Prairie County Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 1st, 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. No public comments.

9:15 a.m. Road Supervisor Todd Henry joined the meeting.

9:16 a.m. Note: Concerning the courthouse camera purchase motion made and passed on March 20th, 2024. The account to be used for purchase will be 2899.300.

9:35 a.m. Burt Keltner joined the meeting to discuss the hospital funds transfer, that was discussed at the April 26th, 2024, commissioners meeting. Burt provided the commissioners with a letter stating that "no new investments can be made on behalf of the Hospital District".

9:58 a.m. A short discussion on the Milwaukee bridge closure, due to bridge conditions and how it will affect those who live on the other side.

10:20 a.m. Brandon Duffey called to speak about the newspaper ad for bid request for the Milwaukee bridge. It was noted that a mistake happened in the newspaper stating, "bids will be opened May 14th, at 9:30 a.m.", but it was supposed to read "bids opened May 15th, at 9:30 a.m." he will contact the paper and try to get the next listing showing the correct date.

10:30 a.m. Sheila Dixson and Bernie Shaff with the Museum Board to speak with commissioners about well repair/capping. The discussion was focused on the old artesian well and if it has been capped, or if it still needs to be done. Will the county cover the costs of having it dug up and capped? Discussion about how to complete the project and thoughts on costs. Commissioners suggested getting bids on what the project might cost. Bernie mentioned that a mill levy for cost of utilities only for the Museum Board would provide enough funds to help them keep going. County Attorney Dan Rice provided feedback on what would be needed for a mill levy for the museum buildings.

11:11 a.m. Commissioner Devlin read the April 26th, 2024, commissioner meeting minutes.

11:20 a.m. Commissioner Keltner made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 26th, 2024, commissioner meeting as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Teske, "all in favor" motion passed.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk & Recorder provided the commissioners with claims.

Prairie County Voucher #1131 $40,492.78

Prairie County Voucher #1132 $1,442.31

Prairie County Voucher #1133 $183.20

2:00 p.m. Dale Tribby joined the meeting to discuss the BLM Sage Grouse Proposal. The EIS is about 1300 pages and covers 78 different policy areas. Dale focused on what effects Prairie County, what changes have happened since 2015 review of this document, and any other important areas to Prairie County. He discussed what alternatives were proposed and some of the most conservative alternatives made it to this document so BLM can consider all alternatives. Overall, Dale doesn't feel prairie county should be concerned about the changes for the county. Dale confirmed that some general habitat land within Prairie County, was removed from the map, consisting of about 225,000 acres. His largest concern is how mitigation will be applied and is not well defined within the document.

Dale Tribby stated he has spent 130 hours on this project already and would like to know what limits or how much more time the county would like him to spend. The commissioners explained they would like to have him keep working on the project.

3:10 p.m. Andrea Bybee in to speak with commissioners about ambulance. She provided updates on the new ambulance, grants, and other related business.

3:32 p.m. Clerk & Recorder Shari Robertson and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Aria Walters to visit with commissioners about upcoming budget meetings. Shari updated commissioners on the school election and what issues it created with the county election clerks office.

4:00 p.m. Public comment (not on agenda). No public comment.

4:11 p.m. Shane Mince with Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) phoned into the commissioners meeting to speak about the Milwaukee bridge closure. He stressed that closing the bridge to all traffic is important, to keep funding available for future fixes.

4:35 p.m. Commissioner Teske called Road Supervisor Todd Henry, and they spoke about the cattle guard agreement on the Maybon Road Frontage Road Connection with (MDOT).

4:40 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to accept "Winter Road maintenance Agreement Between the Montana Department of Transportation and Prairie County, Frontage Road Connection - Maybon Road" seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

5:10 p.m. Commissioner Teske made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keltner, "all in favor" motion passed.

Signed this 15th day of May 2024

Christine W. Keltner ATTEST: Shari Robertson

Christine Keltner, Commissioner Chair Shari Robertson, Clerk & Recorder