

Monday, August 4, 2008

Deb Ranum, Chairperson; Dennis Afrank and Donald Rieger, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for the regular August session.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly road report. Steve Bruski would like one or two loads of surface placed on the road going into their residence. Friday, Bob pulled the crew off the mowers due to the fires and potential to start fires. Commissioner Rieger stated when the road crew prunes trees he would appreciate it if they would pick up the branches and haul them off. Bob will see to it they do that. Cattle guards were discussed; they will fence to the cattle guard for Bob Thielen. The Dean Wang easements were discussed; will need to get the easements signed from the Gunderson's also. Jack O'Connor cattle guard was discussed. Commission agrees to place a 20' cattle guard that is being pulled from someplace else.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Vera Abrams, Librarian/Safety Coordinator stated the water fountain in Library does not work. Commissioner Rieger stated they will have Lynda look at it; may need an adjustment. Vera explained a give away or incentive program she would like to incorporate into the safety program. Rich has no problem with that if it is a budget item. Commissioner Afrank does not feel tokens will make people stay safe. Vera recommends the employees need to wear safety shoes, hard hats and eye protection while working for some county departments. Commissioner Rieger stated he feels it depends on the job they are working on. Vera stated there are no requirements for the seasonal people unless they are weed eating. Commissioner Ranum suggests we check with the child labor laws or wherever to see what we need to provide them with. Vera stated according to CFR, we have to provide necessary PPE. Vera asked if the Supervisor needs to be responsible for the correct PPE when performing different job duties. Commissioner Ranum feels this is true and with Vera's assistance.

CLOSED LEGAL

Mona Cantalupo, SMART Director met to update the Commission on what SMART is working on. She went to the quarterly RC & D meeting in Miles City. She attended the Housing Program put on by Christy Earl. This is a self help housing program; a group of homes go up and you help work on other people's homes. The home owner has to put in 65% of the work themselves. This is somewhat like habitat for Humanity. Since we are so small we would work with other Communities. Energy open; Energy options; they are bussing these people from Colstrip to visit the wind farm. Commissioner Ranum asked if there was any discussion on the Air Force and the Air Space issue. Mona stated there was no discussion on this. Mona stated since Carter County had agreed to put in some funding toward the SMART program, she is going to try to visit them and see what they can do for them. She is working on the SMART Board goals at this time. North Baker Water Sewer is hiring the director for the grant administration for the District at their next meeting. SMART was hoping to do the grant administering. Commissioner Ranum stated wasn't that your job? Mona stated no because we are not the proprietor of the grant. Commissioner Afrank stated if you get the grant and administer it would that decrease the amount the County gives to SMART. Mona stated, yes it would. Mona stated the board wants to know if the County has a problem with SMART administering the grant. The Commission feels SMART should administer the grant as a way of repaying the County. Mona discussed the TIFID; Fallon County is waiting on the judge and the legislature and there are Attorney's working on this. Mona asked if there was anything they need from SMART. Commissioner Afrank feels we need some grant writing for housing, etc. Commissioner Ranum discussed the Veteran's Memorial stating most of the people that had money left in the Baker Hotel, have rolled their money over into that project.

Noon Recess

Jon Brosz, Brosz Engineering met to discuss the approach for the Buerkle Subdivision. They are able to move the approach to the alignment of the Buerkle Subdivision and leave the approach for the MVD access.

Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker met for a monthly reporting. Discussion on the option decided upon for the storm drain system. The Commissioner's felt option 2 was the one decided upon. Clayton asked if the Commission had considered surrendering their CTEP funds for the walk path to be constructed with the Highway 7 project. The County does intend to use their CTEP funds. Discussion on the width and the length of the sidewalk for this project. The City plans to surrender their CTEP funds for this project also. Discussion on the new container site progress; not much work being completed at this time. Clayton asked if there could be a sign placed on the road going past the container site stating emergency travel only. The Commission felt the Planner's office could make a sign. Clayton also wondered if the County would provide road materials for the present container site. The Commission agreed to do so. Progress regarding the intergovernmental agreements; Clayton stated Russell Culver, City Attorney wants turn to the agreements over to Rich Batterman. Clayton stated he would like to split the salaries for Scott Rabbitt, Park Supervisor; Christina Shepherd, Recreation Director and Assistant Recreation Director by 1/3 City and 2/3 County rather than 50/50. Commissioner Afrank will support doing that with Scott but not Christina and Assistant. It was supposed to be 1/3, schools; 1/3 County; 1/3 City now she has her office out of her home and now the School is out of it. Clayton stated the school funds the adult education classes. Clayton feels there are other things to consider. Christina and Scott do not receive Department Head salary. He would like to see them receive \$18.00 or something like that per hour for raises. Commissioner Ranum will support the 2/3 to 1/3 split; Commissioner Rieger will support the 50/50 split, as it has been. Commissioner Afrank can not support the raise Christina but does not have a problem supporting that amount for Scott. Commissioner Afrank has concerns of Christina running the program from her home. Clayton stated he had concerns of that also but she always gets her work done. Commissioner Ranum discussed her concern for the culvert and drainage clean up by Marvin Schopp's residence.

CLOSED PERSONNEL

Kit Anderson, Planner; Dale Leivestad, D & M Water and Petrocomp/NBWS Board Member; Roger Grammond, SMART; Dennis Bishop; Evelyn Neary/North Baker Water Sewer Board Member and Guest, Dale Leivestad's daughter Marissa met regarding the North Baker Water Sewer project. Evelyn Neary led the discussion by stating they are meeting with Rural Development on August 13th. The group is hopeful Rural Development will award them grant funding to begin construction. The group is hopeful the County will fund \$1.6 million to do the first trunk line section of the project. The Commission will tentatively approve the 1.6 million for the North Baker Water Sewer project. Easements will need to be given by landowners by the 13th also. They hope to hire a grant administrator for the project also. The project has the Commissioner's blessings. Brenda will need to type a letter regarding Fallon County's commitment to the project, but, until the budgets are set, there is no guarantee. Kit will instead get the letter together. Evelyn stated if they get a proposal to amend the boundaries, there are a few people that want to come in and this may help the grant writing process.

Roger spoke of a home manufacturing plant coming to Baker.

Mike Kirschten, Gun Range Board Member met to discuss updates for the gun range. They had the barbed wire fence removed and the new fence project will be completed soon. Mike stated the bid for the fence came in at \$13,300 from Vennes Fencing. The Commission accepted the quote submitted by Vennes Fencing, Inc. and permission to proceed was given. Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor is out spraying the weeds on the roads and around the area. Mike stated the sterilant on the parking lots looks great. Mike wants to know if they could get a County mower on the rifle range or when someone gets close. Commissioner Afrank stated they could get hold of Bob Wiedmer regarding the schedule for the mowers. Mike Stark was approved by the Commission as another Board Member. Gary Gorder is interested in filling out the open position on the Board. The Commission stated they could get a letter of interest from him to the Commission. To hold an NRA High Power Shoot, they need to be up to specs; they use standing, prone

and kneeling positions. Need a grader to level the area in front of the 100 yard line. Will the County be able to do anything with the part down in the bottom of the creek regarding the CORE? Commissioner Afrank stated they would need to check with DNRC or Kalen Bohle. Commissioner Afrank asked if they would keep a total of shooting range participation. Mike stated they do keep numbers already.

Jason Rittal, Eastern Plains Economic Director plans to be at the District Meeting in Sidney. Rural Development will be in Baker on the 13th; they are hoping to relate the NBWS project as a Health and Safety issue.

CLOSED-HIPAA

Recess

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

The Commission reviewed and approved the July 31, 2008 payroll and withholdings in the amount of \$417,018.68 and they are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission reviewed and approved the July 31, 2008 accounts payable in the amount of \$212,084.71 and they are on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission approved a special accounts payable warrant for July 31, 2008 in the amount of \$7,500.00 so the MVD grant could be properly used for FY08 and that warrant is on record in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Reinhard Barth met regarding giving one of the push lawn mowers to the Fairgrounds. Reinhard would like to give the largest of the push mowers to the Fair grounds. Permission granted.

Reinhard would like to stripe the north parking lot and paint the propane tank with the assistance of Community Service Workers. Reinhard will make the parking spaces 9' wide. Permission granted.

Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman talked to the State about getting some cold mix for the golf course drive way; can get it cheaper from the place the State gets it from in comparison to the place that laid the existing mix for the cart paths. Dust control, need to discuss further; Commissioner Rieger stated we need to use the dust control mix we have; try it on the new container site.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met to discuss insurance questions for the County.

Becky Rambur, Community Service Director met regarding painting stripes in the north parking lot and painting the propane tank. Discussion on the days per week and the hours per day Becky works.

Noon Recess

BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED:

Mike Rinaldi, Sanitarian met to discuss the Fish Wildlife and Parks grant for the boat ramp was discussed. Mike stated we have to put the ramp in the water before we can get the grant and Mike promised Tom Riley at the Helena FWP office, it would be placed the end of this summer. Roger Perkins, Acquoneering sent the files to Rich Batterman, County Attorney regarding the Baker Lake matter. Mike and Rich will review it this afternoon. The Ironhorse Park building was also discussed.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman met to discuss the Fairgrounds tractor. He feels we need to look for a larger tractor for them.

Maria Braun, CED for Fallon County Farm Service Agency office called regarding the need for a new letter by Thursday regarding the drought status; it is more severe than the map shows. Kit Anderson, Planner will write the letter, bring to the Commission for approval and mail.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder met regarding Search and Rescue workmen's compensation reporting. They receive no pay so Fallon County covers their workmen's compensation. They report their hours of training. According to the new reporting the training must be pre-approved by the County Commission, it must be in writing and approved by the Supervisor. Workmen's Compensation asks for the supervisor to be in attendance at the meetings. Debbie stated Tim Barkley, Sheriff does give pre-approval for the training and then the training takes place later. We just need to have a signature line placed on the training sheet showing Tim's approval of the training. Fire Department trainings were also discussed. Randy Hoenke was called and will check on workmen's compensation/disability coverage and costs. Commissioner Rieger will check with Gary Lang of the Plevna Fire Department regarding this matter also.

CLOSED-HIPAA

Chad Follmer met to discuss a road issue he has. They purchased the Mary Jane Abuhl property. The Follmer's would like two cattle guards to be placed due to the creek issues. Chad stated this would be cheaper to maintain. Commissioner Rieger would like to wait until the road hearing. Will discuss further and let Chad know this week.

Lorraine Piesik met to discuss her road easements. Lorraine questioned the easement for Shell Oil Road. The Clerk & Recorder left Spence Huether, Road Technician a note about this.

Steve Crawford easements were discussed by Commissioner Ranum. The letter was reprinted and given to her to have Steve sign so the easements can be drawn up.

Recess

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED:

Kit Anderson, Planner met regarding the letter needed for the North Baker Water Sewer District. Kit will write the letter regarding this issue. Ken Griffith was called regarding the letter also.

Kit also completed the letter needed regarding the 2008 Emergency CRP grazing and haying use due to the drought conditions. The Commission approved the letter and will be mailed to the Montana State FSA Committee in Bozeman, Montana. A copy of the letter is on file in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

JOURNAL VOUCHERS APPROVED:

FY2008-558-Correct entries made in the 911 fund for Wireless Account.

566-To record the Coral Creek Landfill account at Wells Fargo in to the County books for July07-June08.

570-Book ambulance charges, adjustments and collections for the County accounting system-July-07-June-08.

571-Correct deposit of IGT funds for the ambulance which was deposited in accounts receivable and should have been deposited in miscellaneous revenue.

577-Correct portion of FMC claim #39907 for June, 2008 should have come from the capital projects fund and was taken from the Hospital fund in error causing the Hospital fund to be exceeded.

FY2009-7-Void deduction warrant #31697-County Vehicle Tax Credit.

8-To adjust the fund expenditure deduction WT#31697 County Vehicle Tax Credit that runs as a deduction automatically prints a warrant that needs to be voided each month.

ROAD EASEMENTS APPROVED AND SIGNED:

Dean and Karen R. Wang-DuCharme Access in Section 29-7-59; DuCharme Access and Sandstone Road I Section 28-7-59; Farmstead in Section 33-6-59; Wiley Butte Trail and Willard Road East in Section 8-5-59; Airport Road in Section 30-6-60; Farmstead in Section 28-6-59 and Big Hill Road in Section 17-9-61.

Karen R. Wang-Tower Road in Section 28-6-59 and 29-6-59.

Marion E. Hanson Trust-Farmstead in Section 9-5-59.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES:

ConocoPhillips Company-\$10,555.95-July, 2008 Oil and Gas Royalties

Bowers Oil & Gas, Inc.-\$265.16-July, 2008 Oil and Gas Royalties

Sands Oil Company-\$4,699.07-Refund of 2006-2008 Production Taxes and Feb-July, 2008 Oil and Gas Royalties

The Commission reviewed and approved Encroachment permit #498 for Fidelity to bore a 4” steel natural gas pipeline underneath the Pennel Road in Section 12-7-59. The permit fee in the amount of \$150.00 was collected.

Noon Recess

BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED:

The Commission received the accumulated vacation and sick leave accruals for Nico Cantalupo, County Agent for budgeting purposes.

The Commission received notification from Tom Muckle, County Rural Fire Chief that he will be gone the afternoon of Sunday, August 3, 2008 until the evening of Sunday, August 10, 2008. During his absence, Deputy, Randy Hoenke will be acting in his place. Tom will check in with Dispatch when he returns on August 10, 2008.

The Commission received a copy of the letter sent to Gary Thielen and Randy Hoenke, Plevna and Baker Volunteer Fire Chiefs by County Rural Fire Chief, Tom Muckle, regarding protocol to be used when requesting any Fallon County Road equipment for use in fire containment and or suppression within Fallon County. That letter is on file in the Clerk and Recorder’s office.

Chuck Lee, DES/911 Coordinator met regarding the Eastern Tier Interoperability agreement. Chuck will invite some Commissioner’s, Sheriff’s and DES Coordinators from other Counties to attend the meeting August 11th at 1:15PM regarding the agreement.

Jim Leischner, Insurance Agent for the County met to discuss insurance questions with the Commission.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

CLOSED-LEGAL

Iven Felt, Cemetery Supervisor met to discuss a possible need for more land. Rodney Asking stated he would be willing to sell the land to the East of the Cemetery. Commissioner Afrank asked Iven to bring this up to the Cemetery Board. This would entail 4.6 acres. Commission will discuss this in more detail.

Kit Anderson, Planner brought a letter for the Montana Department of Transportation regarding CTEP funding for the walk path. That letter is on file in the Clerk and Recorder’s office.

Recess

Thursday, August 7, 2008

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

David Espeland, CEO and Selena Nelson, CFO for the Fallon Medical Complex met for the monthly Hospital reporting. David discussed tearing down the old Public Health building. We first need to move the satellite dish from the building; discussion on getting a smaller dish. Marta King moved her stuff out and will not be coming any longer. The Hospital has a new Director of Nursing. They are having staffing issues in Dietary and Housekeeping; David stated they are trying to keep competitive wages. Food menu was discussed. They have a water leak in the parking lot which is a private water line but the City may help pay for it. Hardy still needs to get the punch list complete for the new addition. Wyrick leveled dirt behind the PV Complex. Billups, Carpenter needs to get the siding off PVI and see what is going on. The Rain troughs will get done with the landscaping. ParkView I-Cupboards, countertops and adding a vanity to the bathroom were discussed. The cost for renovating the interior for labor only \$3,250.00 per apartment and approximately \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for materials. He is waiting on a price quote for the windows and doors. Commissioner Rieger stated he could check on inserts instead of new windows. David tried to get Steve Zachmann to get a bid for these also. Permission granted to get the updating completed. Residents are asking about having the new apartments placed on backup power. Hallway lights stay on but not in the apartments. Action Electric stated this would be costly to do. Commission decided not to do this at this time. The elevator project has not been started yet; will take approximately 3 months to get done. David asked about the Mill Levy being renewed at the 10 mills. David will ask Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder about the deadlines for this. Selena turned in the financials for the year. Auditors will be coming the week of September 7th, 2008 if the Commission would like to meet with them privately, please let Selena know. They are audited by Eide Bailey.

Noon Recess

BUSINESS AS OR IF NEEDED/CLOSED SESSIONS OR PUBLIC COMMENT AS NEEDED:

CLOSED-LEGAL

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

The Commission received information from Randy Hoenke, Baker Rural Fire Chief regarding their coverage as was discussed earlier this week regarding workmen's compensation coverage. They have better coverage through the insurance company they have now. They have 56 members that would need coverage and with the insurance they have now they have accidental death coverage; vision impairment; cosmetic; spouse benefit; dependent benefit; they would receive a designated amount of money per week for the first 28 days away from work; a designated amount of money per week after 28 days up to 52 weeks away from work and primary medical.

Jeff Greenlee and John Beach, Golf Board met for a monthly report. The parking lot was discussed. Commissioner Afrank thought it was getting repaired. Commissioner Ranum asked if the pavement was holding up. Jeff stated there a few cracks due to the moisture when they laid it. Commissioner Afrank discussed the sprinkler system on the driving range. Jeff reported the Men's Lakeview Open is this weekend; Fair Weekend they will have the Fair Scramble. The budget was discussed. John stated the Dingo was approved. Commissioner Afrank asked if the leak on #9 got fixed. Jeff stated no, but it will. John stated they made a list for Eric before fall. If Eric does not have enough help they will get help for him. John stated they are making a list before their meetings to bring up to him. Mike Gentillini, Board Member joined the discussion. Commission asked if the Board had any input on his budget. They stated they tried to get him to budget to fix the sand and other areas at the course. Commissioner Afrank feels they need to get a locking gate for safety and maintenance purpose. The Golf Board agrees with that issue. The group wondered if the asphalt people will come back to do the maintenance on the cart paths. Jeff feels they will not be coming back after he spoke to them. The Clerk and Recorder stated it was not included in the contract.

The Board updated the Golf Course Board for the Clerk and Recorder. They stated they plan to flush the greens in the fall to see if this will help winter kill.

Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder asked if we should have EBMS print the Health Insurance Booklets at \$2.90 per booklet or should we copy them ourselves. Commission agrees to have the booklets made up by EBMS.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes for June 23, June 30 and July 7-10, 2008.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairperson

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