

Monday, April 5, 2010

Donald Rieger, Chairman, Deb Ranum, Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular April session. William L. Randash, Member was excused for the week.

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

Blades-Bobby would like to purchase some more carbide tip blades. Some of the blades are under warranty so they would get some to replace those that are in poor condition. Bobby stated scoria never seems to wear the blades out, but blading gravel does. The regular blades are \$200 per set and carbide blades are \$2,500.00 per set. Bobby explained sometimes they will go through two (2) sets of blades per day when using the regular blades. Bobby feels they are a cost savings and those using the carbides have not had to switch them out. Some of the road crew like the carbide blades and some do not. The Commission stated the decision is Bobby's; Bobby will order a couple sets.

MACRS Convention-Bobby stated they discussed using millings from various Highway projects. Some groups stated they mix the millings 50/50, with gravel; lay it down 6" deep and the roads seem to hold up very well. Bobby stated he also viewed a different type of carbide tip while at the Convention but the road crew from Richland County said they are not worth using.

Bridges-Bobby has been working with Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering regarding getting TSEP to assist in replacing five (5) bridges.

Permitting Pits-Bobby stated they found a retired person to assist him and Jessica Dinardi, Planner-Secretary with permitting a new pit. The cost to assist will be approximately \$600.00 plus possibly travel time; this person will assist in permitting the Fried Pit. Bobby and Jessica worked on permitting the Buerkle Pit and they are waiting to hear from the State regarding the pit.

Power outage-Someone hit the power cable for the County Shop. They feel it must have happened when they placed the new sewer and water line at the new county shop. Bobby is going to talk to the Contractor about this.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss County insurance and bonding. Commissioner Ranum asked how the County buildings are insured and if there is a depreciation factor built into that. Debbie explained buildings are written at 80% of replacement value. If you experience a loss they will always depreciate.

The Commission reviewed and approved the March, 2010 Payroll and Withholdings in the amount of \$318,689.23 and the reports and cancelled warrants are filed in the Clerk & Recorder's office.

The Commission approved a portion of the March, end of month claims.

The Fallon County Commission passed Resolution 4-5-2010 Proclaiming National Library week to be the week of April 11-17, 2010. That resolution is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

#### Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened at 1:00 PM with Donald Rieger, Deb Ranum and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to discuss how the Commission feels Fallon County should pursue the weed issue regarding the Russian Olive. Dale explained Governor Schweitzer decided not to do anything with it, but some counties have put it on their list of noxious weeds. Dale stated we can do one of three things, which are as follows:

- 1) Make it a full fledged noxious weed and the County would have to cost share if it becomes a Noxious Weed.

- 2) Leave it alone, let the County pursue it and put it on the County's list.

- 3) Treat it as a Control Weed-Stop the sale of Russian-Olives.

The County can also get grant dollars to pursue spraying it. NRCS wants to see it listed as a Noxious Weed and they no longer sell them at the local NRCS. The Commission made no definite decision at this time.

The group discussed possible grasshopper issues.

Jerry Martinson, Tractor and Equipment Salesman made a sales visit.

Nico Cantalupo, Extension Agent stated he has put a file together for grasshoppers, if the Commission has any inquiries, or would like to discuss it further they should to let him know.

Wanda Pinnow, Don Buerkle, Fair Board Members and Barb Lechler, Fair Secretary met to review the bids received for the Fair Kitchen Remodeling Project.

The bids received were from Wright Construction and G & R Custom Metals. The work to be completed includes framing one wall; sheet rocking two sides and perf-a-tape; (does not include paint); cut in two doors; install one new door and move existing door; install new cabinets in kitchen; install tile in entryway, kitchen and restrooms; electrical and plumbing. Bids do not include stove, anisole hood, refrigerator, cabinets, countertop, cooler, freezer, wire rack, tile, tile underlay, painting, grease trap, plumbing from sink to the grease trap or the sinks. Work is to be completed by June 1, 2010. Bid amounts-G & R Custom Metals-\$50,140 and Wright Construction-\$38,115.75. The Fair Board felt they would like to accept the bid from Wright Construction as low bid. The Commission agreed to also accept the bid from Wright Construction. Commissioner Ranum made a motion to accept the bid from Wright Construction in the amount of \$38,115.75. Commissioner Rieger stepped down from the Chair and seconded the motion. Commissioner Rieger called for those in favor to signify by saying Aye. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Commissioner Rieger called for those opposed to signify by saying Nay. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. The Commission granted permission to proceed.

Appliances-The group discussed the used appliances from the American Legion Club. Wanda stated Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian went to look at them also and advised them not to purchase them. Commissioner Rieger asked if they had a total price on appliances, etc. Wanda stated they did not and also did not have a price on the cupboards or the grease interceptor. Wanda stated Courtney Dietz, Fair Board Member made a motion at their bid opening to limit the amount they spend on the stove and refrigerator to \$7,500.00 total.

Floor Drain-The group discussed the existing floor drain and all felt it was best to abandon it and place a new one as the floor drain will not be in the correct spot.

Coffee pot-Wanda spoke to Mark Rieger regarding the coffeepot at the Plevna Fire Hall. Mark Rieger recommends not getting one because people do not remember to leave the water on and it burns the burner out. They will probably just get a large coffee pot.

Grease Trap-The group discussed various different people that could place the grease trap; Gary Bruce, Mike Gunderson or Cliff Tudor to name a few.

The Commission reviewed and approved the balance of the March, 2010 end of month claims in the amount of \$397,143.27. The reports and cancelled checks are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Vera Abrams, Librarian met to state there is water backing up into the sink in her work room. Lynda Herbst, Custodian was contacted and has placed a call to Mike Menger, Plumber to repair this as soon as possible.

The Commission signed the JGA Contract to begin the architectural portion of the grandstands.

Recess

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Donald Rieger, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Member and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder reconvened at 10:00 AM.

Scott Rabbitt, City/County Park Supervisor met to let the Commission know Yancey Beston, Building Inspector will be signing off (approving) the County Road/Park Building for occupancy. Yancey will send the paperwork as soon as he is finished.

Angel Wyrwas, Fallon County Times met to get updates from the Commission on County business. Fairgrounds Kitchen Remodeling-The Fair Board and the Fallon County Commission jointly accepted the bid from Wright Construction for remodeling (expansion) of the kitchen at the Fairgrounds in the amount of \$38,115.60. This will include plumbing, electrical and Mark Wright's Construction. Grandstands-Accepted JGA as Architects to get the grandstands started. This will be to build a grandstand large enough to seat 1500 people. JGA will do the design portion and then we will go to bid. County Road/Parks Shop is now being approved by the building inspector for occupancy. Fallon County received 90% of the amount approved for payment from the HB645 Montana Reinvestment Act funds. The total amount approved from HB645 was \$133,824.00. Pipeline-The Commission has received no word regarding the pipeline or the campsite. Airport Runway Extension-This project is also moving forward Air Force Fly Zone-It sounds like the Air Force is moving forward with this issue which the Commission and Airport Board feel is not a good thing. North Baker Water Sewer District-The Commission stated they are getting prepared to go to bid but Angel should get an update from Ken Griffith or someone from that Board.

Vera Abrams, Librarian stated the plumbing issue in the Library has been solved.

Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor met to present the Safety Report- 1-Near Miss; 2-Non-Recordables; 0-Recordable; 0-Lost Time Accidents; 0-Contractor Accidents. Safety Team attendance is at 85%; Monthly Safety Meeting Attendance-66%; Ambulance Monthly Safety Meeting Attendance-86%. The Commission discussed the employees that are not attending safety meetings are most often the Elected Officials and their employees. The Commission feels if we are going to make this program work everyone needs to attend, including the Elected Officials, Supervisors, Department Heads and all of their employees. The Commission may be visiting these Departments. All Drug and Alcohol test results were negative. The group also discussed upcoming training and safety meetings.

Vera is wondering if some of the pickups parked in the North Parking Lot could be moved to the County Shop as there are many times the parking is limited for the employees. We have been instructed by the Commission to park our vehicles in the parking lots provided, for safety purposes. The Commission will look into this further.

#### Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened at 1:00 PM with Donald Rieger, Deb Ranum and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Larry Singer, met to discuss the land swap and possibly leasing the property owned by Fallon County. Land swap-Larry stated Rich Batterman, County Attorney and Russell Culver, Larry's Attorney are discussing the Quit Claim Deed. Larry would like to lease the property originally leased by the Kirschten's. Since the land swap is taking place, the Kirschten's will no longer be using this land for grazing as they will have no access to this property. The Commission felt they would be willing to lease the property to the Singer's.

Fencing-Larry wondered if the Commission knew the condition of the fencing between the Gunderson and County property. Larry also wondered who would maintain that fence. The Commission stated the lease states Larry would maintain the fence. Larry feels the County should be responsible for the materials. Larry stated if he was able to lease the land, he planned to take a portion of his fence down so his cattle could graze the County property and gain access to his water as there is no water on the County property. The Commission stated they would agree to take care of the fence, prior to leasing, if the fence had not been maintained and would contact the Gunderson's regarding their half of the fence.

Selling County Land-Larry asked if Fallon County would be interested in selling this property. Commissioner Rieger stated they would have to open it up to the public if that decision was made.

Larry received a copy of the County's lease agreement to review. Larry will also look at the fence and get back to the Commissioner's.

Clayton Hornung, City of Baker Mayor met to present his monthly report.

Attorney General Opinion-Clayton asked if there was any word on the Attorney General Opinion regarding the JP/City Judge matter. The Commission has heard no word as of this time.

Drainage-Discussed the new drainage placed by the MT Department of Transportation. The County Sanitarian had concerns regarding the lack of silt protection around the drainage areas and the lack of trash screens for the same. The Commission stated he had taken pictures of his concerns and sent them on so the necessary corrections could be made.

Bridge-The group discussed the bridge by the City Shop. They are working with Brosz Engineering to receive a grant for five (5) bridges within Fallon County and this includes that particular bridge. They have also been looking into bridges through Roscoe Bridge. These are prebuilt bridges brought in that may only work for certain circumstances.

Cleaning Bridge-Clayton asked if the Commission could clean the bridge on 1<sup>st</sup> street, located near the Huntley building. The water stands out in the street. The Commission will send Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman to look at this.

Creek Channel-The Commission stated the concrete slabs are still being made but we are forced to wait on the resolution of the lake issue before they will issue a permit for installation.

Lake Issue-Engineers are making their recommendations to send to the Army Corp of Engineers so there is still no word on the Lake issue.

Question of the week-Angel Wyrwas, Fallon County Times called in the question of the week. Since this involved both the City and County, Angel was placed on speakerphone to present the question(s):

**Could someone explain why there are city/county vehicles parked at the residences of employees? It doesn't make sense to me-even if the employees are on call-the fire department doesn't take the fire trucks home, ambulance drivers don't have the ambulance in front of their house when lives are at risk when they are called.**

**Many have seen city/county vehicles parked at the schools waiting for their children and are taking their children to or from school on tax payers dime-i.e. time, gas, vehicle. Who is liable in the event of an accident for those kids in a city/county vehicle? Since when are the employees allowed to use city/county vehicles for personal use? Why don't those employees have to get into their private vehicle and drive to work as most of the other tax paying citizens of Baker/Fallon County?**

**In light of the recent spree of thefts in Baker - the theft and use of a city gas card wouldn't it be more diligent of our city/county fathers to require all vehicles be secured in a heated and secure shop? Not out in the cold, perhaps in a snow bank tempting thieves and/or vandals?**

**What is the status of the city employee whose gas card was stolen? Didn't the police department report in the Fallon County Times that there was an officer watching from an establishment and the card was used at that time? Was there an arrest? Front page news but no follow-up.**

Mayor Hornung and the Commission stated they would get these questions answered as soon as possible and get back to Angel.

Committees-Clayton stated the Park Committee and Recreation Committee need to meet. Clayton will get a meeting scheduled and will get back to the Commission with a date and time.

Recess

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Donald Rieger, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Member and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder reconvened at 10:00 AM.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss cleaning the culvert on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Alba stated the ice is built up inside the culvert and is causing the issue. Alba wondered if possibly the City could use their sewer truck on this to force some pressure on it and force the ice loose. Alba and Mitch, Shop Mechanic tried to break the ice loose but could not budge it. Someone will contact Don Hinman, City of Baker-Public Works Director to see if their sewer truck can be used.

Larry Singer met to state he did go view the fence located on the County's property. Larry stated the fence is in poor condition. The Commission will go view the fence also and make a decision after that.

## Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened at 1:00 PM with Donald Rieger, Deb Ranum and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Rich Batterman, County Attorney met to discuss County business.

Drainage-The Commission stated the County Sanitarian had voiced some concerns regarding the drainage system the MT Department of Transportation placed last fall. The Commission stated he was concerned due to the lack of silt and trash screen protection. The Commission stated they were concerned also but also feel they work well with the MTDOT and this can be easily resolved.

Fire Station Agreement-The Commission and Rich reviewed the Agreement. Rich will rewrite and send to the Baker Rural Fire Department.

Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman stated he went to look at the Cabin Creek Road near Don Wyrick's. It was decided the Road Department would have to work on it when it is not as wet as it is now.

Pits-Bobby stated he spoke to a new lady at the DEQ regarding County pits. Bobby stated she was very easy to understand and he feels she will be good to work with at the State level.

Permitting-Mark Carlstrom, former DEQ employee, has his own business and is going to help the County with permitting pits.

Pete Shatwell, Two Medicine; Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder; Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman and Selena Nelson, CFO-FMC, also Health Insurance Committee members met to discuss what Wellness Benefits Two Medicine has to offer.

Pete explained the idea is to reduce risk costs by way of assisting with obesity, back injuries, high blood pressure, etc, may also help reduce workmen's compensation rates and helps employees to be more proactive toward their health habits and issues. Two Medicine helps run the program with education and administration which makes the program run more smoothly.

The first decision the group will need to make is when we will be ready to start. We will need a well thought out strategy before we move forward.

The decision will need to be made whether to start July, 2010 or January, 2011.

The Commission stated they felt they would move forward; Commissioner Rieger stated he had discussed this with Commissioner Randash before and he felt it was very worthwhile. The group will discuss this further and let Pete know when they plan to start and will then start setting up the Wellness Committee.

## Recess

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Donald Rieger, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Member and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder reconvened at 10:00 AM.

David Espeland, CEO-Fallon Medical Complex and Selena Nelson, CFO, Fallon Medical Complex met to present the monthly report.

Concrete-Commissioner Rieger asked when the concrete would be completed and when the debris would be cleaned up. David stated he has been in contact with Diamond J and they plan to be down to inspect it soon but also does not want to work in wet, soggy conditions.

Light issue-David stated Mike Carl, Head Custodian-Fallon Medical Complex repaired the light that had not been working in the new parking lot. Hardy Construction told Mike to call Wyrick Construction so it could be dug up and repaired. Jasen knew right where the issue was located. Action Electric apparently did not have the wiring located far enough below the surface, according to specifications.

Dietary-Commissioner Ranum asked if it would be possible to install a frozen yogurt or ice cream machine in the Cafeteria. David stated if they can find one for a reasonable price, he felt that would not be a problem.

Drainage issue-Commissioner Rieger asked if the drainage problem had been solved between the two Parkview's. David stated they solved the issue by using a heat pump to keep the ice from building up.

Fire alarm systems-They are still working on some issues with the Fire Alarm Systems at the Parkviews and Fallon Medical Complex.

Landscaping-The Commissioner's want the landscaping completed ASAP. David stated they have to wait until they are finished with the rest of the work in that area or they will have to start over again. The Commissioner's feel David should hire it to be finished as he does not have the time to complete it.

Custodian-Mike Carl is moving so they will be looking for another Custodian.

Old Dietary-Coring and Soil testing has been completed for the old dietary.

Shower Room-David stated they are getting quotes to replace the old shower across from the Pink Touch as it needs to be updated to be handicap accessible.

RO System-The RO System has been moved from the old Dietary to the Hospital.

Loading Dock-Stevenson Design is working on some designs for the loading dock.

IGT transfer-David stated they will not know how much IGT (Inter-Governmental Transfer) funds they will receive until they know how many Hospitals will be participating.

Training-David reminded the Commission of the Manager/Supervisor training to be held at FMC June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. In order to receive the reduced rate they need 10 participants from Fallon County.

CAT Scan Machine-David stated they plan to purchase a new CAT Scan Machine and the cost will be \$399,000, plus maintenance of \$80,000. The machine we now have was received when Glendive Medical Center. David plans to trade the old one in as we will not get much for it. Selena stated they generally give those machines to third world countries.

Doctors-Things are good with the Doctors.

Nurses-Still fighting a shortage.

D.O.N. - The Director of Nursing is leaving in July.

#### Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened at 1:00 PM with Donald Rieger, Deb Ranum and Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder present.

Kevin Dukart, Clerk-City of Baker met to state they are planning on having Baker Clean up week May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>. Kevin stated they would like to have the container site opened May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM; May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM and Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The Commission felt those dates and hours would work out just fine. Kevin will contact Brandy Griffith at G & G Garbage.

Keystone Pipeline—Kevin stated the City has still been in contact with them. Kevin had been talking to someone a week ago and that gentleman seemed quite confident they are going to come to Baker. Kevin stated they are working with the contractor before they start on the camp site.

Debbie Wyrick, Alba Higgins and Selena Nelson, Health Insurance Committee met to make a decision regarding the Wellness Plan. After further discussion the group felt they would move slowly but would start in July with obtaining the Wellness Committee and work from there until January, 2011 and then would start the program.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

The Commission signed the Modification to Area I Agency on Aging Contract for the budget, program description and certification of match. The Modification was placed on Record in the County Records.

The Commission received notification regarding Speed Control System Modification Recalls for the 1996 Ford Ambulance and 2002 Ford Truck. Both Departments were notified.

The Commission received a copy of an incident report that was filed. The incident happened March 23, 2010; they employee did not feel they were injured so no workmen's compensation form was filed.

The Commission was informed by Brenda Wood, Election Administrator the State of Montana has informed Counties they will no longer be able to provide funding for support of the AutoMARK's and the maintenance costs will need to be part of our budget at the County level.

The Commission signed the FY2011 Worker Compensation experience rating form for Victory Insurance.

The Commission was informed of the grant the Baker Municipal Airport was approved for in the amount of \$7540.00 for State Fiscal Year 2011. The required information needed to receive said funding was mailed March 30, 2010.

The Fallon County Planning Department notified the Commission of an application for Open Cut Mining that was submitted to the MT Dept of Environmental Quality for scoria from the Buerkle site.

**REVENUES:**

Sands Oil Company-February, 2010-Oil and Gas Royalties-\$269.58  
Conoco Phillips-January-February, 2010-Oil and Gas Royalties-\$4,056.72  
Baker Air Service-January – March, 2010-Large Hanger Rental-\$950.00

**MINUTES:**

The Commission reviewed and approved minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29, 2010. Those minutes are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Adjourned.  
s/Donald Rieger, Chairman

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