

**April 5, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners**

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on April 5, 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 installed a new culvert on Carter Creek and continued to work on Carrigan Lane. The crew also plowed some snow up in the Centennial.

GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting and stated that he and several others took a look at the KONA site. It needs to be discussed which equipment is staying with the county and which equipment is going with the site to Ravalli County. He also mentioned that the Census Bureau contacted him and told him that there is a workshop training on how to use Census Data if anyone is interested.

Public Health Director Sue Hansen joined the meeting. She stated that they are doing the vaccination clinics every Friday now. They had 499 scheduled last week which was the first open clinic. They are locked at 500 for the WMC arena, because of the parking situation, so they are moving out to the Armory this next Friday and hope to administer 800 shots. They are accepting people from anywhere not just Beaverhead County residents. She still needs plenty of volunteers. Jamie stated that it is very organized and well done.

DES/Land Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting and stated that his office has been unusually busy with septic permits and inquiries regarding what can and can't been done on different properties. He also mentioned that he is going to start working on the generator replacement this week.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth stated that the door in the County Attorney's office is finally done! Now we can pay the final bill to Day Spring.

Sheriff Paul Craft stated that since we have already told Ravalli County that they could have all the equipment from KONA, we need to honor that agreement. We still have all the equipment from the Antelope Site (that won't be used again) that we can use for spares should the need arise. Tracy will contact Eric from Ravalli County and tell him the same.

Paul also stated that he got notification that the application has been submitted to the FCC for the Wisdom Repeater. He met with the judges last Friday to move forward with the new fobs, cameras and other security updates.

Also, bids are out on the paint and plumbing for the jail remodel. Paul hopes that this project can be completed by the end of this summer.

County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting. He has recently spoken with a possible applicant for the Deputy County Attorney position, so he is hopeful.

Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

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

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK**  
 March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

**DILLON AREA**

- Plowed snow on the Pioneer Scenic Byway and Bannack Bench.
- Bladed on the following roads: Ten Mile, Stonehouse, Carrigan, Blacktail, Buster Brown, Anderson and Stone Creek.
- Installed a culvert on Carter Creek Road.
- Worked on the millings project on Carrigan Lane.
- Traveled to Kona radio site.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

**LIMA AREA**

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Lima Dam, Stibal, and North Valley.
- Hauled gravel on the following roads: Little Sheep Creek, Gleed, Gravley and Lima Dam.
- Rock raked on Munday Lane and Gravley Lane.
- Cattle guard repair on Sage Creek Road.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads
- Equipment service and repair.

**WISDOM AREA**

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, Lower and Upper North Fork, Lower Bender Creek, Lower Mussigbrod, Little Lake Creek, Big Swamp Creek, Big Lake Creek, Twin Lakes, Moose Creek, River and Wisdom cemetery.
- Patched road on Moose Creek Road.
- Shop cleaning.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

**Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 22 and 29, 2021 meetings were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the March 22 and 29, 2021 meetings be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**

Realtor Don Hand joined the meeting to advise that he has a building available for \$300,000 that might work for Public Health. It has a paved parking lot with plenty of parking. He had heard through the grapevine that the county is looking for a new spot for Public Health.

**Discussion & Action ~ Jail Remodel ~ Courthouse Security Project**

Commissioner McGinley began the discussion by stating that we need **one** point of contact for this project. There are four or five different sources of funding coming with several of them on different timelines. Anything dealing with the jail or Courthouse security upgrades needs to go through the Sheriff **only**. Paul concurred.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Sheriff Craft be appointed as the lead contact for any security upgrades in the Courthouse. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chamber of Commerce Update**

Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Jones joined the meeting and began the discussion. She handed out an invitation to the Black Tie & Boots Gala to be held at the Elks Lodge on May 22. There is also the Beaverhead Territory Days that will be held June 18 – 20.



**Discussion & Action ~ Legal Services Agreement**

County Attorney Jed Fitch, his assistant Montana Mantei and Victim Advocate Kayla Patrick joined the meeting. Mike began by stating that since Jed had the medical incident last week, we need some legal assistance to help with the case load until he is totally back on his feet. There are about 10 cases that would need to be prosecuted in the near future. Jed elaborated on the draft legal services agreement. The Attorney General's office will be handling several trials coming up soon. The attorney is Thorin Geist; he does this for other counties as well. Jed recommends contracting with Thorin until we know more about Jed's condition. He is also thinking about contracting with Jacey Suenram for some of the Misdemeanor cases at a much lower rate. Jed stated that this is indeed a "challenging" time for him and his office to say the least.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the Legal Services Agreement with Attorney Thorin Geist be signed and entered into beginning today through June 30, 2021. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of this agreement may be found in the Clerk & Recorder's Office in the Agreement file.

**Discussion ~ FLAP Grant Proposal**

Commissioner McGinley began the discussion. Bob and Jamie rejoined the meeting. Mike stated that the application date is extended to the middle of May. Since there will be some more infrastructure money coming our way, Mike called Great West to see if it would be possible or feasible to get a FLAP Grant to do the Scenic Byway paving overlay since that road is already about 30 years old. They replied that it would be a simple grant to put together as far as engineering goes. Mike wanted discussion with the commissioners. This would certainly qualify for FLAP. Even if this grant gets done, it would be at least five years until the work could be done.

Commissioner Rice attended MACRs last week and there was discussion regarding Hwy 324. This project has moved up in the ranking to almost the top priority. It would be the last 5 miles along with a bridge but it is very preliminary talk. Since it's a Secondary Highway, the state would assume the maintenance, so that would be good. The engineering would all be done by the state as well. This would include snow removal too.

Commissioner Rice will have Andy White get in touch with Great West to discuss whether it is worth pursuing the FLAP for Beaverhead County or not.

**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, Representative Tom Welch joined the meeting and gave a brief Legislative update.

**Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion**

Mayor Mike Klakken joined the meeting. He is curious about the money from the Cares Act for Dispatch. Commissioner McGinley replied that we just received the funds so a check will be cut later this week.

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 \$53,389.02, beginning with check #206905 and ending with check #206935. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

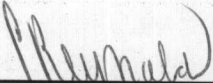
**Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction**

There were no public comments.

**Adjourn**

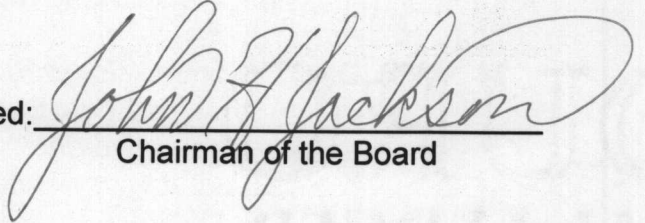
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



Clerk of the Board

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Chairman of the Board