

June 1, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on June 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 joined the meeting early to state that they started on Carrigan Lane today.

County Attorney Jed Fitch, Sheriff Paul Craft, Facilities Manager Chris Booth, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer and Casey Elliott and Mike Regan from the Tribune joined the meeting.

Jed stated that today is his first day of radiation so he has to leave early. The commissioners wish him the best. He has finally received a qualified applicant for the Deputy County Attorney position. The budget for deputy involves PERS and health care etc. but he believes that he is right within the budget. This could change if a trial occurs. He hopes to be back more effectively by September. Montana and Kayla are keeping the office in line. The Acting County Attorney title is void for now since Jed is here, but can be put back at a moment's notice. Thorin has been super. Jed also complimented the Sheriff and the Chief of Police on their cooperation. His next six weeks will be tough but he will be available by phone.

Paul stated that he just received word that Dunne Communication is headed to the Grasshopper to fix that link so paging will be up and running.

Tracy advised that he will be gone next week.

Chris stated that the electricians are working on dispatch right now. The patio area has been dug out. The storm drains are plugged and he is working on getting that cleared out. Chris is also working on the gutter situation.

Mike stated that last week's bids are ready to be awarded pursuant to Great West's recommendation. They recommend authorizing the bids as soon as possible because of the shortage of supplies. Battle Ridge Builders is awarded the installation of the two bridges and RTI Bridges to construct the two bridges for the Rock Creek Bridges.

Mike gave Mr. Regan (from the Tribune) the letter that was received (addressed to the Beaverhead County Commission and dated April 26) from Mr. Gilboy requesting that Beaverhead County appoint a representative for the county on the Area Five Agency on Aging.

First Mike asked Rick Hartz since he is quite involved in senior citizen activities. Rick said that his plate is full and suggested asking Jim Carpita. Jim submitted a letter of interest to be appointed.

We have received a letter from Mayor Klakken stating his concerns. Commissioner McGinley commented that we assess ½ mill for seniors and believes that it only makes sense for Beaverhead County to do this.

This board is made up of 7 members so Jim's vote is only one out of 7. This should not affect BASS (Beaverhead Allied Senior Services) funding.

Commissioner Jackson mentioned that the position on the Area Five Board has been vacant for 2 years so the commissioners thought they were doing a good thing by appointing someone finally.

Since there are senior citizens all throughout Beaverhead County (not just in the city limits), it only makes sense that the county be involved in deciding who is on the board.

Treasurer Cathy Hucke joined the meeting and submitted the April Cash report.

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