

Beaver County Commission Work Meeting
Beaver, UT 84713
August 17, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met on August 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. for its regular Commission Work Meeting. Attending were: Commissioner Mark Whitney, Chairman; Commissioner Tammy Pearson; Commissioner Wade Hollingshead; Ginger McMullin, Clerk/Auditor; Rob Pyles, Administrative Services Coordinator; Stephanie Laws, Commission Secretary and Von Christiansen, County Attorney.

Prayer was offered by Michelle Evans, Tourism Director.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stephanie Laws, Commission Secretary.

County Bills were reviewed for approval. Motion to approve County Bills was made by Comm. Hollingshead, and seconded by Comm. Pearson, and the vote was unanimous.

Beaver County Tourism update. Present was Michelle Evans, Tourism Director; Lane Tucker, TRT Board Chairman; Andy Adams, Business Owner. Ms. Evans discussed the tourism focus in Beaver County and the efforts tracking the visitors coming to Utah, pre-pandemic. Comm. Pearson made comment that tourism has seen a managed increase. Andy Adams commented on the positive incidental increase he has seen at his business at the Camperland, south of Beaver. Ms. Evans commented on the City Amenities Guide currently being developed. Ms. Evans discussed the direct result of Economic Development as a result of tourism and seed money that came about in the middle of a pandemic. Mr. Tucker opened a recreation business just before the pandemic that guides hiking, camping, mountain biking, and UTV tours. Ms. Evans shared the growth numbers for the past 5 years. Jordan McMullin & Jordan Oswald (Eagles Landing), made comment on the impacts of the tourism with the marketing efforts, and how it's positively influenced their business. Mr. Phil Jolley (Best Western Paradise & Comfort Inn) commented on his experience coming to Beaver County and establishing a business and building a subdivision and the support from the Commission when they were establishing themselves in Beaver County. Mr. Dallen Bradshaw (Big-O Tire) made comment on the negative google comments and the fact that you never hear from the happy customers, and the fact that it takes thirty-eight positive comments to overcome the one negative comment. Through the efforts of the tourism office, Beaver County still marketed through a pandemic and the customs and cultures of having a business in Beaver County. Anna Laurin, marketing manager for The Creamery was present to discuss the efforts of the tourism office and how it has impacted their business. Commission closed by saying "Thank You" to the businesses that were present.

Forge Update. Present were Chris Katis and Dr. Joseph Moore, FORGE. Dr. Moore was present to update the Commission on the progress of the FORGE (Frontier Observatory for Research Energy) project in Beaver County near Milford. Dr. Moore described the process of the FORGE drilling project to the Commission, and where it stands today.

Break for Lunch.

Reconvene

Open Bucking Chute Bids. One bid was received for the bucking chutes removed from the Fairgrounds. Motion to accept the one bid from Bar-F Ranch Inc. for \$1000 for the bucking chutes was made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Hollingshead.

Ratification of new County Attorney hires and transfers. Present was Von Christiansen, County Attorney. Mr. Christiansen discussed the internal transfer of Shanna Fails from Victim Advocate Coordinator to the Attorney's Office, as a Legal Secretary I. Also, Mariela Harris will move from assistant Victim Advocate to Victim Advocate Coordinator to fill the vacancies. Motion accept new hires was made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Hollingshead, and the vote was unanimous.

Indigent Defense Letter. It was decided that the Commission Office will draft the letter to Shaun Manuele, Iron County Public Defender, declining his public defender grant offer.

County Fair. The Grand Entry into the County Fair was discussed. It was decided that Mr. Pyles would drive the Commissioners into the arena each night with the County owned vehicle.

Surplus Items. Stove and Air Compressor were presented to declare as surplus items. Motion to accept items as surplus items to be disposed of, was made by Comm. Pearson, and seconded by Comm. Hollingshead, and the vote was made unanimous.

Contract are signed by Commission Only. Commission requested the Attorney's Office send out a reminder letter to Elected/Department Heads & Committee Chair, acknowledging the County Contract Policy. The letter will state that only the Commission has the authority to sign and bind the County into a contract.

HB65 Wildland Fire Wage Increases. Present are Danon Hulet, State Fire & Forestry. Mr. Hulet discussed some new wage increase changes for Wildland Fire employees as legislative changes and the law requiring the County to participate at a 50% cost sharing rate. It was discussed and decided that Beaver County would have sufficient funds to allow for the legislative mandated changes to the Wildland Fire budget.

Stock Show Contestants. Present was Mark Nelson, Beaver County Ag Agent; Brinlee Marshall representing Beaver FFA & 4H Club Members. Participants requested a \$1000 donation in-lieu of cleaning the fairgrounds before the County Fair, shared what they are showing at the upcoming Southwest Stockshow as well as the Beaver County Fair. Motion to approve \$1000 donation to Beaver County 4H Booster Club was made by Comm. Hollingshead, seconded by Comm. Pearson, and the vote was made unanimous.

County Gravel Pits. Present via phone was Cory Beebe, County Road Supervisor. Commission discussed with the Road Supervisor the unauthorized removal of material at the County Gravel Pits, this is not meant for Commercial Use. It was briefly discussed the hazard and liability to continue to allow contractors to remove gravel materials with no oversight. It was the consensus of the Commission to

place signage at the County Owned Gravel Pits stating "Property of Beaver County" "Not for Commercial Use".

Planning & Zoning Update. Present was Kyle Blackner, County Building Authority. Mr. Blackner discussed the resignation of the Planning & Zoning Chairman, Drew Coombs, due to time constraints with other commitments. Mr. Blackner suggested holding off appointing a new board member until the end of the year. Mr. Coombs will continue to attend P & Z Meetings through the end of the year. Mr. Blackner discussed an issue with Smithfield trucks, and the road usage affecting several County Roads. Mr. Blackner will readdress the conditions on the Conditional Use Permit with Smithfield.

Housing Crisis. Present were Max Anderson, Beaver City Housing Authority; Nate Robinson, Tushar Contracting; Kyle Blackner, County Building Authority. Commission invited the Housing Authority, County Building Authority and Contractors to discuss the housing crisis in Beaver County and the timeline to consider building County owned housing in light of the current staffing shortage and the lack of available housing for those seeking employment in Beaver County.

Motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; discuss strategy for pending or reasonably imminent litigation, real property negotiation, was made by Comm. Pearson, seconded by Comm. Hollingshead, and the vote was made unanimous. Roll call vote Comm. Pearson "aye", Comm. Whitney "aye", Comm. Hollingshead "aye".

Closed session declared closed by Comm. Whitney.

Commission Corner. Commission discussed an article called "Commission Corner" to be printed in the Beaver County Journal monthly. They briefly discussed any edits needed before printing and it was decided the article is ready to send to print.

Commission Updates. Comm. Pearson talked about the inmate work crew, they will be available to assist with the Fair. Comm. Pearson shared an update with the Lake expansion. It was decided to lower the price of the surplus Ford pick-up truck to \$2500, for final disposal.

Meeting Adjourned.