

January 10, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on January 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner John H. Jackson, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker.

Pledge of Allegiance

At this time, all those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the day.

Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris joined the meeting and began by stating that the crew has been busy plowing snow. He said that it is ironic that the Centennial Valley really hasn't had much snow yet.

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

Mike welcomed Chris Booth back to work after many months off from Covid. He will be working several hours a day to begin with. Chris commented that he is just catching up on paperwork and emails. He thanked Shonna and Jim for really stepping up during his illness.

Paul said that they have found a way to get the cable over to the radio room. He said that the jail renovations will hopefully begin in mid-February.

Jed deferred to Jennifer to address the Roberts Rule of Order question. Jed had asked if the commissioners have ever moved and voted to adopt the rules. Mike replied that we have looked in the minutes over the years to no avail. Her answer is that the chairman has the same rights and abilities as the other board members to make motions and vote; but the suggestion is that the Chairman should vote last to avoid deference.

Jed suggested that the commissioners formally adopt the Roberts Rules of Order on the next agenda. Even though the commissioners have been observing these rules over the years, it should be done in writing and formally and in its current edition.

Tracy handed out a printout of the most recent census and the three commissioner districts and how it has affected them. It looks like Commissioner McGinley has 34.44%, Commissioner Rice has 32.69% and Commissioner Jackson has 32.86% of the county's population. Mike suggested that some minor adjustments could take place right in the city limits. This issue will be discussed throughout the year.

Mike commented that it is quite interesting that according to this last census, Beaverhead County's population only went up by about 120 people. This is hard to believe. Mike said that even if there was an error in the census, it won't be changed for this year; it could be adjusted on the estimate next year.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
January 2nd to January 8th, 2022
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following areas: Horse Prairie, Elkhorn and Melrose area and local roads.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: South Valley and Lima Dam.
- Flood control on Lima Dam Road.
- Moved equipment.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Skinner Meadows, Miner Lake, Little Lake Creek, Big Swamp Creek, Big Lake Creek, Twin Lakes, Steel Creek, Upper and Lower North Fork, Lower Bender Creek, Lower Mussigrod, Warm Springs, Gibbonsville, Rock Creek, Moose Creek, Jackson, dump, firehall, and school.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.