

Monday, March 16, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger and Dennis Afrank, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular Monday session.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly report. Discussed placing one of the old radio's, from the old blades, in the sanding truck. Bob stated the Anticline Road is going to take a lot of culverts that are either plugged or covered up. Commissioner Afrank stated he would like it if they would not aggressively change them out yet. Bob stated they are continuing to haul gravel on the Anticline Road this week. The crew will be going to the North Ismay Road and the North Plevna Roads this week to blade. Washouts were repaired on the Fletcher Creek Road and will also be repairing the wash outs on the Bergstrom Hill Road.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the group to discuss the Fruehauf and two Ranco's that are in poor condition. Alba stated if we are looking at new trailers possibly we should look at longer trailers since the hauls are getting longer. The group also discussed the shop size they would possibly be considering. Commissioner Afrank asked if the sanding truck would be getting a radio. Alba stated yes, they will use a radio from the old blades

CLOSED-HIPAA

Greg Jackson, MACo met to review the County's workmen's compensation program and what the company will be looking at regarding the rates at renewal time in July. Greg stated on April 15, 2009, JPA will be presenting the 2007-2008 financial statement (unaudited) and rates. Once the rates are set Fallon County should get the renewal rates in May. Amelia McEwen, MACo is coming to evaluate Fallon County's Safety Program. They are planning to train the Safety Coordinators to conduct training. Greg discussed the workmen's compensation program in more depth; MACo caps their mod factor at 1.25 but State Fund can go as high as 3 or 5. Greg stated most injuries happen within the ages of 18 and 32 and they are usually not under any safety programs. Hospital and Nursing Homes are the highest rated class codes due to the amount of injuries. Greg handed out some informational worksheets for the Commission to view. Greg discussed MACo also handles Liability and P & C Insurance of which Fallon County is not a member. Greg stated MACo has 48 counties, with approximately 11,000 employees, which fluctuates. Greg suggests once a year or twice a year they get hold of MACo and review open claims in more depth. Greg will have Amelia check up on the old claims.

Noon Recess.

Spence Huether, Road Technician met to discuss holding a hearing to abandon roads the first week in May through the hearing process. Spence stated he plans to start in District One. The group discussed hopefully everyone will understand the issues of creating a liability by keeping those roads. The first hearing will be tentatively scheduled to be held on May 18th at 7:00 PM.

Tim Barkley, Sheriff met to discuss whether the County should move forward with the City/ County Law Enforcement contract issue or forget about it. After much discussion the decision was made not to pursue this matter at this time.

Tim stated he received some quotes for stainless steel shower stalls that need to be replaced in the jail; \$6,290.00 from Bradley and \$6,344.00 from Acorn. The Commission granted permission to purchase the shower stalls.

Tim would like to put in a request for the Search and Rescue Building/Ambulance Garage, should the Commission decide to build a new garage. Tim stated they are in need of a place to store evidence. The Commission will take that into consideration when making their decision regarding the building.

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor met to discuss this year's treatment for the Baker Lake. Dale is wondering if he should order the chemical for this year. Commissioner Afrank asked what treatment they would be using this year. Dale stated they used Sonar last year and Roger Meggers is who he talked to about it last year. Dale asked if the Commission

wanted to treat everything that was treated last year. Commissioner Afrank felt only the south end of the lake. Dale stated they would get out and treat it whenever the ice is off the lake; the cost is \$16,000.00 for 300 lbs. Dale questioned Roger about treating more of the lake. Roger felt they should not but they may need to do spot treatments. The Commission stated they should proceed with the treatment. Dale stated he can also use an aquatic roundup if he needs to follow up.

The Commission met at the County Shop with Randy Anderson JGA, Architects and Engineers; Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman; Scott Rabbit, Park Supervisor to discuss the possibility of adding on to the County Shop for a Park/Shop building.

BUSINESS AS NEEDED:

The Commission discussed a new stimulus funding mandate regarding employees on the Health Insurance through COBRA. The new mandate states 65% of the cost will be picked up by the employer for an employee on the Health Insurance through COBRA, if terminated; voluntary resignation does not qualify.

Jessica Dinardi, Planner Secretary met to discuss the issue regarding Fallon County residents that were ordered to clean up their residence, which is in the City Limits. Tom Barth, Landfill Manager was told by the residents that they were not to be charged the tipping fee. Jessica and Tom are curious as to who is to be charged, if not the resident. Commissioner Afrank phoned Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian and Mike stated they have to let them dump there. Due to an order issued by Mike and the City of Baker, they were ordered to clean up their property. Mike stated we should charge it to the County and he will collect the money from the residents and pay the County back.

Commissioner's Ranum and Rieger stated they stopped by Fallon Medical Complex to view the water around the generator fuel tanks. The Commission will contact David Espeland, CEO-FMC regarding this matter.

The Commission received a copy of the summary of the year 2008 methane monitoring results for the Coral Creek Landfill from Barry Damschen Consulting, LLC. Per the plan that was approved by the DEQ there were 2 wells plugged and 3 new wells drilled and 2 wells they continue to monitor. That report is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission also received the Annual Engineering Inspection Report for the Coral Creek Landfill from Barry Damschen Consulting, LLC and is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

ROAD EASEMENTS:

- Susan Smith Terry-Section 10-9-58-Anticline Road.
- Barbara Ann Croft-Section 10-9-58-Anticline Road.
- Sharon Louise Flener-Section 10-9-58-Anticline Road.

ENCROACHMENT PERMIT:

Commissioner Afrank signed an encroachment permit for Fidelity Exploration and Production Company to bore under Coral Creek Road in Section 32-7-60 to place a 6" steel natural gas pipeline. The Fee of \$150.00 was also paid by Fidelity.

Steve Olson, Regional Director for the Department of Labor and Industry Programs. Steve represents Eastern Montana Job Services. Steve stated they will be receiving \$750,000.00 in wired funding at the Federal level. These are one time dollars which will be available within 32 counties or the (wired region). The funding used to have to be used following a real narrow path; they are now expanding the funding use for on the job training. This can be used for energy like skills or support thereof, such as the road crew. Steve stated the trainee will train for six (6) months and after that time they would then bump the wages. The funding can come back in and back fill the county for some of those dollars spent in training. This will have to be expended by year end. Commissioner Rieger asked do you have to hire them at the end of that time. Steve stated they already would have been hired. Commissioner Rieger asked if there would be a large paper trail to be followed. Steve stated there would be no initial paperwork and

Job Service completes the follow up work. Commissioner Rieger asked if they find the people for us. Steve stated no, you find your own people to hire. Steve discussed another program he works with called, Inter-Agency rapid response for employees that have been laid off. Job service contacts the employer and goes out and works with that group of people. Commissioner Afrank asked if Steve knew how many people we have that have gone to Job Service because they had lost their jobs. Steve stated he was not sure; there have been a few that have gone to Job Service so far from this area. Steve stated they have different ways they can help out such as providing for their children to have a free lunch at school. They could have a workshop here and people could at least get some names and resources to contact. Steve stated they have also faced housing issues; companies find an employee they wish to hire and then that person can find no housing, this is a huge issue.

Jason Rittal, Executive Director for Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation stated things are looking good so far for the North Baker Water Sewer District grants. The representative reviewed the ED grant and came back with some suggestions and Jason took care of that, but once it hits Denver, CO, Jason loses his control.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

The Commission reviewed and approved March, 2009 mid-month claims in the amount of \$380,057.59 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from March 9, 2009.

The Commission has been steadily watching the legislative sessions and reviewing many of the bills they deem pertinent to Fallon County, City of Baker, Schools and the State of Montana.

Recess
Thursday, March 19, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger and Dennis Afrank, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder reconvened on Thursday, March 19, 2009.

The Commission met in the basement of the Library with members of the Safety Committee and Emelia McEwen, MACo, regarding the Fallon County Safety Program Audit. Those in attendance were: Commissioner's Ranum and Afrank and later on in the meeting, Commissioner Rieger; Amelia McEwen, MACo; Alice Kay Schweigert, Jessica Dinardi; Barb Lechler; Chuck Lee and Tom Barth and later on in the meeting, Alba Higgins, Members of the Safety Team; Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder.

Amelia started the meeting off by stating she was here to see where we are with our Safety Program. Amelia reviewed the Safety Team analysis of Fallon County's Safety Program with the group and made suggestions and offered any needed assistance. Amelia felt our County had one of the best safety programs she had ever reviewed and feels we are progressing nicely.

This meeting was adjourned.

The Commission and the Clerk and Recorder reconvened in their office.

BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED OR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss questions regarding a decision needed regarding the safety toe shoes for seasonal employees. After some discussion it was decided to table this matter until next week when the Commission meets.

REPORTS:

Fallon County Detention Center –February, 2009-5 inmates- 52 days- 4 Fallon County Days; 18 City of Baker Days; 23 days-DOC (Dept. of Corrections) and 7 days Flathead County. **REVENUES RECEIVED:** DOC-\$1,150.00 and Flathead County-\$350.00.

Fallon County Library report for February 9, 2009 was received and reviewed.

Plevna Rural Fire District meeting minutes for February, 2009; warrants issued in the amount of \$3,414.69.

Baker Rural Fire District meeting minutes for February, 2009; warrants issued in the amount of \$1,053.54.

ROAD EASEMENTS:

U Hanging 7 Ranch, Inc. – Section 24-4-60-Farmstead; 23-4-60-Farmstead; 25-4-60-Farmstead

Lloyd William Ehret-Section 29-8-58-Cougar Road; 27-7-58-Division Road

Lloyd Ehret-Section 34-7-58-Sunny Bank Road and Division Road

Carol Lange-Section 10-9-58-Anticline

Robert R. Strodel-Section 10-9-58-Anticline

The Commission signed Amendment #5 for the Coral Creek Landfill Engineering Consulting Services stating the same services shall be provided for January 1, 2009-December 31, 2009 as was provided January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008 in the amount of \$4,350.00. That amendment is filed in the Clerk and Recorder’s office.

The Commission signed a Resolution calling for a Public Hearing to receive public input on whether or not the Board of Commissioners should abandon a petitioned road and that Resolution #3-19-2009 is filed in the Clerk and Recorder’s office.

The Commission received the Interlocal Agreement for the Compensation of the City-County Parks Employees from the City of Baker in its approved status. That Agreement is on file in the Clerk and Recorder’s office.

CLOSED-LEGAL

CLOSED-HIPPA

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

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