

Monday, January 4, 2010

Deb Ranum, Donald Rieger and William L. Randash, Commissioner's and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular January, 2010 session.

Commissioner Randash made a motion to appoint Commissioner Rieger to the Chair position and Commissioner Ranum to Vice-Chair position. Commissioner Ranum seconded the motion. Commissioner Rieger asked for those in favor to signify by saying Aye. 3 Ayes. Commissioner Rieger asked for those opposed to signify by saying Nay. 0 Nays. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Rieger is completing the last year of the late Commissioner Afrank's term as Chairman.

Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly Road report. The group discussed the new snow blower the Road Department should be receiving with CDBG Disaster Grant funds. Bobby stated the snow blower has been ordered but has not been received. The crew will be plowing snow today. When they finish plowing snow they will go back and finish graveling the Bracket Butte Road.

Roads-Commissioner Ranum discussed the O'Donnell and Wenz Roads with the group. Bobby stated he did drive roads yesterday and there were no roads he could not get through with his four wheel drive pickup but did not feel a car would be able to make it through those roads. Commissioner Rieger stated the bus routes will take a priority. The group discussed working Sundays. Commissioner Randash asked if Bobby had any blades down south. Bobby stated yes, there are 2 down south. Commissioner Randash stated if he needed them up north or elsewhere be sure and use them. Bobby stated they are all out in their Districts today to get the clean up completed then they will head to each specific area that is in poor condition. The group discussed the road going by Bryant Steen's property which goes south to his bulls. The group feels Bryant will need to get a private easement but will do further research on this road. Commission asked if there have been any issues with the Shelterbelt Road. Bobby stated they have had no problems as of this time.

Noon Recess

Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian and Rich Batterman, County Attorney met to discuss the Baker Lake and drainage permit issues.

Restaurant inspections-Mike will be performing many inspections while he is here this week.

Arnold and Vivian Pinnow met to discuss the easement regarding the road going to the Pinnow gravel pit. After much discussion the Commission agreed they would not be signing the easement for Arnold and Vivian until Craig and Wanda Pinnow sign their easement. The Pinnow's will be called after Craig and Wanda come in and sign easements. Arnold felt there was some miscommunication in what Commissioner Rieger told him last time and what he was told today. Arnold wants to know if Fallon County has jurisdiction on the streets in Plevna. Commissioner Rieger stated no that is the Town of Plevna's jurisdiction. Arnold stated Plevna is in Fallon County. Commissioner Rieger stated Baker is in Fallon County also but the City of Baker takes care of their own streets. The Pinnow's left and will wait to hear from the Commission after Craig and Wanda come in to sign their portion of the easement.

Spencer Huether, Road Technician met to discuss various roads.

Thielen Access-Spencer stated this is a County Road, but, it is a seasonal access road.

Chuck Lee, DES/911 Coordinator stated Brenda Hoeger, Dispatch Supervisor would like to come in to meet with the Commission regarding issues that happened during the snow storms. Chuck stated if the Ambulance could have gotten out of the Ambulance garage, it could have never traveled the streets to get to anyone, due to all of the snow. Chuck stated they wondered whose issue this was. The Commission stated Brenda should come in and visit with them about these issues to make a determination.

Jason Rittal, Executive Director-Eastern Plains Economic Development Corp. met to update the Commission on various items of business. Jason stated we are in the final stages for the North Baker Water Sewer District. The Army Corp of Engineer grant is exactly \$300,000.00 and is a 75%-25% match.

Jason feels they will use this primarily for engineering and the portion of the project the EDA will not pay for. Jason stated the DNRC and TSEP paperwork is all finished and hopes to be able to go to bid in February, 2010. Jason stated when we get the bids going we will get the procedures figured out.

EPEDC Board Meeting-Discussed the Board meeting that will take place in Wibaux.

Wanda Pinnow stopped in to discuss the Road Abandonment Hearing. Wanda has no problems with closing the road that was never built and showed the Commission another road she would like closed. Craig and Wanda also signed the easement for the road that goes past the Pinnow pit.

Grandstands-Commissioner Rieger stated the Architect that helped with the design of the Grandstands in Lewistown will be coming to Baker to meet with the Commissioner's. After that they will discuss this further with the Fair Board.

Brenda Hoeger, Dispatch Supervisor and Chuck Lee, 911/DES Coordinator met to discuss the concerns they have regarding the ability to get local Law Enforcement and Emergency Services out of their locations to destinations unknown when the streets in town are not taken care of. Examples- Ambulance if they could get out of their location they would not have been able to get anywhere because the City did not plow. Brenda stated there were cars stuck in front of the fire hall. When the City Works Director was phoned about it Dispatch was told the plows were not going out. Brenda stated she also had Law Enforcement force stuck on various streets. Brenda wondered if we had an emergency route that was cleaned, maybe that would help this situation. The Commission suggested Chuck and Brenda try to get on the agenda with the City Council. They will do this and see what they can accomplish.

Joe Janz, Outside Building Maintenance met to discuss snow issues. Joe has been on the roof with the small snow blower removing snow from the roof. Joe stated it also has been helpful to have the heat tape in the eaves.

John Geving, Spartan Bus Line came in to discuss road issues within the County after the snow storms. There were issues regarding the buses not being able to get around on their regular bus routes and Jared Geving, bus driver just phoned John and stated the Cabin Creek Road had not been plowed yet. Commissioner Ranum stated they may not have made it that far yet. Commissioner Ranum stated they talked to Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman about going out on Sundays to make sure the bus routes were opened in hopes of remedying this issue.

The Commission reviewed and approved the December, 2009 payroll and withholdings in the amount of \$414,203.58 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Reconvened at 10:00 AM with all present.

Jason Rittal, Executive Director-Eastern Plains Economic Development Corp. met to update the Commission on the meeting with North Baker Water Sewer District. Jason stated the NBWSD needs money to open a bank account so they can receive money from the EDA or anyone else. The Commission agreed to use \$500.00 from the NBWSD funds, budgeted with Fallon County.

Commissioner Ranum asked about the easement issues. Jason stated they still need an affidavit from some of the landowners on the easements but Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering is working with Rich Batterman, County Attorney on this matter.

Todd Devlin, Prairie County Commissioner called, during Jason's meeting, regarding the pipelines that are going through various Counties.

Jason had no further business so left the discussion.

Angel Wyrwas, Fallon County Times representative met to state they have received a Gotta Question. They asked if the minutes were going to be put back on the internet again. The Clerk and Recorder stated yes, she plans to try to start again with November or December.

Angel stated Karen Liebee is working on a story about the farmland tax re-evaluation. Commissioner Ranum discussed the changes in values of pasture and croplands. Commissioner's Ranum and Randash suggested discussing this matter with Judy Gunderson at the Department of Revenue. Commissioner Randash felt the residences in town showed very little change unless improvements were made. Commissioner Randash also explained, Montana law stated the land has to be reappraised every 6 years and if there is a tax increase every year you will not see the total increase until the 6th year.

Angel stated she had heard they were having problems with the video system in the courtroom. Commissioner Rieger explained an update to the system has been granted by the Commission. The problems we face now are with the T1 line which is shared with another entity and they have preference over Fallon County. The Commission has discussed updates with Judge Hegel already.

The Commission finished reviewing and approving the December, 2009 accounts payable in the amount of \$147,868.72 in comparison to \$395,565.95 paid at December, mid-month. The December claims are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to discuss having a restroom placed in his shop. Dale stated it would be nice but he has no room in his shop. Dale stated the only reason he really needs water is for the eye wash and safety shower. Commissioner Ranum mentioned renting a port-a-potty for the seasonal months Dale has a crew working; everyone felt that was a good idea.

Trucks-Dale stated he has not heard anything about them as of this time. Dale then called the County Shop and they reported to Dale that the trucks were in.

Weed Association Meeting-Dale stated he will be leaving for Missoula on Monday to attend the annual Weed Association meeting.

Commissioner Randash stated he spoke to Spencer Huether regarding Wanda Pinnow's question about the road that does exist and wanting to abandon it. Spencer stated there is no petition on that road so Fallon County has nothing to do with that road.

Arnold and Vivian Pinnow came in to sign the road easement going past the Pinnow gravel pit. Commissioner Ranum went to have the easements notarized so the Pinnow's could have a copy. A copy was then given to the Pinnow's.

Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened at 1:00 PM with all present.

Brock Collins stopped in the Clerk and Recorder's office to ask if anything had been done regarding the alley between he and Chad Tronstad. The Clerk and Recorder stated nothing had been completed as of this time.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss the snow plows. Alba stated the rear brace arm is different on the old wings than the new wings. Alba explained they tried to add-on more pipe they had picked up from the salvage yard and this has caused the pipe to weaken and the problem to reoccur. Alba wants to know if he can order new braces that will work on the new plows. Permission granted to purchase the proper equipment at \$3,000.00 each.

Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker met for his monthly meeting. Clayton discussed the Inter-local agreement between the City of Baker and Fallon County for the City Judge/JP. Clayton explained the Baker City council appointed Nicole Brown as the City Judge, effective January 1, 2010 for a 4 year term. Clayton stated the City discussed having a mediator to try to work through this matter. The City Council did not feel they could sign the Inter-local agreements drawn up by Rich Batterman, County Attorney, even with the wording changes. Clayton stated Nicole has stressed she wants access to the public rather than having to turn people away, which she feels would happen when separating hours. Nicole gave a proposal to the City: Shared office 30 hours total-15 hours each City and County and the salary was discussed; this would be on a year to year basis. The Commissioner's stated Rich Batterman, County Attorney told the Commissioner's we will request an Attorney General Opinion to try to get this matter

cleared up. Rich Batterman, County Attorney joined the discussion. Discussion on whether entering in the agreement on a year by year basis would work. The group discussed the separation of hours in length. Rich stated he interprets the law to mean the City has to get approval by the Commission for the Justice of Peace to serve as the City Judge. Rich explained if the hours are separated and the City and County are using the same office, the Inter-local would then only concern the splitting of the supplies, etc. Clayton stated Nicole stated there was a 3 day trial and they had to accommodate the courts schedule. Rich stated it then tends to become a very disjointed court calendar, but, we can make it work. The group discussed various hour differentiations that could possibly work. Clayton stated if we have to go our separate ways, the City owns 10% of the upper courthouse and 50% of the office supplies for the City Judge/Justice of Peace. Clayton also stated he was not certain Nicole needed the increase to 30 hours. The Commission is not certain of that either but if the hours are separated that is what matters to them. Clayton stated he also does not wish to be tied to the County's wage. The Commission did not feel it would be necessary for that to happen. Clayton feels they will look more closely at the City Judge being an elected position. Commissioner Rieger stated our only intent is to keep the hours separate and if she does not want the separate hours and share the same office, then the City will need to find new office space. Clayton will let the Commission know what happens at the meeting Wednesday.

Emergency Route-The Commission explained the Dispatch Supervisor (DS) met with the Commission to discuss cars that were stuck in front of the Fire Hall and various places in Baker. DS was also concerned the Emergency vehicles could not get out and go to an emergency. The Commission told her the County would make a concerted effort to make sure those vehicles were able to get out. DS told the Commission, the City was called about the issues and dispatch was told, no one was going out to plow. DS would like to have an emergency route plowed if nothing else. The Commission suggested the DS go to the City Council meeting. Clayton will also discuss this at the City Council meeting.

Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian met to discuss the paperwork they are sending to Interstate Engineering regarding previous decisions made and other information regarding the Baker Lake and the Upper Lake.

Recess

Thursday, January 7, 2010

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

David Espeland, CEO-Fallon Medical Complex and Selena Nelson, CFO-Fallon Medical Complex met for their regular monthly meeting. The Commission interrupted the meeting to allow a private citizen to come in.

Bud Strangford stated he had a complaint to register regarding whoever is plowing snow in the area of Horse Creek Crossing. Bud stated they are not even taking the snow off the roads in that area. The Commission will check with the Road Foreman regarding this issue and thanked Bud for coming in.

Back to the meeting with David and Selena; Selena presented the financials and stated FMC has had a good 5 months.

Recruiting Nursing-Once again, recruiting nurses has been a challenge, but, Sarah Maynard, Director of Nursing works on this constantly. Discussed the fact they are paid accordingly for this area and they are paid a sign-on bonus to move here.

Loan-FMC has paid off the loan at the Bank of Baker.

Pipeline-David stated they have concerns regarding the campsite incorporating a medical facility into it. The Commission reviewed the campsite with David and Selena and gave them contact names and numbers for the Pipeline.

Snow Collection-Discussed how nice it was to have a new skidsteer to assist in addition to having the County and Scott Rabbitt assist in moving snow. The group also discussed moving the snow from the area near Mary Steven's residence so as not to cause issues with flooding her basement. Discussed having a considerable amount of snow on the roof tops also.

Driveway repairs-Commissioner Rieger asked how the driveway repair was going, north of Parkview I. David stated they decided to shut down the work until the weather is nice.

Parkview I Energy Specs-They have the specs out for the Parkview doors and windows. There are twelve (12) doors plus the big door on the north. They have sent specs out to various people.

Chiropractor-They have another Chiropractor coming and he is very busy.

Healthcare Reform-Discussed what healthcare reform may do to the medical field.

NH Renovations-The work is nearly complete and is going really well. There is a little bit of plumbing and electrical work to complete.

RO system-It is not quite finished, but is very close.

Jeff Gruiezenga, Con'eer Engineering will be here next Tuesday to complete the final walk through.

Propane tank-Commissioner Rieger asked if the hole had been filled for the area where the propane tank work was completed. David stated the hole has been filled in.

Loading dock-The plan is to visit with Mike Stevens, Stevenson Design regarding the loading dock and ways it can be completed more cost effectively.

NH Bathroom-They would like to convert the NH Bathroom to handicap accessible. David is checking on prices for that.

Laundry chute-Repairs and revisions were discussed.

Hospital/NH State Survey-They had one (1) write-up which has been corrected.

Michelle Smith-Has been put in charge of supervising the Nursing Home as Sarah felt the NH needed someone that knows long term care.

Noon Recess

Courtney Dietz, Fair Board Member and Barb Lechler, Fair Secretary met to discuss the quotes they received for the Exhibit Hall project. This project includes the Fair Secretary office and Conference Room. Pat Ehret is the Chairperson of the Board but recused herself as her spouse turned in a quote for the work. Courtney is the Vice-Chair and has resided over this project. Quotes received were as follows: Richard Griffith-G & R Custom Designs-\$16,300.00; Kent Ehret-K & P Construction-\$17,423.76 and Mark Wright-\$11,786.00. The Commission reviewed the quotes and after discussing the quotes the decision was made to call Griffith and Ehret to make sure they were not adding the storage room to their quotes. Courtney wanted to call them for further clarification also. Commissioner Rieger phoned Kent and Richard for clarification and they each stated they did not include the storage room in their quotes. The decision was made to include a 60 day completion date with a \$100.00 per day fine for any day over that date, in the contract. Commission granted permission to proceed using Mark Wright's quote of \$11,786.00.

Rod Morris, City Council Member met to discuss the Justice of Peace/City Judge hours. Rod wanted clarification as to what the Commission's decision was. The City Council met with Nicole last night and the City again decided not to sign the Inter-local Agreement. The Commission agreed they do not need to sign an Inter-local agreement if the hours are going to be kept separate. The Commission also agrees the City Judge/Justice of Peace can utilize the same office for the two positions. Rod feels the Council is on the same page as the Commission.

Jaren Erickson, CES was asked what he would charge to update the County's current atlases. Jaren figured it would take approximately 20 hours to update to the current which would encompass 3 years. Jaren updates by township and charges \$65.00 per hour to do the updates. Jaren only includes property over 20 acres. The Commission agreed it would be worth it to get the atlases updated.

The Commission discussed the alley between the Tronstad's and Collins'. The Commission felt they should contact Rich Batterman, County Attorney and make the alley available to both of the property owners.

Nico Cantalupo, Extension Agent and Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to discuss areas of the County they cannot get to, to spray i.e. (Clyde Crawford's). The Commission hopes to have this issue resolved.

Spray trucks-Dale and Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman plan to go get the new trucks tomorrow.

Randy Wolenetz and his son (guest) met to discuss the Road Abandonment Hearing. Randy stated he will not be in for the hearing. Randy has no issues with closing/abandoning Road 1920-7-Road 120.

Shelterbelt Extension Road-Randy stated he has two hired men living at the old Traweek place. Randy wondered if the County could get the roads plowed further out, because they blow in. The Commission will discuss this further.

Tax issue-Randy discussed the Commission lowering the mill levy for the tax payers.

Road plowed-Randy also discussed another road he would like plowed. No decision will be made at this time until the Commission has all facts before them to make the decision.

Barb Lechler, Fair Secretary called in regarding the walls for the Exhibit Hall project. Mark Wright stated he plans to glue the board right to the Styrofoam otherwise it will not meet fire codes. Barb stated Brian from Barth Electric was contacted regarding the electrical codes and will work with Mark.

Tom Barth, Landfill Manager met to update the Commission on various projects. Tom reported Reinhard has the bathroom and a few other things left to complete and thinks Reinhard has about a week left unless he finds something else to fix. Tom stated they had to replace ceiling tiles again in the office.

Cover Dirt-Tom stated they are ripping up dirt for cover and hauling. Tom thought he was going to get the D7 back so he could stockpile more fill; now they do not have much cover.

Transfer station-Tom stated everyone seems to like the transfer station. Burning trees-The group felt they would have to burn the trees outside the fence of the transfer station. Commissioner Rieger asked if we could burn at the transfer station. Tom will find out what Fallon County has to do to get a burn permit. Tom does not think the County can burn the trees since it is not their waste; only if it was County waste.

Oil burners-They are working on the oil burner for the shop; they also got the oil burner for the office working. Tom stated there is a lot of maintenance to them; when the power goes off they have to be reset.

Tire shredder-Tom stated they can shred 150 tires an hour, unless you have truck tires in there.

REPORTS

The Commission reviewed and approved, (those necessary), the following reports:

Fallon County Safety Team Minutes for December 9, 2009.

Detention Center Report for November, 2009-52 total days with 46 days being Fallon County; 5 days being City and 1 day being Highway Patrol. Total Revenue expected to receive-\$70.00-Highway Patrol.

Fallon County Fair-September 21, 2009, October 19, 2009 and November 30, 2009 approved minutes.

Victory Insurance-Work Comp Report for July, 2009-3 total claims for a total incurred of \$3,241.00.

ROAD EASEMENTS

The Commission signed the following road easements:

Arnold and Vivian Pinnow-Farmstead in Section 34-6-60.

Craig and Wanda Pinnow-Farmstead in Sections 27 and 35-6-60.

Timothy Jensen and Carol Elhard-Farmstead in Section 1 and 2-7-60.

REVENUES

ConocoPhillips Company-\$4,835.28-Oil and Gas Royalties – October & November, 2009.

COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

The Commission reviewed and approved minutes from November 30th –December 3rd, 2009 and December 7, 2009 and December 14, 2009.

Adjourned.

s/Donald Rieger, Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder