

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

July 6, 2022

Prairie County Board of Commissioners Todd Devlin, 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 Mary Bucher. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Road minutes reviewed. Supervisor Henry reported the Montana DEQ flew a drone over Cherry Creek Gravel Pit, report is pending.

Discussion on cattleguard on Section 4, North Bad Route, Sir Trust Lands. Clarification that the gate is 24 feet wide instead of 18 feet. Jerry Nagle will purchase a 12-foot cattleguard. Commissioners agreed to put in writing that the cattleguard will not be removed or moved without his permission.

Mary Bucher reported road damage from flooding on Fallon Tower Road. Road crew has flagged the road. Road Supervisor Henry reported multiple areas in the county that water washed over the roads after the heavy rains on July 2 and 3, 2022. The State of Montana was contacted on Bridge 06680 Secondary 340 located 3 miles north of Mildred. The bridge has significant erosion damage and rotted abutments and timber cap. The area has been signed and flagged. Commissioner Keltner brought photos in of flooding damage on the Cabin Creek Road and Spring Creek Roads.

Gary Pfiefler received call from Shane Eaton and will research road history West Bad Route Road to Dawson County.

9:35 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the June 29, 2022, minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devlin. All in favor, motion carried.

Manager Karen Rausch gave report on the stove/hood project at the Community Center. The hood was not installed to Fire Marshal standards and Shepherds Stainless will need to correct deficiencies.

10 a.m. Commissioners registered for the Montana Association of Counties Annual Conference on September 25-September 28 at the Billings Montana Hotel and Convention Center.

Commissioner meeting dates changed 1) August 31, 2022, meeting changed to August 29, 2022, due to Commissioner Devlin will be absent. 2) September 28, 2022, meeting will be changed to September 30, 2022, as Commissioners will be at the annual MACo conference.

Commissioners will attend the District I, II, and III meetings at the Custer County fairgrounds on July 11, 2022.

10:30 a.m. Deputy Clerk Aria Walters in with claims. Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants for FY 2022 in the amount of \$1739.59. Commissioners reviewed claims and signed warrants for July 1, 2022, in the new fiscal year in the amount of \$141,828.06.

Discussion held on the workman's compensation plan fee in the amount of \$206.30. The fee will be paid from the building employee contributions.

10:45 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Robertson in with journal entries 1) #523-insurance premium adjustment in the amount of \$205. and 2) #537 permissive levy adjustment in the amount of \$37.32.

11:00 a.m. Ambulance Coordinator Jennifer Grey Eagle

Commissioner Kelter made a motion to assign Jennifer Grey Eagle as the ambulance billing administrator for the Optum account for the Prairie County Ambulance. Commissioner Devlin seconded motion. All in favor, motion carried with notarized letter sent to Optum.

Coordinator Grey Eagle has been in contact with Glendive Ambulance on ambulance for sale.

Coordinator Grey Eagle reported receiving a \$92,000 grant from the Community Integrated Health/Community Paramedicine Program for 1 year with potential to apply for grant next year. She reported that the grant will cover office space rent as the hospital plans to convert her hospital office to a beauty shop and she needs a place to work and store confidential documents.

11:30 a.m. Public Comment -no one in for public comment. Commissioner Devlin invited Dennis Teske to come to budget meetings at 1 p.m.

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 Lunch

1:00 p.m. Road Budget Meeting In attendance Road Supervisor Todd Henry, Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson, and Dennis Teske.

Increased fuel costs: Road crew requires approximately 16,000 gallons of diesel and 2400 gallons of gas each year with capacity to store 4000 gallons. Fuel costs up 150%.

Increased supply costs: Shipping costs have increased 30-80%. Both graders need rear tires replaced for cost of \$16,000. Cutting edges (\$10,000) and culvert inventory (\$8000) is minimal and will need purchased. Chemical costs have doubled.

2820 Gas Tax Salaries and contributions are now included in the 2110 road salaries with this year county fuel allocation \$44,468.49.

BARSAA Project cost will be \$154,000 which is pending completion by Top Gun Asphalt. This year \$56,104.04 funding will be received, and the county is responsible for a 5% match. The new BARSAA project will need to be determined and a resolution drawn after the budget is set.

Road Budget has \$144,144.27 cash available and approximately \$200,000 in non-tax revenue and to stay under cap, \$384,000 is the bottom line so fuel and supply requests cuts were made. The grader and tractor payments are taken from oil and gas. The Commissioners Road Salaries (\$14,000+) had previously been taken out of the road budget and will need to be paid from oil and gas.

130 Bridge comes out of general fund and budgeted \$120,000 for salaries and contributions.

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Devlin left budget meeting to attend a phone conference with the National Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee.

3:00 p.m. Airport Budget In attendance were Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson, Airport Board Chair Dale Galland and Board Member Dwight Tague and Dennis Teske.

The budget request unchanged from last year budget request. The airport has \$22,000 in grant money available. The airport master plan is at the feasible and environmental study phase.

3:15 p.m. Fire Budget In attendance were Dwight Tague, Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson, Dennis Teske

Fireman workman's compensation line item added to budget. Fire grants of \$8000 are anticipated and added to supply line item. A secondary donation .221 supply line item has been added (\$3000). Fire purchased services line item eliminated. Fire rent increased \$300 to include winter truck storage at Grue Ranch. A fire training line item added for \$2500.

4:00 p.m. Commissioner Bockness made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Keltner, all in favor, motion carried.

Signed this 7th day of July 2022



Todd Devlin, Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder