

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 4, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner, and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Commissioner Devlin reported being in contact with the Bureau of Land Management and noted the Gravel Pit Mining and Reclamation Plans also must meet the Montana Department of Environmental standards. Suggestion was made to make a standardized checklist application form that would meet all the governmental agency requirements.

April 27, 2022, minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion held on placing landscape fabric and pea gravel on the land strip on the north side of the Courthouse. Price obtained for pea gravel from Fisher Sand & Gravel. Travis Lacquement joined meeting at 9:45 a.m. and reported he is willing to till the dead grass for the landscape fabric placement. Commissioner Devlin placed call to 811 Call Before You Dig with confirmation number 22043406.

10:15 a.m. Clerk and Recorder Shari Robertson and County Attorney Dan Rice.

Discussion held on the Conservation District Fund 7350 and the 2021-2022 budget amount \$19,600 which is generated by a Soil Conservation Mill Levy and is used towards the Soil Conservation Secretary salary. Clerk Robertson inquired if the Conservation District Secretary is a county employee, a conservation district employee, or a salaried position as the amount milled has been insufficient to cover the county employee benefits requested and the County has subsidized the budget in prior years to cover the deficit. County Attorney Dan Rice will research the matter as the Conservation District has their own governing board and timesheets have not been submitted to the county.

Commissioner Bockness made a motion to submit the audit finding corrections prepared by Clerk Robertson to the Department of Administration Local Government Bureau in Helena, MT. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, with motion carried. The audit will be available to the public when finalized and notification will be placed in the Terry Tribune.

Commissioners reviewed Journal Entry #417 and Journal Entry #427 with each journal entry correction will be noted in the commissioner minutes moving forward per audit request process.

Commissioners reviewed Expenditure Reports noting percentage overage in commissioner travel, audit purchased services, coroner fax, attorney dues, road fuel, emergency preparedness salary, sheriff overtime, sheriff fuel, sheriff equipment repair, fire county supplies, and fire fuel.

11:15 a.m. Sheriff Keiffer Lewis reported the 2013 Ford Taurus will be advertised for sale with other law enforcement agencies. Discussion held on the inflated cost of fuel and the effect on sheriff fuel budget.

11:30 a.m. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to appoint the following person who attended training and completed a certificate of completion per Montana Code Annotated 13-14-203 qualifying them to serve as election judges from May 2022 to May 2024. Commissioner Keltner seconded motion, all in favor with motion carried.

Greg Berger*	Timothy Hess	Lois Pfieffe*
Cindy Bond	Jan Hinrichs	Rita Pehl
Colton Braddock	Ramona Huseby	Renee Pirtz
Natasha Christofferson	Cathy Kalmback*	Kay Pisk
Rolane Christofferson*	Christine Keltner*	Caryn Rein
Sheila Dixon	Jacob Kitson	Barb Rittal
Linda Dukart	Bailey Kortum	Vera Sackman*
Linda Eaton*	Garrett Lap	Chelsea Sazama
Lisa Everett*	Carol Lachenmaier	Russell Schwartz
Fran Fleckenstein*	Ruth Lekse	Glenda Ueland*
Joni Fischer	Harry McNall	Michelle Wolff
Chele Cole Harrington	Kathy Meidinger	
Karen Hess	Arlene Morast*	

*Chief Judges (can change per election)

11:45 a.m. County Attorney Dan Rice and Clerk Robertson. Phone call placed to Eric Bryson, Director of Montana Association of Counties for council on Soil Conservation matter. Call placed to Conservation Trustee Tracy Feickert for request to relay message to have Conservation Board meeting with Commissioners.

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Shannon Chamberlain PCT/WCT Trust Administrator and Delite Dukart Watts Insurance: MACo Property & Casualty Trust 2022-2023 Renewal Meeting
Discussion held on market analysis, claims review, risk management, and renewal rates. Prairie County will have a preliminary 1.85% overall increase in property and liability contribution for the 2022-2023 year for renewal rate of \$89,985 up from \$88,353. MACO Property & Trust will no longer cover any liability arising out of any professional or organized or motorized racing or demolition contest or stunting activity, or while practicing for such contest or activity. MACO PCT was unable to secure cyber liability policy with current coverage ending 7/01/2022 and an application was presented to alternate coverage.

2:00 p.m. Claims Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$46,257.15.

Discussed audit bill from Oleness & Associates of \$20,225 with discussion of audit cost of \$15,500 with additional cost for GASB 68 Presentation \$1259, GASB 84 Implementation \$2,250 and additional work for transfers, cash, and CARES \$1225 noting \$570 over the budgeted amount.

2:30 p.m. Sheriff Keiffer Lewis and 12:45 p.m. County Attorney Dan Rice

Sheriff Lewis reported that Fees of Sheriff per Montana Code Annotated 7-32-2141 have not been adjusted since 2014 for services provided such as service of summons, writ of execution, serving a subpoena, posting notices, holding sheriff sale, and other fees. A public hearing will be held after notice of hearing published, and the fees will be established by a resolution.

3:00 p.m. Discussion of Cooperative Fire Protection Capacity Grants with the Department of National Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Dwight Tague joined meeting at 3:30 p.m. Sheriff Lewis will apply for grant funding that could provide reimbursement/stipends for county fire warden, fire chief, and rural fire volunteers with the award amounts based on funding availability and number of applicants received. Dwight Tague has been applying for Rural Fire Capacity Grants through DNRC for purchases of radios, training, and equipment.

Commissioner Keltner and Mr. Tague marked the strip of land north of Courthouse for the 811 Utility Call Before You Dig.

4:00 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner with motion carried.

Signed this 18th day of May 2022



Christine Keltner, *Acting* Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder