

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2022

Prairie County Commissioners Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner, and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9:15 a.m. In attendance were DES Coordinator John Pisk, Road Supervisor Todd Henry, and Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler.

Pledge of allegiance recited. Road minutes reviewed.

DES John Pisk discussed renaming Kohns Road to Kortum Lane due to 911 dispatch public safety concerns and potential confusion with the Conns Coulee Road. Commissioner Devlin notified Land Planning Board Chair Lon Reukauf to set up a meeting with the Land Planning Board.

Gary Pfiefler reported receiving a telephone call from Shane Findlay, Bureau of Land Management request to meet with Prairie County regarding the BLM gravel pits. A meeting has been set up for March 16, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Mr. Pfiefler presented the completed Cherry Creek Pit MTM-103535 Mining and Reclamation Plan document for the Bureau of Land Management to review.

Road Supervisor Henry reviewed and updated gravel pit projects 4249 Cabin Creek Pit, 4247 Cherry Creek Pit, 4128 Singleton Pit, and Chapman Pit on the Montana Sage Grouse Program website.

Mr. Henry reported the road crew has completed graveling the Stage Line Road.

Supervisor Henry will review the Montana Department of Transportation 2023 Gas Tax Maps for the yearly fuel tax certification of roadway mileage to determine fuel tax allocations. Prairie County reported off system miles 580.658; secondary urban miles 68.386; total gas tax miles 649.44.

Commissioner Keltner will be attending the MACRS conference in Great Falls, Montana on March 28-31 along with Road Supervisor Henry is current MACRS president and road employee Jeff Morrison will receive the Road Scholar Award.

Road Supervisor Henry reported purchasing approximately \$23,500 in weed chemicals from Farmers Union. Discussion held on rising fuel and chemical prices and reported both CAT road graders will need new tires in the upcoming year with estimate cost of \$16,000.

10:15 a.m. Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$59,436.08.

Call was placed to Dwight Tague requesting additional information on radios purchased for the Volunteer Fire Department. The four radios will cost the County \$600 match money and the County will be reimbursed the remainder.

10:50 a.m. County Attorney Dan Rice and Clerk and Recorder Shari Robertson.

Discussion held on the Treasury Final Rules in regarding the Local Government Recovery funds which recreates an option for funds received as revenue replacement for use in general government purpose, with restrictions that the funds may not be used to service debt, build reserves, or pay pension liabilities. The new flexibility has been confirmed by the National Association of Counties. Clerk Robertson will contact MACO and the auditor on how to address money already expended.

11:00 a.m. Farmers Union Ultimate Vendor for fuel. In attendance were Jared Davis and Frank Kasten from Farmer Union and Road Supervisor Todd Henry.

Mr. Kasten reported that the Farmers Union Oil Company has received the IRS Ultimate Vendor for government sales and exemption from fuel excise tax. The Farmers Union will be able to compete with other local Ultimate Vendors for pricing and fuel purchases for Prairie County and will fill out the required IRS 8049 reports.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to approve the March 9, 2022, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Devlin signed the 2023 Gas Tax Map paperwork after review by Road Supervisor Henry. No changes made.

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

1:30 p.m. Pam Walling Montana Association of Counties Health Care Trust reported final renewal rates for July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Prairie County 2022 rate increases as follows: Medical 6.5%, Dental 5.6%, and Vision 5.0%. Benefit enhancement offerings for 2022 plan include increased benefits for foot orthotics, vision exams. A \$20 incentive will be given to all participant in the blood screening which will be held April 6, 2022. MACO HCT will provide \$100 incentive to participants who have 4 visits with Healthy is Wellness with a \$200 per calendar year maximum with 8 visits. MACO HCT provides a \$25,000 life insurance benefit for employees on the health insurance with medical coverage. Open enrollment for Prairie County begins April 1, 2022.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to continue with current health plan RM3000-80%-500; BP 2000-70%-4000; HD 3000-100%-300; HD 5000-100%-5000; and the Dental and Vision Plans with the monthly benefit amount the County will provide employee to be \$741. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion carried.

2:30 p.m. Personnel Policy Overview of Draft Policy. In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry, County Extension Agent Sharla Sackman, Sheriff Keiffer Lewis, Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson, Treasurer Noell Martinson, County Attorney Dan Rice and Commissioners Devlin, Keltner, and Bockness.

Discussion held on policy changes made to clarify language. Extension Agent Sharla Sackman requested a Rule Change Request Form for future changes to the Personnel Policy to be presented at the annual personnel policy review meeting. The final draft will be presented at the March 16, 2022, Commissioner meeting to approve.

3:30 p.m. All Staff Safety Meeting In attendance were Fran Fleckenstein, Jeff Morrison, Tanner Stickel, Todd Henry, Adam Lacquement, Keiffer Lewis, Jason Grey Eagle, Kristy Shannon, Cheryl Morrison, Shari Robertson, Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner, Deanna Bockness, Aria Walters, Amy Lewis, Sharla Sackman, Tylene Eaton, and Noell Martinson.

Discussion held on the proper reporting procedures and form completion for Workman's Compensation claims. Commissioner Devlin explained modifier (MOD) ratings for rewarding or penalizing a county based on premium and claims. Prairie County has a rating of 1.25% in which the County is paying 25% more for coverage. Mr. Devlin stressed the importance of workplace safety, participation in Healthy is Wellness Programs, and safety training to maximize insurance savings.

Employees were encouraged to attend the Healthy is Wellness blood screening and to sign up for Health Insurance on April 6, 2022, at the Prairie County Courthouse.

Discussion held on the weed department on wheel extenders for the ATVs. Sharla Sackman reported the extenders may void the warranty on the machines. She reported the new four-wheelers have Rip Saw tires for increased traction and safety.

Road Department reported on road crew utilizing the LTAP webinar on-line trainings. Other departments encouraged to actively participate and document employee safety trainings.

Safety Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Discussion held on the Montana Natural Resource Coalition request for yearly fee of \$500. Matter tabled.


Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson in with Expenditure Report line- item review and future resolutions that will be completed. Commissioner Devlin reported the Prairie County Airport will receive \$19,000 to complete an environmental assessment for the wildlife fence.

5:00 p.m. Commissioner Kelter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

Signed this 16th day of March 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:  Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

March 9, 2022

Safety Meeting (workman's comp)

Jeff Morrison

Frank Fickelstein

Jim [unclear]

Alan Jones

KEIFER

Nolly Magness

Thord [unclear]

Mark Johnson

Rusty Shannon

Dan Rice

[Signature]

Aria Walters

Deanne Bockness

Chick [unclear]

Jason Gray Eagle

Todd Duhal

Shari Rokertson

Cheryl K. Morrison

[Signature]