

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

March 27<sup>th</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.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance & Call to order. Public comment on agenda matters.

9:25 a.m. Doug & Shelly Cayhill into speak with the commissioners about gas tax road #4. Commissioner Devlin said they had removed the gas tax road #4 in the last commissioner meeting. Doug ask the commissioners for a letter showing they had done so. A lengthy discussion between the Cayhill's and the commissioners about how gas tax roads are determined and maintained. They also ask about road services from the county on grading, plowing, and mowing on private roads.

10:30 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided the commissioners with Payroll, Claims, and Journal Vouchers.

Prairie County Voucher #1114 \$10.00

Prairie County Voucher #1088 \$4,311.73

Prairie County Voucher #1087 \$844.21

Prairie County Voucher #1113 \$262.40

Prairie County Voucher #1112 \$25,521.72

Prairie County Voucher #1111 \$15,318.65

Prairie County Voucher #1109 \$1,764.39

Prairie County Voucher #13 \$6,172.85

Prairie County Voucher #1108 \$57,186.63

Prairie County Voucher #1110 \$15,719.22

Prairie County Voucher #1115 \$849.34

Prairie County Voucher #1116 \$1,544.99

11:15 a.m. Commissioner discussed Eric Urbans \$2500 invoice for services on the Cherry Creek Gravel Pit, it will be paid through the 2110 Road Supplies and account 220.

11:43 a.m. Commissioners read the minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, commissioners meeting.

11:55 a.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, commissioners meeting as corrected, seconded by commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. County Attorney Dan Rice updated the commissioners with the Interlocal Agreement-Opioid Settlement. He informed the commissioners he didn’t realize this made it to the agenda, and that the county doesn’t get enough money from this, to be an active partner. Commissioner Teske read through the agreement and the updates. Commissioner Devlin signed an edited version of the agreement for Dan Rice to send.

1:27 p.m. Commissioner Teske received a call from Road Supervisor Todd Henry. They spoke about road agreements on private lanes. The topics were snow removal, mowing, and grading, in which Todd Henry informed the commissioners they do all three services for a fee.

1:35 p.m. Treasurer Cheryl Morrison updated commissioners on the Motor Vehicle Agreement. She suggested that the county go ahead and sign off on this agreement.

1:40 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign the “Credentialing and Registration System (CARS) Motor Vehicle Agreement with the State of Montana”, seconded by Commissioners Devlin, “all in favor” motion passed.

1:45 p.m. Treasurer Cheryl Morrison went over the new wording for the second property tax bill that will be sent out due to the Supreme Court of Montana Order. The County had sent out bills for the 77.9 mill property tax, and the new bill will reflect the additional 17.1 mills pushed by the Governor to equal 95 mills.

1:50 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion for the county to pay from (non-tax revenue account 2894) to cover the cost of the supplemental mills taxes that are under \$5, because the cost to ship out the bills would cost more than the \$5, seconded by Commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

1:54 p.m. Cheryl updated the commissioner about the application process for deputy treasurer and will interview candidates. Garrett Lapp is currently helping Cheryl in the office while they find a new Deputy Treasurer.

2:30 p.m. Commissioners had a joint zoom meeting with various government agencies about the Milwaukee bridge project. It included representatives from Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC), Montana Department of Transportation (MTDOT), Great West Engineering, and The Western Federal Highway Administration. There were various discussions on the process moving forward, and it as planned now the permanent fix should be completed in Summer 2025. It was discussed that the project will continue moving forward thanks to Dan Thomason, who signed off on a road easement for the county. Everything is in place and moving forward at an acceptable rate. The question did come up about the quick fix project and what happens to all the new materials placed on the bridge for that project. When the

final project is done, all unused materials will be given to the county to use as it needs, to keep up on other bridges and projects. The next schedule meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

3:15 p.m. Commissioners participated in a zoom meeting with “Iwork” a company proposing software support for tracking and maintaining the county’s motor vehicle fleet. The yearly cost would be \$1800 per year. Further discussion and examination of the software is needed before the commissioners will make a decision.

3:49 p.m. Commissioner Devlin read Resolution 24-22.

3:50 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion under protest to sign Resolution 24-22 “**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE STATE EQUALIZATION, COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL EQUALIZATION AND COUNTY ELEMENTARY EQUALIZATION MILL LEVEY AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**” seconded by Commissioner Devlin, Commissioner Devlin called for the vote, “all in favor, Commissioner Teske & Devlin” “all against, Commissioner Keltner” motion passed.

3:59 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept the Treasurer Investment Reports for February and March 2024, seconded by commissioner Keltner, “the acting treasurer brought forth concerns about the balance”, “all in favor” motion passed.

4:00 p.m. Public Comment (not on agenda). Stephen Swarthout in to speak with commissioners. He wanted to speak about the windmill farm discussion, wanting to know if there would be other discussions. Yes, there will be other discussions. Commissioner Teske updated him on some of the discussions at last week’s meeting and answered what questions they could for him. He also wanted to follow up with last summer’s discussions on mosquitos, and what chemicals the county is using, how they are applying them etc. Commissioner Teske told him that they follow the label. Stephen wanted to know about not having his property sprayed. Commissioner Teske explained that after last year’s meetings, that it had come up that it was voted in by the residents of Terry, and managed by the Mosquito District. The commissioners do not control what they do or how they do it. Commissioner Teske mentioned that if he feels that the spraying is not within regulations, he should contact DEQ or the department of agriculture.

5:00 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Devlin “all in favor” motion passed.

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



Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST: 

Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder