

Monday, July 28, 2008

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

Bob Weidmer, Road Foreman met to present his Monday report. Cattle guard by Jack O'Connor's, discussion on what size cattle guard to place-20' or 24'; decision made to place a 24' cattle guard. Chad Follmer, cattle guards; decision is to wait until we have some more definite decisions made on cattle guards. Bob stated the cattle guard on the Doug Post property was leveled and smoothed out; also needed to be straightened. Mowing and easement discussion; decision they would only mow where we have easements and no mowing when there is a hot fire index. Commissioner Afrank suggested they try mowing earlier in the morning. Bob stated Curt Arnell with ENCORE called about a location that had been fenced off on the County's BLM section. It is an abandoned well they need to check on once in awhile and they would appreciate having a gate for access. Commission made the decision to have Gene Vennes put in the gate. Commissioner Rieger asked if they were crushing. Bob stated, yes, Dave Hall is crushing. Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman stated the Lowboy Trailer is coming in. Alba wondered if they could wet kit the truck that is setting now because they are not hauling gravel. Permission granted. Commissioner Afrank wondered when the new mower would be here. Alba felt it would be possibly September or October. Discussion regarding the hours of service for road crew members working a fire; Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor will check on this matter further. Discussion regarding who should take care of the circulators on the lake. The Commission stated Bob should check with Bob Thielen on how they want the cattle guard installed before sending a truck out.

District 1-They will replace the culvert completed by the Conoco-Philips building when the telephone lines are relocated. Blading the dirt roads and have started mowing.

District 2-Will be hauling gravel down South; will be mowing after sweeping of chips is completed.

District 3-Blading dirt roads and mowing; Dave and John Custer have started crushing at Wenz Pit.

Reinhard Barth, Outside Maintenance met to present a quote he had gotten for a new riding mower from Midland Implement in the amount of \$4,450.00 and mulcher in the amount of \$134.98; permission granted to purchase. Reinhard would like to find someone that would trim the trees. Reinhard will get some quotes for this also.

Chuck Lee was asked to come back later in the day for his appointment as something unforeseen came up.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Noon Recess

Reconvened at 1:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT OR BUSINESS AS NEEDED:

The Commission amended the resolution with Carter County regarding the County Attorney. That resolution is on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

CLOSED-LEGAL/PERSONNEL

The Commission signed the Certificates for Nomination for Deb Ranum-Republican Candidate for Fallon County Commission-District #1; Erna Greenlee-Democrat Candidate for Fallon County Commission-District #1; Jeraldine Newell-Republic Candidate for Clerk of District Court.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES RECEIVED:

Encore Operating, LP-Oil and Gas Royalties-\$7,704.75
Baker Air Service-July Aviation Fuel-\$272.58

Baker Metal and Recycling, Inc.-Sale of old boiler system-\$293.00
Fallon County Shooting Range-Portion of April, May and portion of June Key sales-\$245.00

The Commission reviewed and approved encroachment permit #496 for Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to bore under a County road for a communications line to 14 Buffalo Jump, 500' site distance in either direction in Section 33-6-61. \$150.00 fee was collected for this permit.

The following reports were reviewed and approved:

Fallon County Detention Center report for June, 2008. Total of 10 prisoners were held for a total of 84 days with 64 days County and 20 days City of Baker. Total income received for the month was \$-0-.

Baker Rural Fire District Report-June, 2008-Total warrants paid in the amount of \$46,924.12.

The following road easements were reviewed and signed:

Harold Tronstad-101 Road in Section 27-4-60; Farmstead in Section 28-4-60.
John L. and Clarice Tronstad-Webster Road in Sections 4-3-60 and 29-4-60;
Farmstead in Section 29-4-60.

John and Clarice Tronstad-Webster Road in Section 33-4-60; 101 Road in Sections 26-4-60 and 35-4-60.

The Commission received notification from the Montana Department of Commerce that the TSEP and CDBG applications for the North Baker Water Sewer Project were reviewed and a draft technical review report prepared by the Community Development Division engineers. After taking into account any comments received, the report will be revised, if applicable and then used as the basis for scoring the statutory priorities when the TSEP/CDBG technical ranking team meets in September, 2008. The scoring meetings are open to public observation. However, absolutely no comments by the public will be permitted during the project discussion and scoring process, in order to ensure fairness to all applicants.

The Commission received a copy of the letter written by Kit Anderson, Planner regarding the Baker Lake Dam, Double 16' x 4' box culvert installation. Upon the recommendation of Dave Adair, P.E. of the DNRC and after reviewing the plan from David Hedstrom, PE of the Montana DOT, Kit Anderson, Planner addressed she had signed off on the floodplain development permit.

The Commission received a report from West-Tech Supply and Services regarding the tank and/or line tightness tests for the Jet A Fuel and the AvGas underground storage tanks. That report is on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Chuck Lee, DES/911 Director met regarding the Montana Eastern Tier Interoperability Consortium. Chuck wants to write a letter of withdrawal. After some discussion, permission granted to write the letter for the Commission to review and sign. There are 13 counties in an unfunded area and 7 of them are on our end of the State.

Letter to Interoperability Montana Project-Notification to the Consortium that Fallon County does not intend to retain responsibility or ownership of any site(s) that the Interoperability Montana Project or Easter Tier Interoperable Consortium acquires within the jurisdiction boundaries of Fallon County. This letter was signed by the entire body of the Commission and is on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Chuck feels Powder River, Carter, Prairie and Fallon Counties would go out of the consortium. McCone and Garfield Counties never attend the meeting. We are still in; have not done the paper work to get out. Wibaux, Dawson, Richland and Custer Counties are staying in.

DES EMPG Grant for FY09 will be \$12,568.00; Fallon County will get an extra \$1,000.00 for training. Chuck has to do monthly reporting for this grant. Chuck's yearly statement of work for DES was signed by the Commission

Commissioner Afrank asked if we bill the fire departments for labor and equipment when using County equipment and laborers to fight fires. No one seemed to know for

sure. Also, does Fallon County have to clean up after we tear up the area because of the fire? Yes, we do have to clean up after fighting a fire.

Spence Huether, Road Technician discussed roads we have declared. He stated Fallon County does not have to have easements on both sides of the roads that have already been declared, to be able to maintain them. The roads Fallon County did not declare we have to have easements on both sides of the road.

The Commission plans to have a title search completed on the Anticline Road and then they will pursue matters further. Discussion on the road going to young Clyde Crawford's; does the County take it or not since the County built the road; so far no easements have been signed. No decision made at this time.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss a few items. Can the road radios in the blades be updated so the Plevna and Baker Fire Departments can talk to the blades? Commissioner Rieger stated Alba should come back at 4:30 and Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Chief will be in and we can ask about getting a grant for the radios. There were two blades on the fire for the Roger and Floraine Geving fire.

Scott Rabbitt, Park Supervisor met to update the Commission on the park progress. Scott stated the benches are going out to the Fairgrounds to place along the sides of the buildings. Richard Griffith will tin the gazebo and the Amphitheatre. Bathrooms at Ironhorse: Tumblewood Development is working on this now. New park shop: If the building costs more than \$50,000.00 it will have to go out to bid; unless we find out differently as some of the Commission had felt they had heard the bid amount was now \$75,000.00. Scott will get a third quote. Aerators: Commissioner Afrank feels if there were mirrors placed on the aerators it would be easy to detect if they are not operational (they will not be turning). Scott will place mirrors on the aerators.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Chief and Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss getting new radios for the blades and fires attended by the county blades. Tom stated the response time with the county blades regarding the fire last week was the best time ever; another 15 to 20 minutes would have been lost if they would not have arrived when they did. The small dozer made some good trails in the badlands and was able to assist with fire lines.

Commissioner Afrank stated the new trailer will come in handy for hauling equipment to fires and to get repaired.

Originally the equipment request was for Slope County and that equipment did not show up; then a new fire popped up as Tom was making the request for our equipment. Tom stated the Wang fire burned within a quarter mile of the Brown fire.

Commissioner Rieger asked who makes the initial call for County equipment. Tom said he thought Gary Thielen, Plevna Rural Fire Chief called in the fire today, but, he found out later it was someone else. Tom explained if there is no chief or assistant fire chief, Tom told them the Baker Chief needs to ask for the county equipment. Alba confirmed it was someone else that asked for the county blades. Commissioner Afrank asked how we solve this issue. Tom will tell Gary Thielen or Gary Lang; then it needs to come from the Baker Chief and the next one in line after that would be the training officer. Alba stated Bob Weidmer, Road Foreman made sure that Randy Hoenke, Baker Fire Chief was in charge of the blades until Gary Thielen, Plevna Fire Chief or Gary Lang, Assistant Fire Chief were on site. Alba also stated a blade will not be allowed to turn until the fire trucks are there.

Commissioner Rieger asked Tom about getting grant funding for radios for the blades. Alba explained the radios they now have will scan but they do not know who they are talking to. Tom has already put in for a grant for fire shelters for Baker and Plevna and five (5) digital hand held radios for each department. There are grants available; next year's grant, Tom can put in for radios for the road equipment. The only kind of radios he will fill a grant out for is the Bendix King because they are cloneable. Tom will not get the Motorola due to cost, etc; would that be fine with the Fire Departments. Everyone feels any radio would be fine. Alba would have to see how the radios would have to be mounted. Tom needs to get his phone reprogrammed for the Fire Warden Pickup; Tom would have to send in a change for the grant. Commissioner Afrank asked Tom to plan

on getting them by next year's grants. Alba stated we will need to decide how many blades we will be trading first and make a decision on how many to include in each year's grants. Commissioner Afrank asked if this would qualify as an in kind. Tom stated it can not already be purchased. Commission asked if Bob, Tab Electronics can get the alpha numeric for those radios. Alba does not know.

Commissioner Afrank discussed fire protection for the blade operators. Alba stated that is what the fire truck is for. Commissioner Afrank stated it sounds like the road department needs fire training. Alba stated they just got some from the DNRC. Commissioner Ranum asked if all blades have fire extinguishers. Alba stated they all do, but the pickups do not. Commissioner Afrank commented he feels all the pickups should be equipped with fire extinguishers also. Tom will talk to Gary Thielen, Gary Lang or the Training Officer or another Fire Chief. Alba asked if the Road Foreman needs to let Tom know how long a blade would take to get to a fire. Tom stated that would be helpful.

Fire conference call last Tuesday; Prairie County wanted to go to the Stage 1 restrictions. Tom will see what the feelings are after the fire conference tomorrow. Tom is going to continue to work on communication grants; that is his main concern. Randy Hoenke will cover for Tom during his absence next weekend. Commissioner Afrank's concerns are the extra hours worked by the road department. Tom sympathizes and really appreciates the equipment the County provided for the fires.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

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