

February 7, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 7, 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 advised that the crew plowed some drifted snow at Elk Horn and Horse Prairie. They will be hauling gravel this week on Blacktail and Ten Mile Road. The new mechanic started today.

Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Sheriff Paul Craft, Casey Elliott from the Tribune, Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Facilities Manager Chris Booth, Jail Commander Dan Fields, Weed Coordinator Amber Burch, Solid Waste Manager Larry Laknar and DES/Land Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht joined the meeting.

Chris advised that Jake Hales will be down this week to measure for carpeting in the front hallway and the multipurpose room. He will possibly look into doing the commissioner's room.

Mike Miller will conduct an observation for a teacher this Thursday. He asked about getting better broadband for the Reichle School. It is very frustrating as it is right now. Tracy advised that it should be all done by this summer.

Dan said that the parts are expected today for the jail renovation. The goal date is March 7 to actually begin the renovations.

Tracy said that he has been busy working on computers and printers right here in the courthouse. He also said that he finally got a quote on server so he will be pushing DIS to get the new server installed and moved up from the basement.

Paul stated that he has been in communication with Mr. Dunne since last week. He said that the new repeater will interface with the new console system. The 20-year-old Motorola doesn't have the technology to talk with the system now. Dunne suggests that the repeaters need to be replaced at a cost of \$4,200.00 a piece (\$21,000 for 5). Paul is quite frustrated with the whole situation. Tracy said that Butler really needs to be up and operating. Chairman McGinley commented that this should go to the 911 Committee for a decision. We will call a Special 911 meeting this Thursday the 10th at 3:30 p.m.

Paul also wanted to discuss the Coroner position and advised that a used ambulance has been donated to the county for Coroner use. He is quite pleased.

Amber stated that last week was the annual Weed Conference. The CWMA Big Hole Watershed Group was awarded the 2021 Outstanding CWMA award. Everyone congratulated her.

Tom W. said that there are more and more septic permits coming into his office. There has been a lot of changes in ownership of restaurants along with Airbnb's. He will be going to several conferences for DES. The EMPG Security grants have come open so he will be working on them.

Jennifer stated that she has been quite busy. Their total case load is roughly 90 cases with 60 felonies (28 active). Kayla is working on grants for her Victim Advocate position.

Chairman McGinley stated that the Auditor was in last week and had a long discussion with the commissioners regarding ARPA. Mike believes that the ARPA money can now be used for any governmental purpose but the auditor's opinion differs.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
January 30th to February 5th, 2022
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following areas: Scenic Byway, Horse Prairie,
- Hauled gravel on Blacktail Road and Ten Mile Road.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on South Valley Road.
- Hauled gravel on Ten Mile Road and Blacktail 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, Upper North Fork, Lower North Fork, Lower Bender Creek, Rock Creek, Twin Lakes, Big Swamp Creek, and Little Lake Creek.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Representative Tom Welch joined the meeting briefly just to check in.

Dillon resident JS Turner joined the meeting briefly to discuss the new Wilderness Bill HR 1755. He is quite concerned.

Discussion & Action ~ Appointment to Solid Waste Board

There is a vacancy on the Solid Waste Board and a letter of interest has been received from Dean Wise from Wisdom.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Dean Wise be appointed to the Solid Waste Board with his term to expire December 31, 2024. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Chamber Update

Rebecca Jones was unable to attend today.

Discussion & Action ~ CDBG Planning Grant Extension Request

Beaverhead County resident Chris Brozell, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht, Casey Elliott from the Tribune, Planning Board Chairman Larry Volkening and Planner Rob Macioroski joined the meeting and Rob began the discussion. Great West Senior Planner, CFM Jerry Grebenc has been in touch with him about getting an extension for this grant. 50% of this grant is completed but it's not quite done so an extension is needed; he is thinking a 12-month extension. Larry commented that the reason for this extension is that the Comprehensive Plan still needs work.

Chris asked what the CDBG stands for to which Chairman McGinley replied Community Development Block Grant.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the commissioners request by email (to Rebecca Shaw Quinones) a 12 month extension (to June of 2023) for the CDBG Planning Grant. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

On a side note, Jerry Grebenc will be attending the next Planning Board meeting this Thursday the 10th to discuss zoning and permit to build concerns.

Discussion & Action ~ Appoint Interim Coroner

Sheriff Paul Craft, Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan and Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley began the discussion and advised that as of 2/18/22, the current Coroner Julie Briggs will be resigned.

Chairman McGinley called for a motion and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Sheriff Paul Craft be appointed as the interim Coroner until December 31, 2022.

Jennifer advised that this is fine and if the position is vacant in January of 2023, the Commissioners will have another decision to make at that time. Casey asked about the transportation and storage of bodies. Chairman McGinley said that we will most likely have to contract with the Funeral Home for the storage of remains for the time being. This is a unique situation because these are both elected official positions but it is allowable under State statute as long as Paul won't be paid as the interim Coroner.

The new records will be in the Flex computer system. He plans on utilizing Deputy Coroners quite a bit to assist him as Interim Coroner. Paul will swear them all in again before February 18.

Mike thanked Paul for accepting this appointment.

A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action ~ Ski Joring in Wisdom

A letter requesting permission to use the Wisdom Airport for the annual Ski Joring event has been received.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Commissioners approve the request to hold the annual Ski Joring event at the Wisdom Airport. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A letter will be sent to the Big Hole Valley Association and Randy Bailey at the airport.

Recess

At 12:00 noon, Chairman McGinley recessed the meeting. At 1:30 p.m., Chairman McGinley reconvened the meeting with Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Rice and their Assistant Cindy Decker present.

Discussion & Action ~ Right of Way Encroachment Permit Request ~ Argenta

Planner Rob Macioroski, Casey Elliott from the Tribune and Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley began the discussion by reminding everyone what this is about. The landowner, LaVern Capek Sr. submitted a letter requesting this permit and is only asking for the *renewal* of the Encroachment Permit; he has decided against asking for the abandonment of the alley in Argenta.

Chairman McGinley went over the draft permit with the other commissioners. Jennifer reviewed it as well. The Commissioners' Assistant will send out an invoice every February for the \$50 lease amount due March 1st of every year for 10 years.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the County Right of Way Amended Encroachment Permit for LaVern Capek, Sr. be approved and signed by the Commission

Chairman. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Cindy will send this on to the landowner for signature and when it is received back with his signature, this permit will be forwarded to the Clerk & Recorder's Office for filing.

Discussion & Action ~ Sourcewell Agreement/State Bid

Beaverhead County resident Chris Brozell joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley began the discussion. Both of the other commissioners have gone over this agreement. It is a process where the State goes out for bids and local governments can get on that same bid without having to redo the bidding process.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the Sourcewell Agreement/State bid be approved and signed. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public comments Under county Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Jackson resident Jacqui Brissette joined the meeting to discuss the sewer situation in the town of Jackson. Chairman McGinley explained how the Special Districts work and that the County Commissioners have no jurisdiction within those districts; Special Districts have elected officials who run the districts.

Jacqui said that she lives right next to the sewer field and is extremely frustrated because she cannot even use her own toilet and the sewer odor is horrible. She knows that the sewer is not maintained on a regular basis. In December of 2020 and March of 2021, there was raw sewage in the field about 50 yards from the school yard and from her house. She believes that if the system is only maintained regularly, this problem would be solved or at least remedied for the time being.

Jacqui has already spoken with Tom Wagenknecht. If she doesn't get action soon, she stated that she doesn't want to but is about ready to call DEQ. Mike told her if she does call them, ask for "help & advice" first before enforcement. She will do that.

Mike advised that today is the last day to file for Special District Board open positions and maybe she should consider getting on that board. She has no desire to be on that board. Jacqui thanked the commissioners and left the meeting.

Chris Brozell stated that he has had a long-time issue with a county bridge. He said that it is Wolfe Lane Bridge on the Red Rock River and according to the county bridge list, it is classified as B33L with access to the Beaverhead River. Currently there is a sign that says "private". He would like the commissioners to look into that and they will do that.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro joined the meeting briefly to say that Nikki from the Animal Shelter was not able to come to the meeting today and may come next Monday.

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 \$73,431.80, beginning with check #208972 and ending with check #209005. 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

by *Chlor*
Deputy