

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

**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*Prairie County Court House Commissioners Room*

*217 West Park St Terry, MT 59349*

Prairie County Board of Commissioners 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.

9:10 a.m. DES John Pisk spoke to the commissioners about a generator quote for the fairgrounds. He will get a new quote, if possible, with insulation included.

9:17 a.m. Commissioner Todd Devlin arrived at the meeting.

9:35 a.m. Commissioners reviewed an invoice from Great West Engineering on work done on the Milwaukee bridge. Various other discussions concerning bridge construction in Prairie County. Payment for Great West Engineering invoices from account 2995.

9:40 a.m. Commissioner Teske called Brandon Duffey with Great West Engineering to confirm what work the invoices are from. He also ask for an update on bids for the temporary fixes on both bridges. Brandon said they need to complete the environmental impact assessment, before MDT approves it for bids. Looking at a month or more before the assessment will be approved.

9:50 a.m. Commissioner Teske called Road Supervisor Todd Henry to give him the update on the bridges and ask for any updates from the road department.

9:56 a.m. Commissioners discussed Representative Matt Rosendale being in Miles City, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5 p.m. at the Ranger Rider Museum to speak about real estate, farm and ranch properties, and public lands.

10:33 a.m. Commissioners read minutes from the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

10:43 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

10:45 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided the commissioners with payroll claims, and expenditure sheets.

Prairie County Voucher # 1046 \$4,917.94

Prairie County Voucher # 1071 \$16,647.23

Prairie County Voucher # 1047 \$932.80

Prairie County Voucher # 1070 \$18,160.69

Prairie County Voucher # 1068 \$61,077.45

Prairie County Voucher # 8 \$5,917.13

Prairie County Voucher # 1069 \$3,642.00

Prairie County Voucher # 1072 \$29,119.09

Prairie County Voucher # 1073 \$2,466.39

Prairie County Voucher # 1074 \$2,178.38

11:15 a.m. Commissioners discussed business with County Attorney Dan Rice, concerning future windfarm fees and impacts.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break.

1:00 p.m. Meeting resumed.

1:13 p.m. Commissioners reviewed county boards and made phone calls. Commissioners contacted citizens to take open positions on boards and prepared letters.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment

4:15 p.m. Shane Eaton in to speak with the commissioners about windfarms in the county. There were 6 other citizens (see attached sign in Exhibit A), that attended this meeting.

He thinks we should check on certain items such as.

1. A bond for tearing down the towers, road impact fees.
2. Would like the county to do some research on taxes, and impact fees etc.
3. Traffic control/dust control and the heavy use of trucks.
4. Would like the commissioners to think about decommission expenses and having some money from the windfarm company for those costs in the future.
5. Consider looking into the impact of farms, such as new housing, buildings etc. Explore an environmental impact tax. (local option tax bill?)

Commissioner Devlin explained some of what other counties have been doing with taxes and impact fees. He also asks what the folks at this meeting think about having windfarms in the county?

There is a lot of concern over the quality of roads, and who will build them up and maintain the haul roads during construction. One person asks, "how many roads will be used"? Commissioner Devlin explained at this point it is unknown. He was contacted independently by one windfarm company, with brochures and basic information, and said that there would 272 towers in the area "Glendive Windfarm".

Shane wanted to speak about the windfarms setback. County Attorney Dan Rice investigated setbacks on windfarms concerning residential homes etc, would take a full county wide zoning structure in order to implement setbacks. Shane said that in the leases from windmill company it is about 1200ft from any resident.

Shane ask what will the money coming from taxes on the windfarms go to in the county?

Commissioner Devlin said "Capital Improvements" etc.

Commissioner Devlin made note that we should have future discussions on this topic. County Attorney Dan Rice will continue to investigate the subject.

5:20 p.m. County Employee from the road department came to speak with the commissioners about a potential safety issue concerning gravel build up in trailers. The concern is the way they remove build up from the trailers, it creates a potential hazard. Commissioners will address the issue with the Road Supervisor and go from there.

6:00 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

Exhibit A

Commissioner Meeting

December 27, 2023 4:30 Agenda Matter Wind Farm Set backs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

~~Went~~

Kent Lile

Jon Hubing

Wayne Mitchell

Asa Everett

Dick Everett

Shane J. Eaton