

March 21, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 21, 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 joined the meeting. He said that the bridge at Corrine Trail has been installed. It snowed over the weekend so the crew did some plowing.

GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Facilities Manager Chris Booth, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, DES Coordinator/Land Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Sheriff Paul Craft, Jail Commander Dan Fields and Casey Elliott from the Tribune joined the meeting. Chairman McGinley said that we may have the fire drill this Friday so each department can check their exit lights etc.

Mike Miller will be in Wise River on Wednesday.

Tom W. said that he is working on the EMPG that is due the end of this month. Joyce has been doing quite a few inspections to keep up with everything. Septic permitting has been super busy. He went up to the solar farm site and spoke with the folks there right now and they expressed concerns about housing during construction. There will be several hundred workers coming in. Mike Miller asked if anyone has heard if any of these workers will have school aged children; because that would be a huge influx for the schools.

Tracy has new computers to get set up in several county offices.

Paul said the jail project is coming along nicely. The Sierra Repeater has been installed and is working. Mr. Dunne plans on doing Maurer next week but is hesitant to start on Ellis because of the weather. On a side note, Dunne never did sign the agreement. Chairman McGinley would like to have a day set aside so the public can take a tour of the newly remodeled jail.

Dan expressed thanks to the Road Department for helping them remove a steel bench from one of the cells in the jail.

Jed complimented the Sheriff staff on how well they have worked during the detention renovations and the transporting of prisoners. He also stated that his office continues to be extremely busy.

Chris stated that his crew plowed snow over the weekend as well.

Chairman McGinley said that there will be a Department Head meeting in early April and he would like each person to be thinking about their budgets and what they will need. He brought up, as an example, having an elevator installed in the courthouse. He discussed the different "buckets" of money from ARPA, Cares, Homeland Security Grants and HB 632. This is actually our grandkids and/or great grandkids' money, so we want to use it to benefit *them* in the future and be here in years to come, not just us right here right now.

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