

Monday, January 26, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger and Dennis Afrank, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular Monday session.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met for his weekly report. Violet Straub would like some scoria on her road due to the truck traffic. They have used most of the crushed scoria from the Wenz Pit but there is more to be crushed. Doug Rowe will be building a house on the Longview Road; he has built the road. Commissioner Afrank told him when he gives good intention that he is going to build a house; the County will surface the road. Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the discussion. Discussion regarding the Gatzke Pit; they plan to haul out of the pit soon to Pine Creek Road. Discussion regarding the Rustad Pit; everything that was there, was crushed. Discussion regarding allowing this to be used for the North Baker Water Sewer project. Discussion regarding repairs for the D6 from the landfill.

George Fitzgerald, Skyway TV of Jordan, via phone, stated he ran tests at Bracket Butte regarding the analog/digital TV issue. Rapid City is the only digital channel so far; Dickinson and Glendive are going digital but they will not change over until the day before the cut off date. FCC is going to hold the change over until July 1, 2009. Commissioner Rieger asked what it would cost to change this over. George stated it would cost approximately \$5,000.00 from the Baker TV District and we should move forward on it so it is in place when the change over comes into place. George will need to order the Channel 13 antenna and amplifier and DAP unit. The other channels will only need the DAP unit. Fallon County will need to send a check directly to Graybar; then when Graybar gets the equipment they will send it out. Baker will have to get the upgrade before Plevna can upgrade their system. George stated Plevna TV District's costs will be approximately \$3,500.00 because they will only have to purchase two of the DAP units. The Commission agreed they need to take care of both Districts now. Commission will notify board members from both boards to write checks out to Graybar for the purchase of the updates.

Dennis Bishop and Ken Griffith, Griffith Development met to discuss Dennis B.'s scope of work completed on the NBWS project. Discussion regarding where they could get some gravel for the NBWS project. Ken wondered if the Commission had a pit on the north side of Cap Rock Road. They have to have a bed of 2 1/4" crushed rock for the pipe to lie on. The Commission felt they could use the gravel from the Rustad Pit. The Commission will have Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman go and get some samples of that gravel. Ken stated it was felt they may need 3,000 to 4,000 yards for the project. Ken stated if they can not use that then they would have to haul rock from Glendive. Commissioner Afrank asked about the funding from Rural Development. They are fairly certain they will be getting funding; they do not know how much will be grant and how much will be loan funding. Kit Anderson, Planner joined the discussion. Discussed the Economic Development monies; that funding was supposed to be given out the end of the year, apparently there is still some of that funding available. Commissioner Ranum questioned the claim Griffith Development turned in for the work Dennis B. was doing. Commissioner Ranum felt Dennis B. was working through a grant. Dennis B. clarified he works for the NBWS District. Dennis B. stated he has been busy doing things for the last 2 months and the work he has to do will be slowing down. Ken stated whatever Brosz wants they (Dennis B. and members of the District) have to run and get it for them. Commissioner Ranum discussed Dennis B's billing with him. Commissioner Ranum stated Dennis B needs to make sure that his billings are more detailed. Ken stated the District is getting a DNRC grant of \$100,000.00, with no match.

The group discussed the Pre Bid Conference tomorrow (January 27th) at the Old Democratic Office.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman stated there is approximately 3,500 to 4,000 yards of pit run at the Rustad pit. The majority of rock is 2" and smaller but there are some larger rocks also. The pile is frozen hard enough that Bob could not get a sample of it.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM.

Jason Rittal, Eastern Plains Economic Development Director met to discuss grants he would like to try to assist Fallon County in receiving. The State of Montana-CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) has money that they are going to be giving within the next couple of months. Jason explained it is much easier to get those funds for Counties such as Carter County because of their low to moderate income. These funds can also be used for last year's May snow storm. Jason stated there would be definite funding available for anything related to Senior Citizen's and has to be disaster related such as a generator for the Hospital. The Commission explained we already have that. Commissioner Ranum asked about a generator for the County Shop in case they had to go out and plow during a bad storm; they would need to have lights and be able to plug in their equipment so it would be sure to start. Jason stated he did not know if that would work, but could try. Jason also suggested food banks would be a good way to get some funding. Discussed a backup generator for water wells; Jason stated that may not work need to meet the LMI needs of 51%. Jason stated Senior Centers are the best bet. Commissioner Ranum asked if the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall could be used as a shelter. Discussed placing an elevator in the library basement as it is a designated fall out shelter and the DES command center is located in the basement of the Library. Discussed funding for the elevator they are replacing at the Nursing Home; can not be used for something already paid for, has to be a new expense. Commissioner Afrank discussed placing water tanks in the country for fires suppression. Commissioner Afrank suggested possibly purchasing a small van for seniors with wheel chair accessibility for evacuation purposes. Commissioner Rieger discussed possibly purchasing a rotary snow plow. Jason stated these are all good ideas; just keep thinking about it and let him know of further thoughts. We do not want to lose this funding.

Discussion regarding the Economic Development Association (EDA)-Revolving Loan Fund (RLF); Mr. Atchinson and Jason are working together on this. This funding is only available to four counties. Atchinson's RLF funding match is more than Jason's. Jason is in hopes our Counties could use some of Atchinson's funds to come up with the match necessary. Jason stated Rural Development owns the funding for the Counties Jason has. Jason stated they would have to get them loaned out in Fallon and Carter County and then get the funds back for the other three counties. Jason is going to talk to his board and see how it goes from there.

Jason discussed getting funding for the North Baker Water and Sewer District. Jason felt if he could prove the number of jobs being created and also without infrastructure; the new businesses will not come to Baker. Jason needs to prove every employee and any coming in. Jason stated he could do the tracking of invoices, etc. Jason will also need to talk to Dan and Jon Brosz about all of this.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman stated the Rustad Pit is still open and we are still hauling from that pit. There is still some pit run gravel left but we are unsure if that is in the County's permitted area. Commission stated they will send Bob to talk to Allen and see whose gravel this is for sure.

CLOSED-HIPAA
CLOSED-PERSONNEL/HIPAA

The Commission ran a special approval for the following claims for various reasons- Griffith Development, LLC was held over from the last run until further clarification could be made today; Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp required a 50% payment before the repair work for the elevator in PV1 would be completed, which was today, January 26, 2009. Those claims in the amount of \$8,456.08 are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission passed Resolution 1-26-2009(2) amending personnel policy #3.03 Annual Vacation Leave. That resolution is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission was asked by the Fair Board if they could repair the approaches leading into the Fairgrounds before the Highway Department starts to work on Highway 7 this Spring. The Commissioner's agreed the State has always repaired the approaches

during the projects. If the State does not repair them, the County will make sure they are completed.

Mike Carl, Custodian Hospital/Parkview I & II called and stated he needed to replace the range hood and bathroom fan in Apartment 216 of PV1 at a cost of approximately \$200.00. The Commission gave permission for this to be completed.

Commissioner Rieger made the motion to appoint Mark Jacobsen to the Airport Commission at Large. Commissioner Afrank seconded the motion. Commission Ranum called for a vote of all those in favor. 3 Ayes. Commissioner Ranum called for a vote of those opposed. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously. A letter will be submitted to the City of Baker so they may make their decision at their next meeting.

Randy Hoenke, Baker Rural Fire District Chief met to update the Commission on the Fire Department building. Randy stated he called and left a message for the Commission that the bid would be hitting the paper. The bid closes the 19th of February. Jim and Terry would like to come down and go through the bids with the Commission on the 24th of February but the Commission does not meet that day. Commissioner Rieger asked if they were changing their bid from block to steel. Randy stated it is still going to be a cement block building with steel girders, steel rafters, steel studs; tin sheeting on the inside and the second level will have tin or steel on the outside to cut down on the weight. Commissioner Afrank asked if any of it changed. Randy stated yes they went to steel on top for weight constraints. Randy stated there could still be changes made dependent upon how the quotes come in. Commissioner Rieger asked if they would be contracting for the entire project. Randy stated the contractors can bid on whatever they would like to bid on. Commissioner Ranum asked if two people bid it, one bids the entire project and one just the cement and the person that bid the entire project is high on their cement price and the person that bid just the cement is ½ the price, who gets the bid. Randy stated the low bidder. Commissioner Afrank stated unless it is a package deal and someone can give cheaper price for the entire project over all. Commissioner Rieger asked do you think you will get a cheaper bid with the economy the way it is. Randy said he feels it will be better now, other than labor will be the same with Davis Bacon wages to contend with. Randy stated at least now steel prices are down, electrical (copper) and fuel prices have also gone down. With the economy the people are now wanting/needing the work. Commissioner Afrank asked what type of rating North Baker Water Sewer District had. Randy stated they do not meet the 10 state standards regarding water flow for fire hydrants in the North Baker Water Sewer District. Randy further stated they are only getting 8 to 9 pounds of pressure, but that works for the Department. Since Randy is the jurisdiction leader for that; if the Commission approves it he will put it on letterhead that they have trucks in the North Baker Water Sewer District, equipped with water for fire suppression at this time. Randy stated he will explain that if this project were to move forward, this would greatly assist the Fire Department in the suppression of fires and would most likely bring the North Baker Water Sewer in to compliance and may reduce the cost of insurance to businesses within the District. The Commission may ask him to do this at a later date. Randy extended an invitation for the Commission to be present on the 19th of February for the bid opening. Randy feels there may be a couple of Fire Board Members present also. Commissioner Rieger asked if they may be getting some money through the stimulus package. Randy does not know. Commissioner Afrank asked will the new buildings going up in the NBWS help get a better rating for Fallon County. Randy stated it will help for those that are in the District because they can only be so many feet from a hydrant. Insurance breaks usually come to the businesses rather than the single family dwelling. Commission will meet the 23rd and those that want to meet with Fisher and the Architect can meet on the 24th. Randy discussed the proposal from the City of \$10,000.00 per year. The Commission has not received anything formal from the City at this time.

Teresa Christensen brought in a quote for the heating and air conditioning systems for the Boy Scout building. The Commission granted permission to accept the quote from Verke Refrigeration in the amount of \$4,100.00 for the heating and \$1,734.12 for the air conditioning.

Commissioner Afrank asked the Clerk and Recorder to phone Verke and get quotes for the Baker and Plevna Senior Centers to update their heating systems.

Faye Koenig, Treasurer/Assessor met to get permission from the Commission to allow Barbara Ketterling, Deputy Treasurer/Assessor to assist Wibaux County train on the new Merlin software system. Faye feels Barb is the most proficient, but no one in their office is great at it. Commissioner Rieger asked if Faye felt there would be any staffing issues. Faye did not seem to think so. Commission stated if she feels she has enough staff to work in her office, then it is up to her. Faye stated they had someone come in today from the State to put in all new terminals and he said he would be surprised if there would not be a lot of glitches regarding this software. Commissioner Afrank stated Barb would need to use the County car. Faye agreed.

Commissioner Afrank was granted permission to leave the state Feb 26th through March 1st.

The Commission sent a memo out to all Departments reminding them to take the time to make sure and shut down all necessary equipment and turn off any unnecessary lighting. The Commission asked this to pass the cost savings on to our taxpayers and energy conservation.

JOURNALS:

Journal 426-Reversing Journal #126 to allow for set up of Hospital loan for FY2008.

Journal 598-Set up loan for FY 2008.

Journal 427-Roll balance forward for the Oil and Gas Accelerated Fund to FY2009.

Journal 428-Reversing Journal #134 to allow for adjustment of Retirement Complex Fund fixed assets and depreciation.

Journal 599-Adjust Retirement Complex Fund fixed assets and depreciation.

Journal 429-Roll balance forward in Retirement Home Fund to FY2009 after adjustments were made.

Journal 424-Reverse Journal 135 for Solid Waste Fund to allow for adjustments made to compensated absences.

Journal 596-Adjust compensated absences for Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 597-Additional adjustment to compensated absences for Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 425-Roll balances forward to FY2009 after adjusting compensated absences for Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 430-To reverse Journal 425 to allow for adjustment of fixed assets and depreciation for Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 600-Adjust fixed assets and depreciation for FY2008 for Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 431-Roll balances forward to FY2009 after adjusting fixed assets and depreciation in Solid Waste Fund.

Journal 422-Reverse Journal 225 allow for adjustment of compensated absences for General Long Term Debt Fund.

Journal 595-Adjust FY2008 compensated absences in the General Long Term Debt Fund.

Journal 423-Roll balances forward to FY2009 after adjusting compensated absences in the General Long Term Debt Fund.

Journal 432-Reverse Journal 137 to allow for adjustment to fixed assets and depreciation in the Ambulance Fund.

Journal 601-Record fixed assets and depreciation for FY2008 in the Ambulance Fund.

Journal 433-Roll balances forward to FY2009 after adjusting fixed assets and depreciation for the Ambulance Fund.

Journal 444-Reverse Journal 224 for General Fixed Assets.

Journal 602-Adjust General Fixed Assets for FY2008.

Journal 445-Roll General Fixed Assets Fund forward to FY2009 after adjusting entries were made.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES:

Continental Resources, Inc.-\$5,963.01-Oil and Gas Royalties for November, 2008.

ROAD EASEMENTS SIGNED:

Joyce Straub-Farmstead in Section 2-9-56; Straub Access in Section 6-9-57; Westmore Road in Section 2-9-56.

Richard and Arlis D. Schaefer-Cougar Road in Sections 33-8-58 and 34-8-58.

R & A Farms, Inc.-Cougar Road and Tonquin Trail in Section 34-8-58; Farmstead in Section 34-8-58; Cougar Road in Section 27-8-58.

RIGHT OF WAY GRANT/TEMPORARY USE PERMIT EASEMENTS:

The Commission signed the Right of Way grant from the Department of the Interior-BLM for Section 6, Lots 6 and 7, Township 9 North, Range 60 East.

TEMPORARY APPLICATION FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT:

The Commission signed the temporary application for bridge replacement in Section 15, Township 8 North, Range 59 East, located on the Anticline Road.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

The Commission received the Financial Closeout report from the FAA for the acquisition of snow removal equipment for the Baker Municipal Airport-Project Number 3-30-0004-010-2006.

The Commission received the approved December 10, 2008, Safety Team Minutes for review.

The Commission received a copy of a letter written by Steve Zachmann, Planning Board President requesting the City furnish the Planning Board with a copy of each Zoning Compliance Permit issued by the City, effective February 1, 2009. The Planning Board stated it is within their authority to be informed on all new construction and remodeling projects within the City limits so they may be able to fulfill their obligations as members of the Planning Board more efficiently.

The Commission received a copy of a correction notice received from the Bureau of Building and Measurement Standards of Helena, Montana for the Fallon County Parks Department. The work that was not completed on the roof at the park gazebo due to weather conditions and weather permitting will be corrected as soon as possible.

The Commission received a letter from Fidelity Exploration and Production Company regarding the location of proposed wells #2998 and #2999 on the section the County is proposing the Coral Creek Landfill expansion project. Fidelity explained the wells will not fall within the bounds of the County's proposed expansion. Fidelity further stated they are not sure where future wells may be planned in those sections and further explained Fidelity does have the right by virtue of its Oil and Gas leases under these lands to use as much of the surface as is reasonably necessary to drill wells for the production of oil and gas. Fidelity hopes to be able to work together to assure mutual satisfactory arrangements.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from January 20, 2009.

The Commission continues to listen to the legislative sessions and review all legislative bills they feel pertinent to Fallon County, City of Baker, Town of Plevna, Public Schools and the State of Montana in general.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

ATTEST:
Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder