

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

**October 31<sup>st</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 was Commissioner Secretary Harry McNall.

9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was performed. Public Comment on Agenda Matters. Bureau of Land Management, Carissa Shilling, Samantha Keeran, and Shane Findlay. Prairie County Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting. Conversations over the Cherry Creek Gravel Pit Permitting process.

9:15 a.m. Commissioner Devlin arrived at the meeting as well as Sheriff Lewis and Lonnie Reukauf.

Carissa Shilling went over in detail the soil results and application paperwork as well as how the applications are identified with serial numbers. She suggested that we move the boundaries closer to test hole 6, due to the possibility of historical artifacts in that area. Department of Environmental Quality would require GPS coordinates for corners of the proposed gravel pit boundaries. Todd Henry will coordinate with BLM to put stakes and GPS locations in place. The Proposed Boundary is off and will need to be updated by BLM. The current open pit would need to be covered with 12" of soil/subsoil and going forward 17" of topsoil/subsoil would have to be replaced. It will be up to the County to provide the difference between the available stockpile and what will be needed to replace topsoil. Opening new gravel should be pushed to the north where there should be more topsoil.

Shane Findlay has committed to reviewing all documents as we put them together and getting this done as soon as possible.

Carissa Shilling explained that federal mineral rights on private property sometimes are owned by the Government and that includes all soil from the ground down, and that if gravel or dirt is moved around on private property a permit is required outside of digging holes for fences etc.

10:55 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson provided the commissioners with payroll, claims and journal vouchers.

11:00 a.m. Commissioner Teske announced that a call from Shane Mince and Ryan Dahlke about the bridge on HWY 340 at 1:00 p.m. today.

Prairie County Voucher # 1043 \$16,252.39

Prairie County Voucher # 1041 \$65,166.92

Prairie County Voucher # 1042 \$18,605.40

Prairie County Voucher # 1045 \$28,020.31

Prairie County Voucher # 1044 \$3,777.00

Prairie County Voucher # 5      \$6,184.74

Commissioners reviewed claims:

Prairie County Voucher # 1048 \$10,184.57

Prairie County Voucher # 1049 \$1,756.14

11:38 a.m. Jennifer Grey Eagle came to speak to the commissioners about a customer write-off. The customer has paid ¾ of the original amount owed, on fixed income and has paid enough to cover the costs of the ambulance and personnel and then some.

11:43 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to forgive the customer mentioned above in the amount \$2640.00, seconded by commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. A video conference with Ryan Dahlke with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and Sheriff Lewis joined the commissioners for the meeting. The commissioners and Ryan spoke about the Mildred Bridge fix and what happens going forward. First Shane Mince is on leave this week and was not on the phone call today. First, 536 bill will cover the cost of the repair. First option we allow MDT to do the fix from start to finish for the full fix. The second option is to allow the County to do the bridge repair and allow 536 to reimburse the cost of the fix. If the county takes it on, MDT can reimburse in increments as the project goes forward. Commissioners would prefer that MDT takes on this project, but Ryan explained that it would be quicker for the county to do the work. Reimbursement would be every month, and typically those payments are quick return. The next step is for the county to contact Great West Engineering, to get an estimate of the cost of replacement and give it to MDT.

1:36 p.m. Public Hearing & Final Passage of Resolution 24-8 “Transfer of the Manor and Agreement”. Discussion invoked about location of the well in that area, and would not belong to “The Manor”, but remain as the county’s well.

1:48 p.m. Commissioner Devlin read **Resolution 24-8** and the Transfer Agreement for “The Manor”.

1:53 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign **Resolution 24-8** “A resolution approving a “transfer Agreement” with Rural Restoration Foundation, a Montana nonprofit corporation, to assume ownership of the Prairie County Manor in accordance with MCA 7-8-225(3), to restore and maintain the historic character of said building, to the transferred by way of a property deed which is subject to reversionary conditions.” Seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

2:00 p.m. Public Comment on Resolution 24-8.

2:30 p.m. Resolution 24-9 and 24-10 final passage.

2:46 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to sign and pass Resolution 24-9 “A Resolution Revising Commissioner District Boundaries”, seconded by Commissioner Keltner “all in favor” motion passed.

2:54 p.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to sign and pass Resolution 24-10 “A Resolution Revising Voting Precinct Boundaries” seconded by Commissioner Teske “all in favor” motion passed.

3:00 p.m. Public Comment on Resolutions 24-9 and 24-10.

3:01 p.m. Commissioners reviewed expenditures sheets.

3:22 p.m. Commissioners decided on which dates to have commissioner meetings for the year 2024.

3:37 p.m. Commissioners reviewed minutes from October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Commissioners meeting.

3:45 p.m. Commissioners Tekse made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected for Commissioners meeting October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Commissioners Devlin “all in favor” motion passed.

4:00 p.m. Travis Lacquement is in to speak with the commissioners about snow removal at the courthouse. Travis will come by more than once a day as needed to keep the sidewalks in good condition. Does he need a snow machine, and what are the costs? He looked and the lowest priced snow machine was \$1099.99. Sheriff Lewis asked that Travis Lacquement would not pile snow in the ally way.

4:15 p.m. Commissioner Devlin made a motion to buy a snow blower from Lewis Family Hardware at \$1099.99, seconded by Commissioner Teske, “all in favor” motion passed.

4:20 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, “all in favor” motion passed.

Signed this 8th day of November, 2023.

  
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Todd Devlin, Commissioner Chair

ATTEST:   
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Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder