft that Jim had sent. He walked through it with the commissioners, especially the parts that he felt needed slight alterations.

There were several things that will be addressed in the final draft.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Beaverhead County accept the City of Dillon's request for an easement across the county fairground property per the revised language discussed here today. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

This Easement document is recorded in the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

**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.

**Safety & Wellness Team Meeting**

At this time, Chairman Jackson turned the meeting over to the Safety Coordinator, Cindy Decker.

**Legislative Update**

Commissioner McGinley began by giving a brief synopsis of what is happening in the Legislature right now. He will be heading to Helena on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> to speak on behalf of HB 346 – Solar Bill. This bill is strictly for *clarification* purposes as the statute is extremely vague right now.

**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 \$75,897.43, beginning with check #206608 and ending with check #206650. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

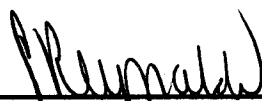
**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**

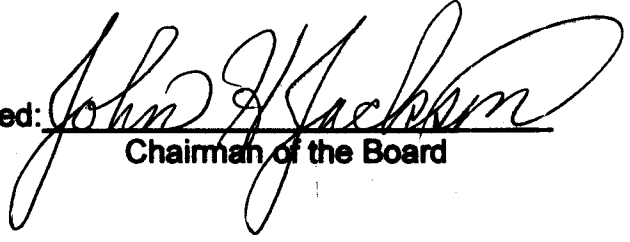
Clerk of Court Carly Anderson has presented the commissioners with a letter stating the hiring committee recommends hiring Cheryl Pierce to fill the vacant Deputy Clerk of Court position.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Cheryl Pierce be hired to fill the Deputy Clerk of Court position. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**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