

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9 a.m. In attendance was Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler. Commissioner Christine Keltner and Todd Henry absent due to the MACRS Conference in Great Falls, Montana.

Pledge of Allegiance recited. Minutes reviewed.

Mr. Pfiefler reported that he and Road Supervisor Henry met with Geologist Carissa Shilling, and the Bureau of Land Management Reclamation Specialist, the Archeologist, and the Biologist at the Cherry Creek Gravel pit on March 26, 2022.

Mr. Peter Fox, ArcaSearch is in the process of digitalizing the road records.

Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson in with a request for clarification of a payroll matter pertaining to Mr. Pfiefler.

Discussion held on the Montana DEQ opencut permits that will need reviewed for expiration dates.

9:30 a.m. Mark Sweeney, Democratic Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives and Jim Edwards stopped by Commissioner office for introductions.

9:45 a.m. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to accept Fallon County Montana and Montana Department of Transportation ballot request to add Plevna South 494 Project to the Glendive District Secondary Roads Program Priority List. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin with motion carried.

Mr. Devlin signed Montana Department of Commerce Treasure State Endowment Program Contract Amendment #MT-TSEP-CG-19-991A with termination date March 31, 2025.

Call placed to Billings Convention Center for claims receipts for the MACO Convention.

10 a.m. Commissioner Devlin signed Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Applicant Agent Designation Letter to authorize John Pisk to apply for the FFY 2022-23 EMPG on behalf of Prairie County.

Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson in to review the Expenditure Report with discussion of line items exceeding 75% of budget used.

Commissioners reviewed timesheets and signed payroll and insurance warrants in the amount of \$126,490.46 and general warrants in the amount of \$4787.32.

Correspondence: Montana Department of Commerce, Big Sky Economic Development Program Contract #MT-BSTF-2-20-08 Fallon Flats Irrigation Feasibility Study and Engineering Services with BSTF Close-out Certification received March 7, 2022, for the \$25,000 grant.

Commissioner Devlin signed Records Destruction Document (RM88) for withholding, deduction history, workman's compensation, quarterly reports, unemployment insurance, and journal entries ranging from 1999-2017.

Commissioner Devlin signed the Eastern Montana Drug Task Memorandum of Understanding.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness with motion carried.

11:00 a.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the March 2022 Treasure's Investment report in the amount of \$2,677,030.90.

Correspondence: Letter from Russell Holt regarding interest in purchase/preservation County Property Mildred Jail. Placed on April 6, 2022, Commissioner Agenda.

Reviewed the Montana Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Reports noting three bridges in Prairie County have an NBI rating of 4 due to defects that affect their structural capacity with recommendations for repair or replacement. 1) Bridge 06680 Secondary 340 3 miles north of Mildred with decay with section loss in abutments and timber cap. 2) Bridge 04086 CB Route Rd 5 miles NE Fallon Buffalo Rabid Canal with decay of timber cap. 3) Bridge 04083 CB Route Rd 3 miles NE Fallon Buffalo Rapids Main Canal with wide cracking and deterioration of concrete abutments and caps. Reports will be presented and discussed with Road Supervisor Henry at the April 6, 2022, meeting.

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Commissioners Devlin and Bockness attended Public Health Emergency Preparedness Meeting in Courtroom. In attendance were Public Health Nurse Tylene Eaton, County Attorney Dan Rice, Sheriff Keiffer Lewis, Physician Assistant Carleen Gaub, Hospital Administrator Burt Keltner, Ambulance Coordinator Jennifer Grey Eagle, EMC/MHC Clinical Therapist Aliceann Carlton, Nurse Practitioner Laura Fuhrman, and Rev. Jamie Schmeling.

1:00 p.m. EMT-CIH Grant In attendance were Hospital Administrator Burt Keltner, Ambulance Coordinator Jennifer Grey Eagle, Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson, County Attorney Dan Rice.

Discussion held on a \$72,124.00 AHEC grant for training to become a certified Community Integrated Health Worker. The County volunteer EMTs and Drivers will be offered the CIH training and after completion and certification, will be offered an incentive monetary bonus. An EMT class will be offered this fall/winter and individuals that complete the course, obtain the EMT license, and complete the CIH certification, could also qualify to receive the bonus if completed by May 31, 2023. Mr. Keltner will complete the grant paperwork and the grant will be run through the county.

Discussion held on the Hospital Levy and HB 84 (2015). Due to the hospital can not hold their mill levy election on the primary election date, the election must be held on the same day as a special election or school election per MCA 13-1-304. Discussion held on mill levy election process and if the hospital should go for a more permanent (10-year) levy vs (2-year) as due to excessive cost of Express Votes, special ballots required, and programming, which poses a significant cost of \$5,000-\$7,000 per election.

Discussion held on combining the Public Administrator office with the office of the County Attorney. The Public Administrator is an elected position that takes care of estates where there are no administrators appointed and no known heirs. Currently no one has filed for this position. No action will be taken until after the election, then the position will be advertised with someone appointed.

2:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion for County alcohol tax monies be designed to the State Approved Substance Abuse Treatment Prevention Provider which is the Eastern Montana Mental Health Center in Miles City Montana. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bockness. All in favor, motion carried.

2:45 p.m. Call from Montana Governor's office Mike Freeman and Celia Rugler with discussion on the Bureau of Land Management grazing allotment 40% proposed reduction due to the drought.

3:00 p.m. Weed Board Update In attendance were County Extension Agent Sharla Sackman, Weed Board Members Lana Tibbetts and Harold Gaub, Weed Coordinator Travis Lacquemment.

Two Conservation Fellows have been hired who will work an approximate 40 hour per week schedule from May 18 to September 30, 2022, to work as the temporary sprayers for the County cost share of \$9,500 per person. The students will receive student loan forbearance, health insurance, and \$635 biweekly living stipend from the Montana Conservation Corporation. The Conservation Fellows will work under the supervision of the weed coordinator and receive safety and pesticide spray training.

County Extension Agent presented a draft weed budget, noting no significant changes except for rising cost of chemical and fuel.

4:00 p.m. Lana Tibbetts in to discuss legislation and given contact information of the Montana Legislators.

4:30 p.m. Todd Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Bockness. Motion carried.

Signed this 6th day of April 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder