

Monday, June 2, 2008

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Dennis Afrank and Donald Rieger, members; Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder absent; Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder took minutes in her absence.

Doug Bruha, Road Foreman, met for his weekly report. The road crew bladed Prairie View Drive and changed out a car gate on the same road. Put fence back up by new pipe bridge on Abuhl Access-all in District 1; Blading, fixed end of curve on Scoria Butte Trail and placed a new culvert on a approach. Placed a new culvert in an approach on Willard West and repaired the car gate-all in District 2; Blading and patched over a culvert on Lincoln Road in District 3.

Greg Jackson, MACo met with the Commission regarding the County's Workman's Compensation. There was a 5% decrease of overall rates for MACo work comp. Fallon County rates decreased somewhat, however the Mod Factor increased, Greg will look into that. Greg: They have been building a surplus in their reserve as required by the Department of Labor, and they feel they will reach their mandatory surplus amount this year and there should not be much increase in rates in the future. Greg discussed the importance of the Safety program that MACo is offering. All safety programs have made a tremendous difference in incidents. Fallon County has their own safety program and has handled their program well. Greg: Workmen's Compensation laws: When an injured worker reaches Medicare age Workman's Compensation benefits cease, there is a case in Supreme Court disputing this. If this case would be won, it would be a huge factor for all Workman's Compensation Insurance in the State of Montana, not a good thing.

Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor stopped in to ask if the Commissioner's want any chemical put in the lake. Dale: Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian had told Dale there would be no chemical in the lake this year. Ranum: what are you going to put in the lake? Dale probably copper sulfate again, he does not have any idea what the cost would be right now. Dale: if you are relying on the aerators, don't put chemical in the lake, Solar Bee has also recommended no chemical with the aerators. Mike Rinaldi is supposed to be here today. Commissioner Afrank asked if Rinaldi gets here, could you please come back with him later today. Weed sprayer crew, trucks are operating as two per road for the first week or two, one going up the road and one going down the road. Commissioner Rieger stated he did not have a problem with that. Dale stated all County roads will get done, what about all the easements that the County has in place. What if a landowner asks for his road to be done that has an easement. Commission: Report all easement issues to County Commission.

Scott Rabbitt, Park Supervisor reported the Gazebo restrooms should be completed by June 7th. Other projects should be completed by Homestead Days. Permission granted for Scott to purchase a new Toro Groundsmaster 3280 D 4WD w/72" side discharge deck in the amount of \$18,327.00, in the new fiscal year.

Nicole Zimmerman met to discuss the Bio-Product Innovation Center Network and informed the Commission of her job duties, she covers 6 surrounding counties for Eastern Plains R C & D.

The Commission received (1) Road Foreman application. The Commission feels they need to advertise again to get more applicants to apply before making a decision.

Doug Bruha, Road Foreman met to discuss the County Road Easements. The decision was to send a letter to landowners that have not signed road easements; send another letter with a deadline to get the paperwork completed as December 31, 2008. After that date it will be by petition only.

Monday, June 2, 2008 (Continued)

A memo was sent to the County Supervisors regarding the need to use County Vehicle for County business; cleanliness and fueling after use was also discussed. Memo is on file.

The Grant Award Notification for the RSVP Program was received for Fiscal Year 2009. The grant will be in the amount of \$25,102.00.

Discussion regarding what should be done with the old Public Health Building. The Commission decided they would contact Crow's Odd Jobs and have him remove whatever is useable or resalable.

Commission approved the following Journals: Journal 444 to void Check #31535-deduction warrant for May, 2008 Payroll. Journal 445 to adjust the fund expenditure deduction warrant #31535 County Vehicle Tax Credit that runs as a deduction automatically prints a warrant that needs to be voided each month.

The Commission approved the May, 2008 payroll and withholdings in the amount of \$267,670.20 and they are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess.

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Dennis Afrank and Donald Rieger, Members and Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met for a regular June session. Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder was absent.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

County Auction-be sure to get the old phones from the Courthouse listed.

Iven Felt, discussion regarding the 1979 Chevy Pickup Iven would like to sell to the County. The Commission made the decision to buy the pickup for \$2,500. Commissioner Rieger called Iven to notify him that we would run the claim at mid-month June, 2008.

Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker met for his monthly report. The group discussed completing the Intergovernmental contracts for the Recreation and Parks Departments, should Clayton contact Rich Batterman. Commissioner Rieger suggested Clayton contact Lisa Hastig, Secretary for the County Attorney. Lisa could then bring it to Rich's attention to get the matter handled. Never have gotten the intergovernmental contract with the Golf Course completed, because Russell Culver advised them not to sign it. The City wanted some changes, but, this never has gotten done. Clayton would like to get these items ironed out and get them done. Container site-the railroad crossing and road are in bad shape; at the City Council meeting they decided that the City would maintain the road if the County would provide the material. Commissioner Rieger will talk to Doug Bruha, and let Clayton know. Commissioner Ranum asked if Christina Shepherd has items stored in the old Health nurse building; if so, she will need to get it hauled out because they are stripping the inside of the building in preparation of tearing it down. Clayton asked how the lake project was going. Commissioner Afrank stated the weed department will be putting some pellets in the lake because it is not usable at this point due to the water milfoil. Commissioner Ranum asked how we are with mosquito control. Clayton stated they are getting the chemical ordered and will get going as soon as possible so that they get it done before Homestead Days. Commissioner Ranum asked if Clayton was going to be at the Opening Ceremonies of Homestead Days. Clayton stated he planned on being in town, but no one had ever talked to him about it. Clayton discussed some of the clean up issues of the city; industrial/business district. There was also some discussion of Baker North Water and Sewer District.

The Commission approved the May, 2008 claims in the amount of \$451,662.78 and they are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Clerk and Recorder returned to take minutes.

Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Chief stated he has some concerns regarding the burn permits and discussed an ordinance for this; due to cost of fuel, oil, repairs and man power. Our volunteers leave jobs and are not paid to go to a fire and people need to be made aware they are to get burn permits. Commissioner Ranum asked if they would just call in or fill out paper work. Tom stated the person applying for the permit would call the Sheriff's Department; it is a verbal permit issued from the Sheriff's Department. Tom will get a copy of Richland County's ordinance for the Commission to view and model their ordinance after.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Kit Anderson, Planner met to update the Commission on items of business for the landfill. Kit stated they still have no part time help for the landfill. The Commission asked if Kit knew what the plans for the anemometers and the tower, located at the landfill were. Commissioner Rieger stated moving it to another location was discussed earlier. This will be discussed further at a different time.

Dave Mills and Chris Lynn, Tri-State Equipment stopped to say hello to the Commission.

Noon Recess

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss the Road Foreman position. Alba briefed the Commission on the idea he and Dave Hall, Acting Road Foreman and Doug Bruha, Road Foreman have. They are going to come in and discuss the idea they have on Monday.

Bid Opening for Loader for the Landfill took place at 1:30 PM in the office of the Fallon County Commission. The following were present at the bid letting: Troy Combs, Western Plains Machinery; Chris Lynn and Dave Mills-Tri-State Equipment; Mark Feland-RDO Equipment; Jerry Martinson, Tractor and Equipment. The Clerk and Recorder erred when advertising the bid for the loader; never advertised that a bid bond was necessary. The group will discuss all bids and contact each person individually when a decision is made.

Tom Barth, Landfill Manager and Kit Anderson, Planner/Landfill Supervisor met to discuss a baler and a building. Commissioner Rieger asked if they would need another employee. Tom felt they would not need more employees right away. Discussion on the size of bales; 2200 lbs-they could set bales aside until dry enough to dispose of. Discussed the new container site and whether it was close to being ready. Kenny stated they are waiting on permits, etc. Recycling was discussed such as card board, plastic; aluminum cans which can be hauled off for recycling. Commissioner Ranum discussed the continued increase in the cost of fuel rates and wondered if we need to raise our rates. Tom stated for now we are doing okay; he feels we could bring in more volume and cut costs in order to leave prices as they are. Commissioner Ranum asked how the tire cutting was going. Tom stated it is going okay. Building costs for the baler and building would be approximately \$1,230,000.00. Tom stated he will be attending the SWAC meeting in Helena, June 18th and the room rates are \$115.00 per night plus tax. Permission granted by the Commission to attend this meeting and for Tom to be reimbursed for the rooms at that rate.

Money was collected from D & M Water Service in the amount of \$25.00 for a septic system permit.

Judy Brown and Barb and Wendy Olind met regarding Homestead Days. They discussed the play at the Longfellow School. That part of the festivities is going well. They need a backup plan for the concert, incase of inclement weather. They are refinishing the floors at the High School and can no longer use that as a backup plan. Discussion took place in regard to placing a cover over the stage or possibly using the big barn at the Fairgrounds. They discussed this with the Fair Board and they felt there would not be enough room in the barn. The Commissioner suggested renting a tent or something of that nature. Judy and Barb wondered what the Commission thought about the use of the big barn. The Commission felt this should not be a problem. Judy and Barb will revisit this matter with the Fair Board. The Fair Board is charging 7% of profit, if you do not make a profit then you do not have to pay anything; this will be used to cover the electrical costs. The 7% with a cap of \$500.00 will be per vendor booth. Judy was not sure how the beer booth, concert, etc. would work. Barb Lechler, Fair Secretary was called and she will have to check with her Board on beer booth, concert.

Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian met to discuss treating 2/3 of the lake for the Water Milfoil. Hospital Kitchen remodeling issues were discussed. Mike stated the balance valves were adjusted which seemed to mend part of the issues. Still need to fix garbage issue; need floor in storage area repaired; trip areas need to be repaired and floor and drains need to be cleaned.

Recess until 7:00 PM for Public Hearing

Public Hearing held in the Courtroom at 7:00 PM to abandon the following roads:

Dukart Access; Fallon County Easement Document #89002 and #89003. Those attending the hearing were-Donald Rieger, Dennis Afrank and Deb Ranum-Commission; Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder; Spencer G. Huether, Road Technician; Art Degrand and Tom Owens, Members of the public.

The minutes of that hearing are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

After listening to the members of the public the Commission will not sign to abandon Dukart Access at this time, but did abandon easement documents #89002 and #89003 and resolutions 6-4-2008 & 6-4-2008(1) are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Thursday, June 5, 2008

The Commission, Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Clerk and Recorder worked on salaries.

Tom Barth, Landfill Manager and Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss the decision they made regarding the Landfill loader. Discussion regarding CAT vs John Deere: They like the shielding on the side windows of the John Deere better than the CAT. Jerry Martinson, CAT Dealer will bring that up to specs and then the only thing they will not have will be the reversing fan. CAT has the five year warranty; the only concern Alba had was the response time if there are mechanical or other issues. RDO has a mechanic that lives right in Baker, but CAT usually has a fair response time. Tom felt they could wait on the foam filled tires and leave as pneumatic. Letters will be sent to all.

Alba stayed to discuss what to do about budgeting for the trading of blades. He would like to know if they plan to bid all 7 with snow plow equipment also or how they would like to bid them. Commissioner Ranum asked about bidding half of them. Commissioner Afrank feels they should rotate part of them but would not support trading all of them. Commissioner Rieger stated he feels we should trade all 7, with snow plow equipment in place. Commissioners Rieger and Ranum agreed to trade all 7 and go to bid for next fiscal year budget. Alba would also like to budget for a small pickup.

The Commission, Clerk and Recorder and Deputy Clerk and Recorder worked on salaries. Decisions made are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The commission has been working very hard to make everyone's wage/salary fair for the job position, not the person. They are also working with the new policy manual changes which were placed effective this year, i.e., No Compensation Time and No Overtime to Supervisors. These compensations were adjusted by way of salaries for those various employees. These employees also receive longevity, which the elected officials and Deputies of those offices do not receive. In doing so, some of these employees will or have surpassed that of the elected official and their Deputy with the exception of the Sheriff's Department. Therefore, the County Commission has made the compensation to the elected official of \$2.50 per hour and the Deputy, Undersheriff and Deputy Sheriff to receive their appropriate percentages of that elected official. The compensation above will offer a buffer for the salary schedule. This motion was made by Commissioner Afrank and seconded by Commissioner Rieger. All in favor. 3 Aye and 0 Nay. Motion carried.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Robert Crow met to discuss the work he will do regarding the removal of all equipment, etc. from the old Health Nurse building and take items to the County Shop to be placed in the County Auction.

Noon Recess

Misti Breitbach, Health Nurse met to update the Commission on various items of business. They have pretty much concluded their move to the new facility. Marta King, Eye Doctor from Miles City needs to move her things from the old Health Nurse building to the Hospital basement. Misti still has some items in one of the rooms in the old Health Nurse building. Misti asked if the Health Nurse office could purchase a car so Debi Wiman does not have to use her personal vehicle. The Commission felt they could use the old Community Service Van. They can pick the van up at the County Shop each day and take it back when they are finished. Misti stated they have a problem with the entrance going into the new Health Nurse Facility. They need another button for a handicap door. They can get into the entrance of the building but are then stuck in the entrance because they can not get the other door open that leads to the office. The cost for this would be approximately \$3,000.00. Permission granted to get this corrected. Mental Health Counselor and Drug and Alcohol Counselor will be housed at the new Health Nurse Facility also. The Mental Health person has his own office and they could put the Drug and Alcohol person in Toni's office. No one is going to be in the facility after 5:00 PM. Tab Electronics is working on moving the satellite dish. Misti would like to purchase a new Health Department sign. Permission granted for Misti to call about the sign and get it taken care of. Selena Nelson, CFO-FMC will have David give Marta King a call about moving her items out of the old building so the Commission can proceed with tearing the building down.

Tim Barkley, Sheriff met to discuss the resolution for hours the Undersheriff and Deputy Sheriff work over 40 hours. Commissioner Ranum asked if they will be working extra time for Homestead days. Tim had not planned to get a lot of extra help. Commissioner Afrank stated they will have help from the Baker Police Department. Extra money to the Undersheriff, Deputy Coroner and Deputy Sheriff for the Coroner position was discussed. Tim Grube is now receiving \$1,000.00; Tom Muckle-\$1,000.00; Tim Barkley \$2,000.00. Tim would also like to budget for the Deputy Sheriff to receive \$1,000.00 extra. The resolution for this would follow Section 7-4-2509, MCA. Clerk and Recorder will try to get a resolution from the County Attorney that will allow this to take effect July 1, 2008.

CLOSED-LEGAL

Alba Higgins, Selena Nelson and Debbie Wyrick met as the Health Insurance Committee. The group discussed the insurance regarding setting up a point system. The decision was made to bring it up again on Monday. With the 80 point system you would combine your age with years of service and this would determine whether or not you would be eligible for the insurance as a retiree. More discussion will take place on this matter.

The Commission appointed the following to respective County Boards:
Airport Commission/Baker Municipal Airport Zoning Commission-John Tronstad
Baker Municipal Airport Board of Adjustment/Planning Board-F. P. (Pat Hanley);
Thomas Bechtold and LaVonne Thielen as a Plevna Representative
Baker TV District Board-No Applicants
Cemetery Board-Judy Gunderson
Council on Aging-Arnold Duneman; Norma Buerkle; Mickey Tunby; County Health
Board-Dennis Afrank and Clayton Hornung.
Lake Advisory Board-Richard M. Chester-2 more positions vacant
Library Board-Brenda Johnson
Mental Health Board-Donald Rieger
Salary Commission-Peggy Hagadone
Museum Board-Reinhard Barth
Tax Appeal Board-Norton Walker
Weed Board-Richard Malcom; Doug Bruha

Letters will be sent to everyone listed above.

Jeff Greenlee and John Beach met as the Golf Course Board for a monthly update. There is a company here that would asphalt the cart paths for \$250,000.00. The Commission stated they did not feel this amount was feasible. Commissioner Afrank stated they may use the company when they rework the highway. Storage bin for gypsum was discussed they would split the cost of \$7,000.00 50/50 between Golf and Parks. Permission granted by the Commission. Could they use a County truck to haul the bin? Commission granted permission to use a County truck. The Commission asked them to get a cost for someone to go and bring it back. The Commission stated the Park Supervisor and Eric Kary, Golf Course Supervisor would like to purchase a Dingo (trench type equipment) and split the cost. The Commission wanted to discuss this with the Golf Board before rendering a firm decision. Further discussion will take place before a final decision is made. Jeff reported the Fairways look great but the greens had some winter kill. Commissioner Rieger asked if the G.C. Board knew what other Golf Course Supervisors were being paid. Jeff stated he did not know. The Commission showed the G. C. Board the auction items Eric had listed to be sold. The Commission asked if the Board had ever been included in the budgeting aspect for the Golf Course. They stated they really never had been asked. The G. C. Board is going to check on the cost of gypsum. John stated they are finished building cart sheds. There were 11 new cart sheds and 4 replaced that had blown away. The Club House has been painted and Jeff is building the steps. The Commission stated they still plan to chip seal the parking lot. John stated he is still working on the aerator issue with the City Council. The Golf Course Supervisor and crew are working on preparing the Golf Course for Homestead Days, but are pretty much ready. The Oilfield Open Tournament is next weekend. They are looking into a PA system at Baker Furniture. Commissioner Rieger stated they should discuss this with the Fair Board as they just went through all that work and research. The Board is looking at placing some lockers in the Club House.

The following road easements were signed:

Patrick and Tammy O'Donnell-Farmstead in Section 4-7-60.

Steven & Janet Stickney-Farmstead in Section 5-8-57; Yellowstone Road in Sections 32-9-56 and 30-9-56; Westmore Road and Cemetery Road in Section 5-8-57.

Clinton R. Ehret-Calumet Road and Scoria Butte Road in Section 32-6-58; Calumet Road in Section 17-6-58.

Ehret Land Company c/o Clinton R. Ehret-Sunny Bank Road, Calumet Road, Reservoir Trail and Snowy Road in Section 5-6-58; Calumet Road in Sections 7-6-58 and 19-5-58; Farmstead in Sections 5-6-58 and 8-6-58; Snowy Road and Calumet Road in Section 8-6-58.

The Commission approved the following minutes from May 27, 2008.

Adjourned
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

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