

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 16, 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 and Gary Pfiefler. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mr. Pfiefler completed the free-use permit applications for gravel pits MTM1192 Singleton Exploration; MTM102929 Cabin Creek Pit; MTM105436 Chapman Pit; MTM109580 Little Sheep Mountain Pit; and MTM103535 Cherry Creek Pit.

The Bureau of Land Management gave recommendations and provided general outline plan topics to be included in the final Gravel Pit Mine and Reclamation Plans for the gravel pits.

Supervisor Henry reported that Bureau of Land Management personnel were noted to be at the Cherry Creek gravel pit on February 7th and 9th, 2022.

The road crew will attend the LTAP Local Technical Assistance Program training held February 17, 2022, at the Miles City Community College.

10:00 a.m. Treasurer Noell Martinson

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the Prairie County Treasurers Investments in the amount of \$2,936,411.66. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried

Treasurer Martinson reported sending the requested documentation for the Amended Corrective Action Plan.

Treasurer Martinson reported that Prairie County will refund \$26 for the Department of Revenue settlement agreement with the Blackfoot Communications on centrally assessed property for tax year 2021.

Commissioner Devlin signed an extension request to Becky Anseth, Department of Commerce, for the Treasure State Endowment Grant MT TSEP-CG-19-991 of \$160,000 towards the bridge deck on the Milwaukee Road Bridge. The time frame for the project had been delayed due to the Western Federal Lands Highway Division project scheduling and issues during the coronavirus pandemic.

10:30 a.m. Seitz Insurance David Seitz, Jamie Larson, and Cami Skinner for introductions and discussion of the Workman's Compensation Renewal.

Commissioner Devlin signed ERM-6 Form to allow MACO to submit data to the Montana State Fund on claims to adjust the County modification factor for the workman's compensation rate determination.

11:00 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the February 7, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

11:15 a.m. Commissioner Devlin signed Records Destruction Document RM88 for 2014-2018 elections records disposal of unused ballots, absentee envelopes, voted, unvoted, and detached stubs.

11:30 a.m. Public Comment

Treasurer Martinson reported on the Montana Department of Justice requesting Montana Counties to pay for paper, supplies, and computer equipment which is normally covered by the 3% administration fee as the DOJ did not budget enough this year.

Commissioner Keltner filled out claim for Chemnet Drug Testing administration fees per line item 2894.000.202.411240.300 Mineral Royalties Purchased Services.

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

1:00 p.m. Claims reviewed and warrants signed in the amount of \$16,489.07.

Commissioner Keltner placed call to Stainless Steel to clarify if natural gas line to stove is provided in the installation. County is responsible for the Prairie Plumbing bill for the natural gas hook up.

Commissioner Devlin signed documents request for payment of \$12,500 from the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund and Final Report Certificate of Compliance for the Fallon Flat Irrigation Preliminary Engineering Report.

1:40 p.m. Dwight Tague in to report the Bureau of Land Management will donate Prairie County a surplus wildland fire engine that is furnished.

Commissioner Keltner will attend the Fire Restrictions meeting with Mr. Tague at the Miles Community College on February 24, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m. Resolution No. 22-14 Public Hearing No public in attendance.

A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO §7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022, AND CREATING A NEW FUND LINE FOR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND FOR PAYMENT OF WORK COMP PREMIUM.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Prairie County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. That there is hereby created the following fund: Fire Employer Contributions, Fund No. 2340.000.206.420460.140. The appropriations for FY21-22 in said Fund shall be increased in the amount of \$3,500.00 to pay for the volunteer fire fighters' workers compensation premiums.

2. A budget transfer in the amount of \$3,500.00 to said fund shall be authorized to be made from Mineral Royalties Employer Contributions Fund No. 2894.000.202.411240.140.

Commissioner Bockness made a motion to pass Resolution 22-14. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, all in favor, motion carried.

2:15 p.m. **Resolution 22-17 Disposition of Bodies-Burial of Persons on Private Property.**
County Attorney Dan Rice joined meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Whereas State statute does not prohibit the burial of human remains on private property. Be it resolved that Prairie County Commission creates the following policy regarding the burial of human remains on private property in Prairie County outside of the cemetery district. A. Prior to burial, one must contact the County Corner to verify proper notification and recording. B. The location of the burial site must be owned by the applicant or permission must be granted in writing from the property owner. C. A Private Family Burial Grounds Notice including the name of the deceased, specific location per GPS coordinates and legal description of survey indicating location of burial shall be recorded in the County Clerk & Records Office within ten (10) days of demise. D. Burial sites must have a grave marker that is well-kept and written information on the deceased shall be placed in a waterproof container that shall be attached to the casket or in the casket for identification purposes. E. Human remains must be placed in the ground at least six (6) feet vertically above the ground-water table with a minimum of four (4) feet covering the body. F. Burials must include the body being placed in a casket built with wood or a stronger material to permit the removal of a body, if necessary, in the future. G. A minimum size of one (1) acre is required for a body to be buried on private property. The burial site must be at least one hundred (100) feet down gradient from any private well, stream, or open water, and three hundred (300) feet down gradient from any public, shared or community well. The burial site will not be upon a 100-year flood plain. H. Burial plots shall be located at least one hundred (100) feet from all property boundaries of street lines and at least fifty (50) feet radius from any structures or buildings. I. A maximum of five (5) bodies may be buried on private property without designating the site a cemetery per Montana Statute. J. Per A.R.M. 37.116.103, a body must be buried within forty-eight (48) hours after time of death or the body must be embalmed or kept refrigerated inside at thirty-five (35) degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Until buried, a body must be covered or shielded from public view unless during a funeral. K. If a burial site is removed or location changed, a new recording of such notice as well as a new deed be filed with Clerk & Recorder's Office after contacting the County Corner. L. Any violation of this policy may result in the removal of said body by Prairie County with cost of removal and re-burial assessed to said property owner.

3:00 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to pass and adopt Resolution 22-17. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion held on use of cash prizes in bingo activity at the senior citizen center. County Attorney Dan Rice noted Montana Code Annotated 23-5-407 and 23-5-409 exemption with respect if the center limits games to members and guests, game is on the main premise, and the game is not operated in a commercial manner.

3:10 p.m. Tim Kortum in to inquire about Prairie County selling land to expand the Powder River Meats for a kill facility building. Mr. Kortum will be placed on agenda for future meeting. Commissioners walked to the county lot requested.

3:30 p.m. Ambulance Jennifer Grey Eagle discussed ambulance past due accounts. #1 Transfer to Miles City HRH to Billings per family request. Actual mileage to be corrected. The bill will be turned over to collections agency. #2 Deceased patient with bill to be sent to estate. #3 Car accident transfer and unable to locate out of state party. Bill will be sent to collection agency.

4:00 p.m. Prairie County Board Recommendations for expired terms accepted by Commissioners as follows:

Cemetery Board: Darlene Strobel; **Fair Board:** Travis Choat; **Food Bank Board:** Deanna Bockness and Jody Haidle; **Health Board:** Deanna Bockness and Megan Murrell; **Library Board:** Abby Tibbetts; **Mosquito Board:** Floyd Fuhrman; **Predatory Animal Control Board:** Cliff Householder and Dan Harrington; **Salary Compensation Board:** Lana Tibbetts; **Tax Appeal Board:** Tim Rittal; **Terry TV Board:** Doug Rein; and **Weed Board:** Lon Reukauf.

Notified following County Boards to place recommendations: Council on Aging two expired terms; Heath Board Community Member, Land Planning Board two expired terms.

4:45 p.m. Commissioner Develin made a motion to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. Meeting adjourned.

Signed this 25th of February 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST: 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder