

December 30th, 2024 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on December 30, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner Chairman John Jackson, Commissioner Tom Rice, Commissioner Mike McGinley 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. He added that we finally got a little snow up by Elkhorn. They hauled gravel on Nissen lane. The Steel Bridge Lane Bridge was ordered. True North said they hope to have it done much earlier than the due date of June 2025.

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

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY ROAD WORK
December 22nd to December 28th, 2024
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow on Byway, Bannack Bench, Hwy 324, Lemhi
 - Haul Gravel on Nissen Ln
 - Ordered Bridge for Steel Bridge Lane
 - Shop clean
 - Repairs and Maintenance
 - Road Check

WISDOM AREA

- Plow Upper and Lower North Fork
 - Road Check
 - Tire repair
 - Equipment Service

LIMA AREA

- Road check
- Equipment repair, cleaning, and setup
 - Plow snow as needed

Planner Rob Macioroski, Facilities Manger Shonna Graham, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Tracy Sawyer, Human Resources Paul Craft, MSU Extension Jack Bazemore, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, and Sheriff David Wendt joined the meeting.

Jack commented the office will be closed today and tomorrow for the final move. They will reopen after January 1st across the street.

Paul added he is getting everything ready for the Department Head meeting on January 6th.

Shonna mentioned they are still moving the extension office and plan to move Amber and the Weed Office next week.

Joyce added she is running up to Maverick today for the last inspection of the year.

Stacey had no comments to add.

Sheriff Wendt added he is busy and there are 15 downstairs.

Ian reiterated that there are 15 downstairs but a few of them are holds for other places. One person is on suicide watch which involves 15 minute physical checks and constant live stream.

Tracy mentioned last week he had issues with the phones for extension office transferring to the new office- he is still working on that this week.

Mike Miller commented that most of the schools start back up on January 2nd. The new teacher in Wise River is visiting January 2nd and 3rd to meet everyone. They will start later in January.

Rob added he will be issuing a flood plain permit off Laknar this week. He will give the Commissioners his year-end report later in the meeting.

Appointments to Various County Boards

Airport Board

There are 2 three-year terms expiring this year. Letters of interest have been received from Lawrence Morrisroe and Delbert Hunt. The outgoing member is Mike Blinn.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that Lawrence Morrisroe be reappointed and Delbert Hunt be appointed to the Airport Board with their terms to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery Board

There is 1 three-year term expiring this year. A letter of interest has been received from Mike Richardson.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Mike Richardson be reappointed to the Cemetery Board with their term to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Fair Board

There are 2 three-year terms expiring this year. Letters of interest have been received from Will Shirley and Jack Bazemore.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Will Shirley and Jack Bazemore be reappointed to the Fair Board with their terms to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Livestock Protective Committee

There are 2 two-year terms expiring this year. Two letters of interest have been received from Tom Helle and Ross Hansen to be reappointed to the board

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Tom Helle and Ross Hansen be reappointed to the Livestock Protective Committee with his term to expire on December 31, 2026. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Mental Health LAC

There are 2 four-year terms expiring this year and one vacant seat. Three letters of interest have been received from Andrea Schurg, Ashley Burgess, and Natalie Paulbeck.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Chairman McGinley seconded that Andrea Schurg and Ashley Burgess be reappointed and Natalie Paulbeck be appointed to the Mental Health Local Advisory Committee with their term to expire on December 31, 2028. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Kayla Hatfield is appointed as the Barrett Hospital Rep and Tasha Felton is appointed as the UMW Rep per their positions in the community.

Museum Board

There are 3 three-year terms expiring this year. Letters of interest have been received from Kristy Pozenga, Donna Jones and Mark McGinley

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Kristy Pozenga, Mark McGinley, and Donna Jones be reappointed to the Museum Board with their terms to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Planning Board

Planner Rob Macioroski and Planning Assistant Rochelle Hoerning joined the meeting. There are 5 two-year terms expiring this year. Letters of interest have been received from Larry Yuhas, Rich Lawson, Justin Yoder, Justin Stanchfield, and Ken Scalzone

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Larry Yuhas, Rich Lawson, Justin Yoder, Justin Stanchfield, and Ken Scalzone be reappointed to the Planning Board with their terms to expire December 31, 2026. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Solid Waste Board

There is 1 three-year term expiring this year. One letter of interest has been received from Dean Wise.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Dean Wise be reappointed to the Solid Waste Board with his term to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Tax Appeal Board

There is 1 three-year term expiring this year. A letter of interest has been received from Jason Karch.

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Jason Karch be reappointed to the Tax Appeal Board with his term to expire December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Weed Control Board

There are 2 three-year terms expiring this year. Letters of interest have been received from Dean Stanchfield and Carter Butori.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Dean Stanchfield and Carter Butori be reappointed to the Weed Control Board with their terms to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

City/County Board of Health

There are 2 three-year terms expiring this year and one vacant seat. Letters of interest have been received from Megan Evans, Johnny MacLean, and Damian Guillen. The outgoing member is Nicole Hazelbaker.

MOTION: Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Rice seconded that Megan Evans be reappointed and Johnny MacLean and Damian Guillen be appointed to the City/County Board of Health with their terms to expire on December 31, 2027. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Planners Year End Report

Rob Macioroski was present and began the discussion by reviewing all the activities of 2024. The full report will be located with the County Planner.

Discussion and Action- New Hire Recommendation for the Deputy Clerk and Recorder Position

Clerk and Recorder, Stacey Reynolds was present and began the discussion of recommending Jasmine Muntzer to be hired as a Deputy Clerk and Recorder starting in January. They held interviews for 3 weeks. They picked the top 2 to bring back again and they decided on Jasmine.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that Jasmine Muntzer be approved to hire as a Deputy Clerk and Recorder. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 23rd, 2024 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Commissioner Rice moved and Commissioner McGinley seconded that the minutes from the December 23rd 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 Jackson reconvened the meeting with Commissioner Rice, Commissioner McGinley 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 he was approached for input 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 \$43,958.32 beginning with check #216918 and ending with check #216948. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Voided check # 216741 dated 11/24 in the amount of \$1260.99 which makes the total issued \$42,697.33.

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