

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

December 8th, 2023

Prairie County Court House Commissioners Room

217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin, Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. In attendance Commissioner Secretary Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of allegiance was performed. Public Comment on Agenda Matters, no public comment.

9:30 a.m. Commissioners discussed various commissioners' business concerning roads and bridges.

10:00 a.m. Ashley Vande Bossche with Healthy is Wellness in to touch base with commissioners. She went over an updated contract, that shows a visit every other month. There would be an overall increase in fees of about \$200.

10:38 a.m. Commissioners reviewed and read minutes from the Commissioners meeting on November 29th, 2023.

10:48 a.m. Commissioners Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from November 29th, 2023 meeting as corrected, seconded Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:50 a.m. Commissioner reviewed correspondence received for commissioners.

11:03 a.m. Jeremiah Dicken BLM Law Enforcement Ranger and Beth Klempel with BLM in to speak to the commissioners about the low crossing area in Cherry Creek. A constituent was told that the county commissioners had given them permission to take gravel out of the creek. The county has permission to have the road department remove gravel and use that gravel on the county roads. Jeremiah Dicken as the Law Enforcement Ranger for BLM will issue warnings to the involved persons. According to the BLM in the agreement on Cherry Creek crossing, there is supposed to be a phone call to BLM to remove the gravel by Prairie County. To help mitigate this issue the BLM will put up signs concerning unauthorized access/use.

12:00 p.m. Break for lunch.

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims to review and sign, along with the expenditure report and cash summary report.

Prairie County Voucher # 1062 \$34,726.94

Prairie County Voucher # 1063 \$2,203.37

2:00 p.m. Records Destruction Document RM88 for various documents in Clerk & Records Office.

2:00 p.m. Andrea Bybee in to update commissioners on CIH. She updated them on prescription cost associated with different drugs, and she is working on another way to get these same drugs at a better price. She also managed to get a grant to help with the costs of CIH.

2:00 p.m. Commission Devlin left the meeting to attend a zoom meeting in the courtroom for Western Interstate Region of NACo (National Association of Counties).

2:15 p.m. Commissioners had a brief discussion about accrued time off and retirement. This will need to be put on the agenda in the future for a decision to be made on how to handle it.

2:30 p.m. Sheila Dixon ,Glen Hieghts and Jerusha Shipstead with the Museum Board, came in to speak with the commissioners about the building repair project grant. They are going to apply for a state of Montana grant, that should cover the cost of the repairs needed. They will have two public meetings the week of 12/11-12/15 to present to the public the plan for this grant and the old bank. They want to know if the county would match the 20% of the \$110,000 grant, and if the county would also match 25% of the \$10,000 grant.

3:05 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion for the Museum Board to go forward with the grant application with Montan Department of Commerce, and Montana Historical Preservation Grant, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

3:10 p.m. Public meeting, “County commissioners’ response to Governors press release”, in the Courtroom. Commissioner Devlin read the press released made by the Governors office. Commissioner Devlin went on to explain the history of property tax in Montana since 1996. MACo had recommended that MACo create its own property tax task force. He went on to say that we believe that the counties local government is not the reason for the increase, but rather school equalization and other government legislation. Commissioner Devlin also explained the process in which it would take to dispute your property evaluation. Because of the high cost for a person actual taxes, the county protested by only implementing 77 mills instead of the 95 mills. That resulted in the State having to sue the counties to push through the 95 mills. He asks those attending if they thought a MACo property tax task force was a good idea. Yes, a local task force would be a good idea, and would help educate public on property tax etc.

3:30 p.m. Public comment that is not on the agenda, held in courtroom, no public comment.

4:25 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign the RM 88 paper destruction form, from the Clerk & Records Office, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

4:34 p.m. Commissioner Keltner wanted to discuss the Local Assistance Tribble Consistency Fund. Suggested moving some money to another account for retiring employee fund. Commissioner Devlin made the point that the money will be there, even if its not in another account.

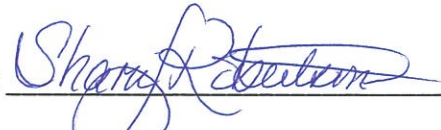
4:55 p.m. Commissioner Teske made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 20th day of December 2023.



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder