

March 24, 2025 Regular Session of the Beaverhead County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners, in and for Beaverhead County, Montana, met in session on March 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Beaverhead County Courthouse. Present: Commissioner John Jackson, Commissioner Michael 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 reported that Monday the Elkhorn got around 14" of snow so they plowed there. They started blading and hauled gravel locally. MDT contacted him regarding the Hwy 91 Bridge they will be working on and discussed a detour- options are Pioneer Dr and Shuler. They are getting ready for Nissen bridgework soon.

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

March 23rd to March 29th, 2025
Dillon, Lima and Wisdom Areas

DILLON AREA

- Plow Snow on ByWay, Hwy 324
- Install Cattle Guard on Schoolhouse Rd
- Equipment Repairs and Maintenance
 - Check local roads

WISDOM AREA

- Road Check
- Plow Upper and Lower North Fork, Steel Ck, Twin Lakes, Big Lake Ck
 - Burn Willows on Twin Lakes and Big Lake
 - Shop Clean

LIMA AREA

- Plow Snow on South Valley Road Rd
- Equipment Setup, Weld, and Fabrication
 - Shop and yard Maintenance
 - Sign repair on Lima Dam Road
 - Road Check

Clerk and Recorder Stacey Reynolds, Planner Rob Macioroski, School Superintendent Mike Miller, Landfill Supervisor Nick Hoem, Justice of the Peace Randi Braddock, Weeds Supervisor Amber Burch, Facilities Manager Shonna Graham, MSU Extension Agent Jack Bazemore, Fairground Manager Justin Kellabrew, Food Sanitarian Joyce Pollastro, Deputy County Attorney Margot Newman, GIS Coordinator Tracy Sawyer, and Land Use Sanitarian Tom Wagenknecht, joined the meeting.

Nick added that he attended a communications training last week in Vegas. Later this week, he will be heading to Butte for a training with Tom. He is playing catch up since he was gone most of last week. They have the network running at the kiosk now.

Jack commented he has a busy week. He will be interviewing intern candidates and teaching the Master Gardener class. There is a sustainable ranching class in 4H building on increasing ranch profitability tomorrow and water court in the 4H building on Wednesday. He will be taking 4H students on a Field trip at the end of the week.

Justin added they are getting ready to open up. Youth Challenge students are helping clean out the stalls. He is starting to interview for the landscaping help position. Events

are starting to book through summer. The electricians are putting in new lines for vendors this week.

Rob mentioned the minor subdivision final plat approval today and there should be another one coming to final plat next week. A few Big Hole development permits also came in.

Amber mentioned that last week they had the Big Hole watershed committee they presented at and it was a full room. The SW area training in Three Fork is on Thursday. This week she is out most of the week.

Mike commented he is going to Wise River today to do a practice test with the new teacher. He will stop at Reichle to check in also. The schools are getting ready for state testing. He also received information from OPI regarding isolation status to help with finances.

Joyce added she is going to Wise River today to do some inspections. They are dealing with other things like work camps and subdivision laws. She is still waiting to hear about grant money.

Tom mentioned they are currently dealing with an RV park situation in city limits of Dillon along with other enforcement issues. For DES, he is working on the three Homeland Security Grants. April 7 is next LEPC meeting to finalize and prioritize the grants. With it being fire season and the wind blowing like it has, they are watching burning outside of permits and the winds might cause them to change to no burns allowed.

Margot added no updates from the County Attorney's office.

Shonna added last week Alexis went to boiler class and passed but she needs to still take the state test. Rocky Mountain Boiler will be here to fix pump this week. She also had a meeting with plumbers on showers- might take 16-18 weeks to get the custom parts. The furniture for Elections office arriving today. Treasures office had fire inspection and passed. She will be out Friday and Monday for vacation.

Stacey mentioned furniture coming for the Elections office this week.

Randi added last week was hectic. She subbed for City Court. Bo was on vacation and out sick two other days. She mentioned the shooter at Lewis and Clark County Courthouse and that she reached out to the judges there. She wanted to point out the need for an active shooter training and wants to talk about adding that to the safety fair. There have been lots of orders of protection in the last few weeks in the community.

Tracy commented he is slowly replacing all the computers that need it. This week he is working with treasurer on new system and making progress on the landfill project. He received word that the Hershey Gravel permit might be finalized shortly.

McGinley added he was at HCT AGRiP conference last week and the overall message was about AI. He wants to show staff the slide deck as it contained lots of great information about AI. Other part was regarding medical part and pharmacy drugs reacting with DNA. Cancer treatments was a big topic.

Discussion and Action- Axes Canyon Minor Subdivision Final Plat Approval

Present: Rob Macioroski, Michele Stephen-Hassard, Tom Wagenknect, Matt Moore

Rob presented maps to the Commissioners showing the plats. They got DEQ approval. All conditions have been met.

Michele asked in the Beaverhead county subdivision request, Item 7 the type of subdivision says multi family dwellings, Rob clarified that these are for single family residence . If they want to add a 2nd dwelling such as a mother in law they would need to go through DEQ again for approval. Tom mentioned this will be a part of the covenants.

Michele asked about the inconsistencies in the covenants. Rob said they have been corrected to the best of his knowledge.

Mike M and Tom W clarified that all the subdivisions are usually written to be single family dwellings and in order to add another dwelling, they should go through DEQ. Less than 20 acres has to go through DEQ.

MOTION: Commissioner McGinley moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded that the Axes Canyon Estates Minor Subdivision Final Plat be signed and approved. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 17, 2025 meeting were not able to be read and no motion was made.

Recess

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

Legislative Update

No one was present for the update this week.

Public Comments on Subjects Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda

Unfinished Business/Other Topics of Discussion

Nolan Salix from Youth Employment Program joined the Commissioners and spoke about the program and what they do for Beaverhead County and the Dillon Community. It is a nonprofit that works with local youth matching them with forest service and BLM jobs. Last summer they had 30 employees in the program.

Pipeline program is what helps the students figure out their goals and get them in the careers they are interested in with Forest Service or nonprofit.

They work similar as the Anaconda Job Corps but are more local and they stay to land management based career fields.

They also work closely with the MYCA and the cadets help out on projects in the summer. Mike asked if he wants to replicate across the state- Nolan said he wants to be in the community and helping youth in that community- any community.

Mike offered to take the flyers to the state workforce meeting in Butte at the Anaconda Job Corp.

Stacey Reynolds, Carly Anderson, Judge Berger, Shonna Graham, Tom Wagenknecht, David Wendt, Ceth Haggard, Tracy Sawyer and Stacy Setzer were present and asked to discuss courthouse safety with the Commissioners.

With the incident in Lewis and Clark County close to home, courthouse safety needs to be a priority. Details of the incident were discussed briefly.

Tom mentioned the 2022 Homeland Security grant and the security assessment that was done by a private company out of Washington. They had recommendations on how to make the building more secure. We used this report to justify funding for starting the key fob and closed security and additional cameras.

Tom is applying for a Homeland security grant to add to our security and safety. Discussion ensued regarding an action plan and what to implement in regards to an active shooter incident.

Judge Berger added comments on other courthouses he has been involved in and potential threats and ways to simple fix. Discussion about the Courtroom, the Treasurers building and Public Health ensued about how to make the buildings safer.

Tom mentioned we need to with the LEPC and Safety Committee put on an active shooter training, situational awareness training, or general how to respond in case something happens.

We will start the discussion at the Safety Meeting on April 14th. It was also proposed to do a monthly safety meeting for the next few months.

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 \$51,624.88 beginning with check #217445 and ending with check #217466. The Invoice Payment Schedule is located in the Financial Administrator's Office.

The Commissioners, from 3/11-3/19, reviewed and approved checks #217384-217444 totaling \$118,304.95 with the Finance 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