

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

August 16, 2021

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 and Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler. Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Road minutes were reviewed.

Commissioner Devlin received a concern regarding a gate on North Bad Route Road not adequate for a combine to pass through. Supervisor Henry will investigate.

Supervisor Henry reported that all four blades will be out in anticipation of forecasted rain later this week.

Discussion held on updating cattleguard prices due to the increase in channel iron and other materials. Supervisor Henry will present new price list at the August 30, 2021, meeting.

Farmers Union Oil Representatives Frank Kasten and Fritz Deines in to discuss partnership opportunity and energy needs. Mr. Kasten has taken over management of the Farmers Union Oil in Circle/Terry area and has three priorities: 1) Building the fertilizer plant in Circle, Montana 2) A three-year plan to build back the business lost in Terry 3) Regarding the federal fuel tax, the Farmers Union plans to become a listed registered fuel vender and be able to price compete with other vendors.

Discussion held on investments in the Prairie County/Terry community by Farmers Union Oil, rising fuel prices, improving customer service, and County weed chemical purchases. Mr. Kasten will work with Prairie County to be competitive in fuel and chemical prices.

9:30 a.m. Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler presented Bureau of Land Management termination letters for Commissioners to sign on 1) Cow Creek Site MTM-107649 - Cabin Creek Road washout repair. 2) Deer Creek Site MTM-109128-Cabin Creek Road washout repair. Both sites have been satisfactorily reclaimed and no further plans to remove any additional soil from sites. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign letters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

9:40 a.m. Mark Pfaff in to discuss building up Crow Rock East Road (Gas Tax 18 Road) and leaving the upper end of the Cherry Creek Road a minimal maintenance gas tax road. Mr. Pfiefler will provide Mr. Pfaff the road petition.

10:00 a.m. Fallon Flats Irrigation Feasibility Meeting and Study Work Session In attendance were Eastern Plans Economic Development Corporation Beth Epley and Alissa Miller, Dennis Teske, and Commissioners Devlin, Keltner, and Bockness.

Discussion held on the outline for the Preliminary Engineering Report for Montana Public Facility Projects that is required by Federal and State agencies. Reviewed the Fallon Flats Irrigation Work

Order requirements and the Draft Preliminary Engineering Report provided by Performance Engineering and AES. It was noted that several requirements not having yet been met. Recommendations for improvements in document clarity and meeting the outline required will be presented by EPEDC to Performance/AES Engineering for the final PERS document.

11:40 a.m. Fire Dwight Tague in to report that Prairie County is in Bureau of Land Management Stage I Fire Restrictions. Mr. Tague will provide a rancher fire training class in the future.

County Attorney Dan Rice joined meeting at 11:46 a.m. Discussion held on County-wide Stage I restrictions and preparation of a resolution if needed. Discussion held on having Facebook page versus having a group fire text. No decisions made at this time.

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

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk Aria Walters in with claims. Commissioner reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$18,432.76

1:30 p.m. Reviewed Request for Records Disposal RM 88 and Records Disposal or Transfer Authorization RM 60 prepared by the Clerk & Recorder's office. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign records disposal requests. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign a letter of support for the Evelyn Cameron Gallery. Commissioner Devlin seconded motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Devlin signed the Montana DNRC Local Government Fire Incident Rental Agreement for the Mobile DES Trailer rental beginning 8/1/2021 of \$200/day after agreement was reviewed by County Attorney Dan Rice.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept August 3, 2021, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Budget work session with Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson.

- 1) Ambulance budget addition of \$6000 for Pintler Billing Contract Services- to be put under ambulance contracted services instead of oil & gas purchased services.
- 2) Sheriff Lewis joined meeting-Commissioners will transfer in/transfer out \$30,741.44 into Capitol Projects for a used patrol vehicle.
- 3) \$5000 will be added to Audit Purchased Services to account for additional work requirement of covid funds.
- 4) Fallon Lights Utility-\$10,000 will be put into a capital improvement line item.
- 5) Alcohol Rehab Services-increase to \$11,000 transfer in/transfer out.
- 6) CARES money will be transferred to cover the shortage in the permissive medical levy account.

The Final Budget will be advertised for September 7, 2021. Clerk Robertson is waiting on the School District budget.

Reviewed termination of Haul Road Agreement letter from Brock Taylor, Land Manager for the Keystone XL pipeline due to the Biden Administration revoking the Presidential Permit for the project. Written confirmation will be sent to TC energy after Road Supervisor Henry reviews the haul roads.

3:30 p.m. County Extension Sharla Sackman Discussion held on full-time temporary seasonal weed sprayer contract for 20 weeks. Ten weeks have been completed, but the weed spray season was shut down due to extreme drought and contract had a guaranteed 20 week minimum and full-time minimum is 24 hours per week. Call had been placed and message left with Weed Supervisor Travis Lacquement who was notified in person at 3:50 p.m.

Board of Commissioners meeting will be changed to August 30, 2021, from August 31, 2021, to accommodate Clerk & Recorder schedule.

4:00 p.m. Discussion held on if the digitalization of county records would qualify under the US Treasury Guidelines for use of the ARPA funds. Call placed to Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties who will send out an email after he researches the guidelines.

5:00 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the August 16, 2021, meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion passed.

Signed this 30th day August 2021.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder