

Monday, July 14, 2008

Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Dennis Afrank, Donald Rieger, members and Josie Rieger, Clerk met at 10am for a regularly scheduled meeting day. Clerk and Recorder and Deputy Clerk and Recorder excused for the day.

Bobby Weidmer, newly hired Road Foreman, and Dave Hall, Acting Road Foreman came to meet and discuss the weekly road report. The weeks agenda consists of finishing the road blading, beginning mowing, tree trimming, possible dust control past the county shop, if oil amount allows, and possibly putting cold mix in front of the Shop.

Dave Hall said without any moisture they will finish the blading this week and then begin work on the gravel projects. With the lack of precipitation, the mowing may also be cut short this year. The mowing will start on the Landfill Road and then go outward from Baker. Having someone follow behind the mowers to watch for fires was discussed.

Commissioner Ranum told Dave that Alan Mitchell had left a message about a hole in the road on West Prairie Avenue, where a culvert possibly needs fixed/replaced. Dave Hall will go look at the problem.

Dave Hall and the Commissioners discussed a fire that happened over the weekend.

Jeff Gruizenga, Coneer Engineering met to update the Commissioners on the boiler project work in progress. Jeff stated that everything is coming along just fine. The flue will be coming up through the Commissioners office. There will be four pipes coming through the wall instead of just the original one. The project is expected to be completed in September.

Rich Batterman, County Attorney brought a copy of the EPA letter that he had written. Matt Thielen signed and mailed back his revised easement. He made changes to the verbiage, but did not ask for the extension that he had previously asked for. Commissioner Rieger asked Rich if the easement was acceptable with the phrases changed. Rich said the Thielen easement was acceptable; it was signed by the three commissioners. That easement was for the Farmstead in Section 7-7-58.

## **CLOSED LEGAL**

Noon Recess

## **BUDGETS, BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED, PUBLIC COMMENT OR CLOSED SESSIONS AS NEEDED:**

Dale Butori, the Fallon County Weed Supervisor met with Commissioners about spraying Webster Road.

Dale is going to put sonar in the Baker Lake. He also mailed & faxed the DEQ permit today.

Kathleen Anderson, the Fallon County Planner was asked by the Commissioners to write a letter to support the USDA Natural Disaster Drought Designation. This is due to the drought in Fallon County. The copy of the letter will be faxed to Maria Braun at the FSA office and the original mailed to Governor Schweitzer. Kathleen was also asked to write a letter of comment in response to the U.S. Air Force regarding the Environmental Impact Statement for the Powder River Training Complex proposal.

## **CLOSED-PERSONNEL**

Commissioners decided that Bekki Rambur, Community Service Director, could have a cell phone through the county.

Turk Stark and Robert Singer, of the BRFD, met with the Commissioners to update them on the new Baker Rural Fire Building. Fisher Industries and JGA put bids out. The bids came in higher than expected. The bids from local contractors came in lower than the bids from outside surrounding areas. The building has bypassed the

allowed budget. Turk asked the commissioners if they would attend the bid opening for the new fire building.

Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Chief, joined the meeting.

The Commissioners also gave Turk and Robert USDA Grant Paperwork for fire stations. They were going to go to the SMART office to discuss the Grant Possibilities with Mona Cantalupo.

Tom Muckle, the County Rural Fire Chief discussed the possible fire restrictions with the Commissioners. The group was in favor of following fire restrictions set forth in other counties, like last year.

The Commissioners asked Turk Stark of the BRFD if they are open to green energy. Commissioner Ranum suggested natural gas. Commissioner Afrank asks if the BRFD will look into alternatives. Turk states that prices are going up on building construction and green energy may be out of their price range. The topic of the new fire building's sewer and water came up, and the building will be annexed in.

Turk Stark and Robert Singer left the meeting room. Tom Muckle and the Commissioners continued their discussion about county fire restrictions. They are looking at a stage 1 fire restriction.

Also, Tom will be gone August 2-10. He contacted Randy Hoenke, Fire Chief to take his place as County Rural Fire Chief while he is gone. Tom will bring up a letter stating this absence in writing.

Chuck Lee, Fallon County DES Coordinator, and Norm Parrent, the DES District 4 Representative, came to have the Annual Statement of Work signed by the Commissioners.

Spence Huether met with the Commissioners to discuss various road issues.

Scott Rabbitt, County Parks Director came in to ask the Commissioners about the hospital's rocks that are stored at the Amphitheater. There are Recreation Department events scheduled at the Amphitheater in the near future and the rock needs to be moved.

Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Director, had a conference call with the Commissioners about the fire restrictions. Tom had contacted Miles City about what they were doing about fire restrictions in Custer County. Tom Muckle will partake in a conference call next week with Miles City and report back following the discussion.

#### **CLOSED PERSONNEL**

Tim Barkley, Sheriff asked the Commissioners about a second entry being put on the sheriff's door. The problem at hand is that when the wind blows, the leaves and any garbage from outside blows inside and down the hall way. No decision made at this time.

Adjourned.  
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

ATTEST:  
s/Josie M. Rieger, Clerk