

March 3, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner 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 reported that they plowed a little snow last week and then it got warm. They were able to get the supersills built for Nissen Lane Bridge. The bridge is scheduled to be replaced April 7-9.

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

February 23rd to March 1st, 2025
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow snow on Byway, Horse Prairie, Local Roads
- Build Supersill Boxes for Nissen Ln Bridge
- Equipment Repairs and Maintenance
 - Check local roads

WISDOM AREA

- Road Check
- Plow and Pile Snow in Wisdom, Rock Ck, Steel Ck
 - Pump Oil into Shop
- Plow Lower and Upper North Fork, Lower Bender, Lower Mussigbrod,
- Plow Twin Lakes, Big Lake, Big Swamp, Little Lake, Miner Lake, and Skinner Meadows
 - Burn Willows Big Lake

LIMA AREA

- Plow Snow on South Valley Road and Little Sheep Creek rd
 - Equipment Repair, Welding, and Fabricating
 - Shop Clean
 - Road Check

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Planner Rob Macioroski, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Public Health Supervisor Lilia Guillen-Sanchez, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Sheriff David Wendt, County Attorney Sky Jones, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, and Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, joined the meeting.

Jack reported he has a busy week. He will be in Missoula for most of it.

Mike added the schools finished their accreditation reports for OPI last week. Today he is going to Helena for the County Superintendent Spring Conference. The Rural Schools Science fair is all day on Friday at Keltz arena on UMW campus.

Rob commented he has been working with Verizon doing upgrades on cell towers in Wise River and Jackson. The Planning board meeting is on 3/13 looking at 2 conservation easements.

Shonna mentioned the mailbox was added to the front for outgoing mail. She ordered the generator for public health and it should be here by the first week of April. Currently, one boiler is down in the Courthouse. The generator in the jail was inspected and running well. The State OSHA inspection was last week and we passed. She is looking to replace the panic buttons for the detention officers. The acorn parts for the showers were replaced in the jail last week.

Stacey added today is closing for write in candidates for special districts.

Lilia commented they should be getting their generator and sign in April. It has been business as usual. She is waiting to hear about grants. She applied for a behavioral health grant recently to do more in the community with BH.

Joyce commented no word on grants from FDA. She is going to Polaris this morning to do an inspection. The hotel in Lima was recently purchased and being fixed up so she will also be out there this week.

Randi mentioned that the last 2 weeks have been very busy but this week looks like back to normal.

Nick added the landfill is open on Sundays now. He has just been working with Tracy to get DIS to finish the kiosk network.

Sheriff David added busy weekend with 19 downstairs.

Sky mentioned they are staying busy. They hired a new deputy attorney that starts next week. Sky mentioned he will be out of state next week for family matters. They are still waiting on building permit to renovate. SB254 was mentioned regarding lobbying.

Lilia also mentioned an alleged drunk driver hit the county public health car last week. It is hopefully only cosmetic damage.

Discussion and Action- Plutt Minor Subdivision Final Plat Approval

Present: Rob Macioroski, Dillon Mayor John McGinley, County Attorney Sky Jones, Kathy and Mark Simkins

Rob reported they got the DEQ report back finally. They met all the requirements in June of 2021. It is all ready to go.

Mayor asked about the water system and hooking up to city water versus wells. He would like to see the numbers. He also questioned the amount of hydrants DEQ is recommending. He is curious where DEQ came up with the figures.

Sky added he is not involved but he thinks it would be a good idea to reach out to Susan for her advice.

Tom Rice added they have DEQ approval so he would like to motion to approve.

Motion: Rice moved and Jackson seconded to approve the final plat for the Plutt Minor Subdivision. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action- MACo Health Care Trust Renewal

Present: Payroll Stacy Setzer, Dillon Tribune Casey Elliot

Jackson started with a 9.8% charge increase and asked Stacy if there are any comments. The Insurance Committee met and agreed to the rate increase.

Motion: Rice moved and Jackson seconded to accept the MACo Health Care Trust renewal for another year. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson signed the paperwork to renew the healthcare with MACo.

Discussion- George Warner Regarding Trustee Positions

Present: George Warner, Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, County Attorney Sky Jones

George began the discussion with stating he is here to clear up any misconceptions that may have come up last year. He presented a letter to the Commissioners that he also sent to the County Attorney last year. He is concerned with the vacancies on the public hospital board in the coming year. He would like to be appointed to one of the positions. Stacey added last year there were 2 candidate positions open. This year there is 1 open position and a vacant position. She sent a letter to the hospital district in December 2024 regarding the 2 vacant positions and upcoming openings.

Sky clarified about the candidates and applicants. There is not a need for an election if there are 2 openings and 2 applicants. This will save money for the hospital district on the elections.

With everyone on the same page, as of 5pm if there are no other applications for the positions, Stacey will send a letter to the Commissioners' to elect by acclimation in May.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting were read and the following motion was made:

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

Recess

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

Legislative Update

No one was present. No updates discussed.

Discussion- Kelly Cotton from the Office of Senator Sheehy

Present: Sheriff David Wendt, Dillon Tribune Casey Elliot, and a few members of the community

Cotton was present and began the discussion by introducing herself. She spoke with Commissioner McGinley at MACo last week and wanted to introduce herself to the other commissioners. Commissioner Jackson opened the floor to the community to ask questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the federal forest service worker layoffs lately. Cotton said Senator Sheehy is monitoring the situation. The Senator supports the efforts of DOGE but is for common sense reform. She also stated that hearing the concerns of the public is very important to Senator Sheehy.

Another question was asked regarding the pardons of the January 6th participants. He was wondering what Sheehy's response was to those pardons. It was replied that the Senator did not issue a statement in regards to that.

Other concerns mentioned were regarding the public lands, standing with Russia, and the federal employee layoffs.

Another concern was regarding the budget the House passed and tax cuts. Cotton responded that Senator Sheehy has said that even the administration does not support these cuts.

Commissioner Jackson thanked Kelly for coming by and listening to the community concerns.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

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 \$46,931.16 beginning with check #217279 and ending with check #217314. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

Check #217278 was written approved 2/26/25

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