

Monday, May 11, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Donald Rieger and Dennis Afrank, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular Monday session at 10:00 AM.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly road report. The bridge crew will be placing a new culvert in the Anticline Road, south of Section 36-8-59. This week the road crew will be blading roads and working on car gates. They will also be going to the Hagadone Pit to take a gravel sample to send to the State of Montana. Bob plans to be out most of the week, driving roads. All of the new blades should be here after today. Commissioner Ranum asked how the crew likes the new blades. Bob stated they are getting better about them. Commissioner Afrank asked if they were using the sloping instrument. Bob stated no, they should be trained on them sometime next week; they are learning to drive them first. Commissioner Rieger stated Dan O'Connor told him the road crew stopped at his driveway and wondered why. They will be back to finish some of the road work they did not get completed. Commissioner Ranum stated Lorraine Boespflug needs scoria on her road. Bob stated Fred Sieler will not let the County go through his property to get to the Hagadone Pit. Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the discussion. Alba asked if the County needed to budget for more crushing. Bob stated the cost is \$1.80 per ton to crush, according to Fike Construction.

Spence Huether, Road Technician met to discuss road abandonment hearings. Spence stated Commissioner Rieger's District will be the next area for the road abandonment hearings. The next scheduled road hearing will be held on June 15th at 7:00 PM.

The Commission canvassed the Heath Facility Levy Mail Ballot Election with the following official results:

FOR	545
AGAINST	<u>385</u>
TOTAL	930

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ELECTORS
VOTING
931**

The undersigned hereby certify that this constitutes a full, true and complete Abstract of Votes cast in Fallon County at an election held May 5, 2009 and an election for:

VOTED HEALTH FACILITY LEVY

Attest our hand this 11th day of May, 2009.

s/Deb Ranum
s/Donald Rieger
s/Dennis Afrank

Official Election Canvassers

**STATE OF MONTANA
COUNTY OF FALLON**

ATTEST:
s/Brenda J. Wood
Clerk and Recorder/Election Admin.

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM with all present.

CLOSED-LEGAL

Rich Batterman, County Attorney met to update the Commission on a few items. Rich stated he has not heard back from the insurance company regarding the bridge on Bridge Road. Commissioner Ranum asked what they can do to get the Stanhope Homeowners Association off of the tax rolls; it was a park and should have never been taxed. Rich stated the Commission could go through the tax deed process to clear it up. Rich stayed for the following meeting with the Fallon County Times.

Angel Wyrwas, Reporter for the Fallon County Times met because the Fallon County Times had received some Got a Question's. Angel stated they had several questions that stated the fire hall money had been loaned to Fallon Medical Complex (FMC). There were also several other questions asked regarding the fire hall and the Editor of the Fallon County Times decided it would be best to do a news article about the project. The Commission explained the money was used for the Health Facility Expansion Project, but the Fire Department has been paid back. Commissioner Rieger stated it was not actually LOANED to FMC, the project was for more than the Hospital and when it was realized the fire hall would not be completed as soon as they had hoped; part of the money was set aside for the expansion project instead. Commissioner Afrank stated some people do not realize the project was for more than FMC, it was also for the new PVCII and Public Health, which are County projects. Commissioner Rieger felt the public was involved with the Expansion project from the beginning. The Commission further explained the funds for the fire hall have been derived from oil and gas monies. Commissioner Rieger stated the Fire Department Board made the decision how it would be built; that was all done according to the Board. Commissioner Afrank stated they elected to go with the Construction Manager at Risk approach. Commissioner Ranum stated the local people had an opportunity to bid the project. Commissioner Ranum stated Bev Anderson, Fire Department Secretary has the list of those who bid the project so she suggested talking to Randy Hoenke, Baker Fire Chief about the bid. Commissioner Ranum stated she felt the money was saved for the fire hall over a period of 8 years or more.

Gotta Question regarding the Humane Society, the individual asked: I would like to know how the Humane Society gets by leaving the property such a mess; with the animals in such terrible surroundings and the garbage blowing around. Rich answered by stating the County has been very mindful by any risk the Humane Society may have. Rich further stated what the readers need to understand is, it is private property and the animals on that property are private property. It was further determined by a local veterinarian, the animals were not in poor health. Rich stated the County is trying to keep this under control. The issue of littering is being investigated by the Sheriff's Department. Rich stated any questions can be directed to Tim Barkley, Sheriff or Rich Batterman, County Attorney. Commissioner Afrank feels the questions asked could be directed to the Humane Society. Commissioner Ranum asked if Angel had contacted the Humane Society. Angel stated not as of this time but she plans to.

Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering met to discuss various bridges within the County. Jon stated Brosz Engineering can complete bridge inspections. They would need a list of all bridges within the County and the bridges the State inspects. Discussed bridges less than 20 feet long are not inspected by the State of Montana. Commissioner Afrank asked what all they (Brosz) look at; signage, etc. Jon stated most definitely, they take pictures, complete a full report, number the bridges, and put the reports in a binder for the County to view. Commissioner Afrank questioned the Corp of Engineers; Jon stated they follow all guidelines and have never had an issue with the Corp of Engineers.

The Commission discussed the fire hall. Jon stated Brosz is doing the overseeing on the groundwork, surveying and cement for the fire hall.

The Commission discussed the issues of cement failures from last fall. Jon stated they will be pulling some samples to find out the issues at hand. Jon will keep the Commission posted on this issue.

PORTIONS CLOSED-PERSONNEL:

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss the workers compensation through MACo. Debbie stated all the rates were down with the exception of the 9420 code, which is our "all other" code. The modification factor went from .95 to .92. Debbie stated she feels MACo has more control over what they charge us and she also feels MACo treats our employees fair. Debbie not sure if Victory would give them a fair shake but is also not sure MACo's way is the best way. Debbie stated after reviewing all of the information, she is leaning toward Victory. The group phoned Janel, Victory Insurance. The group discussed the premium discount. Janel stated the premium discount is different because it starts out at \$10,000.00; the greater the premium the greater the discount. Regulatory Surcharge-they did not have that when first quoted; this is governed by the state. Janel stated the volunteers are not covered with the exception of

Community Service; volunteer hours can be reported later on an as needed basis. The group stated they would discuss this further and get back to Janel.

After much discussion and with much regard to the savings to the County, Commissioner Rieger made the motion to accept the quote from Victory Insurance and Commissioner Afrank seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum called for all those in favor. 3 Aye. Commissioner Ranum called for all those opposed. 0 Nay. Motion carried unanimously. Letters will be sent to both MACo and Victory Insurance regarding the decision made today.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder discussed the health insurance. The group discussed possibly holding employee meetings to discuss the cost of the insurance and options available.

The Commission signed the Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction for the engineering services and layout plan for the Airport Runway Extension Program.

REVENUES:

ConocoPhillips Company-\$3,362.47 –March Oil and Gas Royalties
Sands Oil Company-\$269.34-March Oil and Gas Royalties
Bowers Oil and Gas, Inc-\$53.41-March Oil and Gas Royalties
Beth Meggers-\$25.00-drain field permit

JOURNALS:

#628-Move claim #41409 from capital outlay to repair and maintenance services account.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

ATTEST:

s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder