

July 6, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 6, 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. The crew has been busy blading roads and they took down the weight limit signs for the season. They will do mag chloride next week. The crew will head up to Kona to remove the cement tower pillars in the next week or so.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth joined the meeting. He stated that hopefully the air conditioner for the County Attorney's office will be done today. He also spoke with Johnson controls regarding installing cameras outside the Treasurer's Office.

GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
June 27th to July 3rd, 2021
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Corinne, Mansfield, Bachelor Mountain and Blacktail.
- Patched on Blacktail Road and Airport Road.
- Cleaned cattle guards on Trapper Creek Road and Cherry Creek Road.
- Took down the seasonal weight limit signs on county roads.
- Mowed on the Bannack Bench Road and on the Scenic Byway.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Reeder, Munday, Gosman, North Valley, South Valley, Lima Dam and the Snowline stock lanes.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Skinner Meadows, Twin Lakes and Little Lake Creek.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

For the record, the commissioners extend their condolences to the widow of Harold Forsman who was a Sheriff of Beaverhead County from 1992-1998. He passed away on June 28, 2021.

Chamber of Commerce Update

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Jones joined the meeting and began the discussion. She handed out posters for the 1st Annual Territorial Rodeo to be held on July 22-25.

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.

Recess Commission Meeting for Public Hearing**Public Hearing ~ Discussion New or Expanding Industry Classification Application**

A Public Hearing concerning the New or Expanding Industry Classification Application came on at the predetermined time and place pursuant to notice duly given. Zach Genta and Dustin Thompson from Clenera called in via conference call. Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting.

A sign in sheet was passed around, a copy of which can be viewed below:

PUBLIC HEARING
Discuss New or Expanding Industry Classification
Application
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
In the Commissioners' Room - Beaverhead County
Courthouse

PLEASE PRINT

Scanned

NAME

Zach began the discussion and gave a brief description of the project. He is hoping that the project will begin in March of 2022. It is located on private land out by the landfill. There will be a decommissioning bond provided and will be submitted to the MT Department of Environmental Quality prior to the conclusion of the 15th year of operation. Dust abatement will also be provided.

Casey asked if anything has changed substantially with their proposal from before other than the fact that they are seeking the qualifying facility designation. Zach replied that everything is the same about the project. The only difference is that this time, in accordance with some of the new legislation, they are seeking the Class 8 Tax Designation.

Myrna asked where the water will come from for dust abatement. Dustin replied that there is a water hydrant right there on the land that uses city water.

Mike wanted it to be clear that only one plant will be built initially.

Reconvene Commission Meeting**Discussion & Action ~ Tax Abatement for Clenera Solar**

Dillon residents Annie Rorabough, Justin Hildreth and Myrna Carpita remained in the meeting. Zach and Dustin remained on the phone for this agenda item.

Tom stated that Class 8 is a 3% tax. John asked how much revenue would come to the county from these taxes. Mike replied that it would stabilize everything as the county's revenue can only go up by so much. It would reduce the mills for everybody else. The county government does not just automatically "get rich" from this. The taxpayers across the county would be the ones to benefit.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Beaverhead County *deny the abatement request* since it will be taxed at only 3%.

John called for discussion. Mike stated that the 3% tax is a fair number and he doesn't feel that there needs to be any additional tax relief. There is another solar farm coming to Beaverhead County that will be taxed at 6%; they may be granted a 50% abatement for the first ten years. Mike read some Montana tax codes aloud for comparison. He also commented that a resolution may possibly need to be adopted in the near future regarding this decision.

Chairman Jackson called for the question:

A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Recess Commission Meeting for Compensation Board Meeting

Reconvene Commission Meeting

Preliminary Budget Discussion

At this time, Commissioner McGinley worked on the Preliminary Budget.

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 \$52,737.83, beginning with check #207510 and ending with check #207554. 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