

February 3, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on February 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner Chairman John Jackson, Commissioner Michael McGinley, 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 not present.

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

January 26th to February 1st, 2025
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow snow on Byway, Local Roads, Horse Prairie
 - Haul Gravel on Carter Ck Road
 - Equipment Service and repair
 - Check local roads

WISDOM AREA

- Road Check
- Plow snow Little Lake, Big Swamp, and Big Lake
 - Plow Wisdom Yard
 - Equipment Repair and Move

LIMA AREA

- Plow Snow on South Valley Road
- Flood Control on West Road
- Equipment Move and Repair
 - Road Check

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, Planner Rob Macioroski, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Jail Commander Ian Ternes, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Forest Service Andrew Young, Sheriff David Wendt, County Attorney Sky Jones, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, and Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, joined the meeting.

Nick commented last week someone dumped 55 gallons of oil that spilled- it needed to get dried and then he was able to get it cleaned up. The internet is now working for scale and the kiosk is complete.

Jack added he has the Fair Board meeting tonight. The Master Gardener class has 31 signed up. The FFA banquet is Friday night.

Amber mentioned that last week was the NWCA conference and Beaverhead Weed District was named weed district of the year.

Mike commented there are a few visits planned this week to the rural schools. Teachers and clerks are working to finish up their accreditations for the year for OPI.

Rob added Geoduck is looking to narrow the river to encourage trout on their ranch. There are a couple minor subdivisions coming soon to plat approval. Economic conference in Butte on Thursday, all the Commissioners are planning to attend.

Tom added he had some enforcement issues and inquiries about incoming subdivisions. Permits are trickling in. At the LEPC meeting at 10:30, he plans to go over Homeland security grants.

Lilia mentioned the nurse is doing daycare reviews. She is working on logistics of getting a nurse to the jail once a week.

Stacey commented her office is quiet this week.

Shonna added she brought Sean with her. He had his boiler test last week and passed. Alexis is set up for a class in March for her boiler license. Sean has been busy painting. Kevin is working on Jail Commander's office. She is trying to get Lillias generator set to be hooked up in April. The showers in the jail had issues this weekend again. They need replacement parts ordered.

Tracy mentioned that 13 still need to take the Cybersecurity test. He is working on the scale house at the landfill this week. There is a petition to make Axis Canyon a county road.

Sheriff Wendt added he had a busy week. The K9 units have been doing good. The cadaver trained dog helped find a body in a burned home last week in Idaho. He brought Andrew Young with Forest Service to meet the Commissioners. David added that he is working on building a room for temporary juvenile hold because they can't be in the General population holding cell.

Ian commented there are 17 downstairs. They have been having issues with fights in the jail. They are still holding one mental health person waiting for transfer. The showers are still having problems. He had to cover shifts this week with staff out.

Sky added there will be a few job postings as the Deputy County Attorney, Zach, decided to take a position in Texas so a new deputy county attorney is needed. They will also potentially have an opening for a permanent part time victim assistant. He is working with on things for the Airport Board and the Conservation Board with items needing his attention.

Mike McGinley added that there will be a legislative update is this afternoon. There are a lot of bills going through regarding property taxes. There is talk about raising teachers pay across the state but this might mean raising property taxes.

Chamber Update

Rebecca Jones joined and updated the Commissioners on Chamber matters. She reported the Chamber Gala was Saturday night and went well. There were 11 business winners and four teachers awarded. She referenced the Shot Show in Vegas she attended and updated the Commissioners on who she spoke to about what topics. A company from Germany asked for a red carpet tour of Dillon and Beaverhead County to possibly bring a manufacturing business here for job opportunities.

McGinley asked about the new gun shop here in Dillon. Rebecca answered they are a couple out of Washington that bought the space and renovated the building. They joined the chamber.

LEPC Meeting

The minutes from the LEPC meeting will be located in the DES office.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 27, 2025 meeting were not read or approved. They will be read at the next Commissioner meeting.

Recess

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

Discussion- MACo Healthcare Trust

Bob Ferris, Stacy Setzer and the Commissioners were present. Joann Romasko with MACo was here to present to the Commissioners. She brought a handout specific to Beaverhead County healthcare plan and details which will be located in the Finance/ Human Resources office if needed to review.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda**Legislative Update**

Present were Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Sheriff David Wendt, Road Supervisor Bob Ferris and Casey Elliott Dillon Tribune Reporter.

Commissioner McGinley began the discussion with mentioning SB 254. There was a draft resolution sent to sign and go against this bill. McGinley asked if the Commissioners will sign a Resolution next meeting. He is asking Stacey and David if they want to sign for support of this too and their names can be added to the resolution as well.

Other bills mentioned were SB223 regarding reserve sheriffs, one on County Road maintenance districts regarding private roads, Property tax bill SB 117 regarding newly taxable property, SB236 regarding longevity for detention officers.

Medicaid Expansion was mentioned as well on a National Level.

Stacey mentioned HB179 regarding inactive status of voters and petitions. HB193 requires a signature for cancellations of voter registrations. There is also a bill regarding disclosure of paid signature gatherers. Another regarding revising the clerk and recorders fee.

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 \$22,984.68 beginning with check #217128 and ending with check #217155. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

- Check # 217127 was written and approved 1/29/25
- Check # 217156 was written and approved 1/31/25

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