

June 28, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on June 28, 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. Sheriff Paul Craft, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer and Facilities Manager Chris Booth joined the meeting as well.

Bob stated that the crew installed 2 cattle guards up Medicine Lodge, hauled gravel up there and has been getting ready for mag chloride applications. He also stated that he has spoken with Gilman Construction and found out that chip sealing for Carrigan and Blacktail will most likely take place the second or third week in July.

Dillon resident Becky Bridgewater Aaring joined the meeting. She stated that Carrigan Lane was great at first but folks are driving too fast and ruining the good work. Bob will go out and take a look. He stated that after it is chip sealed it will be much better. Becky also mentioned that she may be interested in applying for the interim Superintendent of Schools position but her certification has lapsed. The commissioners suggested that she go and speak with Linda Marsh today which she will do.

Chris stated that the patio and sidewalk is poured and looks good. He has three picnic tables ready to set up there. His next project will be landscaping around it. Chris will be working on the air conditioning on the Communication shed. He also mentioned that an air conditioner broke down in the law annex which will need to be replaced. This will be a substantial dollar amount.

Tracy asked if the Duffners have been called about the KONA site. Commissioner Rice will call this week to make sure that everyone is satisfied with the tower removal.

Mike asked Jamie to call Great West Engineering today and ask if there will be any TSEP money coming by Wednesday for the Rock Creek Bridge project.

Paul was welcomed back from vacation and congratulated on his 50th wedding anniversary.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
June 20th to June 26th, 2021
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Blacktail and Medicine Lodge.
- Signs installed on Elk Drive and Antelope Drive.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: South Valley, North Valley, Wolfe, Ashbough, Oregon Shortline, Steel Bridge, Gleed, Little Sheep Creek, and West.
- Watered on the South Valley Road.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Big Lake Creek, Rock Creek, Skinner Meadows, River, Miner Lake, Warm Springs and at the Jackson dump.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting be approved with changes. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Cathy Hucke joined the meeting and presented the May Cash report. Mike mentioned that the Ambulance Board will be meeting this week and asked about adding the Ambulance District to the tax rolls. Cathy replied that they need to contact Myrna Green at the Department of Revenue for that. Cathy will be attending the board meeting.

She commented that someone broke out a large window in the Treasurer's office last Thursday night.

Recess Commission Meeting for Public Hearing**Public Hearing ~ Budget Amendment**

No one attended this hearing.

Reconvene Commission Meeting**Information & Discussion ~ Clenera Solar Project**

Tracy Sawyer, Rob Macioroski and Zach Genta from Clenera Solar joined the meeting and Zach began the discussion. He stated that the 10-mile Road site (formerly known as the Apex Solar LLC) has begun development by Rattlesnake Creek. They had a New and Expanding Industry Tax Abatement application a year ago and it went through the different hearings and was accepted for a tax abatement but for Class 13. That was when it was discovered that the current property tax situation was quite confusing. Representative Welch and Beaverhead County worked diligently on clarification of the code.

So now, Clenera would like to reapply for the New and Expanding Industry Tax Abatement but under Class 8, since the project is a qualifying facility. They have provided the qualifying facility documentation to the county so hopefully that follows the new rules on how everything is set up now the new laws are in effect.

The project is finishing up studies and hope to start construction in March of 2022 and should be completed by the end of 2022.

There will be a Public Hearing on July 6 regarding this new tax abatement request. Clenera will be asking for a 50% abatement this time on Class 8. Mike stated that this all ties to "qualifying facility". He also asked why they plan on building two of these facilities. Zach replied that it was really the only way they could contract with Northwestern Energy. They weren't open to a contract of larger than 80 megawatts. Negotiations have not begun with NW Energy for the second one as of yet. The possibility of selling either one after completion has been considered by Clenera.

Mike asked what is happening in Fallon County. Zach replied that the large project has been postponed until 2025 because the inner connection cannot be done before then. There still is a smaller 20-megawatt project that is on point for 2023 in that area.

There will be a Public Hearing next Tuesday July 6 regarding this matter. Mike asked what happens after 30 years or so. Who would take care of the deconstruction of the panels, and will there be a bond required? Zach replied that an Environmental Assessment is being prepared right now including dust abatement. Also included would

be a plan for decommissioning the plant. He will supply the commissioners with the entire written plan later today.

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.

Discussion & Action ~ Alcohol Rehab Budget Amendment

Mike began the discussion. The state sent Beaverhead County \$10,138 because of Covid. It is unanticipated revenue, thus this budget amendment.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the Alcohol Rehab Budget Amendment be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action ~ Resolution 2021-17 ~ Update STIP (Short Term Investment Pool) for East Bench Irrigation

Commissioner McGinley began the discussion. These three Resolutions need to be updated every year.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Resolution 2021-17 ~ Update STIP for East Bench Irrigation be adopted. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The original Resolution can be viewed in the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

Discussion & Action ~ Resolution 2021-18 ~ Update STIP for Wisdom Sewer

This Resolution is the same as above but for the Wisdom Sewer.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Resolution 2021-18 ~ Update STIP for Wisdom Sewer be adopted. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The original Resolution can be viewed in the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

Discussion & Action ~ Resolution 2021-19 ~ Update STIP for Beaverhead County Treasurer

This Resolution is the same as above but for Beaverhead County Treasurer.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Resolution 2021-19 ~ Update STIP for Beaverhead County Treasurer be adopted. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The original Resolution can be viewed in the Clerk & Recorder's Office.

Preliminary Budget Discussion

At this time, Commissioner McGinley worked on the preliminary budget. Justice of the Peace Candy Hoerning joined the meeting to discuss budget issues.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

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 \$139,151.85, beginning with check #207470 and ending with check #207509. 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:

[Handwritten Signature]

Clerk of the Board

Approved:

[Handwritten Signature]

VICE Chairman of the Board