

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

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

*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 and Road Supervisor Todd Henry.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of allegiance was performed. Public Comment on Agenda Matters.

9:10 a.m. Todd Henry gave the commissioners a petition to move a cattleguard, on North Bad Route Rd. It would move from a corner down to a straight section of the road. Todd Henry provided an update on road work. Commissioner Teske ask Todd Henry about gravel freezing on the sides of the trailers. They spoke together about different ways to deal with build up in the trailers. Commissioner Teske gave Todd Henry a list of options for spraying the inside of the trailers to prevent buildup in cold weather.

Commissioners reviewed quarterly bridge report from MDT for most of the bridges within Prairie County. Todd Henry has an engine coming this week for a road grader the county owns that has a bad engine and has someone to start working on installing it next week.

Commissioners ask County Attorney Dan Rice about the use of Executive Privilege (close session) concerning employee concerns/grievances. He will look further into the matter and update commissioners with better information.

9:45 a.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the petition to move the cattle guard on North Bad Route Road, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

9:46 a.m. Reporter Hunter Herbaugh ask the commissioners if they would mind a quick recap of the windfarm discussion during the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting, since he was on speaker phone and could not hear very well.

9:57 a.m. Hunter Herbaugh with the Tribune would like to ask a couple of questions of each commissioner for the paper, as review of last year's commissioner's work. He would also like to take a picture of each one of them to go in the newspaper.

Q: How do you feel the last year went? Teske, "challenges, a year full of challenges", Keltner "bridges" Devlin in agreement about the Milwaukee bridge issues.

Q: What are some of the other challenges: Teske "gravel, with more frustration with upper government rules and laws and lack of access to gravel for our roads" Keltner "gravel", Devlin "The cherry creek pit has been there since 1940". The commissioners provided additional reasons for their frustrations. Devlin "All BLM decisions are to protect BLM, not to provide public service, every decision they make is to keep from getting sued."

Teske, the state of Montana on a Friday afternoon closed a bridge to Mildred. The MDT reached out to help the county get the road back open by the following Thursday. Devlin “our relationship with the State MDT is very good”.

Q: Accomplishments achieved during the last year. Devlin “PILT funding this year was good”. “Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, for Federal Revenue Sharing Counties”. Commissioner Devlin through MACo and NACo had been very involved in this process for funding. Teske “A positive is the transfer of the “Manor” to a nonprofit to provide a new service for the community”.

Q: Any new expectations for the new year? Keltner “bridges opened, gravel on roads” both Devlin and Teske support this view. Having public access, public safety access and road conditions that support it.

10:20 a.m. Sheriff Lewis came into update the commissioners about his time away and the office. His office is doing very well, and he is doing well.

10:40 a.m. Commissioners had a discussion with Sheriff Lewis about flooring. Then they reviewed the bids for the flooring and made the final decision on the bids.

Two bids were received from “Paxton Brothers” and “Lay-Rite” to have the courthouse flooring.

10:55 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the bid from “Lay-Rite”, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

11:00 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson spoke to the commissioners about the progress of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) submittal and review.

11:20 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson to inform the commissioners of annual leave rollover caps and letters going out to employees with excess leave hours. Shari provided a list of 6 employees with excessive annual leave.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters provided the commissioners with claims, journal vouchers, and record disposal.

Prairie County Voucher # 1075 \$24,8477.57

Prairie County Voucher # 1076 \$3,463.68

1:40 p.m. Eric Urban called into the meeting to speak with the commissioners. The BLM is available the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> of January for a meeting. This would be a Zoom meeting. The commissioners would like to have the meeting at 10 a.m. on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

1:48 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign the RM88 for records that have met their retention dates according to Montana Code 7-5-2132 disposal form for Clerk & Records office and dispose of said documents, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

1:51 p.m. Journal Adjustment was made for “Meals on Wheels” claims, that were taken out of the wrong account during FY2024.

1:52 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to make the Journal Adjustment for “Meals on Wheels” claims, that were taken out of the wrong account during the FY2024 to Date, Wrong account (450315) to correct account (450314), second by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

1:58 p.m. Commissioners reviewed and read the minutes from the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, commissioner meeting.

2:05 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

2:47 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to approve the appointments as presented to the commissioners from the Clerk & Recorder, Seconded by Commissioner Keltner “All in favor” motion passed.

**Airport Authority**

Jesse Haidle

**Cemetery Board**

Larry Bond

**Council on Aging**

Caryn Rein

Doug Rein

**Fair Board**

Megan Pirtz

Tom Pisk

**Land Planning Board**

Tracey Feickert Dion

Todd Tibbets

**Library Board**

Justine Godfrey

**Mosquito Board**

Brad Eaton

**Predatory Animal Board**

Alroy Solle

**Salary Compensation Board**

Cindy Bond

Thane Reukauf 1 year term

**Tax Appeal Board**

Renee Pirtz

Harry McNall 2 year term

**Terry TV Board**

Sheryl Morast

**Weed Board**

Garrett Lapp

Floyd Fuhrman

Randy Robertson

2:55 p.m. Commissioners signed an administrative payroll correction, regarding comp time payout.

2:56 p.m. Commissioners Teske made a motion to do the administrative payroll correction, seconded by Commissioner Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Andrea Bybee came into speak about the Fallon County ambulance donation. She wanted to explain what she had found about the donation ambulance. Commissioners called Owen Devlin to see if he would be willing to go to Fallon County and inspect this ambulance and see if it is a good machine for the county. Andrea updated the commissioners on ambulance business.

3:30 p.m. Public Comment not on agenda.

3:45 p.m. Commissioners received Annual Report from the Library Board (Appendix A)

4:00 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder

## Appendix A

To: Prairie County Commissioners

From: Prairie County Library Board

The Prairie County Library continues to be an important part of our community. We currently have 468 active registered borrowers who use the library and the services it offers. Other individuals also use our library when visiting our community or traveling through and need access to the internet or maybe just a quiet place to relax for a few hours. During the past year we had 3663 individuals visit the library which was an increase of 156 people. They checked out 7526 materials which was an increase of 943 items. There were also 745 electronic items downloaded via personal devices. Approximately 250 of these visitors also accessed our inhouse computers and WiFi. Currently the library over 12300 print materials and over 1000 audio and visual items. We also have access to millions of other items that are available via electronic download or Interlibrary loan. The Story Hour program continues with an average of 10 to 12 participants. The Summer Reading Program title "All Together Now" attracted about 35 participants weekly for 6 weeks. Our "Ready, Set, Go" program for preschool continued with 12 children attending during the school year. The kids learn the "Pledge of Allegiance", the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, listening skills, how to write their name and other activities that will help them get ready for Kindergarten. These programs are very popular with our young families that have recently moved to our community and the staff at the school is very appreciative the programs we offer as they can see the difference it is making. Parents and others continue to make donations to these programs to help keep the costs down. Book Club continues meeting the first Monday of each month with the exception of July and August. We currently have 8 to 10 participants. During the past year the library borrowed from or loaned to other libraries over 2800 items which was an increase of 300 over the previous year. Many of these items are delivered via a courier service which helps to keep postage cost down as the current rate for one book is now averaging \$4 per book. The Library Board and Staff would like to thank you for your continued support.