

March 12, 2021 SPECIAL Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in SPECIAL session on March 12, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman John H. Jackson, Commissioner Mike McGinley, and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Commissioner C. Thomas Rice was absent.

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSENDALE

Congressman Matt Rosendale, his assistant Marissa Stokton, Mayor Mike Klakken, Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer and Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting. Dillon residents Mike Mosolf and Marie Habener joined the meeting as well. Marie commented that she is thankful for this meeting but wishes that it was better attended by the public.

Mr. Rosendale has gotten his committee assignments and looks forward to making a difference. Commissioner McGinley asked about the issue with FLAP programs. They won't allow local agencies do the work, which can do it for **much less** than the Federal Government. He stated that it is the biggest waste of time and money within the Federal Government. Mr. Rosendale replied that, unfortunately, he doesn't see much of that changing any time soon.

Commissioner McGinley stated that SRS and PILT are absolutely necessary for Beaverhead County. It is only fair for the Federal Government to pay their taxes just like all citizens must. As of today, he doesn't think it is funded yet. It is ironic that a bordering county with us, Ravalli, gets paid \$2.47 an acre and we get .40 an acre. Even though it's formula based, it just doesn't make sense. The Congressman assured everyone present that he will be taking a good look at that. In every sense of the word, the Federal Government OWES Beaverhead County their taxes for SRS, PILT and RRS.

The Congressman brought up the Sage Grouse issue for discussion. He feels that the progress made in Montana isn't too impressive. Commissioner McGinley stated that Beaverhead County is surviving this issue. Range fires have been handled differently because the Feds rush to help if it's headed toward a Sage Grouse Habitat.

Mr. Mosolf asked about climate change and if that affects Sage Grouse habitat to which Rosendale replied he hasn't heard of that.

The conversation turned to Solar Farms in Beaverhead County. The Congressman commented that the private sector has already demonstrated very clearly, that they are rapidly developing alternative energy sources and products that use less energy, and they doing that through the private market place. It shouldn't be at the expense or penalties to other's jobs or way of life. We shouldn't be shutting one industry down to benefit another industry.

Mayor Klakken asked about the two new House bills dealing with background checks for guns and taxation of ammo and the loaning of guns to others. Rosendale elaborated by stating that he has taken a strong stance on this issue. He argued on the House floor stating that he is against both.

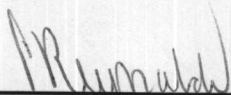
Agriculture was discussed next. Marie stated that she would like to buy Montana beef and know the origin of meat. She would like to see country or state of origin labels on beef.

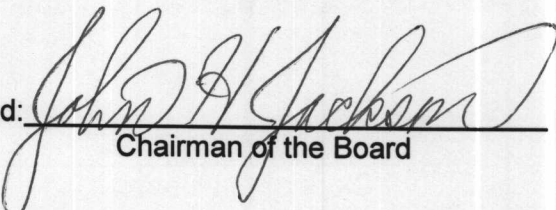
Mayor Klakken asked about infrastructure. Rosendale elaborated by stating that he believes that he has long been an advocate of investing in infrastructure. He believes that is the role of Government.

Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds asked how we can keep our elections safe on a state level. The Congressman wanted to talk more about HR1. It is a complete and total take over of the elections by the Federal Government. The very things that our Legislature has been working to put in place to make sure that we have integrity in our elections, are under attack from the Democrats who want to "undo" everything that has been passed by the previous Legislature. HR1 also mandates that no voter ID is required along with several other very dangerous and non-secure methods of registering. If the Democrats can control the process, they can control the outcome. He is thankful that there is still filibuster. He will push back as much as possible.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attest: 
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Chairman of the Board