

Monday, July 18, 2011

PRESENT: Donald Rieger, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Vice Chair; William L. Randash Member and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder.

Commissioner Rieger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Meeting held in the office of the Fallon County Commission at the Fallon County Courthouse.

The Commission was notified the meeting scheduled with Tony Preite, USDA Rural Development Representative at 11:30 AM, Thursday, July 21, 2011 was cancelled due a sudden illness.

Bud Anderson, Representative of TransCanada (TC) presented TC Project updates.

- TC is still waiting on permits.
- Dept of State stating Exxon leak in Laurel slowed things up; should have permits by the end of the month or the first part of August.
- Dept of State meeting will most likely be held in Helena.
- Market Link was discussed and it will more than likely be North rather than West of Baker.
- Possible additional camp site in Circle or Prairie County.
- Mary Anderson (TC Rep will let the Commission know when the public meetings will be held).

Chuck Lee, DES/911 Coordinator met to update the Commission on FEMA damage assessments.

Nicole Schuler, Custodial Assistant met to state she would like to obtain her low pressure boiler license. Nicole explained she could either work under a licensed boiler engineer for 3 months or take the class and pass the test. Nicole would rather take the class and pass the test if that is okay with the Commission. The next class will be held September 6th, 7th and 8th and the cost is \$395.00 per person. The Commission granted permission to attend.

Question: Nicole wondered if they could only work 20 hours per week or if they could go over those hours. The Commission stated they are scheduled to work 20 hours per week but if they are working on a large project or get busy, due to unforeseen reasons, they can work over 20 hours per week, with approval by the Commission.

The Commission made the decision not to purchase cleaning equipment from Lynda Herbst. Commissioner Ranum will be contacting a dealer to order equipment for cleaning the Courthouse.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss the Mid-Rivers phone plan. The Commission needs to choose a plan. Debbie explained they can get the main courthouse line at 12.5 cents per minute. Debbie explained Fallon County uses approximately 2200 to 3200 minutes per month. Mid Rivers proposes we pick the 1200 minute plan and anything over those minutes will be charged 12.5 per minutes.

Carlena Quinn, Mid Rivers tried to get us 12.5 cents per minute on outlying phone numbers but they will be charged 20 cents per minute unless we pick a specific plan for some that go over the minutes. Commissioners agreed to the 1200 minute plan for the main courthouse line and to choose a plan for a few of those that run over the minutes.

Debbie further stated JPT (Joint Powers Trust) and Two Medicine are trying to set up a joint meeting with Department Heads on September 20th in conjunction of the health education sessions.

CLOSED-HIPAA

Noon Recess

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

Chuck Lee and Pat Hanley, TV Board Members, George Fitzgerald, Charlie Cannaliato, Paul-KXGN and later Gordon Heimbuch met to discuss updating the TV systems in Baker and Plevna. The group discussed the need to change the transmitter from analog to digital.

Commissioner Rieger asked if we could use one system for Baker and Plevna. Charlie felt we would need to do a survey to see if that was possible. The FCC announced a deadline of 2015 for this to be completed. Charlie stated federal grant money; up to \$20,000 is available, per channel that you operate. The money set aside to do this; as of 2009 there was \$44,000,000 and there is still over \$30,000,000 left. You have to first pay for the installation and then the Feds will reimburse; Larken is the name of the equipment provider. A construction permit will need to be received from the FCC and they are only doing that until September of this year. Cost for VHF is \$12,000.00 per translator; Cost for UHF is \$16,000.00 per translator. Commissioner Rieger stated Plevna and Baker will each need a permit? Yes. When asked if the Commission wanted to apply for the permit now and relocate a site later, the Commission stated yes. This will be for nine (9) translators. Charlie stated he would apply for the grant. The Bracket Butte site was discussed; Channel 2 needs to be licensed; upon applying for the permit; equipment compliance needs to be discussed with Larken. A promissory note can be signed until the money comes in. Gordon Heimbuch joined the group. Gordon asked what the possible estimated maintenance would be on the equipment. Charlie feels the maintenance would be minimal. Chuck asked what could be done to help with the lightning strikes. Paul felt possibly a UPS that would trip the system and shut it down. The Commission wishes to move forward with this.

Mike Gunderson met to discuss having a cattle guard placed. Commissioner Rieger asked if the location is fenced on both sides. Mike stated part of it is about half way on the East side; the rest of it is down. Commissioner Rieger stated we have an issue with people not wanting to fence. Commissioner Rieger asked if it was workable. Mike stated not really. Commissioner Rieger will drive out there and look at it and get back to Mike before making a decision.

Mona Madler, SMART Director and Karol Zachmann met to discuss housing issues in Baker. Mona stated since approximately April they have received an average of 7 requests a week for rental/housing openings. Many people have jobs in Fallon County and the surrounding area but cannot find a place to live. If they cannot find housing they will not be able to take the jobs. This issue is a large problem for the economic growth of our County.

Mona stated they did not sell the current apartment complex as they had hoped, but, they would like to move forward with another apartment complex and would like the Commissioner's to help them secure the funding. Norton Walker joined the discussion. Commissioner Randash asked if they could reuse the plans from the previous apartment. Mona has a call in to the Architect to find out. Commissioner Rieger wondered about getting funding through grants, etc. Not possible for funding due to the oil monies, etc. Mona stated there should be no architect fees now, just plan purchase fee; soil samples are finished; labor costs will be different and they have four (4) more lots left to build on.

Norton stated the building is unencumbered and could have sold it if they had to and Fallon County would not have been affected. Commissioner Rieger stated he did not feel Fallon County ever intended to be a guarantor. Norton stated, you are right but Mona exhausted other funding sources and we had to come to the Commissioner's. The Commission felt they would have to discuss further and get back to the group on this matter and suggested they contact the City of Baker to see if they may possibly assist.

Veteran's Memorial is closer to be completed; Sawhorse Construction, Inc. has taken the project over.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to update the Commission on road work. Dale stated some roads are getting some good results and some are not. Water to the weed building and golf building was discussed. The Commission is trying to get water to the weed shop but progress has been slow.

Bobby Wiedmer, Road Foreman stated Chuck Lee, DES/911 Coordinator wants to shut down the bridge on Custer Camp Trail. Abuhl Access has been repaired. Chuck Lee told Bobby Fallon County may get FEMA funding for Sage Trail. Betty Johnson called about a road that is splitting in their area.

John Beach has a gravel mine he would like checked out.

Bison Pipeline-Chimney Creek Road is being torn up by them. Bobby stated Bison wants Fallon County to pay to fix it and then Bison would reimburse Fallon County. Bobby feels Bison needs to fix it; the Commission agreed.

The Commission asked Bobby to check on the hydrology study on the Custer Camp Trail for the Dye Access Bridge. Bobby stated he would do that. If there is no hydrology study, Bobby will contact Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering about that.

Bobby will be on vacation for two weeks the start of next week. Vacation approved.

Commissioner Ranum stated Ralph Losing paved his private drive and Fallon County will only be responsible for mowing and not maintenance of the road. The balance of the Commission and Bobby agreed with that.

Cattle guards on the South Ismay Road are very rough; the crew was back and left them that way.

Hadley's road-Bobby stated he would try to get someone up there by the end of the week.

Bobby stated the crew is chip sealing.

Cabin Creek Bridge-Commissioner Ranum feels we need to take Rich Batterman, County Attorney out to this bridge so he can give a legal opinion.

Doug Bruha and Dave Hall will be in charge of the Road Department while Bobby is gone.

John Deere Lane was discussed-They don't start mowing until next month; the crew is in various areas blading.

The Commission reviewed and approved the July, 2011 mid-month claims in the amount of \$684,054.36 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission and Rich Batterman, County Attorney reviewed and signed the Superintendent of Schools agreement for FY12. That agreement is on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

A paving crew member stopped by to see if the Commission needed any work completed right now; they would only charge \$2.25 per square foot for a mile or more. Commissioner Ranum asked if they seal coat for that price. No, they do not recommend doing it now; they feel you need to wait six (6) months to a year. The Golf Course was measured and is 36,000 sq feet-\$72,000.00 for the parking lot. The Commission was not interested at this time.

AGREEMENTS

The Commission reviewed and signed the Congregate and Home Delivered Meals and Contract for Legal Services Agreements for FY2012. Both agreements are on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission reviewed and signed the Grant Agreement for Phase III – earthwork and drainage for the Airport Runway Extension project and also the A-133 single audit certification form. Copies of both documents are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Commission received notification of an application for payment submitted by the FAA on behalf of Fallon County for the Airport Expansion Project would be received in the amount of \$6,248.00.

REPORTS

The Commission reviewed and approved the following reports:

Baker Rural Fire District Minutes from June, 2011; warrants were approved in the amount of \$10,881.19.

Fallon County Detention Center Report for June, 2011. 7 prisoners held for 130 days of which all 130 days were City of Baker days. No Income received for the month.

Planning Department-Plat Status Report for July 14, 2011. 4 Certificates of Survey have been sent to the Examining Land Surveyor for review.

Plevna Rural Fire District Minutes from June, 2011; warrants were approved in the amount of \$6,562.87.

JOURNALS

Budget Journal #7-Post year end budget transfers for those budgets that have fallen short.

Budget Journal #8-Correct entry made on Budget Journal #7.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES

Continental Resources, Inc.-May, 2011 Oil and Gas Royalties-\$9,459.17

Earmarked Drug and Alcohol Tax treatment funds-\$1,447.00

Bowers Oil and Gas Inc-May, 2011 Oil and Gas Royalties-\$103.18

State of Montana-2nd quarter Subdivision Review Fee Reimbursement-\$197.00

State of Montana (Fish, Wildlife and Parks)-Shooting Range Grant-\$8,000.00

Adjourned.

s/Donald Rieger, Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder