

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 18, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Christine Keltner and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9 a.m. In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry and Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler. Commissioner Todd Devlin is attending the NACo Western Interstate Region Conference at Anchorage, Alaska. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Correspondence reviewed from the Shane Findlay, Bureau of Land Management of their review of the draft mine and reclamation plan for the Cherry Creek Free Use Permit Application MTM 111985 and deficiencies cited. Road Supervisor Henry and Mr. Pfiefler will resubmit the plan to attempt to meet the burdensome DEQ Opencut Permit and BLM regulations.

Supervisor Henry reported moving a cattleguard on Spring Creek Road due to safety concerns. The road crew has been spraying weeds, cleaning cattleguards, and will be hauling millings for road repairs.

Discussion held on inflationary costs and need to purchase cutting edges, tires, and culverts. Mr. Henry reporting increased cost of road supplies by 40%, weed spray chemicals increased from 125-300%, with average increases 175%.

9:45 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the May 4, 2022, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness, with motion carried.

10:00 a.m. Travis Lacquement reported he will remove extra dirt from the north side of the courthouse prior to placement of the landscape fabric. Gravel will be delivered to the site on May 25, 2022. Commissioner Keltner contacted the Town of Terry who will take the extra dirt piles.

10:15 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the May 2022 Treasurers Investments in the amount of \$2,534,730.01. Commissioner Bockness seconded motion, motion carried. Expenditure reports to May 18, 2022, were reviewed.

Correspondence: Department of Public Health and Human Services. Currently there are ten Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Montana and Prairie County is served by Area I Agency on Aging located in Glendive, Montana. If Prairie County requests re-designation to another Area Agency Service Area for the plan period October 2023-September 2027, Prairie County must submit written response and request with rationale, otherwise Prairie County will retain Area I Agency on Aging.

Correspondence: Council on Aging meeting June 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. to review the County Area Plan on Aging Development Guide plan period October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2027.

Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign the audit letter to Oleness & Associates of representation of the financial statements of Prairie County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner with motion carried. Commissioner Keltner will sign letter in Commissioner Devlin's absence. Letter also signed by Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson and Treasurer Noell Martinson.

10:45 a.m. Deputy Treasurer Morrison in for DES John Pisk on bid from Cummings Service and Sales Billings MT in the amount of \$5,554.34 for an engine replacement on the well generator. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign the estimate and submit to Cummings for engine order with payment tentatively from the 2992 or 2993 account. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. Commissioner Keltner signed estimate in absence of Commissioner Devlin. Cummings labor and travel estimate of \$12,071.14 was not signed or submitted at this time.

11:00 a.m. Delynn Meidinger and Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler in regarding land access issue regarding a property gate located in the road easement of 13 Flats. Mr. Pfiefler supplied Mr. Meidinger with Randall and 13 Flats County Road Resolutions, maps, State of Montana documentation of support for 13 Flats Road and Randall Road, and the Bureau of Land Management Title V FLPMA right of way documentation.

11:30 a.m. Public Comment: Delynn Meidinger and Deputy Clerk Aria Walters at 11:45 a.m. Clerk & Recorders office will research conservation district payroll history.

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Senior Center Karen Rausch reported progress of stove/hood project.

1:15 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson

Commissioners Keltner and Bockness reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$12,078.14.

Discussion held on map printer repair and machine is requiring replacement of the printheads and toner cartridges. Deputy Clerk Walters will check with surrounding print businesses for price to print the County Map.

Commissioner Keltner will meet with Sharla Sackman, Great West Engineering Chad Hanson, and the Fair Board at 11 a.m. Wednesday May 19, 2022, for the fairgrounds water project.

2:00 p.m. Dwight Tague in to request new budget line items be added for fire donation money received and a budget line item eventually for Cabin Fire District. Line items will be added under the 2340.220 Fire Supplies.

2:30 p.m. First Reading: **RESOLUTION NO 22-21 A RESOLUTION REVISING FEES FOR SERVICE CHARGED BY THE PRAIRIE COUNTY SHERIFF.**

The fees established in Exhibit "A" entitled "Sheriff's Fee," to be effective June 1, 2022.

Be it further resolved that a public hearing shall be held on the proposed fee revisions on the 15th day of June 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the Prairie County Court House. The Clerk & Recorder shall cause notice of such hearing to be published in the Terry Tribune, in accordance with 7-1-2121 MCA at least two times with at least separating each publication.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to put resolution upon its final passage. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

3:00 p.m. First Reading: **Resolution No. 22-22**

A RESOLUTION RESOLVING CASH RECONCILIATION DISCREPANCIES AS NOTED IN THE FINDINGS OF FY 2018 THROUGH FY 2021 AUDITS.

Prairie County receives annual audits; and recent audit findings show unresolved cash reconciliation discrepancies with the bank in the aggregate amount of \$20,679.40 occurring during the periods of FY 2018 through FY 2021; and the Prairie County Treasurer, Clerk, and Board of County Commissioners have reviewed said audit findings, and have attempted with some success to locate the sources of the unresolved discrepancies previously referenced, but have not been successful in locating all; and there is no indication of foul play or misuse of public funds, rather, all indications are that routine accounting errors took place during said time period; and reconciliation errors have been narrowed to the amount indicated above and been consistent or improving as mistakes have been found; and reconciliation is impossible going forward without discovery of the unresolved amounts or a write off of the discrepancy; and the anticipated cost of hiring a forensic accountant, or other professional, to determine the exact source or sources of said errors, are likely to cost well in excess of the aggregate amount of the unresolved discrepancies; and the Board of County Commissioners desire to write off said unresolved amounts, in order to establish a reconciled bank/cash balance moving forward;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners do hereby write off the sum of \$20,679.40, with an effective date of April 30, 2022, and direct the County Treasurer and/or the County Clerk & Recorder to take appropriate accounting steps to make the adjustment and the balances reconcile, and such transaction shall appear as a disbursement from fund 2992.000.000.271500.000 (Cares) in order to clearly isolate the amount as a prior period adjustment.
2. A public hearing shall be held on the above proposed action on the 15th day of June 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Prairie County Court House. The Clerk & Recorder shall cause notice of such hearing to be published in the Terry Tribune, in accordance with §7-1-2121 MCA, at least two times with at least 6 days separating each publication.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to place resolution 22-22 upon its final passage. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Keltner and Commissioner Bockness signed letter for grant support for the American Legion John E Schwartz World War II Nose Art Photograph Collection Project.

4:00 p.m. Ambulance Coordinator Jennifer Grey Eagle in to report the back-up ambulance has an engine oil leak and is being looked at by Get R Done. She reported on the EMS week activities.

4:30 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

Signed this 25th day of May 2022



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder