

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: