

January 24, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on January 24, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Chairman Michael J. McGinley, Commissioner C. Thomas Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Commissioner John H. Jackson was absent.

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 and Public Works Secretary Jamie Flynn joined the meeting. Bob stated that the crew plowed snow at Elkhorn and crushed gravel up at Sheep Creek. Two interviews were conducted for the mechanic's job and one more will be today.

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

Mike Miller advised that 3 rural schools are closed due to Covid protocol.

Paul mentioned that a representative from Dunne Communications was here last Thursday headed to Sierra. His snow cat broke down just before he got to the top so he didn't get into the repeater site. Paul received a call from Univision yesterday stating that the internet was down in Dispatch. He came down to the complex on Sunday to help remedy that situation.

Paul commented that he spoke with Univision about the conduits. He wanted a site map of the wire conduits so he could tell where the wires went in to the radio room. They said that's not a good idea because those cables have been sitting there for over ten years and the copper wire may break if manipulated. Paul is looking into using a "snake camera" to see exactly what the condition is.

Paul plans on drafting a policy limiting people in the radio room.

Tracy said that he would like to move the server from the basement to possibly the mail room. DIS is looking at replacing the server soon anyway. He also mentioned that only 6 out of 33 people have completed the cybersecurity training.

Chris said that he got in touch with Johnson Controls to look at the smoke detector, CO2 and emergency lighting for the jail. He is hoping that it can be done within the next 2 weeks.

Jed stated that our Coroner Julie Briggs resigned effective February 18, 2022 and that will be a difficult position to replace. There are a lot of variables since this is an elected official position. This will be at the top of the list of priorities. The equipment and facilities is also a real issue since the county has been using Julie's things for a long time since she owns and operates the funeral home.

Chairman McGinley asked if a current elected official or County employee can be appointed as a temporary Coroner. Jed will look into that.

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