

## **Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting**

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

*www.prairiecounty.org*

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Christine Keltner and Dennis Teske met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. In attendance Administrative Assistant Harry McNall. Commissioner Devlin was absent due to shipping calves.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of allegiance, call to order. Road supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting. Discussion on weed management and chemical options for spring spraying. The commissioners discussed the next three renewal and new applications for free use gravel pit permits with BLM.

09:56 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to pay Invoice 2024-19 from Highland Environmental, Inc. for \$2500.00, for DEQ permit for Cherry Creek Gravel Pit, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

10:16 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to donate \$1000 to the MURN Park Playground Fundraiser, taken out of 2992 operating fund “CARES”, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed. (Note: Through discovery during the 10/30/2024 commissioners meeting, we cannot donate to organizations as a county and this motion is void)

10:30 a.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters joined the meeting to discuss the Amendment to the School District Levies, to decrease the mills for transportation from 1.94 to 1.93 and retirement went from 16.29-9.88 due to state funding.

10:32 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the amendment of resolution 25-9 for the decrease of School District Levies, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

10:41 a.m. Commissioner Keltner read the minutes from the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, commissioner meeting.

10:42 a.m. Doug Rein phoned into the commissioner meeting and spoke to Dennis Teske about the community center generator.

10:45 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

10:53 a.m. Commissioner Teske phoned Brandon Duffey with Great West Engineering about the FLAP meeting that was schedule for this morning.

11:06 a.m. Commissioners signed the Investment Authorization Report provided by interim Treasures Cheryl Morrison.

11:30 a.m. Commissioner Keltner moved to “Close the Session”. Commissioners went into a “Closed Session” with County Attorney Dan Rice.

11:59 a.m. Commissioners approved County Attorney Dan Rice to send two letters stating that the county denies two claims toward the county for monetary damages.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break Commissioners visited with NextEra at Dizzy Dinner.

The NextEra representatives provided the commissioner with a report called “Economic Impact Analysis for the Glendive wind project in Prairie County Montana, created by Dr. David G. Loomis, Bryan Loomis and Chris Thankan with Strategic Economic Research, LLC.”

The company is planning on investing \$1,000,000,000.00 in Prairie County on the project, that would result in approximately \$282,000,000 Million in property taxes over 20 years for Prairie County.

The question was ask about decommissioning of towers and how bond requirements were met by the company. They explained the DEQ regulations say the bond must be in place 15 years after the project goes operational, but the company does it at 10 years. The bond is reviewed every 10 years and adjusted for increases in decommissioning costs. They also explained that it is in the companies’ best interest to uphold their decommissioning cost requirements.

The question was ask “how far back from property lines and buildings, that towers be erected?” From buildings it is 1000ft minimum. They have contracts with bordering lands, if they agree to the contract, it is 285ft minimum and if they are not on the contract, it is 670ft minimum.

The company said that they will build up roads and provide maintenance during set up. They also explained that they do not typically close roads during construction.

Commissioners were mostly interested in logistics, effects on private lands, and the long term plan for decommissioning.

1:30 p.m. The commissioners visited with Tracey Dion and Lon Reukauf over land planning and windmill farms in Wibaux county. The discussion of zoning in Wibaux and all the issues and complications associated with what is happening in Wibaux county.

1:45 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to approve the final adoption of Resolution **NO. 25-10 “A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO 7-6-4006 OF THE MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2024-2025 IN THE GENERAL FUND TO ACCOUNT FOR UNANTICIPATED LOAN REVENUE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SHERIFF’S VEHICLE”** seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

1:47 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided commissioners with claims.

Prairie County Voucher # 1043 \$44,214.19

Prairie County Voucher # 1044 \$5,558.49

Prairie County Voucher # 1042 \$659.57

Journal Voucher Adjustments because of the “Audit” recommendations.

Journal Voucher # 509,507,136,520,137,515,517,522,514,511,513.

2:35 p.m. Interim Treasurer Cheryl Morrison spoke to the commissioners about computer issues within her department concerning cost of DIS to set up her new computers.

2:40 p.m. Andrea Bybee with ambulance joined the meeting to speak with the commissioners about applications for hiring more people for the ambulance crew. Commissioners told Andrea to check the hiring policy, but they believed they will all need background checks before hiring. The Crisis grant was approved for \$265,000.00 over three years, with in kind match. MTDOT grant was approved for \$59,000.00 with a 10% match.

2:50 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to approve all applications pending employee requirement, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed. County Attorney Dan Rice joined the meeting to discuss administrative fees.

3:00 p.m. Public comment (not on agenda).


3:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Commissioner Teske and Keltner joined Tanner Schillinger to review the fairground drain field proposal and discussed options for the drain field. They also went to the weed department and visited about installing a bathroom in that building.

5:15 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024



Todd Devlin, Commissioner

ATTEST: 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder