

Prairie County Board of Commissioners

January 26, 2022

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

Road minutes were reviewed. Road Supervisor Henry reported that the road crew will finish graveling Cherry Creek Road, then proceed to Bad Route Road.

Supervisor Henry reported he called the Montana DEQ as the Opencut Mining Permit #3293 was still under the Town of Terry, instead of being changed to Prairie County. Permit was corrected and approved by the DEQ that will expire July 31, 2044.

Commissioners reviewed letter from Eric Lepisto, Bureau of Land Management Miles City Field Office regarding the Cherry Creek Gravel Pit expiration date of 3/2022. The mining and reclamation plan is required to complete the application and if plans are not received by April 1, 2022, BLM will require Prairie County to initiate reclamation of the Cherry Creek and the Cabin Creek pits. Call place to Gary Pfiefler to meet with the Commissioners.

Reviewed BLM Compliance Inspection Report of the Cherry Creek Pit. Corrective Action Required includes seeding stockpiles with approved seed mix, marking highwalls with berms, reflectors, or flags, utilization of drip pans to collect leaks from loader when not in use, mitigation of weeds in season, and keeping gate closed and locked daily, submission of updated production reports per regulations, submission of mine and reclamation plans for the renewal application, and submission of the sage grouse consultation for pending applications.

9:40 a.m. Les Thomason in to discuss placement of cattleguard on Pump House Road. Mr. Thomason is concerned about ownership issues regarding new cattleguards and questioned if ownership could be attached to the real estate as an asset to the property. He did not want to purchase a new cattleguard, then having the county removing or relocating it without permission from owner.

10:00 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson in with payroll/claims. Gary Pfiefler in to pick up Bureau of Land Management documents.

Time sheets and payroll claims reviewed, and payroll warrants signed in the amount of \$126,048.78.

10:15 a.m. County Attorney Dan Rice with discussion of Cattleguard Policy, ownership, and relocation of cattleguards. County Attorney suggested to amend the Cattleguard Policy with the same respect to the County's authority to move or remove a cattleguard and requiring compensation to the property owners who object to the removal of a cattle guard which is situated on the owner's property. A resolution will be drafted, and a public hearing held.

Payment sent for Sage Grouse Document #4125 Little Sheep Mountain Gravel Pit for \$1,128.16 for the contribution for the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Documentation of the above payment was sent to Shane Findley, Bureau of Land Management.

Clerk Robertson in to discuss audit finding and need for Commissioners to review the Expenditure Reports and Administrative Journal Entries of the Clerk. Journal Entry #277 reviewed corrected entry regarding Emergency Preparedness Salaries and Public Health Salaries.

Clerk Robertson reported that her and Aria Walters will be attending the Elections Certification Training with the Secretary of State in Billings, Montana on February 16, 2022. Clerk Robertson reported that she will attend the Republican Central Committee meeting on March 8, 2022, to speak on the Elections Training.

11:00 a.m. Larry Brence, Montana State University Extension. Reviewed County Extension Agent Sharla Sackman's annual report from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021, which was prepared for her performance appraisal.

Mr. Brence reported that the Montana State University Extension is working on a statewide needs assessment and will be engaging agents in the community and doing a statewide survey.

11:35 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the January 19, 2022, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Keltner discussed the 911 meeting held in Miles City. Email received from Dale Butori, Fallon County Commissioner regarding 911 calls received from Prairie County being routed to Fallon County Dispatch. Lyne Anderson, from South Eastern Dispatch noted many of the calls were the different carriers and contractors conducting 911 testing and reported that four were transferred 911 calls resulting in emergency response from Prairie County law enforcement or ambulance service. Problems continue with 911 calls going to Dawson County from a Prairie County cell tower. Commissioner Keltner reported that the South Eastern Dispatch purchased four public safety radios for Prairie County.

Lunch 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Fallon BD

1:15 p.m. Discussion on ArcaSeach Compass Research System and Option E from Peter Fox. The second-year fee for Commissioners Proceeding would be \$1099 for June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023. The additional content fee is \$3,935 and beginning June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, the combined research system fee is \$5,034 annually for the digitalized documents. Clerk Robertson will email the auditor to see if ARPA funds could be utilized for the research system fees.

1:30 p.m. Resolution 22-14 Public Hearing 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.**

WHEREAS Prairie County wishes to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to provide increased appropriations in a newly formed fund for payment of fire work comp premiums.

AND WHEREAS, the provisions of §7-6-4006 MCA require public hearing upon any budget amendment resulting in an overall increase in appropriation authority,

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 put Resolution 22-14 on final passage on February 16, 2022, at 2 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

2:00 p.m. Lizzy Robertson, Prairie County Museum, discussed museum need for a new window in the Evelyn Cameron building and an awning for outside. She will reach out to Beth Epley, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation for a grant. Ms. Robertson reported on the high utility bills and that the museum will hold a fundraising tea event on April 2, 2022.

2:15 p.m. Resolution No. 22-15 Adoption of Fallon Flats Irrigation System Study and Report

WHEREAS, the Prairie County has the legal jurisdiction and authority to study the feasibility of expanding irrigation in Prairie County.

WHEREAS the Prairie County agrees adopt the findings of the Fallon Flats Irrigation System Study and Report as submitted by Performance Engineering; and

That Todd Devlin, Commission Chair, has authorized on behalf of the Prairie County, to act on its behalf and to provide such additional information as may be required.

Commissioner Bockness made a motion to accept Resolution 22-15. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. Motion carried. Chair Devlin signed the Prairie Irrigation Project documents:

- Irrigation Development Draw 1
- Irrigation Development Draw 2
- RRGL (Renewable Resource Grant) Draw
- SF-PPR 12.31.2021 (Final Progress Report for USDA RBDG)
- SF-425 12.31.2021 (RBDG Financial Report)
- Adoption Resolution 22-15

2:30 p.m. Sharla Sackman in to discuss updates planned for the 4-H building at the Fairgrounds. She received a bid from Prairie Plumbing for the waterline and on-demand hot water tank. Discussion held sinks/handwash for the other booths and placement of a new shallow well for irrigation. The Fair board will meet in February.

3:00 p.m. County Attorney Dan Rice, Clerk and Recorder Shari Robertson, and Noel Martinson Discussion on the upcoming resolution for the audit finding of the unreconciled cash difference from 2016. Treasurer Martinson is collaborating with the auditor for the amount needing reconciled.

3:30 p.m. Commissioners discussed County Projects and if ARPA funds could be utilized. Clerk Robertson provided Commissioners with the records preservation expenditure report.

Community Center Karen Raush in to report that Shepherds Stainless Steel will be here on Monday January 31, 2022, to install the hood.

4:15 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. Motion carried.

Signed this 2nd day of February 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder