

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

March 16, 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 recited. Road minutes reviewed.

Road Supervisor Henry presented a spreadsheet of the fuel budget and the road diesel, gas, and oil purchases and usage. The temporary fuel storage tanks have been set up and 2000 gallons fuel purchased. Discussion held on potential budget shortage in fuel and supplies due to inflationary increases.

Mr. Henry presented documentation on Prairie County gravel pit extraction and usage from 2010-2021.

Commissioners and Supervisor Henry edited the Cherry Creek Pit MTM-1033535 Mining and Reclamation Plan document with minor changes made.

9:30 a.m. **Budget Resolution 22-18 Resolution Creating ARPA Expenditure Lines.** In attendance were Clerk and Recorder Shari Robertson, County Attorney Dan Rice, and Treasurer Noell Martinson.

Clerk Robertson reported contacting MACO Jason Rittal and Eric Bryson and the auditor regarding ARPA funds and how the funds should be budgeted. It was determined the money will remain in the 2993 ARPA Fund with expenditure line items created for tracking purposes instead of putting the money in the general 100 fund. Clerk Robertson contacted Local Government Services regarding if there was a need for a resolution to create expenditure lines and was notified that a resolution is not needed to create line items if the expenditures do not go over the budgeted amount in the 2993 ARPA account.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to strike Resolution 22-18 as resolution is not needed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Robertson reported that Local Government Services reviewed Resolution 22-19 and noted that resolutions do not have to have the individual line items listed, only the overall fund line.

10:00 a.m. First Reading **RESOLUTION NO. 22-19**

A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO §7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022 TO ACCOUNT FOR UNANTICIPATED REVENUE.

1. The appropriations for the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 shall be increased in the following fund, 2261 DES, and amounts as a result of the County's receipt of CARES funding proceeds in the amount of \$2,693.49.

2992 - CARES Act Transfer Out: \$2,693.49; Remaining budget for CARES after transfer \$183,710.79.

2. The following budget transfers from said fund are hereby approved:

\$2,693.49 to fund 2261- DES, increasing appropriations in said fund to a total of \$59,363.49. Funds to cover expenses relating to travel and supplies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing shall be held on the above proposed amendment to the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 on the 6th day of April 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the Prairie County Court House. The Clerk & Recorder shall cause notice of such hearing to be published in the Terry Tribune, in accordance with §7-1-2121 MCA, at least 2 times with at least 6 days separating each publication.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to put Resolution 22-19 on final passage. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

County Attorney Dan Rice will prepare a Petition to Dissolve the Cabin Creek Rural Fire District. Deputy Clerk Walters researched the files and so far, has been unable to locate the original resolution that formed the district in 1954, but the resolution passage was noted in the commissioner proceedings.

10:30 a.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion held on fire notification applications with call placed to McCone County noting that the IamResponding application is used but has a cost.

Commission Chair Devlin signed to 2022-2027 Fire Restriction and Closure Plan for the Bureau of Land Management.

11:00 a.m. Diedra Johnson Discussion held, and calls placed to rug/mat suppliers as prior service no longer delivers to courthouse. Mats can be dropped off at the Express Landry in Miles City, MT.

Diedra Johnson was given permission to charge cleaning supplies at local business's utilizing the buildings supplies account.

11:15 a.m. Public Comment Shane Eaton 1) General comments on Cattle Guard Policy 2) Bad Route Rd Cattleguard #5 needing a 24-foot cattleguard, currently has twelve feet. 3) Chester Lane Cattleguard #2 fence issue and pending request for property owner to give Eaton & Sons an easement to trail cattle 3) Bad Route Rd culvert sunk down needing gravel and repair. 4) Discussion of proposed land acquisition of the Lower Yellowstone River Powder River Depot to a create State Park and concerns regarding potential river/water restrictions and need for state and federal land trades to increase deeded property that could bring in tax revenue for the county.

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Commissioners attended Public Health Meeting in Courtroom. In attendance were Public Health Nurse Tylene Eaton, Heath Officer Chip Mintz, Sanitarian Brant Gordon, Public Member Colton Braddock, Terry School Principal Megan Murell, Tobacco Prevention Specialist Cjea Trogden, County Attorney Dan Rice, Hospital Administrator Burt Keltner

Reports given by Health Officer, Sanitarian, Public Health, and School. Communicable Response Plan reviewed and signed by Commissioner Chair Todd Devlin and Health Officer Chip Mintz. Next meeting June 15, 2022.

1:00 p.m. Claims were reviewed, and warrants signed in the amount of \$40,346.91.

2:00 p.m. Bureau of Land Management Gravel Pit Discussion In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry, Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler, Bureau of Land Management Geologist Carissa Shilling, Assistant Field Manager Shane Findlay, and per telephone Eric Lepisto, Field Office Manager

Discussion on Cherry Creek Pit MTM-103535 and presented Bureau of Land Management with the draft Mining and Reclamation Plan for review. The free-use permit expires on March 21, 2022, and Prairie County will no longer be able to obtain gravel until reauthorized. The pit will be locked, and a key given to the Bureau of Land Management.

Road Supervisor Henry requested a contract for private gravel use as in the past and will also send an application for Prairie County to buy an allotment of gravel for sale. Accurate records and monthly reports are required.

Singleton Exploration: Road Supervisor Henry is requesting to dig more test holes and expand the polygon. An application will need to be completed.

Geologist Shilling reviewed the Chapman Pit Mine and Reclamation plan with suggested edits and will edit the Cherry Creek Plan. Gary Pfiefler and Todd Henry are working on all the plans for all the gravel pits.

All gravel pit projects have been sent to the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Program with some reviews have been completed or the others are in progress.

Bureau of Land Management would like to authorize all the Prairie County projects in one environmental assessment.

Carissa Shilling and Todd Henry will meet on March 25th and go to the sites of the Cherry Creek and Singleton Exploration.

Mr. Lepisto requested followed up on the rip rap located in the Cherry Creek. Mr. Henry reported it is piled and County will haul off.

3:00 p.m. Elections Discussion with Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson and Deputy Aria Walters

The election district lines will need to be reviewed and redrawn on the map for clarification and accuracy. Clerk Robertson questioned if Prairie County could be one election district with Fallon Montana being a satellite voting site to save on election costs.

3:15 p.m. County Attorney Dan Rice Final Version and acceptance of Personnel Policy Manuel

Resolution 22-20 A Resolution to Adopt the Prairie County Personnel Policies and Procedures effective 3/16/2022.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adopt the Prairie County Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

3:30 p.m. Clerk Robertson in with review of expenditure reports.


Discussion held on issues with 911 dispatch on an in-town fire call. Commissioner Keltner will follow up with South Eastern Dispatch in Miles City, Montana.

4:00 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

Signed this 30th day of March 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST: 
Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder