

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 20, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner, and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9 a.m. In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry, Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler, and Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign the Audit Contract with Oleness & Associates for the audit services covering 7/01/2021 to 6/30/2022 in the amount of \$17,500. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, all in favor, motion carried. The Audit Services for 7/01/2020 to 6/30/2021 cost was \$16,000 and services for 7/01/22 to 6/30/23 price listed at \$19,000.

Road minutes reviewed. Supervisor Henry reported the county roads have been plowed after the storm last week.

Supervisor Henry reported receiving bridge hydrology reports from George Metzger, Glendive District Hydraulic Engineer for the Montana Department of Transportation, noting that culverts/railroad cars could be considered at two bridges on the Bridge Inspection Reports that had recommendations to repair or replace. Mr. Henry will get cost estimates.

09:30 a.m. Commissioner Devlin left meeting to attend the Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) meeting at the Stockman Bank Terry.

Supervisor Henry will contact County Attorney Dan Rice to inquire if advertised competitive bidding is required for the BARS project of overlay on 3-tenths of one mile on Ten Mile Road and extending around the corner onto the Broadview Bench Road for approximately one hundred yards as project cost will be greater than \$80,000.

Discussion held on the Courthouse Parking lot needing pavement repair which will be further discussed during the budget meetings.

Supervisor Henry will work with Cross Petroleum for calculation of the gas tax refund for the road department.

Supervisor Henry reported that the Carissa Shilling, Geologist from Bureau of Land Management is requesting GPS coordinates/maps on the Singleton Exploration test holes. The test sites were previously staked, and GPS coordinates were obtained by the BLM while at the site on March 25, 2022. Mr. Henry will contact Prairie County Weed Department who has GPS mapping capabilities to assist.

Road Specialist Pfiefler reported that the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat letters have been received on all the gravel pits Prairie County is pursuing on the Bureau of Land Management lands.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the April 6, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners Keltner and Bockness reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$40,804.06.

11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Investments reviewed. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to accept the April 2022 Treasure's Investments in the amount of \$2,564,120.72. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners Keltner and Bockness reviewed the Treasure's Cash Summary Report and the Expenditure Report to date.

11:30 a.m. Public Comment- Cathy Dolatta in and general discussion on covid-19.

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

1:00 p.m. DES John Pisk and Deputy Treasurer Cheryl Morrison Discussion held on possible well house generator vandalism with findings of up to two quarts water in the exhaust pipe causing rust damage to the motor. Discussion held on options of rental unit if unit can not be repaired, placement of security cameras, change the lock to the generator house, and to check to see if the Senior Center generator can be used until another generator can be obtained. Mr. Pisk will report damage to MACO insurance.

Mr. Pisk reported he will not be able to attend the 3:00 p.m. Land Planning Board Meeting and left information with Commissioners.

1:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin joined meeting. Commissioner Devlin signed the Montana Department of Agriculture Prairie County Houndstongue Project Noxious Weed Grant MDA Number 2022-023 of \$12,000 to control 430 acres of noxious weeds listed in the grant application.

2:00 p.m. Commissioners Devlin, Keltner, and Bockness, Treasurer Noell Martinson and Clerk and Recorder Shari Robertson

Discussion of the Significant Audit Finding from 2018-2020 regarding the unreconciled cash difference. Reviewed Cash Reconciliation reports January 31, 2022 and February 28, 2022, noting a difference of \$20,679.40 per Treasurer Martinson's calculations. Discussion held on the difference being a possible computer glitch in Tyler Technologies happening in June at the end of the fiscal years from 2018 to present. Treasurer Martinson has also sent monthly reports since January to Local Government Services showing that the amounts have not changed. Information has been presented to Norm Klein, Oleness & Associates with the Oleness Auditors currently reviewing all materials and will present a final number to reconcile when the audit is completed. A resolution will be prepared by County Attorney Dan Rice and a public hearing will be held.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to correct the cash difference using the 2992.000.000 Cares Act Transfer Out for the prior period adjustment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

3:00 p.m. Commissioners Devlin, Keltner, and Bockness attended the Land Planning Board meeting. In attendance were Land Planning Board Members Lon Reukauf, Dennis Teske, Lorin Larsen, Renee Pirtz. Land Planning Secretary Cheryl Morrison, Road Supervisor Todd Henry, Megan Pirtz, Lance Kalfell, and Tamera Choats at 3:40 p.m.

County Attorney Dan Rice joined meeting and was requested to update the Land Planning Board policies regarding road name changes and fees to be incorporated in the Rural Address Books. The Rural Address Book will be updated, and copies will be available for sale.

Lance Kalfell discussed and presented information on the Lower Yellowstone River Corridor for public access and infrastructure upgrade opportunities to make more than 175 river miles more available for floating, fishing, and camping with potential future state park at the Powder River Depot. This proposed site received a Lower Yellowstone River Corridor Advisory committee scoring matrix of 170/200 points with recommendations that the Fish Wildlife and Parks have land acquisition negotiations with site lands owned by the Kalfell Ranch, Montana State, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Discussion held on road name change for public safety/911 dispatch concerns regarding Conns Coulee Road and Kohns Road. Kohns Road will be changed to Kortum Lane with Dennis Teske making the motion for the Land Planning Board to pay for the signs/posts required. Renee Pirtz seconded motion. Motion carried with dissent of Lorin Larsen.

Discussion held on need for road resolutions for the West Yellowstone Trail and the Kortum Lane Roads.

Tamera Choats discussed National Heritage Area Designations and issues that have the potential to restrict the right of the private property owners to use their properties.

4:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the Commissioner meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. Meeting adjourned.

Signed this 27th day of April 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder