

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 18, 2021

Prairie County 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 Supervisor reported the road crew has been blading roads since having the moisture. Approximately 200 miles of county roads could use additional gravel.

The road crew will attend the LTAP Fall Training in Miles City on October 28, 2021, and Mr. Henry will attend the MACo Human Resource Training in Miles City on November 15, 2021.

Commissioner Devlin reported that he received the Dale Sowards Award at the Western Interstate Region Meeting in Salt Lake in October 13-15, 2021. He was recognized for his service to public lands and his effort to reform the Payment in Lieu of Taxes system to make the funding formula more equitable to less-populated counties.

Discussion held on county road damage due to increased hunter traffic on Fish Wildlife and Parks Block Management. Commissioner Devlin will visit with MACo regarding if a bill could be drafted to receive compensation for road damage.

Reviewed history of Warner Road (Brackett Creek Road) from 1900-2021 prepared by Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the September 20, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the October 4, 2021, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion passed.

10:30 a.m. Clerk & Recorder reported that the Montana State Fund workman's compensation cost for Volunteer Firefighters is \$291 for the quarter. Total county-wide workman's compensation premium for Prairie County this quarter was \$12,311.67.

Commissioner Bockness called and authorized Shari Robertson to have administrative access on the Prairie County credit card.

Commissioners discussed changing the Commissioner meetings to the 1st, 3rd and last Wednesdays of the month. The meeting resolution change will be in January 2022.

10:45 a.m. Fire Dwight Tague Reviewed MT DNRC courses offered: DNRC Basic Wildland Fire Fighter for constituents and County Road Crew Fire Training. Firefighters will be able to attend other classes after taking the prerequisites.

Reviewed Prairie County Fire Calls from July, August, and September 2021 and list of Prairie County Wildland Fire Cadre. Mr. Tague reported in 2019 there were seventeen fires; 2020 there were twenty-one fires, and in 2021 there were twenty-seven fires so far.

Mr. Tague will obtain two military surplus trucks located at Missoula and Helena along with a 500-gallon water and a 1000-gallon water tank.

11:30a.m. Public Comment Commissioner Keltner reported that Fran Fleckenstein was sworn in as substitute Justice of the Peace for Mary Bucher while she attends the Fall Conference September 24 through October 1, 2021.

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

1:00 p.m. Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$17,447.98.

Discussion held on ideas for future projects and approximate costs: Windows replacement \$20,000; museum and gallery roof \$25,000; water and sewer at fairgrounds \$10,000, courthouse painting \$3,000, asphalt resurfacing \$2,000, sidewalks at courthouse \$10,000, county vehicle \$25,000, fairground grandstand paint \$5,000; grandstand seating \$300,000.

Clerk Robertson reported that three new Election Judges will be trained for the Town of Terry election due to conflict of interest of current judges.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign the Policy Year 2021-2022 Inmate Medical Insurance Renewal Agreement of Inmate Excess Medical Insurance, Mental or Nervous Disorders, Substance Abuse, Maternity, Aids, ARC, or HIV and Security and Guarding for cost \$1.12 per inmate per day. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Devlin left meeting at 3 p.m. to address personal business.

Call placed to Curtis Weiler regarding request for a Comprehensive County Plan for Substance Abuse, Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Treatment: Alcohol Tax Dollars. Mr. Weiler relayed that Prairie County's plan has not been updated since 2017 and will need to be completed to receive the alcohol tax dollars.

Call placed to Brenda Kneeland, EMCMHC regarding the alcohol tax dollar spreadsheet and email was received of the services Prairie County currently receives.

Reviewed email from Aaron Eklund, PE, the new Federal Lands Highway Division taking the place of Neal Christensen. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson will set up a zoom meeting regarding the Milwaukee Bridge Resurfacing and Rehabilitation.

Commissioners and Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson will attend the MACo Human Resources training in Miles City on November 15, from 1-4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Signed this 29th day of October 2021.

 Todd Devlin 10/29/21

Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:  Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder