

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 7, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Christine Keltner and Deanna Bockness met in regular session at 9 a.m. In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry, Road Specialist Gary Pfiefler, and Dennis Teske. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

August 17, 2022, road minutes reviewed. Road Supervisor Henry reported that gravel usage reports were submitted to the Bureau of Land Management. Reviewed the August 30, 2022, DEQ Opencut Mining Report Inspection report on the Cherry Creek Gravel Pit Open Cut #3293. Noted failure to strip and salvage the depth of soil and overburden specified in the plan. The permitted soil depth is twelve inches although the permit states the typical soil available is nine inches. The opencut identified enough stockpiled soil to replace 5-6 inches across the 8.5 acres disturbed. It was noted that the 12-inch salvage and replacement depth may never have been fully achievable based on the soil data. Action required is to amend the permit to reflect the actual site conditions or amend the permit to import an adequate quantity of soil to meet the permitting requirements.

Commissioner Devlin joined meeting at 9:15 a.m. Gary Pfiefler reported he will bring the completed Cherry Creek Pit Reclamation Plan to the September 21, 2022, meeting, to be reviewed prior to submission.

Mr. Henry has been in touch with MACO to see if future BARSA money could be used for a road chemical/maintenance program. The distribution of allocated funds request must be made before November 1, 2022.

Mr. Henry reported the current BARSA project on 10 Mile Road will be completed this week with chip seal yet to be done. Top Gun Asphalt utilized approximately thirty-five tons more asphalt than estimated in the bid with cost estimate \$4000. A request was made to be compensated extra. Job had been placed out on bids, with Commissioners noting no available extra funding budgeted for the project.

Supervisor Henry reported increase in truck/grader tires as eighteen tires were purchased for \$9000. John Deere Tractor payment of \$8,830.63 check signed, noting account balance of \$24,641.14.

10:00 a.m. Greg Benjamin, PE, Stahly Engineering-MDT Off System Bridge Study and Implementation per Zoom Meeting. In attendance were Road Supervisor Todd Henry and Dennis Teske. Discussion held regarding the current off-system bridges located in Prairie County, the priority for repair/or replacement options, impacts for critical services and economic vitality, with the goal of obtaining a larger funding base for bridge replacement/repair throughout the state. Priority bridges in Prairie County are the three bridges with load postings: 1) Cabin Creek 011-thirteen miles NE Mildred 2) Highway 340 Bridge 06690-three miles N Mildred 3) CB Route Buffalo Rapids Canal 042-five miles NE Fallon. Stahly Engineering and MDT are developing an Interactive GIS Map Tool with the Montana bridge information. Discussion for the need of road impact fee due to hunting, recreation, and tourism on low population areas as road repairs fall back on already overburdened taxpayers.

11:00 a.m. County Health Nurse Tylene Eaton, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Master Contract #23-07-6-11-044-0 in the amount of \$27,392.00. Public Nurse Eaton will attend a seminar on new mandates as monthly reporting is now required. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign document. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, all in favor, contract signed by Commissioner Devlin.

Deputy Clerk Aria Walters in to discuss the Mosquito Spraying Policy and need to update the 2004 Policy. A constituent has requested that no spraying be done in his neighborhood due to health concerns. Call placed to County Attorney Dan Rice, MACO will be contacted, and Mosquito Board will be requested to hold meeting.

Dennis Teske left meeting at 11:40 a.m. No one in for Public Comment.

11:45 a.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to accept the August 29, 2022, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, with motion carried. Commissioner Bockness abstained as absent from the meeting.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Deputy Aria Walters in with Journal Adjustment of \$10.16 as claim was taken from fire rent instead of fire repair.

Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants in the amount of \$69,394,84.

1:30 p.m. Call placed to Get R Done regarding Invoice 34291 of 8/12/2022. Noted repair was for Mosquito pickup with claim sheet filled out by Commissioner Keltner.

1:45 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson reported on letter sent to Danielle Vincent, Bureau Chief State Financial Services Department of Administration regarding audit finding 2-21-007 CARES fund expenditures. A detailed list of eligible expense wages/hours was sent that would offset the previous error.

Deputy Clerk Aria Walters in to discuss obtaining quotes for the storm damaged courthouse sign. Quotes will be obtained for both metal and plastic signs.

Discussion held on Action for Eastern Montana Area I Modification #01 to Purchase of Service Contract #2022-001-05. Message left Heather Handran for clarification of modified contract breakdown of funding.

2:00 p.m. Budget Public Hearings Open

Resolution 2023-6 Adopting Fiscal Year 2022-23 Levies and **Resolution 2023-7** A Resolution of the Commissioners of Prairie County, State of Montana Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Clerk Robertson read the Final Budget Message. Highlights included mill value decreased by 3.04%, For Fiscal Year 2022/2023 the mill values are as follows: County Wide- \$5,479.35, Road- \$4,838.28, Cabin Creek-\$128.39, Fallon Fire- \$789.418, Town of Terry \$641.074, Soil Conservation-\$4,365.40 (voted Levy of 1.5 mills), Mosquito District- \$641.074. All mill values are down across the county compared to FY22. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to sign and submit Prairie County budget message. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, with motion passed. Budget message signed by Commissioner Devlin.

Commissioners and Clerk Robertson reviewed the Tax Levy Requirement Schedule non-voted levies, voted permissive levies, and non-levied funds.

2:30 p.m. Deputy Sheriff Jon Arnold in for clarification of Resolution 22- 5-Permissive 3% Sheriff Retirement Resolution that was passed on August 29, 2022. The property tax levy of 1.27 mills funds the additional 3% contribution to the Sheriff Retirement System.

3:00 p.m. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-6 Fiscal Year 2022-23 Levies. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 2023-7 A Resolution of the Commissioners of Prairie County, State of Montana Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to adopt the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner. All in favor with final budget passed.

Due to the initial contractor unable to replace window in the Clerk & Recorder's office due to health issues, RCC construction will put the window in.

Reviewed the estimated county liability for unused annual and sick leave balances as of June 30, 2022, for the County Extension Agent submitted by MSU Extension.

3:30 p.m. Deputy Treasurer Cheryl Morrison in to discuss courthouse carpet cleaning. JM Services will clean carpet for \$1250.

3:40 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Robertson in to discuss incentives for departments that are conservative in their budgets and gave an update on elections.

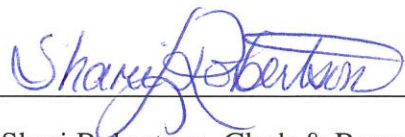
4:45 p.m. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kelter. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Signed this 30st day of September 2022.



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder