

April 4 & 5, 2022 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on April 4 & 5, 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 stated that several of his crew members attended MACRS last week. They will be hauling gravel this week. He still needs get a culvert in the third water passage on Corinne Trail. Chairman McGinley suggested that the crew start some Mag Chloride even though there isn't any moisture; especially on Ten Mile and Stone Creek because of new gravel surfaces. Bob also said that "pot hole" season is in full swing. The oil for the durapatch machine is going to be ridiculously expensive. McGinley advised that SRS funds are expected to be deposited any day now.

Casey Elliott from the Tribune, Facilities Jim Sivils, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller, Sheriff Paul Craft and County Attorney Jed Fitch joined the meeting.

Paul said that Tom Dunne is on his way to Maurer right now and will be installing two repeaters; one for Dillon South and one for 966. This will put us closer to putting the grant to bed. Ellis is still under too much snow.

Also, he has gotten info from NOA that they want to go into the IM site. He is leaning towards having them put up another smaller guy tower that is at least 50 feet away from our tower stuff. In the contract, it needs to be stated that if their radio interferes with our emergency communications, we have the right to shut them down. He has heard that NOA has trouble with interference almost everywhere they go. Jed will assist with this contract.

As far as the jail project goes, the floors got their last clear coat on and need to dry for another two days. He will hold an open house on April 12 from 3 pm to 7 pm. Paul will advertise this on his Facebook page and Cindy will put an ad in the Tribune and the radio. The Chamber of Commerce will actually conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony right at 3 pm. The public will enter through the Sally Port and tour the jail only.

Jim will start up the generators this morning as a test to be sure that they are working before the predicted storm arrives. Chairman McGinley advised that Facilities Manager Chris booth has resigned so we will be looking for a replacement. Jim Sivils will be retiring in June.

Tracy has 3 out of 4 computers installed in the Treasurer's Office. He advised that there are 6 people that have not completed the Cyber Security annual assessment. He has started on the Stibal gravel pit and has tried to light a fire under the BLM to get their archeological report going so that might take a while. He hasn't heard anything from Barrett's Minerals regarding the address change.

Mike Miller has a Wisdom school board meeting this Tuesday. He would like them to hire a PE and Health teacher to travel to each rural school.

Jed said that there are a lot of difficult child victim cases going on right now. Jennifer has been working hard. He advised that Chief Guiberson will be retiring at the end of this month.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
March 27th to April 2nd, 2022
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Trout Creek, East Bench, Stoddard, Anderson, Argenta, Ten Mile, Stonehouse, and Medicine Lodge.
- MACRS (MT Association of County Road Supervisors) conference in Great Falls.
- Road checked Dillon area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

LIMA AREA

- Bladed on the following roads: Big Sheep Creek and Dell Airport.
- Hauled clay on Big Sheep Creek Road.
- Shoulder and ditch work on Big Sheep Creek Road.
- MACRS conference in Great Falls.
- Road checked Lima and Dell area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

WISDOM AREA

- Plowed snow on the following roads: Moose Creek and Twin Lakes.
- Brush trim and culvert repair on Rock Creek Road.
- MACRS conference in Great Falls.
- Moved equipment.
- Road checked Jackson and Wisdom area roads.
- Equipment service and repair.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that the minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**Chamber of Commerce Update**

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Jones joined the meeting and began the discussion. She is finalizing the "visit Dillon" brochure and is very excited about that.

Chairman McGinley told her about the open house in detention on April 12th. Rebecca will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for us.

Discussion ~ City / County Updates

City of Dillon Mayor John McGinley joined the meeting. Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Morgan and GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer joined the meeting as well. John said that the city has sent in their bill for the water project at the fairgrounds. Discussion ensued about finding out if it was the mainline or just a service line that broke. It sounds like the old 4H building will be coming down this week. John also commented that the solar farm folks have started to use some water up there from the fire hydrant.

The next phase of the city water project on Idaho Street will begin next week. He also mentioned that an individual from Bozeman has approached him about the possibility of buying up some land by Overland Lane (across from the soccer fields) and it would have to be annexed into the city if they want city services.

Discussion & Action ~ Letter of Support for Broadband Deployment

Tracy Sawyer and Scott Wade from AirGrids joined the meeting. An email was received from Scott Wade with AirGrids requesting a letter of support for improving broadband internet access to Dillon and the Beaverhead County area of Southwestern Montana.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that a letter of support be drafted and signed by the commissioners to improve broadband internet access to Dillon and the Beaverhead County area of SW Montana.

Chairman McGinley asked for discussion.

Commissioner Rice asked if he can subcontract some of the work. Scott has three part time folks and so they cross share for when people are on vacation. In addition, if they get this grant, they will be able to hire another person.

Chairman McGinley called for the question:

A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the letter can be viewed below:



Beaverhead County Commissioners
2 South Pacific St., Ste. #4
Dillon, MT 59725-4000
Phone: (406)683-3750 Fax: (406)683-3772
trice@beaverheadcounty.org
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March 28, 2022

Citizen Advisory Board
Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust

RE: Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

The Beaverhead County Commission would like to express their support for the Beaverhead Trails Coalition grant request to purchase 40 acres of land adjacent to the NW edge of High Trails land.

The Beaverhead Trails Coalition has signed a buy-sell agreement with Harold Brown for this acreage. The land to be purchased would act as a corridor connecting the High Trails to BLM land further back in the foothills and closer to the East Pioneer Mountains.


They are applying to the MFWCT again this year for a \$38,000 grant to purchase the land. The grant application is April 8, 2022.


The BLM has previously indicated a desire to work with BTC and build trail(s) into BLM land. This would increase length of trails and provide significantly greater public access into Dillon's west foothills country.


Once the entire trail system and trailheads are adequately refined, the land will be transferred to Beaverhead County to be held in perpetuity for public access. Beaverhead Trails Coalition will continue to maintain the trails.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or for more information.

Sincerely,


C. Thomas Rice
Commissioner


Michael J. McGinley
Chairman


John H. Jackson
Commissioner

ccfd
cc: Dan Downey

Recess

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

Constitutional Initiative 121 – Questions & Answers – Discussion

Representative Tom Welch, Clerk & Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Jed Fitch, Tracy Sawyer and Casey Elliott joined the meeting.

This is strictly for educational purposes. Tom W. stated that we all should be gathering information and educating ourselves. There is so much misinformation out there. His personal opinion is that it should go through the Legislature, not as an Initiative. Chairman McGinley gave the nuts and bolts of this Initiative.

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

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 \$45,119.30, beginning with check #209323 and ending with check #209364. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

There were no public comments.

Recess

The Commission is recessed at 5:00 p.m. until tomorrow.

Reconvene

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, reconvene in session on April 5, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner C. Thomas Rice, Vice Chairman John H. Jackson and their Assistant Cindy Decker. Chairman Michael J. McGinley was absent attending meetings in Helena.

Discussion & Action ~ Beaverhead County/Forest Service ~ Schedule "A" Agreement

Forest Service Equipment Operator JS Turner, Dillon District Ranger Jamie Tripp, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Road Department Supervisor Bob Ferris and Forest Service Civil Engineering Technician Jeremiah Sperry joined the meeting.

There are no changes to the agreement this year. Jamie said that they are looking at the Clark Creek Road again this year. Last year, JS tore out a bunch of willows along the creek which helped for a bit, but the beavers have done damage again.

Jamie and Jeremiah recommended that the county take over the Road and then go after some FLAP funding for a new bridge. Much discussion ensued. Jeremiah will look into when the next FLAP or RAC grant will be offered and get back to the commissioners.

Jed Fitch joined the meeting late.

Commissioner Rice said that we should just leave this in "research mode" for now and gather as much information as we can. The issue of the 60 foot easement/right of way came up for discussion.

After brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the 2022 Schedule "A" Agreement be adopted & signed. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Three originals were signed so each entity can file this agreement.

Adjourn

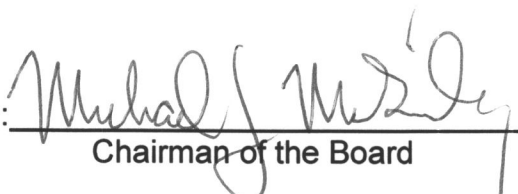
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Chairman of the Board