

March 1, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 1, 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 since the wind has been so crazy, the crew has been busy plowing snow drifts. They have also been doing general maintenance.

DES/Sanitarian Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, County Attorney Jed Fitch, Jim Sivils from Facilities and Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

Tom W. advised that he has been busy working on the Homeland Security grant for security upgrades in the Courthouse.

Jim mentioned that Chris will need another week off to recover from his shoulder surgery. Dayspring has contacted Jim regarding the door for Jed's office. They have the door but it needs to be finished up there before it can be installed. Jim also commented that the people from the prison will be here on the 17th to get measurements for the door on the secret stairway at the front of the courthouse.

Mike mentioned that we should make a volunteer signup sheet to help keep the Chris Kraft Park clean. He has received a complaint about the garbage etc. out there so this is one way to remedy that situation. He also commented that maybe we should reconsider keeping the porta potty open through the winter even though it is difficult to clean in the cold weather.

Mike gave an update on the Mid-Winter MACo Conference in Butte last week. It was a bit different this year with only about 100 attendees and most everyone else appeared via zoom.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK February 21st to February 27th, 2021 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Scenic Byway, Bannack Bench, Mill Point, Dutchman, Albers, Hogsback, Birch Creek, Stoddard, Stevenson, Sweetwater and Horse Prairie.
- Hearing tests.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: South Valley, Little Sheep Creek, Big Sheep Creek, and Sage Creek.
- Hearing tests.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, Big Lake Creek, Twin Lakes, Moose Creek, Lower and Upper North Fork, Lower Munsigbrod, Lower Bander Creek, Rock Creek, River, Big Swamp Creek, Little Lake Creek, and Gibbonsville.
- Hearing tests.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Chamber of Commerce Update

Rebecca Jones joined the meeting and began the discussion. She handed out a poster announcing Beaverhead County Territory Days which will take place on June 18-23, 2021. She has applied for a grant for marketing outside of Beaverhead County. There will be a graphic artist competition for the final poster with the first prize being a one night's stay at the Andrus Hotel.

Rebecca was happy to report that they are up 130% of Chamber members as compared to last year.

Discussion & Action ~ Appointment to Museum Board

The commissioners have received a letter of interest from Lorraine Wheat King to serve on the Museum Board.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Lorraine Wheat King be appointed to the Museum Board with her term to expire December 31, 2023. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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.

Legislative Update

At this time, Commissioner McGinley gave a brief Legislative update.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

County Attorney Jed Fitch, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Planner Rob Macioroski, Weed Coordinator Amber Burch, DES/Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting to discuss the Clenera Solar Project possibly coming to Dillon.

Clenera and Representative Welch will be here this Thursday to meet with all present here today. Mike updated everyone on the status of the Solar Farm bill; a copy of which was provided to everyone. He wants everyone to be on the same page noting that this bill is for *clarification* not changing or raising taxes. Mike walked through the entire document point by point.

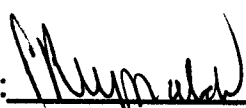
Routine matters occupied the attention of the Board for the remainder of the day.


Payment of Invoices

The Commissioners reviewed and approved invoices for a total of \$87,626.01, beginning with check #206671 and ending with check #206712. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

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