

December 23rd, 2024 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on December 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner Chairman John Jackson, Commissioner Tom Rice and Commissioner Support Specialist Dana Basile.

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 was present and updated the commissioners with the road report. Bob reported they plowed a little snow but not much. They hauled gravel on Nissen. He is looking forward to opening the bids for the Steel Bridge Lane Bridge later in the meeting.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
December 15th to December 21st, 2024
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow on Byway and Hwy 324
- Blade on Smith Rd and Sweetwater Rd
 - Haul Gravel on Nissen Ln
 - Shop clean
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Road Check
- Tire repair
- Equipment Move and Service/check

LIMA AREA

- Road check
- Equipment repair, cleaning, and setup
 - Plow South Valley Rd

Planner Rob Macioroski, Facilities Manger Shonna Graham, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, Reporter Casey Elliot joined the meeting.

Nick commented he is just plugging away. There was a dumpster fire yesterday in Glen from dumped ashes, the person returned and told them he dumped hot ashes. He finished up the I Am Responding stuff. Nick contacted Motorola to try to get a different system through Motorola- to get a plug in in the shop.

Tom added big thank you for Nick to doing the I AM Responding stuff. The issues with the Siren system is being ironed out. Regarding the Ice jamming stuff, he is working on a 310 permit to facilitate for the property owner out there. Beaverhead is not "helping" with the project except this permit. He is finishing up building the flow chart and putting it on the website so it's easy to access by the public so they know what permits are needed when and for what. The rough draft should be ready soon.

Shonna commented we had the boiler inspection last week and passed. She is still working on the airport boiler inspection. The last camera was installed for the security system at Treasurers' office. The plumber was down in the jail and fixed the pressure

problem with the water softener. They got most of the Extension Office moved last week and will finish this week. They should be there by the 2nd and getting started.

Mike added all schools are on Christmas vacation. They did hire a teacher for Wise River. He is a student at Western. He will require an emergency license from the state. There were 2 interviews for the job.

Ron mentioned he is working on flood plain and the year-end report. He shared good news- all planning board members are returning so there are no vacant seats.

Amber added she is doing a last push for grants, they are due Jan 6th. She will be here part of day and out part for kids being out of school. She is also still getting over pneumonia.

Discussion and Potential Action- Security Cameras in District Court

Judge Berger and Carly Anderson joined and began the discussion.

Carly stated that a few years ago we got the cameras. Judge added it was in 2019/2020, Tom W and the previous sheriff got a courthouse security grant and the main part was the cameras. The sheriff's office monitors and runs the cameras. It was always pitched to them that they would have access and ability to control if needed but that is not the case. In order to view the cameras, they need to log in to a website and it is timely and not efficient. Carly went directly to the company that did the cameras to get access to view the cameras but they have limited means as to what they can do with that. The Judge needs access to jump on them to see if anyone is in the courtroom as needed. Carly needs a TV screen where she can see who is coming and who is coming up the steps but no one has been able to assist with that.

Commissioner Rice asked if this was in the contract to get the access on a screen.

Judge Berger said he doesn't remember and Carly never saw the grant/contract that was signed.

Judge Berger added once the grant was received and cameras went up, that was the end of their being involved. Redtail is the company that did the installation.

They were led to believe it was in the contract and they want to know if it is and if there is a way they can get funding to get it if not.

They need the ability to access it in real time. A screen would be most beneficial- like the Sheriff's office has in dispatch.

Carly met with the Redtail Communications and they came back with a large number for the work. They are asking if there is any money left in the grant for them to complete this. If they combine the labor with the work being done in Clerk and Recorder's office then the cost would be less.

Commissioner Rice wants to look at the specifics of the grant and contract to see if that was originally in it.

Judge said the cameras are already there, they need the wiring, monitor and a few cameras adjusted.

Commissioner Rice said he will look into it and let Carly know. They have an estimate of the work needed but we need to see if this should've been part of the grant or if there is money left from the Homeland Security grant and Court Security. Check with Tom Wagenknecht.

Discussion and Action- Open Bids for Steel Bridge Lane

Commissioner Jackson began the discussion, Bob Ferris was present. There were 3 bids submitted for the Steel Bridge Lane project: True North Steel, Contech, and RTI Fab.

Each bid was opened and listed below:

True North Steel- \$132,914
Contech- \$169,800
RTI Fab- \$145,000

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that True North Steel be chosen to build the Steel Bridge Lane bridge. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 16th, 2024 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the minutes from the December 16th meeting be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Recess

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

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Commissioner Rice wants to discuss that he was approached because Graeme Mcdougal is retiring and applications are being taken for this position. Andy Weiser asked for a letter of endorsement from the Commissioners as a previous resident of Beaverhead County.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the endorsement for Andy Weiser be approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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 \$24,916.59, beginning with check #216876 and ending with check #216913. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approved: _____
Clerk of the Board Chairman of the Board