

Monday, November 30, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Donald Rieger, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder were present for a regular December, 2009 session. William L. Randash was gone attending the Elected Official Workshop in Helena.

Bobby, Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his road report for the week. Allerdings Pit-They had to quit crushing at the Allerdings pit because they need to start hauling out of there first. Right now the piles are so tight up against the crusher they have no place to put any more.

Trailers-Bobby stated he and Alba are still looking at various trailers before specifications are written for the bidding process.

Truck #161 is in Billings as it was time to update the injectors and the pump.

Hauling scoria-Bobby stated they are almost finished hauling on the Anticline Road.

Road surfacing-Commissioner Rieger stated he has noticed there are a lot of roads that need surfacing.

Storm Drain-Commissioner Ranum stated the storm drain recently installed at the lake, will need a cover and rip rap. Bobby stated the MT Department of Transportation is going to take care of that. Bobby stated he will talk to the DOT about that as he also wants to discuss the second storm drain the DOT placed. The DOT placed the second drain in the wrong place; they put it right where the Road Department needs to build the new approach.

On Star-Bobby stated after the Commission granted him permission to leave On-Star in his pickup, he completed some further investigation the charge will be too costly so Bobby will cancel it as he does not use it enough.

Roads-Bobby stated Randy Wolenetz would like the road going to the Traweek place bladed. Bobby felt the Commission had decided we were going to wait on that road. The Commission stated they do want to wait on that road for now. Bobby stated he did agree to work on the car gates. The Commission stated that was agreeable.

Chain link fence-The MT Department of Transportation wants us to move the rest of the chain link, next to the drainage area they are working on, because their track hoe will not fit in there otherwise. Bobby asked if the cost would be absorbed by the State or the County; the DOT felt it would be the County's expense. The State feels they would not do it at their expense and Commissioner Ranum and Bobby felt the County should not have to do it at its expense, because it was not necessary as long as they use a back hoe.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the discussion. The transfer case for the Road Dodge pickup was discussed. Alba stated he found one in Dickinson, ND through the Williston salvage dealer for \$1,050.00 + freight. It has 105,000 miles, they have to have it shipped in and Alba or someone can run to Dickinson and pick it up. Found another one in Minnesota for \$1,100.00 plus shipping and one in Texas that Alba has no price for yet. Bobby expressed if we go with a used transfer case then we need to replace the chain so it does not come apart and blow out the transfer case again.

Landfill loader-Alba stated the landfill loader is repaired and is back at the Landfill.

Landfill scraper-Alba stated the landfill scraper has a valve problem. They have a solenoid and also a relief valve ordered for it.

Loader Landfill- Commissioner Ranum asked if they used new or used parts on the new loader for the landfill. Alba stated they used new parts with the exception of the battery box as he was able to repair it. They could not have gotten used parts for the loader because it is too new and there are not any in a salvage yard, plus this loader has the landfill package on it.

Bobby stated the Anticline Road will be finished up to the Monarch Hill.

Greg Cade, Universal Field Services phoned in regarding the Keystone Pipeline. Commissioner's Rieger and Ranum agreed they would sign a lease option agreement but would ask that they use the Fallon County land as a final option.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with Commissioner's Ranum and Rieger and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

CLOSED-LEGAL

Nico Cantalupo, County Extension Agent brought information for the wind energy meeting scheduled for next week.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman and Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman discussed the transfer case for (pickup #104). After some discussion with the salesman from Drivetrain.com, the Commission gave permission to make the purchase of a transfer case from them. A claim was paid to Drivetrain.com (Drive Line Service) for \$1,148.75 for the transfer case; \$350.00 for the core and \$133.08 for shipping and handling or total of \$1,631.83.

Bob Winston, Victory Insurance; Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor and Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder/Payroll met to discuss the County's Drug and Alcohol Policy. Bob stated he reviewed the policy with Vera and Debbie and has determined this policy is not applicable to what Fallon County is doing. Bob recommends revising the policy completely so it is usable. Bob would do a much more user friendly policy, applicable to Fallon County. Debbie felt they (Vera, Debbie and Commission) could go through a smaller document and tweak it and then feels the Commission would have to adopt it and the employees would need to be trained on it. Commissioner Rieger feels this would benefit Fallon County greatly if we could get the policy down to a manageable, understandable size. Commissioner Ranum agreed and granted permission to have Bob complete this task.

Bob stated Victory will take care of the mandatory trainings also; as long as Fallon County subscribes to their services and as long as they have the plan through Victory.

Debbie asked if there would be extra charges for this service. Bob stated he did not think there would be. In the time he has worked for Victory, they usually never charge for extra services. Debbie asked if Bob would train Vera and Debbie on the policy. Bob felt that would be something he could do. Debbie stated the Supervisor's will also need to have special training on the policy.

Commissioner Ranum stated she would like to have someone look at the handicap restrooms as she does not know if a person in a wheelchair could get into them due to the door tension. Joe Janz, Outside Building Maintenance will be contacted to see if he can adjust the tension on the doors.

Angel Wyrwas, Reporter for the Fallon County Times met to get some project updates from the Commission.

Bridges-The Stark Bridge Project and the bridge on the Anticline Road have been completed. There were also two State bridges, located on the Don Wyrick property that were completed with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering is and will be inspecting bridges, under 20' feet long, every two years for Fallon County. The State bridges are repaired or removed/replaced at no cost to the County, with State funding.

101 Road-Is scheduled to get resurfaced next year (milled and repaved); this is also a State project.

Keystone Pipeline XL-Fallon County has been contacted about leasing land to TransCanada for a campsite. There are two other sites that were also chosen. Fallon County stressed to TransCanada, we want to be placed on a lower priority list, after the private landowners are considered. The State of MT-DEQ will make the final decision as to where the camp site will be placed, due to state regulations. The Commission gave Angel a copy of the map and Commissioner Ranum gave her the contact number for the Keystone Pipeline. Angel will check back the middle of December for more progress reports

Commissioner Randash is attending a newly elected official workshop this week.

The Fairgrounds Addition and the new building at the County Shop are nearing completion.

Fallon County continues to work on improving our Safety Program.

Drainage and other various projects are pending until Fallon County receives a decision on the Baker Lake.

TIFID-This is also pending a decision.

Angel wanted to know why the lake issues are taking so long. The Commission stated Angel should contact the County Attorney about the lake and the TIFID.

Big Barn-New sand in the Big Barn.

They are building roads for the location of the new wind turbines. MDU will be placing seven (7) more wind turbines on Fallon County property and also some near Rhame, ND.

New Fire Hall progress-Angel will contact Randy Hoenke, Fire Chief regarding progress on the New Fire Hall.

The Commission reviewed and approved payroll and withholdings for November, 2009, in the amount of \$404,491.10 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Reconvened at 10:00 AM with Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger, Member and Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk & Recorder present.

Faye Koenig, Treasurer stopped by to discuss the current situation with the taxes that are in the review process with Department of Revenue and how her office is handling these reviewed taxes in regard to payment.

Clayton Hornung, Mayor City of Baker – reviewed and discussed the Inter-local Agreement between the City of Baker and Fallon County; RE: Designation of Justice of the Peace as City Judge. Clayton will take the agreement to the City Council tomorrow night for review. Clayton felt that the Justice of the Peace's signature needs to be on the agreement also, because if the JP does not want to agree to this it would make this agreement null and void.

Rich Batterman, County Attorney was called and put on speaker phone; Rich stated the JP's signature is not required because this is just an agreement between the City and County. If the JP does not want to do the duties that is her right. The office could be shared if there is a different person for City Judge and JP, the City could also choose to hire a different clerk if they so choose, but they could also share the Clerk if that is the choice. The only thing that would need to be handled is the scheduling of the office for hours for City or County.

Rich stated, because the JP is County, Commissioners have to allow the JP, County employee, to be allowed to be the City Judge. Clayton stated if the City Judge accepts the appointment, do they need to sign the Inter-local Agreement? Rich stated no, but a document needs to be drafted by the City noting they accept the appointment as City Judge. Clayton stated if the JP does not agree, then the JP can not independently take on the City Judge position? Rich stated if the JP is to serve as the City Judge he/she is required to have Commissioner approval of that appointment. This agreement is simply giving the JP authority to contract the City Judge with the City.

Clayton stated so there is no objection if all are in agreement and JP/City Judge is willing to set up separate hours, we (the City) will still have use of the Court Room. Commissioner Rieger stated, yes that is my understanding.

Barb Lechler, Fair Secretary called and wanted to know if the Fair could hire Jesse Barth over Christmas break to help her complete some projects that did not get completed this summer. Barb has a list of things to correct for the Safety Team. Commissioner Rieger asked if these jobs were inside jobs. Barb stated yes most of the jobs are inside jobs. Commissioner's Rieger and Ranum stated yes this is agreeable. Barb was not sure of the hours and was not sure how much he would work, due to weather.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with Deb Ranum, Donald Rieger-Commission and Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder present.

Lisa Mitchell, Ambulance Director met to update the Commission on various items of business. Lisa stated they have some new Ambulance attendants. Discussion on jumpsuit turn outs-The group discussed the fact they could possibly look into disposable suits. Budget issues-Contaminated clothing; the discussion was that a washer and dryer could possibly be plumbed in to the Ambulance Garage. Commissioner Rieger stated the Commission would be willing to do what they can to help the Ambulance Association. Safety Meetings-Lisa asked if the Ambulance was required as an Ambulance Association to attend. Commissioner Ranum stated it would be great if you could attend. Lisa stated it is difficult for our Ambulance Attendants to be gone from their jobs to attend Safety Meetings. Lisa

further explained the Ambulance Association holds a monthly safety meeting. Commissioner Ranum stated they could submit the topic info and submit the Ambulance crew's attendance to Vera Abrams each month, for documentation. Repairs to Ambulance garage was discussed.

Ron Haar met to discuss the land he leases from Fallon County. The Commission wanted to let Ron know that TransCanada Pipeline is looking at possibly using the land that Ron leases east of town to set up a camp site. The Commission stated Ron could possibly use Section 14 located by the Landfill if the other land is selected for the camp site. It was suggested that Ron go out and look at the proposed location by the Landfill. Commissioner Rieger stated Fallon County will submit their revised lease agreement offer to TransCanada for use of the location east of town, so they should know soon if they will have to make the change. Ron was agreeable with whatever option was available to the County.

CLOSED-HIPAA

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to ask why the road was closed behind Deb Ranum's house. Commissioner Rieger stated Spence Huether, Road Technician could answer most of the questions. Commissioner Rieger stated there is a considerable amount of expense that has been put into that road and we are trying to find out what is going on with that road also. Dale stated he will need to get back in that area in the spring for spraying, so just wondering if it will get opened back up. Commissioner Rieger stated we will keep you informed when we find out any more.

Recess

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Reconvened at 10:00 AM with Deb Ranum, Donald Rieger-Commission and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Rich Batterman, County Attorney phoned in regarding the lease for TransCanada to discuss the proposed lease-option agreement. Rich reviewed the agreement over the phone and voiced his concerns and changes he would like to see regarding the lease. The Commission will express those concerns with the TransCanada Representative.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with Deb Ranum, Donald Rieger-Commission and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Greg Cade, Universal Field Services met to take notes on the changes that the County Attorney would like to have made on the Option Lease Agreement. Greg stated they had hoped they could get the agreement signed today. The requested changes were discussed and noted by Greg; Greg will take this back to management to review and will try to contact the Commission later this week.

The Commission received a signed copy of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grant for their records. This is to assist with the purchase of a small front-end loader and a rotary snow plow.

The Commission reviewed and approved the December, 2009 accounts payable in the amount of \$147,868.72, as in comparison to December, mid-month accounts payable in the amount of \$395,565.95, and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Commissioner Rieger stated he plans to attend the City Council meeting tonight.

Recess

Thursday, November 3, 2009

Reconvened at 10:00 AM with Deb Ranum, Don Rieger-Commission and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

David Espeland, CEO and Selena Nelson, CFO of Fallon Medical Complex met for their monthly report. Parkview Apartments-David stated they have had some issues with tenants that move out of the apartments and the cleanliness of the apartments. David wanted the Commission to be aware due to the amount of time the cleaning ladies have spent in those apartments. Due to this issue David felt he needs to update the lease termination policy. The Commission felt this was a good idea.

Shower stalls in PVII-The shower curtains do not hold the water in. Commissioner Rieger wondered if they could lower the shower rod. David stated the rod is molded into the shower stall. David will have maintenance look at other solutions.

Cleaning windows at PVI and PVII-David stated the windows did not get cleaned yet and David gave the cleaning department permission to wait until spring.

Director of Nursing-Is doing really well. She had gotten several nurses signed up and now the pendulum is going the other way again. They have none of their own nurses in the Hospital.

PORTION CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Old Dining Room-Discussion took place regarding possible coring, repairs and checking areas where the water lays in the old dining room.

New parking lot-David feels it looks good. Commissioner Rieger feels the water is going to run back in the fuel tank again as they did not change that portion at all. David will keep an eye on this.

Employee wages-David stated they try to make wage comparisons frequently to stay comparable to wages of other hospitals in the area and of comparable nature for the benefit of the employee and the Hospital.

Nurses on the Ambulance-David stated they have been sending nurses on the Ambulance quite a bit lately and he is wondering if the Hospital could bill the Ambulance for those costs. Selena explained to David, she already bills the County (Ambulance) for those charges.

Protective gear for personnel was discussed.

North loading dock lift & lift house-Selena asked if it would be cheaper to put in an elevator. Selena feels there needs to be a better solution that would better suit the needs of the Hospital rather than the needs of the trucker. More investigating will be completed on this matter.

Pink Ladies Shop was discussed.

Current Tennant list for PV1 and PVII-The Commission received an updated list of tenants for the PVI and PVII apartments and it is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with Deb Ranum, Donald Rieger-Commission and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder.

ROAD EASEMENTS:

The Commission signed the Road Easement for Joseph Trifari for Homestead in Section 26-7-61.

Jason Rittal, Executive Director, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corp met to update the Commission on various items of business.

NBWS-The EDA came back and said they can not pay for the Baker portion of the project or the individual's portion from the meter to the individual's houses. Jason stated they had to submit a new budget. Jason explained the Engineer is the one that reviews the project and will request necessary changes.

Tod Kasten's position-Jason explained Tod's position is gone and so is the funding that supported his position.

Army Corps of Engineer's-Jason explained the NBWS project received funding of \$300,000.00 unexpectedly. The only way this could have happened was with someone putting in an appropriation request to the Legislators. Jason explained we will not be able to use the funding for anything but the Baker portion and the hook-ups for each individual. It can also be used for engineering fees but can not be used for construction.

Pat Ehret, Wanda Pinnow, Dee Dee Geving and Don Buerkle, Fair Board Members and Barb Lechler, Fair Board Secretary met to update the Commission on various items.

Rough Draft of the Office, Conference Room and Kitchen-The quote received from the Architect for the remodeling was \$187,194.00, which the Fair Board felt was quite high. Commissioner Rieger stated they could have someone draw up their own plan design; that has been found to be much cheaper. Commissioner Rieger would recommend they go talk to Richard Griffith at G & R Custom Metals and others if they would like; have them draw up a plan, with the Fair Board's ideas, then get ready to go to bid. If the Fair Board decides they want to go that way then they should let Stevenson's know they will not need an Architect. Commissioner Rieger stated they will need to let the people that submit designs know that they will need to meet all Handicap, OSHA, and safety requirements. Commissioner Ranum stated they also need to make sure they put a deadline on the completion.

Cold Storage-This is not completely finished; he has to put the stone on the outside of the addition, but they want to paint it first. His bid came in right at the bid amount, with no add-ons to the bid.

Barn arena-Some discussion on the barn arena; everyone seems to be pleased with the work that was completed.

2010 Fair:

Carnival-They will have a carnival Thursday-Saturday. They will set up Thursday and take down Saturday night after the rides are shut down. The Vendor wants all the ticket money, plus \$7,000.00. Sunday they will have the inflatable's, Fun on the Run again.

Entertainers: Chris Young and LoCash Cowboy.

Other entertainment was discussed.

Free stage entertainment-The Fair Board would like to move the free stage, where the TLC Booth is, to use for performances. It was felt the Humane Society would not have a booth there this year. Commissioner Rieger asked if they would leave the seating there. Fair Board-Yes, the audience could still seat themselves in the shade. The Commission felt the County could possibly remove that building. Dee Dee stated the Fair Board wants to keep the entire roof. They would like to incorporate food booths into the new grandstands when they are able to start building to replace booths such as the TLC booth.

New Grandstand-The Commissioner's will contact someone to get a design and get started on the grandstands. Commissioner Rieger commented that Lewistown has a very nice Grandstand that someone could go view.

Talent Show-Will be Thursday night.

ATV Rodeo-Will be Friday night.

Horse Show-They would like to move the Horse Show to Wednesday night. Nico Cantalupo, County Extension Agent, Wanda and Paul have a schedule.

Liquor License-Commissioner Rieger stated the Commission, County Attorney and the Insurance Agent feel it is too large a liability issue for the County to have a liquor license. The group discussed rental of the beer booth to compensate for the loss of revenue from the beer sales.

Rodeo-They would like to incorporate Tough Enough to Wear Pink (TETWP). This would allow them to give some of the ticket fee to the cancer society. After much discussion of Commissioner Rieger stated he felt they could try it for a year and see what happens. Wanda would like to try if for at least a year or two. Commissioner Rieger asked if the money would go to the National level. Wanda stated it would not; it would be to the local chapter. The balance of the Commission felt this was agreeable.

The Commission was very pleased with all the Fair Board has accomplished so far and thanked them for trying new things.

REPORTS:

Commission received, reviewed and approved (those needed) the following reports/newsletters:

Little Beaver Conservation District, December 2009 Newsletter.

RSVP/Council on Aging, December 2009 Newsletter.

Landfill report for November, 2009.

Workmen's Compensation Report July-November 10, 2009-3 total claims with 1 remaining open.

REVENUES:

Fallon County Airport-192.48 for December, 2009 Aviation Fuel.

Sands Oil Company-Oil and Gas Royalties for October, 2009-\$246.01.

ConocoPhillips Company-Oil and Gas Royalties for September-October, 2009-\$5,244.10.
ENCORE Operating, LP-Oil and Gas Royalties for September & October, 2009-\$3,885.10.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Commission requested a survey of Lots 10, 11, & 12, Block 2, Lathom Heights Addition to determine who, in fact owns the alley south of the Baker Senior Center.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

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