

9:00AM CONVENE

PRESENT: Steve Baldwin, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Member; Lani DeBuhr, Clerk

ABSENT: William L. Randash, Member

FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

9:00AM COMMISSION WORK SESSION

SOLAR BEE CONTRACT- The Commission reviewed the Solar Bee literature and made the decision to renew the Solar Bee maintenance contract for one year. The Commission said when the year is complete they will reevaluate the need for the circulators in comparison to the progress on the Baker Lake Mitigation.

ALIEN VAULT SECURITY SYSTEM- Andy Fujimori, IT Tech, joined the meeting and explained to the Commission the need for a security system on the County's network. Andy gave the Commission an updated quote that reflects discounts Alien Vault System gave to the County. The Commission told Andy they would like time to review the quote and services offered before making a decision.

RIFLE RANGE SIDEWALK/DRIVEWAY QUOTES- The Commission reviewed and discussed the quotes submitted for the Rifle Range Sidewalk/Driveway Project. The quotes received were: Upland Home Maintenance: \$28,000; Larry's Construction: \$29,385; Gamut Construction: \$39,950. Commissioner Ranum said she would like to award the project to Larry's Construction as they have a lot of concrete experience.

Commissioner Ranum made the motion to accept the Larry's Construction quote for the Rifle Range Sidewalk/Driveway Project with a project completion date of May 16, 2016, depending on the weather. Being there was no second, Commissioner Baldwin stepped down from being Chair and seconded the motion. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. 0 Nays. The motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL-

Commissioner Ranum made the motion to approve the January 19-22, 2016 Commission Minutes. Being there was no second, Commissioner Baldwin stepped down from being Chair and seconded the motion. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. 0 Nays. The motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS-

Parks Bathroom- The Commission discussed Scott Rabbitt, Park's Director's request to move the bathroom at Iron Horse Park to another location. The Commission made the decision to move the bathroom close to the Skate Park. Commissioner Baldwin said he will let Scott Rabbitt know about this decision.

Sidewalk by Indoor Shooting Complex- The Commission discussed the sidewalk by the Indoor Shooting Complex sloping towards the building. Commissioner Baldwin said he will talk to Todd Griffith about it.

Board Resignation- The Commission reviewed Dale Butori's resignation from the Ambulance Board that he submitted last week.

Commissioner Ranum made the motion to accept Dale Butori's resignation from the Ambulance Board. Being there was no second, Commissioner Baldwin stepped down from being Chair and seconded the motion. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. 0 Nays. The motion carried.

Iron Horse Splash Park- The Commission reviewed and Commissioner Baldwin, as Chairman, signed Pay Application No. 5 from KO Construction, LLC for the Iron Horse Splash Park Project in the amount of \$116,141.69.

BOARD AGENDAS/MINUTES-

The Commission reviewed Board Agendas and Minutes.

REVENUES-

The Commission reviewed revenues received during the week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/NOTICES-

The Commission reviewed Department Reports, Newsletters and Notices.

EMAILS-

The Commission reviewed emails sent to them from State agencies and other entities that required no discussion, action or decision.

9:45AM BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) STATE INDEMNITY CONFERENCE CALL

Present: Wendy Warren, BLM Assistant Field Manager; Ryer Rens, BLM Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist

Wendy Warren and Ryer Rens phoned the Commission to notify them that ownership of some BLM land in Fallon County may be transferred to the State of Montana in accordance with the land promised to the State in the Enabling Act of 1889. Ryer told the Commission not all the land promised to the State has been transferred and because of this the State submitted an Indemnity Selection Application identifying BLM base lands they are requesting to be transferred to them to meet this obligation. Wendy said there are six parcels of land in Fallon County that are included in the application and four BLM grazing permit holders for these parcels. Because of this BLM is required to give these permit holders two years notice if there is going to be a change in ownership of the land. Wendy said there needs to be additional data gathered before the parcels will be transferred but when the data is received and the lands are confirmed for transfer then they will send letters to the permit holders, giving them two years' time to respond. Wendy gave the Commission the location of the parcels and the names of the permit holders so the Commission can reach out to them. Wendy said if the Commission had any further questions regarding what happens after the lands are transferred they can contact Chris Polesky at the BLM Miles City office.

10:00am- Wendy Warren and Ryer Rens left the meeting.

10:00AM ROAD UPDATES

Present: Bobby Wiedmer, Road Supervisor

SHOP UPDATES- Bobby Wiedmer gave updates on the vehicle and equipment that are being serviced or repaired this week.

Schulte Mower Tractor- Bobby and the Commission discussed the mower tractor lease that increased from \$1,300 to \$9,500 per season. Bobby said he spoke with someone at West Plains Implement about the possibility of the lease rate going down in the future and was told it probably wouldn't for at least three years if not more. Bobby said because of this he would rather purchase a tractor rather than pay such a high price to lease it and expects the cost to be around \$100,000. The Commission told Bobby to review his budget with Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman, and if there is funding in their budget to purchase one to begin the process.

ROAD UPDATES- Bobby said the Road Crew is continuing to haul gravel this week.

PROJECT UPDATES- Shannon Hewson with Brosz Engineering called and said he would not be able to attend the meeting today but gave them updates on the Dry Fork and Westmore Bridges.

Dry Fork Bridge- The Commission reviewed the letters Shannon drafted to send to the landowners affected by the Dry Fork Bridge Replacment inviting them to meet with the Commission on Feb. 16th at 10:30am and will mail them out today.

Westmore Bridge- Shannon told the Commission there is one landowner who will be affected by the Westmore Bridge Replacement and he plans on meeting with him one on one to discuss the project.

10:20am- Bobby Wiedmer left the meeting.

11:00AM HEALTH DEPT. TEMPORARY HELP

Julie Straub, Human Resource Manager, was unable to attend the meeting therefore it was canceled and rescheduled for another day.

11:30AM BAKER LAKE RESTORATION PLAN DRAFT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Present: Rich Menger, Sanitarian; Wayne Sander, Lake Advisory Board Member

Rich Menger gave the Commission the most recent draft of the Baker Lake Restoration Plan to review. Rich said the majority of the additions to the plan are in support of the County's stance on the Afrank property and reviewed the additional supporting documents that are included. Rich asked the Commission to approve the plan so that it can be formally submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Commission approved the plan but said the \$5 million price tag of the project is something they cannot approve at this time as it will be dependent upon future revenues the County receives.

Rich went over the specific flood controls and sediment collection of the project with Wayne Sander. Rich asked the Commission to consider putting things in place in the Upper Baker Lake to reduce wave action caused by the wind and said this is important to reduce the sediment of the Upper Lake from being stirred up and increasing the sediment flow into the Lower Lake. Rich told Wayne that he plans on having public meetings with residents who live around the Lake once EPA's Cease and Desist Order has been removed. These meetings will be a way to keep them updated on the project. Wayne said some landowners may be concerned about the wetland vegetation that is planted on their shoreline and Rich said 80% of the wetland mitigation will be done in the wetland complex and what mitigation remains and needs to be done along the shore is out of their control. Rich discussed the grants he is working on to develop the fishery of the lake and add a waterfall feature for aeration.

11:45AM PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared for Public Comment.

11:50am- Rich Menger and Wayne Sander left the meeting.

12:00PM NOON RECESS

Commissioner Ranum made the motion to take a noon recess. Being there was no second, Commissioner Baldwin stepped down from being Chair and seconded the motion. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. 0 Nays.

1:15PM RECONVENE

PRESENT: Steve Baldwin, Chairman; Deb Ranum, Member; Lani DeBuhr, Clerk

ABSENT: William L. Randash, Member

1:15PM WEED LAW CHANGES

Present: Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor

Dale Butori and Commissioner Baldwin went to the Annual Weed Conference in Great Falls and Dale came in to give a report on what they learned and did at the Conference. Dale said he volunteered to hold the Fall Weed Coordinator Training in Baker this year and is hoping it will be an early to Mid-October date with 50-60 attendees. Dale asked the Commission if they would consider paying for one meal for the attendees in order to lower the cost to attend it and the Commission said they could do this. Dale said they taught on the importance of using social media to inform people in your community and because of this he created a Noxious Weed Facebook page. Dale said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering changing the age requirements for Weed Spray Applicators. Dale said they are proposing applicators must be at least 18 years of age and said two-thirds of his summer staff are under 18 so this would cause a big problem for him and the Commission agreed. Dale asked the Commission to post a comment to the EPA's Public Comment website to oppose this change. Dale said additional changes are being made such as the applicators license being valid for three years instead of five years and the test being a closed book test rather than open book test. The Commission asked who would monitor the tests if they are closed book and Dale said the Extension Agents would do the monitoring.

Dale gave updates on things he has been working on in the Weed Department and the Commission discussed the transferring of BLM land to the State of Montana with Dale.

1:40pm- Dale Butori left the meeting.

1:55pm- Dave Havens, Member of the Public, joined the meeting.

1:55PM PROPERTY INSURANCE QUESTION, RIFLE RANGE PETTY CASH DISCUSSION

Present: Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder; Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder

PROPERTY INSURANCE-

Ambulance Repairs- Debbie Wyrick said the newer Ambulance was damaged in November due to the garage door bar dropping down on it and breaking off the antennas and scraping the top of Ambulance. Debbie said the deductible is \$500 and Lisa Mitchell, Ambulance Director, had the antennas replaced by Tab Electronics for \$703.85 but didn't see the benefit of repairing the scrape on the top of the Ambulance and the Commission agreed.

Fairgrounds Property- Debbie said the Fair Board would like to add coverage back onto the stables. Debbie said coverage was removed from them in 2013 and the items inside the stalls are not covered, just the structure itself which would need to be reappraised. The Commission gave approval to put coverage back on them per the Board's request. Debbie said the Fair Board also wants the sound system to have coverage and suggested it be included with the grandstand coverage and the Commission agreed.

RIFLE RANGE PETTY CASH- Brenda Wood told the Commission they established a Petty Cash fund for Shane Bettenhausen, Rifle Range Manager, to use at the Rifle Range. Brenda said the County's Auditor will write up guidelines for the use of it and when they are completed the Commission will need to review and approve them.

2:05pm- Debbie Wyrick and Brenda Wood left the meeting.

2:10PM COUNTY ADVISOR POSITION

Present: Darcy Wassman, County Attorney

Darcy Wassman reviewed the things she discussed about the County Advisor position with Commissioner Ranum and Commissioner Randash last week so that Commissioner Baldwin knew her opinion on the matter. Darcy reviewed the job duties of a County Manager with the Commission to ensure none of these duties are included in the County Advisor job description. The Commission approved the final job description and will ask Julie Straub, Human Resource Manager, to begin advertising for it this week.

2:20PM- FAIR FOOD BOOTHS

Present: Darcy Wassman, County Attorney

Darcy Wassman reviewed the contract from JGA Architects with the Commission and recommended some changes. Darcy said she will email the changes to Terry Sukut with JGA Architects and ask him to make the changes in the contract.

2:35pm- Darcy Wassman and Dave Havens left the meeting.

4:00PM CITY OF BAKER WATER PROJECT DISCUSSION

Present: Clayton Hornung, City of Baker Mayor; Jason Rittal, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation Executive Director; Lance Wedemeyer, City of Baker Public Works Director; Kevin Dukart, City of Baker Treasurer/Clerk; JoDee Pratt; Baker City Councilor; Leigh Anne LaCroix, Baker City Councilor; Gary Swanson, Robert Peccia & Associates Engineer

Clayton Hornung and all present came to discuss the City of Baker’s water project with the Commission. The summary points of the discussion were:

- The City of Baker has received a grant to begin working on replacing their water lines. The grant will cover the expenses to identify where the water and sewer lines are and determine the best way to approach the project. Gary Swanson with Robert Peccia & Associates will be the engineer working on this.
- The City’s biggest concern is how to fund the project, especially with the recent reduction in revenues. There are grants available for the project but in order to receive grant funding they would have to increase their water and sewer rates to the target rate by the time the first phase of the project is complete. Due to recent layoffs in the area, the City is concerned this will be too big of a burden on the citizens of Baker so are hesitant to apply for the grant immediately.
- Jason Rittal said a city’s water and sewer system should be self-sufficient where the rates charged cover maintenance and repairs of the system, without additional funding being needed. Jason said many cities, including Baker, have failed in the past to raise their rates and because of this they have no funds to replace or repair lines. Jason said the City is in that position now but the goal is not to be in the future, hence the importance of the target rates being set.
- The Keystone Pipeline is a big factor in the project due to the increased water capacity that will be needed if it is approved. Because of this the City is hesitant about starting the project until they know if the Keystone Pipeline will be coming or not.
- Jason suggested applying for the grant right away so they don’t miss a year of funding for the project and hence extend construction another year. Jason advised the City that holding off on rate increases won’t solve their problem as they will have to be at the target rate eventually if they want to do the project and the Commission agreed.
- The City asked the Commission to give them time to increase their rates while still committing funds to the City. The Commission is planning to give the City funds for their infrastructure from now until 2020 if there are sufficient revenues. The Commission said they can only commit funds on a yearly basis but if the revenues are sufficient they will continue to assist with the water project. The Commission told the City they will have to make the decisions on how to use those funds and said raising the rates to help pay for the water project will have to be done, no matter the amount of money they receive.
- Jason advised the City to create a schedule to raise their rates, educate the public on why the rates are needing to be increased and then bring their plan to the Commission. At this time the Commission can determine what they can give the County for the project. For now, the County has committed \$500,000 to the City to put towards a well.

5:05pm- All present left the meeting.

5:05PM ADJOURN

Commissioner Ranum made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Being there was no second, Commissioner Baldwin, stepped down from being Chair and seconded the meeting. 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. 0 Nays. The motion carried.

ADJOURN
s/Steve Baldwin, Chairman

MINUTE TAKER:
s/Lani J. DeBuhr, Clerk

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