

Monday, November 16, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairman; William L Randash, Member and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular November session. Donald Rieger was excused to attend an out of town meeting.

Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly report.

Approach-Permission was granted to proceed with the approach for Roddy Rost. Roddy has the area marked for the crew.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the group.

Building-A quote was received from G & R Custom Metals for a 17x32x13 building to be placed at the old landfill for concrete pours and later for other purposes. The cost for the building will be \$12,500; it will have 2-12' overhead doors and a walk through door. The size of this building would allow it to be moved elsewhere.

Power pole-MDU needs to know if the power pole for the building will be temporary or permanent. Wayne Christensen, MDU stated he did not think it would cost anything to get the electricity to this area but there would be a charge for anything below the meter. Decision made to place the pole permanently as they could use the power for County equipment such as the loader, rather than roading it to town. Suggestions were made as to what we could use the building for, i.e. impounding vehicles, landfill storage, leave at the old landfill for other purposes.

Blades-Landfill Loader-Alba stated they picked up parts for the Landfill loader on Tuesday and are trying to get the wings on the blades.

Landfill Pickup-Alba stated the cam position sensor on Tom Barth's, Landfill pickup needed to be replaced.

Fairgrounds mower-Alba has the hustler mower in the shop. Since the park is purchasing a new mower, they have an older mower they would be willing to give to another County Department. Alba feels that mower should also go to the Fairgrounds and possibly the Fairgrounds could give some money to the park for the Hustler mower, which could in turn be used for the new park mower.

Belly dump trailers-Discussed writing some bid specs for new trailers. The Commission felt it would be a good idea if they would look at various trailer brands before writing specs. Permission granted to go view trailers and return with information.

Truck repair-TRUCK #161 is going to need to have some work completed on it.

Fuel wagons-Safety Team wondered if the fuel wagons were going to be phased out and what the time frame for that would be. Alba stated two are still in use but as soon as the Road Department purchases a few more pickups, they will phase the rest of the wagons out.

Old Fire Warden pickup-The Commission asked if Alba felt the old Fire Warden pickup could be used to replace the old Outside Building Maintenance pickup as soon as the equipment is stripped from it. Alba felt that would be a much better pickup for OBM to use than the one they now have.

This week the road crew will be hauling gravel on the Anticline Road from the Pinnow Pit. Billy Singer is closing up the South end of the Allerding's pit with the scraper. David Hall and Roland Maier are crushing at the Allerdings Pit. Doug Bruha and Roscoe Gray are putting a new culvert in the Burnt Station Road by Dan Thielen's.

Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering joined the group to explain the change order on the Stark Bridge project. This is the project Wyrick Construction is working on. There was a lot of extra muck they do not know what to do with which entails moving it from the site to another location. The Commission approved the work and the additional \$12,373.00 charge. Jon left the discussion.

Commissioner Randash asked if Fallon County had a policy on caravanning the County trucks as he had someone ask him why they caravan. Bobby feels the crew is taking their breaks a lot of times when they are seen. Bobby further explained they also try to stay close to each other because of dumping purposes because it is not easy for the blade hand to keep it even and of course it will look like they are caravanning.

New building-Commissioner Randash asked if they had the water issue resolved. They plan to install a culvert the full length of the building to resolve those issues.

Joe Janz, Outside Building Maintenance met to ask if there was a decision made regarding the cigarette smoke stacks. Joe stated they are now throwing the cigarette butts all over the sidewalks, etc. The Commission made the decision to allow Joe to put the smoke stacks back out. The Commission wanted to make it clear they do not support smoking, but they also feel they would rather put the smoke stacks back out, rather than to have all the littering.

Commissioner Randash discussed the Wind Energy meeting schedule for December 8<sup>th</sup>. Bob Nansel asked if he could bring a group of South Dakota farmers/ranchers to Baker to view the wind tower site in

Fallon County. Commissioner Randash stated Mike Carlson; New Harvest Energy will be here tomorrow also to discuss our wind anemometers and the meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Randash will plan to meet with Mike Carlson.

Faye Koenig, Treasurer/Assessor met to discuss a taxpayer that come in to state he was taxed on 320 acres and he actually only owns 160 acres. His taxes have been incorrectly calculated since 2001 and he just now noticed this. Faye stated she feels we should only refund him for the 2009 taxes as we have done in the past when errors are found by the taxpayer. The Commission agreed to refund the 2009 taxes, but no further back.

The Commission received a message from Jeff Gruizenga he feels it would be best to let the project in the Sheriff's office (Heating/Cooling) close out rather than do the lights as a change order because it may cost more money to do it that way. Jeff felt that a local electrician could replace the lights or find new covers for the existing lights.

#### Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with all present.

Eric Kary, Golf Supervisor met to discuss a few updates for the Golf Course. Eric discussed the annual safety inspection for the Golf Course. Eric has corrected all of the issues but has to finish filling out the paperwork and turn it into Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor.

Sewer and water for the shop-Eric stated, after visiting with Don Himan, there is a man hole at the Fairgrounds they will be able to connect to. Eric reported he spoke to Roger Meggers, Airport Manager and the Airport would like to tie into the City sewer also. The biggest issue would be to bore the road. The Commission granted permission to keep working on this project to get sewer and water to the shop. Commissioner Randash asked where they would put a restroom in the building. Eric felt it would work best in the corner where the chemicals were stored and they would move the chemical to a different location.

#### **CLOSED-PERSONNEL**

The Commission approved the November, mid-month claims in the amount of \$453,449.49 and they are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

#### **CLOSED PERSONNEL**

Kevin Dukart, City Clerk has a sign to post for the Lake Drainage project. Permission granted to post it on the County shop fence and it was felt it could be used to coordinate with the County shop project.

Commissioner Ranum called Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman and placed him on speakerphone. Commissioner Ranum discussed the two bridges up near Wyrick's that were replaced by the State of Montana. Bobby stated they are both finished. Bobby stated they replaced the bridges with culverts but he is not sure if they are cement or metal. Commissioner Ranum asked Bobby to check and report back on the type of culverts and she would also like the information from the signs (posted by those bridges). Commissioner Ranum felt it was important to report that the money to replace the bridges came from the ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act).

#### **CLOSED PERSONNEL**

Kate Russell, Department of Revenue met to discuss the reappraisal issues. The change of use to agriculture was the biggest reason for the cost change for the landowners. The tax for gas and oil companies was discussed. The gravel pits were changed from agriculture to commercial. Fallon County is not figured as commercial. Wind Towers are not going to be agriculture, they will become commercial but they will have to do an administrative rule on this. Kate will give Commissioner Ranum the information.

Kate stated the taxes levy report was completed by Tena Ketchum. Fidelity taxes will go up and the Wind Tower taxes will go down. Kate asked if the Commission wanted the DOR to recertify the values. Commissioner's Ranum and Randash wanted to know what the difference would be first.

The group discussed local contact with the landowners regarding the changes in the valuations.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss the County's Drug and Alcohol Policy. There are some issues with our policy and Debbie feels we need someone to help us with the policy. The Commission granted permission for Debbie to contact Victory Insurance first. Our policy makes it hard to decide who should be tested. Since we are a County Government it is hard to know what we need to do.

#### **CLOSED-PERSONNEL**

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder reported back and stated she did get information from Victory Insurance. They have someone that is affiliated with them that would help us out with our Drug and Alcohol Policy. Debbie will inform Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor of this.

#### **REPORTS:**

The Commission reviewed and approved the following reports and are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Plevna Rural Fire District Minutes for October, 2009-Warrants approved to be paid for the Fire District were in the amount of \$1,989.97.

Baker Rural Fire District Minutes for October, 2009-Warrants approved to be paid for the Fire District were in the amount of \$498,859.58.

#### **DOCUMENTS SIGNED:**

The Commission approved and signed the amended Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and mailed it. That contract is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission approved and signed the Outlay Report #6 for the Airport Runway Expansion project. A copy of this report is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission signed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grant to purchase snow removal equipment. This included partial funding for a rotary snowplow and a small front-end loader. A copy of this grant is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission approved and signed Change Order 1 for the Fallon County Library heating/cooling to relocate the propane regulator and Changer Order 2 for the Law Enforcement Center to remove all existing insulation, furnish and install R49 batting and blown in insulation and acoustical ceiling tiles projects of which Con'eer Engineering is in charge of. This information is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

The Town of Plevna mailed a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Fallon County for the benefit of the Veteran's Memorial. The City of Baker donated the land in which the Memorial will be placed. Thank you to the leaders of those Municipalities for your generous donations.

The Commission wrote a letter expressing their regret regarding news the Regional Development Officer Program, as provided by the Montana Department of Commerce, was chosen for elimination. The letter was submitted to the Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer.

The Commission wrote a letter to Kent Atwood, MT Disaster and Emergency Services confirming Fallon County's intent to participate in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Tri-County Grant process.

#### **MINUTES APPROVED:**

The Commission reviewed and approved minutes from October 13<sup>th</sup> and October 19, 2009.

Adjourned.  
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

ATTEST: s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder