

January 18, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on January 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice, Commissioner John H. Jackson and their Assistant Cindy Decker.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Updates on County Projects

Road Supervisor Bob Ferris joined the meeting. He stated that the crew hauled gravel on Stone Creek and plowed snow. He would like one of the commissioners to take a drive out to Stone Creek and Sweetwater to see what the road conditions are from the large haul trucks.

Bob advised that the Road Department Mechanic position closes today at five and they have received 3 applications

Casey Elliott from the Tribune, Sheriff Paul Craft, Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, County Attorney Jed Fitch, Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller and Facilities Manager Chris Booth joined the meeting.

Chris said that one of the projects he had planned on doing before he was sick was updating the panel in the Sheriff's office; so, he is back to working on that. This would include getting the smoke detector, the CO2 detectors and the emergency lighting all wired into the panel.

Paul is working on getting some numbers for the 911 meeting today. Mike asked Paul about moving the 2 oil filled transformers out of the breezeway. Paul replied that he has contacted NW Energy and is waiting for pricing to move them.

There is a \$33,000 Homeland Security Grant available to replace the generator for the Law Enforcement Complex. Tom W. has looked into it as well and has suggested getting a big enough generator to run the entire courthouse.

He is also looking into burying a 500-gallon propane tank in the yard to prepare for a total loss of natural gas. The generator would only run about once a month and that could be done at night when the offices are closed. This is all in the very beginning stages. Of course, there will be much more discussion and public hearings regarding using ARPA funds.

Mike Miller commented that he received a donation of legal-size paper, staplers, folders etc. from the local branch of Wells Fargo Bank (since they have closed) including a huge fabric lounge chair.

The Wise River school will be closed for 10 days because of Covid. They will open back up on the 24th. He also advised that John Jory has been selected by the Chamber as the teacher of the year, so congratulations to him.

Stacey mentioned that she took a road trip out to the Grant polling place just to see what other options there might be. Her recommendation next week will probably be to *move* the location not to close it.

Tracy commented that they have completed running cable for the Three Rivers Internet to the Sheriff's office. He also advised that it is that time of year to get going on the Cybersecurity Training Course again. He will be sending emails out soon.

Jed stated that his office had a record number of cases last year. There was a hung jury last week on the Jury trial so he is looking at refilling that case. Judge Braddock is doing well in her new position.

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