

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 4th, 2024

*Prairie County Court House Commissioners Room
217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349*

www.prairiecounty.org

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

9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance & call to order.

9:15 a.m. Commissioner Teske called and left a message with Brandon Duffey over invoices for the Milwaukee bridge repairs.

10:05 a.m. Commissioner Devlin wrote a letter to Doug Cahill regarding Tax Gas Road #4, removing it from the county gas tax road list.

10:06 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the August 28th, 2024, commissioners meeting.

10:09 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 28th, 2024, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

10:10 a.m. Brandon Duffey phoned into the meeting to discuss contractor bills/payment paperwork.

10:20 a.m. Glenn Heitz arrived to inform the commissioners that the museum board had met and voted, and they had a split vote on the type of window to use, “either an opening one, or a solid one”. He told the commissioners it would be up to them which one to purchase. They also had a brief discussion on the roof and contractors for repairs.

10:46 a.m. Commissioners received a contract from BLM for the sale of gravel out of the Cherry Creek pit, for review by Commissioners. Attorney Dan Rice, Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson and Road Supervisor Todd Henry provided input.

11:05 a.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with information with REVIZE website developer. She went to a zoom presentation from this company and told them she would present it to the commissioners. It has been highly recommended to move our website from .org to .gov.

11:35 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson talked with commissioners about the predator management agreement with Montana Wool Growers.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided commissioners with claims to sign and review.

Prairie County Voucher # 1028 \$62,453.66

Prairie County Voucher # 1029 \$3,103.85

1:50 p.m. Commissioners reviewed budget numbers.

2:40 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided a journal adjustment

Journal Entry 75 (reversed #73 on entry)

Prairie County Voucher # 1029 reprint with adjustment \$3,053.85

Prairie County Voucher # 1030 \$50.00

3:00 p.m. Public comment; Shiela Dixon and Vera Sackman to speak about museum board and notified the commissioners that a consultant is visiting next week September 12th, at the legion.

3:05 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to use a solid window in the museum, seconded by commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

3:15 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson went over budget numbers with commissioners.

3:35 p.m. County Attorney Dan Rice called MDU for explanation of contract for gas to the Sr. Center. He updated the commissioners after the phone call, and the expected cost would be \$0.

3:40 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign the contract with MDU "Request for Gas Service Line" for the Sr. Center, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

4:00 p.m. Andrea Bybee with ambulance service to update commissioners on the sale of "cots". She has had two offers, Lee Robertson Sims MT would pay "\$7000", and Bobby Galstyan in Kalispell Montana "\$14,000" for all three. She is going to sell the one to Sims Montana and offer \$10,000 for the two others.

4:09 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to sell the "Cots" at \$7000 for one, and \$10,000 for the other two together, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

4:10 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 5:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:00 p.m. Final budget hearing, commissioner Devlin read the budget message.

Commissioner Devlin read "Resolution No. 25-6".

Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept "**Resolution No. 25-6** "A Resolution Pursuant to 2-9-212 of the Montana Code Annotated, Authorizing a Permissive Medical Levy for FY 2024/2025 To Fund Group Health Insurance Premium Contributions by the County", seconded by Commissioner Keltner "all in favor" motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner read "Resolution No. 25-7

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept “**Resolution No. 25-7** “*A Resolution Pursuant to MCA 19-7-404 Authorizing a Permissive Sheriff’s Retirement System Contribution Levy for FY2024/2025*”,” seconded by Commissioner Devlin “all in favor” motion passed.

Commissioner Devlin read “Resolution No. 25-8.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept “**Resolution No. 25-8** “*A Resolution of The Board of County Commissioners for Prairie County, Montana, Adopting The final Operating Budget and Setting Appropriation Authority for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending Jun 30, 2025*”,” seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept “**Resolution No. 25-9** “*Prairie County Resolution 25-9 Adopting Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Levies*”,” seconded by Commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the Budget Message for 2024/2025, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

6:00 p.m. Public information meeting on the times for opening the polls for voting, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There was a total of 10 citizens at the informational meeting.

Elections Administrator Shari Robertson provided information to the attending public citizens as to what options were considered and what options are most appropriate to fulfill the need to administer elections. Aria Walters also provided information on the difficulties of running an election with the current timetables.

The first option considered was to consolidate polling to one location in Terry and removing the Fallon location. Today they are speaking about reducing hours and keeping both polling locations open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Regardless of the hours, all voters can come to the courthouse and vote there in the morning hours from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Shari went over voting activity within Prairie County over the last couple of election cycles. And she went over the statute that regulates hours for polling places.

Various conversation between the public, Shari and Aria, over options and difficulties with obtaining election judges, and polling place coverage.

There was a suggestion made that if changes are made, it would be best to do it after this election, because many people are used to doing it the way it is currently set up.

This informational meeting is to inform the public that this is going to happen during this current election. There will be mailers going out to all in person voters, letting them know of the time changes and posters put up in different locations.

7:10 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn, commissioner Keltner seconded the motion, “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 20th day of September 2024

Christine W. Kethner v Chair

Todd Devlin, Commissioner

ATTEST: Shari Robertson

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder