

Monday, December 15, 2008

Dennis A Frank, Vice-Chairman and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for a regular Mid-Month Session. Donald Rieger, Member phoned and stated he would be a few minutes late. Deb Ranum excused due to the inclement weather. The group waited to start the meeting until Commissioner Rieger was in attendance.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly report. Bob stated they have one snow plow truck running; one will start later this afternoon. The two newest Mack trucks had a recall and they have one truck finished; the other truck is still in Billings. Alba and Mitch are still working on the compactor. Today the crew is hauling snow from the courthouse and the Hospital. Bob stated they will be hauling gravel on the North Plevna Road this week unless it freezes, then they will haul scoria on other roads.

Scott Rabbitt, Park Supervisor reported he will be gone the first two weeks in January.

Discussion regarding replacing the vacuum cleaner for the courthouse. Permission granted to purchase a Dyson from Baker Furniture for the Courthouse office users.

The Commission reviewed and approved the December mid-month claims in the amount of \$361,784.49 and those claims are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Noon recess

The Commission held a Budget Amendment Hearing for the Library Memorial Endowment Fund. The Library Memorial Endowment Fund received a \$1,000.00 donation from Harold and Lillian Jensen of which no provisions was made in the fiscal year of 2009 County budget. No one from the public attended to be heard for or against allowing the budget to be amended by \$1,000.00. The Commission approved the amendment and passed resolution 12-15-2008 and it is on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor brought the new safety binders in to the Commission for approval. The Commission did so approve the binders as submitted.

CLOSED-LEGAL

The Commission called Steve with MTI regarding the heating issue at the Library. They are having issues with the new boiler system for the Library. Commissioner Rieger asked if the new boilers were not compatible for our needs. Steve stated he could not answer that. Commissioner Rieger asked if we need to ask Jeff with Coneer. Steve felt that was who they would need to contact. Rich Rose, MTI will be in Baker tomorrow and will have to be available when they crown the boiler. Commission will stay in contact with Steve.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

CLOSED-HIPAA

Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker; John Beach, City Council Member met to discuss the consolidation of the City and County law enforcement. John stated they are exploring ideas on the consolidation. Commissioner Rieger asked if anyone had heard any feedback from the Community. Clayton stated everyone he has heard from has asked why we have not done this before. Tim Grube, Under Sheriff joined the discussion. Clayton stated they have a hard time keeping officers. Clayton stated money may be an issue but not the only issue; family lives are also affected. Clayton stated his main concern is getting good law enforcement for the County and City that was why he appointed the Committee to do some research on this matter. Clayton also wants to know how the Commission feels about this issue. Commissioner Rieger stated he was interested in listening to the City's offerings. John stated he is looking at it as a possible cost savings. Tim Grube stated this will not save money for either entity. John stated what he meant by that statement was he feels we would get better service for our money,

not just money savings. Randy Ketterling, Chief of Police joined the discussion. Commissioner Rieger stated he was on board when Willie Duffield, past Commissioner proposed it and a lot of people were very upset over the thought at that time. John stated he feels everyone needs to be on board before this will work. Commissioner Rieger stated Tim Barkley seemed to feel that some of the City ordinances would not be able to be covered by them. Randy stated there are State laws that would cover some of those issues. Commissioner Rieger asked do you feel it is the money that causes you to lose your officers. Clayton stated he feels law enforcement in general is having issues, people are not going in to this field, the shift work is causing some problems, not enough family time, etc. Tim Grube stated he feels certain Tim Barkley, Sheriff would not consider the consolidation unless there would be 24 hour coverage. Commissioner Afrank stated Tim Barkley is an elected official and wonders how he would handle the situation with the Mayor and Council. John stated there would be one person in control. Tim G stated Tim B stated his door is always open. Randy felt the City would need a liaison with no more authority to influence the Sheriff than the public and Tim B has also told him his door is always open. Randy feels you would not be able to do this in this fiscal year. Discussion regarding waiting until budget year 2010. Clayton stated that is why they wanted to start now. Commissioner Rieger asked Randy what his position was on this matter. Randy stated he would consider working but he has had a lot of time with FBI academy, all of his experience and does not want to start as a new patrolman position. Randy stated he has placed an ad in the paper for two police officer positions. Randy stated he needs five officers to get 24 hour coverage, 7 days per week. John stated he does not know the answer but feels we need to start someplace. Tim Grube discussed working his day off for the City for \$7.00 per hour less and that is working night shift and weekends. Discussion regarding County wages verse Municipal wages. Clayton stated in the City they have changed the wage base 13% in the last three years. Concerned about maintaining the budget and getting good law enforcement wants to know how the Commission feels. Clayton would like to get a Council person, Commission and Tim Barkley together to get some more facts and to report back each month to everyone else as a group. Commissioner Rieger stated he feels the public needs input. John stated he is concerned about the public and if we can not do this and get the job done better, then we may as well not do this at all. Clayton asked again, is the County Commission on board because it sounds like Tim Barkley is on board. Commissioner Afrank stated Fallon County needs to have a commitment monetarily, and asked what statutes are necessary to maintain communication with elected officials and that this would have to be done with 24 hour coverage. Randy repeated Tim Barkley will not do this without 24 hour coverage. Clayton stated they would like to have a person that would do investigations. Commissioner Afrank stated this would allow time to give people their days off. Randy stated there would be longer shifts, more days off, no call time. Commissioner Afrank suggested the group come back in a month and discuss again. John asked what determines the Sheriff's duties. Commissioner Afrank stated state law determines his duties. Clayton stated the Sheriff is the chief officer over Fallon County. Randy stated no the County Attorney is the chief officer according to the Attorney General's office. Clayton wants the Commissioner's opinion on how we can make it work. Commissioner Afrank stated if you meet the monetary requirements as per the Sheriff he stated he has no problem with proceeding. Commissioner Rieger stated he has some reservations regarding the City ordinances and how much is the City going to relinquish and make demands. Commissioner Rieger suggested they contact the other counties such as Choteau and find out what their issues are; he stated he would be willing to look into it further. Commissioner Afrank feels if both sides want it to work it can work. Tim Grube reminded them that hiring a city officer is totally different than hiring a Sheriff Deputy. Commissioner Rieger agreed they should proceed and gather more information to bring to their next meeting. Clayton stated he would like to get a Commissioner, Tim B and a council member together and get something drafted to start with so they have something to go by. Clayton feels a slight reservation also because of the loss of City control but if we get better law enforcement and coverage it would be worth it. Tim G stated if someone has a concern, Tim B will address the concern. Group decided to get a draft together and talk again on January 20th.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from December 8, 2008.

The Commission stated they would allow the coats, to be given away to the needy, to hang in the basement of the Courthouse until January 15, 2009. The Clerk and Recorder will advise Jaime Helm, Family Services of this matter.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES:

Sands Oil Company-November Oil and Gas Royalties-\$293.26.

REPORTS:

October and November, 2008-Safety Team Minutes were received and are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

November, 2008 Baker Rural Fire District Meeting Minutes were received. The meeting did not take place due to lack of quorum. There were also no bills paid.

November, 2008 Plevna Rural Fire District Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. Warrants in the amount of \$40,208.51 were paid.

November, 2008 Clerk of District Court Witness and Juror Warrants were paid in the amount of \$304.91. (Per Diem-192.00; Mileage-\$112.91).

ROAD EASEMENTS SIGNED:

Richard Stark-Beaverslide Road in Section 25-10-60; Ollie Road in Section 19-10-61; Bridge Road in Section 23-10-60; Snake Trail and Bridge Road in Section 22-10-60.

Adjourned at 5:30 PM
s/Dennis Afrank, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder