

July 12, 2021 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on July 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 attending the Annual NACo Conference in Maryland.

Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob stated that Stone Creek is having mag chloride applied today and Nissan, Carter Creek and the Sweetwater next Wednesday. They will be installing a stop sign on White Lane. The crew mowed a little bit on the Byway but didn't go all the way to the top because of fire danger.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth, Sheriff Paul Craft, DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht and GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting.

Chris advised that West Electric is here to take care of the law enforcement air conditioner today. The Courthouse and County Attorney central air will have to wait until next year.

Paul stated that he has spent a lot of time dealing with the local fires and traffic control. He feels that since Hwy 43 is a State highway, they shouldn't be calling local law enforcement but should be contacting another agency for traffic control. The Alder Creek fire has been keeping him busy as well. He is trying to be prepared for evacuations should they need to occur. Everyone is really keeping an eye on the Butler Site structure because it must be protected at all costs.

Tracy's daughter will be getting married this weekend, so he will be taking a few days off but will be a phone call away.

Tom W. advised that he was with DNRC most of the weekend dealing with fires. He also mentioned the Butler Site and the importance of protecting it. The resources at all levels are very thin right now. Tom has been contacted for the possibility of using the Search & Rescue Building as a base. The two biggest fires are the Trail Creek and the Alder Creek fires. There is supposed to be a transition meeting tonight at 6 pm but Tom is still waiting for details. Commissioner Jackson stated that he will attend as it will be held in Wise River.

Tom W. asked Tracy to get ahold of SW Telephone about hooking up communications at the Wise River airport. Tracy will take care of that.

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

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

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Stone Creek, Nissan, Carter Creek and Sweetwater.
- Mowed on the Pioneer Mountain Scenic Byway.
- Repaired a fuel pump at Grant.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Lima Dam, North Valley and South Valley.
- Sign repair on Big Sheep Creek Road.
- Bridge end marker repair on Lima Dam Road.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Moved equipment.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

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