

February 14, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 14, 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. They are still hauling gravel on Ten Mile Road and it is extremely dry and dusty with no snow. The Road Department will meet with Chairman McGinley tomorrow to go over budgets unless the weatherman is right and a snow storm arrives tonight.

Facilities Manager Chris Booth, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, County Attorney Jed Fitch, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan, Casey Elliott from the Tribune and Sheriff Paul Craft joined the meeting. Chris said he is waiting on quotes for the carpeting.

Mike has the spelling bee this Wednesday and he has a teacher observation in Jackson on Friday.

Paul said that the jail renovations are on schedule to begin on March 7, 2022. He will need to meet with the County Attorney regarding what will be done with the inmates during the renovations. He also wanted to discuss hiring someone for detention.

Paul stated that late last Friday, he got word from Dunne Communications that the repeater 966 Wisdom and Wisdom Sheriff were functioning and he wants someone to go and test it. He also received a quote for the 5 repeaters (as discussed in the 911 meeting) for \$21,305 and that information has been relayed to the County Attorney's office so they can draft a contract. Jed and Jennifer will be working on that including a penalty phase if not completed within 21 days.

Paul said that the ambulance has been received for Coroner use. He asked what the Deputy Coroners will be paid when they respond. Jed replied that the best thing to do would be to use a deputy who is on duty already. Paul responded by saying that he only has one actual deputy that is deputized as deputy coroner and one is a city police. Paul will speak with the Chief of Police. Chairman McGinley would like to know how many times in the past year the Coroner was called out. It varies too greatly from year to year to make a guess. Jed said that sometimes a call is 10 minutes long and sometimes it could be many hours. Mike will check into the Coroner budget.

Paul asked when the swearing in will be for the new Deputy Coroners. It is set for this Wednesday the 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Mike commented that he would like Jed to draw up a policy statement or contract that is more "generic" and can be used for other situations and then just "tweaked" for each contract.

Tracy is applying for a MLIA (Montana Land Information Act) grant which is due tomorrow.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK February 6th to February 12th, 2022 Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plowed snow on the following areas: Horse Prairie
- Hauled gravel on Ten Mile Road.
- Safety Meeting
- Moved equipment.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: South Valley and Little Sheep Creek.
- Hauled gravel on Ten Mile Road.
- Safety Meeting.
- Moved equipment.
- Shop cleaning and maintenance.
- 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, Upper and Lower North Fork, Lower Bender Creek, Twin Lakes, Rock Creek, Moose Creek, Big Lake Creek, Big Swamp Creek, Steel Creek, Gibbonsville, Warm Springs and in Wisdom.
- Cleaned a culvert in Wisdom.
- Safety Meeting.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**Discussion & Action ~ Selection of Insurance Agency Services**

County Attorney Jed Fitch and Josh Boka from Mountain View Insurance joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley began the discussion by stating that we went out for an RFQ and have followed the guidelines closely.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Beaverhead County select Mountain View Insurance as our PCT (Property Casualty Trust) agent. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike reminded everyone that there will be a 6-month probationary period and there will be much more communication taking place compared to recent years. Commissioner Rice suggested that we meet quarterly.

Josh will most likely begin by speaking with the Sheriff regarding Lexipole.

Discussion ~ City / County Updates

DES Coordinator Tom Wagenknecht, County Attorney Jed Fitch and Mayor John McGinley joined the meeting. This meeting will be taking place the first Monday of every month just to communicate with the city. John advised that the water pipe is finally installed under the Beaverhead River. The project will be wrapped up shortly and they will be back in the spring to re-seed.

Chairman McGinley commented that we are working with WWC Engineering to help with the grant for the 632 money.

The Mayor will keep the commissioners apprised as to when water will be running at the Fairgrounds again.

The Mayor said that folks have been contacting him about water use during the construction of the solar farm. Discussion ensued. Housing for the contractors was discussed and the possibility of just making "man camps" was discussed. Tom W. said that a "non-emergency" man camp would have to be licensed through the state.

Jed wanted to discuss the felonies filed in his office by the Dillon Police. He stated that there is actually a lot of consolidated efforts between the city and his office.

The Mayor commented that there is currently discussion about the city buying the old Wells Fargo building and move all city business over there and move the city Police to the City Hall.

Discussion ~ Sourcewell Equipment Purchases

RDO representative Brad Gietzen and Road Supe Bob Ferris joined the meeting. Brad said that as a dealership for John Deere, they use Sourcewell a lot and they highly recommend them. Beaverhead County has signed the agreement and has a membership number.

Commissioner Rice asked about the timeline for ordering a grader and when full payment would be expected. Brad replied that payment is expected when the equipment is delivered. Sourcewell is a cooperative purchasing agency with RDO. They are based out of Minnesota. Brad will work closely with Bob and keep in touch regarding pricing etc. especially now since everything is so volatile. Vendors pay Sourcewell a 1% fee for their services.

Chairman McGinley stated that SRS (Secured Rural Schools) has been authorized but not appropriated; so, if that doesn't come through, there is no way that a grader can be purchased this year.

He asked Brad to check if the county bought more than 2 graders if there would be a discount; Brad said that he will do that.
He thanked the Commissioners and left the meeting.

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 ~ Reconstruct Secondary Hwy 324 ~ Gravel Portion ~ “West of Grant – West” ~ Andy White MDOT

**Reconstruct Hwy 324, Gravel Portion
MONDAY, February 14 , 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
In the Commissioners' Room – Beaverhead County
Courthouse**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

Thomas Lamote

Joe Walsh MDT Bufile District

Bob Ferris

Andy White MDT Secondary Roads

DAVE GATES MDT ~~SE~~ PE (Construction) Engineer - Butte

Robbie Tamcke

John H Jackson

Casey Elliott

Cindy Decker

Geoff Streeter (phone)

Mike McGinley

Red Fitch

Tom Rice

Tracy Sawyer

Commissioner Rice stated that recently the classification for this Highway has changed. Andy stated that he is happy to be here and discuss this so we are all on the same page.

They are looking at a 6.7 mile stretch of reconstruction. He gave all the specifics of this project. This project is large enough that delivery schedule is questionable and might have to be split between fiscal years.

Chairman McGinley asked about the right of way. Joe Walsh said that they will research this thoroughly before they start. There will be a project specific agreement including maintenance.

Mike asked about the timeline to which they replied that it is about 5 years to let the project; completion of the design, right of way, etc. Of course, environmental impact always causes delays.

The commissioners expressed their pleasure that this project is finally coming to fruition. Andy stated that he already has a draft agreement and presented it to the commissioners to review.

Mike asked if there was any good news about ARPA money. Joe said that they have learned to control their expectations as everything is so uncertain.

The commissioners thanked the men from MDOT for taking the time to come down and explain this process to us.

Discussion ~ Compensation Board Members

Jed Fitch joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley began the discussion by stating that unfortunately, we lost a board member this last year, John Schuyler, so his position on the board is open and needs to be filled.

Mike said that he believes that we should change the terms to the end of December instead of June. Jed concurred. It is the duty of the commissioners to appoint the three elected officials besides the County Attorney. He said that each commissioner should pick one elected official to be on the board annually.

Commissioner Rice picked the Clerk & Recorder, Commissioner Jackson picked the Clerk of Court and Chairman McGinley picked Justice of the Peace.

The commissioners will also need to fill Mr. Schuler's position.
This will be on the agenda on March 7 for action.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Jed reminded the commissioners about the Opioid Settlement. There was a slight amendment which Jed has signed and sent back to them. There is a copy of this agreement in the Commissioners' Assistant's office.

Dillon Council person Mary Jo O'Rourke joined the meeting briefly to discuss the County representative to the City Planning Board, Vicki Brastrup; Mary Jo stated that Vicki is doing an outstanding job. She advised that in 1999 the City Planning Board changed the bylaws so that the County Representative is a voting member. That has served the City very well and she is hoping that the County will consider having a City Representative on the County Planning Board as well as a voting member. Mary Jo suggested that maybe Vicki Brastrup could be the representative to both Boards. She also brought up the fact that the City is considering creating a new zoning category and several names are being tossed around; Agricultural Bulk Storage or Commercial Bulk Storage. The permitted uses would be elevators for grain handling and storage, bulk seed storage facility, bulk fuel storage facility, commercial storage facility, storage warehouse and individual storage unit facility. All of those uses go on right now in the potato cellar area. This is not zoned as of now but is surrounded by zoned areas. The City will have to figure out how to get fire engines in and out of that area as there is no ingress and egress; there is Clark Street, period. This is why they are asking about the bridge on Clark Street to possibly do a joint city/county project.

After looking at the map, Chairman McGinley suggested they stay on this side of the railroad tracks south of the fairgrounds.

Mary Jo thanked the commissioners and left the meeting.

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 \$86,753.62, beginning with check #209006 and ending with check #209068. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

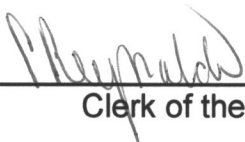
Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

There were no public comments.

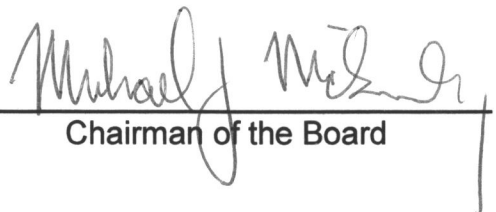
Adjourn

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