

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

July 19, 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 and corrected.

Road Supervisor Henry reported he met with Jim Swanson representing Sir Trust Lands, Bob Phalen, Shane Eaton, and Tom Eaton. All parties came to an agreement regarding the cattleguards and fence placement on Chester Lane Road. A 24' cattleguard was placed on the north end and the south end cattleguard was left at 12'.

Four loads of scrap iron were taken to Border Steel with \$2600 received.

Discussion held on who is responsible for reclamation of fire berms on private land post fire. Bureau of Land Management lands are reclaimed post fire by the county. Prairie County does not currently have a policy and it was determined that the berms will be reclaimed by Prairie County at this time, and it will be at the landowner's discretion if they wish to reimburse cost to county.

A 2003 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 was purchased for \$1800. The pickup is located at Plentywood, Montana.

The road crew will attend an LTAP training in Miles City on July 27, 2021.

Road Supervisor Henry and Road Specialist Pfiefler viewed the Prairie County Gravel pits on July 1 and July 7, 2021.

10:00 a.m. Milwaukee Bridge Conference Call. In Attendance were Commissioners Devlin, Kelter, and Bockness, Road Supervisor Henry, Road Specialist Pfiefler, Western Federal Lands Lotse Townsend, Beth Epley, Alissa Miller, and Dara Deines for Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, and Karl Yakawich, Great West Engineering.

Discussion held on the Milwaukee Bridge FLAP project and Western Federal Lands requesting additional information on the Capabilities Assessment on project administration, reporting, and overseeing the work. Additional information will be sent by EPEDC, Great West Engineering, and Prairie County before the project will be allowed to move forward. Discussion held regarding the frustration of Prairie County as project was approved for initial programming in 2016, the county has had to request TSEP funds to remain in two legislative sessions, time is running out to use those funds, and the tactics that the FLAP program is utilizing to squelch the project.

11:00 a.m. Public Hearing on Resolution No. 2021-24 No one in attendance.

**Resolution No. 2021-24 A RESOLUTION PRUSUANT TO 7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FY 2020-2021 TO ACCOUNT FOR UNANTICIPATED REVENUE AND EXPENSES.**

The appropriations for the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 shall be increased in the following funds and in the following amounts.

1000.000.201.431500.390	Irrigation Purchased Services	\$100,000
2190.000.202.411800.510	Comprehensive Insurance	\$16,384.84
2371.000.202.411800.510	Health Insurance Premium	\$2,330.32
2800.000.202.440500.392	Alcohol Rehab Services	\$3,442.00

The following budget transfer is hereby authorized. 2899.000.411240.793 Oil and Gas Operating Transfer in the amount of \$18,715.16 which shall fund the increased in the Comprehensive and Health Insurance Premium.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to pass and adopt Resolution No. 2021-24. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the July 6, 2021, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

11:30 p.m. Public Comment

Correspondence: Claim completed for \$2825 for NACO/MACO yearly dues.

Oleness & Associates requesting documents be scanned and uploaded to the ShareFile for audit planning and fieldwork purposes. The audit is scheduled to begin on April 18, 2022.

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

Dan Thomason reported on an unsafe cattle guard that has a pipe gate on the back entrance to the fairgrounds. County Extension Agent Sharla Sackman will be notified to request to have Fair Board replace with a regular gate after Commissioners drove out to the fairgrounds.

1:00 p.m. Call placed to Larry Bond to check out the Courthouse well water surging.

Deputy Treasurer Cheryl Morrison in with Treasurer's Investments. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to accept Treasure's Investments of \$2,858,447.75, Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion passed.

Deputy Treasurer Morrison is getting prices from carpet cleaning companies and will schedule to have the Courthouse carpets shampooed.

1:30 p.m. Deputy Clerk Aria Walter in with claims. Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$32,395.94.

2:00 p.m. Bureau of Land Management Meeting In attendance were Bureau of Land Management Field Manager Eric Lepisto, Assistant Field Manager Shane Findlay, Resource Specialist Beth Klempel, Geologist Carissa Shilling, Commissioners Devlin, Keltner, and Bockness, Road Supervisor Todd Henry, and Road Specialist Gary Pfieffe.

Commissioner Devlin requested Bureau of Land Management maps of two-track trails that could be utilized for emergency services. Ms. Klempel stated that not all the two-track trails had been physically traveled to see if possible as permission from landowner was not received, therefore did not want the liability.

Cow Creek Pit expires 7/11/2024, site has been reclaimed, and BLM recommends terminating the permit which requires a letter of termination from the Prairie County Commissioners.

The Bureau of Land Management would like to authorize all of Prairie County gravel exploration and pits into one environmental NEPA assessment which includes Cabin Creek, Chapman, Singleton Exploration, Little Sheep Mountain, and Cherry Creek. Prairie County will need to submit complete application, mine and reclamation plans, mitigation to prevent trespass, and habitat compensation to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Programs. BLM requests applications be submitted no later than October 2021. Discussion held on Montana State DEQ permitting requirements that also must be reviewed and resolved. BLM also would like to include any future projected pit explorations that Road Supervisor Henry has in mind.

Little Sheep Mountain gravel pit-BLM has requested a Solicitor Title Opinion on the adjacent "railroad" minerals.

Singleton Exploration the BLM authorized 10 test holes, and Prairie County dug 12 test holes with one outside of the polygon. All need to be seeded and if the county will need to submit a free-use permit application with complete mine and reclamation plan.

Cherry Creek City of Terry/Prairie County-Discussion of unmarked highwalls, handling topsoil stockpiles, and to prevent trespass by keeping gate closed and locked daily when site is not in use. BLM requests a letter from the City of Terry to terminate authorization and operate through the County Permits. Cherry Creek Contract needs a mine and reclamation plan and sage grouse habitat compensation.

Discussion of the Lisk Creek Road/Sheep Mountain Recreation Site and the road/spillway remediation plan provided. The BLM will provide the riprap rock but does not have a stockpile of flat side rock. Prairie County will provide the road gravel. BLM requests to be notified when reclamation work is started. Road Supervisor Henry reported more storm damage and trees down on road at the site.

Cherry Creek/ Alternate Mark Pfaff Road discussion and BLM is hesitant to abandon existing right-of-way of BLM lands.

Road Supervisor Henry discussed difficulty in obtaining approved seed mixtures of grasses, forbs, and shrubs and was informed to submit a substitution mix to be approved by BLM.

Concrete in creek bed on Coal Creek Road was asked to be removed by Prairie County.

BLM reported they did not have match money for the Milwaukee Bridge Project.

4:00 p.m. Larry Bond reported that the water well may be running out of water, the pump should be lowered, and 100 feet of drop pipe may be needed.

Travis Lacrament reported due to extreme fire danger, the BLM is not allowing spraying and therefore employees will have to be let go.

Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson in with the Oleness & Associate Contract for Audit Services. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign the contract. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign the Area I Agency on Aging Commodity Contract No. 20220152AA from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, to service 3,300 meals with dollar value of commodities earned at \$1 per meal, or the total annual allocation is \$3,300.

Reviewed Records Destruction Document (RM88) to destroy documents March 2011 through 2013 claims. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign disposal certificate. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion passed.

Reviewed ArcaSearch Corporation final bill on digital preservation of Commissioner Minutes and Resolution. The bill will be paid for from the 2393 Records Preservation fund in the amount of \$2,579.40

Clerk & Recorder Robertson in to discuss application for ARPA Treasury Funds per recommendation of Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties. This will be placed on July 30, 2021, for Commissioners to complete online application.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion passed.

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day July 2021.

  
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Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder