

April 12, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on April 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman John H. Jackson, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Commissioner Mike McGinley was absent undergoing shoulder surgery.

Discussion & Action ~ Proclamation of National Dispatch Week

Sheriff Paul Craft, Dispatchers Yvonne Phillips, Zack Haggard, Christina Cooley, Jack Wiggins, Elida Wheeler and Brian Judge, Chief of Police Don Guiberson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Kodi Laird, Casey Elliott from the Tribune and County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting.


Chairman Jackson read the Proclamation aloud.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Proclamation to honor our local dispatchers during the week of April 11 – 17, 2021 be approved and signed. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Both Don and Paul added their heartfelt appreciation for what the dispatchers do for their officers.

A copy of this proclamation can be viewed below:



COUNTY OF BEAVERHEAD OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, April 11 – 17, 2021 has been designated as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators play a critical role in emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the work public safety telecommunicators perform goes far beyond merely relaying information between the public and first responders; and

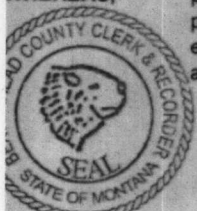
WHEREAS, when responding to reports of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children, the information obtained and actions taken by public safety telecommunicators form the foundation for an effective response; and

WHEREAS, when a hostage taker or suicidal person calls 9-1-1, the first contact is with the public safety telecommunicator whose negotiation skills can prevent the situation from getting worse; and

WHEREAS, during active shooter incidents, public safety telecommunicators coach callers through first aid and give advice to prevent further harm, all while collecting vital information to provide situational awareness for responding officers; and

WHEREAS, when police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians are being shot at, their calls for help go to public safety telecommunicators; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are often communicating with people in great distress, harm, fear, or injury, while employing their experience and training to recognize a critical piece of information; and



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 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 4/13/2021 At 11:33 AM
 Stacey Reynolds, Clerk and Recorder
 By: *Stacey Reynolds*

WHEREAS, in fact, there have been incidents in which public safety telecommunicators, recognizing the sound of a racked shotgun, have prevented serious harm or death of law enforcement officers who would have otherwise walked into a trap; and

WHEREAS, the work of public safety telecommunicators comes with an extreme emotional and physical impact that is compounded by long hours and the around-the-clock nature of the job; and

WHEREAS, research has suggested that public safety telecommunicators are exposed to trauma that may lead to the development of posttraumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the risks associated with exposure to traumatic events, some agencies provide critical incident stress debriefing teams to lessen the psychological impact and accelerate recovery for public safety telecommunicators and first responders, alike; and

WHEREAS, the federal Standard Occupational Classification System is designed and maintained solely for statistical purposes, and is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data; and

WHEREAS, the federal occupations in the Standard Occupational Classification System are classified based on work performed and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or training needed to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, classifying public safety telecommunicators as protective service occupations would correct an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupational Classification System, recognize these professionals for the lifesaving work they perform, and better align the Standard Occupational Classification System with related classification systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

- 1) That the Beaverhead County Commissioners maintain standing support of our public safety telecommunicators.
- 2) That the Beaverhead County Commissioners encourage Beaverhead County employees and residents to "thank a dispatcher" whether in word or deed, during this week set aside to honor our public safety telecommunicators.

John H. Jackson
John H. Jackson
Chairman

C. Thomas Rice
C. Thomas Rice
Commissioner

Michael J. McGinley
Michael J. McGinley
Commissioner

2 OF 109647 File: PROCLAMATION Page:2
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Filed 4/13/2021 At 11:33 AM

Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob reported that the crew has been busy working on filling in pot holes and frost heaves.

Paul stated that last week he got the approval on the possible upgrade of the Wisdom repeater. He is hoping it will work as well as the Wise River repeater. He said that Beaverhead County is covered pretty well now as far as radio communication. Paul has been getting the jail ready for the upgrades.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth stated he is waiting to hear back from Longie Builders about the patio. He is most likely waiting for warmer weather to pour concrete.

Jed mentioned that he had a good meeting last week with attorney Thorin Giest and he will be taking about 14 or 15 cases. Jed has also spoken with Jacy Suenram about the possibility of taking some of the misdemeanor cases. He complimented Barrett's hospital on their fine assistance through his ordeal. Jed will be undergoing some more tests in the near future to get a final diagnosis and the commissioners wish him the best.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
April 4th to April 10th, 2021
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the Pioneer Scenic Byway, Blacktail Road and Bannack Bench.
- Bladed on the following roads: Stone Creek and Stoddard.
- Repaired soft spots on Schuler Lane and Blacktail Road.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Shop cleaning and maintenance.
- Yard maintenance.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Twin Lakes, Moose Creek, and River.
- Flood control on Twin Lakes Road.
- Barricades installed on Rock Creek Road and Moose Creek Road.
- CPR training.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the minutes of the April 5, 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 ~ Final Plat Approval ~ DB Minor Subdivision**

Surveyor Travis Wilson, Deputy Clerk & Recorder Tina Caron, and Planner Rob Macioroski joined the meeting. Rob began the discussion by stating that all the conditions have been met.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rive moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the DB Minor Subdivision Final Plat be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action ~ Final Plat Approval ~ Top of the Hill Minor Subdivision

Rob and the others remained in the meeting. He stated that the variance allows for a 40 foot right of way.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the variance for DB Minor Subdivision be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Top of the Hill Minor Subdivision Final Plat be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action ~ Recommendation from Hiring Committee for Museum Director

Mary (Candy) Whitworth, Neal Strauss, Michele Steven-Hassard, Lynn Giles and John Garry joined the meeting. The hiring committee has conducted a search for candidates

and has interviewed 5 candidates. The committee and the Board recommend hiring Mary Whitworth as the Museum Director. Neal said they are still waiting for the results of the background check however.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Mary (Candy) Whitworth be hired to fill the vacant position of Museum Director pending the results of an acceptable background check. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Drought Task Force

There was no Drought Task Force meeting today. It will be held next Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Recess

At 12:00 noon, Chairman Jackson recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Jackson reconvened the meeting with Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present. Commissioner McGinley was absent undergoing shoulder surgery.

Legislative Update

There was no Legislative update today

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Dillon residents Archie Hayden and Bill Mancoronal joined the meeting to ask about the borrow ditches on Schuler and Laknar Lanes. Bill expressed concern that since work has been done on them, the water won't drain effectively. He feels that it will be detrimental to the road bed.

Archie asked the commissioners why they are having those ditches filled. Commissioner Rice replied that public safety is a concern. He also stated that he will head out there and take a look for himself.

At 3:00 p.m. Karl Yakowich from Great West Engineering called to discuss options for the FLAP grant; the Byway repaving versus work being done on Hwy 324. Tom advised that he left a message with Andy White (MDOT) but hasn't heard back yet. He also asked if it is about 47 miles of pavement on the Byway to which Karl replied yes about that. It would need to be determined if it would warrant a chip seal or an overlay. John commented that it should probably be chip sealed especially if it wouldn't get done for at least another five years.

Karl advised it would probably be between 1 and 2 million dollars to chip seal 50 miles of road and 4 million for an overlay; the county match would be \$260,000 for 2 million. He also advised that the Feds want more CIP type projects instead of maintenance. They want reconstruction or new construction projects for the FLAP grants. Karl encouraged the commissioners to speak with Andy White (MDOT) and get some advice from him as well.

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 \$60,631.89, beginning with check #206936 and ending with check #207011. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

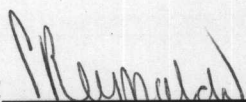
Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

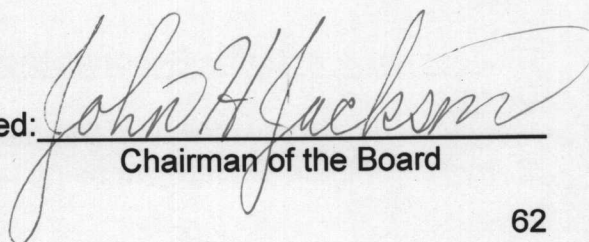
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board