

**9:30 AM CONVENE**

**PRESENT: Deb Ranum, Chairman; Roy Rost, Steve Baldwin, Members; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary**

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No one appeared for public comment.

**MINUTES APPROVAL FOR WEEK OF MARCH 25-29, 2019**

**Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to approve the minutes from March 25-29, 2019, as presented. Commissioner Rost seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9:56 AM Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the meeting.**

**Road Department Updates-** All roads are passable. The Road Crew has been going through and doing patch work. They have opened up a couple of culverts in the Stanhope Addition and are working on Sandstone Road today. They are trying to salvage as much material as possible and blade it out.

**10:01 AM Mary Grube, Administrative Assistant Planner joined the meeting.**

**10:13 AM Shannon Hewson, Brosz Engineering; Rich Menger, Sanitarian joined the meeting.**

**10:18 AM Alba left the meeting.**

**Operation of Upper Lake Gate-** Shannon will put together what needs to be added into the existing O and M Manual for the Upper Lake Gate. The individual in charge of opening the gate will also be stated in the manual to eliminate any confusion. Something needs to be added to be able to tell how much water is coming through the gate at all times. A gauge will be welded into the gate for accurate readings. The Road Department is going to do the maintenance and mechanic work on the gate, however they will not be operating it. The O and M Manual will be amended and will not be written from scratch again.

**10:29 AM Robbie Christiaens, Parks Supervisor joined the meeting.**

A designated backup operator will also need to be established in the manual. Discussion on who will write the manual amendments, whether it be KLJ or Brosz Engineering. The joint amendment will need to go through an attorney's office.

**Baker Lake Grand Opening-** The Baker Lake grand opening will be planned for June 21<sup>st</sup> instead of the 28<sup>th</sup>. It is to be determined when the Upper Gate will be opened.

**10:45 AM – Call for Quotes – Fishing Dock**

**Steel Fishing Dock Frame Quote-** One quote was received for the T-Shaped Fishing Dock Frame for Baker Lake. Baker Metal and Recycling's quote for the dock came in at \$37,285.36. Shannon discussed the bid with the Commissioners and would like to further review before making a decision.

**Quotes for Removable Docks-** Shannon reviewed the quotes that were received last week for the removable docks. Discussion followed on which dock would be the most suitable for the needs of the public and Baker Lake.

**10:58 AM Kimberly Jensen, Accounts Payable Clerk joined the meeting.**

The quote for the removable dock will not be awarded this week, as it needs to be reviewed further.

**Concrete Pad for Bench at Baker Lake-** A concrete pad needs to be poured for a bench that will be placed at Baker Lake. The bench has been donated by a family for memorial purposes. The concrete work needs to be done by June. It will be included into the bid specs along with the concrete at Iron Horse Park.

**11:10 AM Melissa Rost, Museum Curator joined the meeting.**

**11:12 AM Kimberly, Rich, Robbie, Mary and Shannon left the meeting.**

**Museum Updates-** There were 126 visitors at the Museum for the month of March. There were 57 attendees for the Steer Montana event. 30 people visited the Museum during Baker Jam. Ace Hardware donated a couple of prizes for the selfie contest with Steer Montana, which Melissa was very

appreciative of. The Facebook posts are reaching large numbers. Jenn Hall has been working on repairing Steer Montana, as well as Gunderson's two headed calf. The Museum of the Rockies star lab has been reserved for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Melissa will start contacting schools to set up time slots this week. Traci Bruha starts her position as the Seasonal Museum Aide today. Melissa would like to ask permission to take online classes. The class offers a certificate for small museum professionals. The Commission gave approval for the class.

**11:31 AM Melissa left the meeting.**

**11:33 AM Commissioner Rost made the motion to take a noon recess. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **NOON RECESS**

### **RECONVENE**

**PRESENT: Deb Ranum, Chairman; Steve Baldwin, Member; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary**

**ABSENT: Roy Rost, Member – Conference Call with Oil, Gas & Coal Coalition**

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No one appeared for public comment.

**1:54 PM April Bruha, FMC Administrative Assistant joined the meeting.**

**Focus Group for Health Needs Assessment-**Every three years, FMC coordinates with the Office of Rural Health for Health Needs Assessments in Fallon County. Surveys are sent out at random throughout the surrounding communities. April is working to get community members involved in focus groups for assessing the needs of healthcare in our County. The Commission was asked if they would like to be a part of a focus meeting, whether individually or as a group. The purpose of these surveys and focus groups are to see what the future is for FMC, what they should be offering and what the public would like to see for their health needs. Everything is kept anonymous. Independent interviews can be held through phone calls or by contacting April. The Commission would like to learn more information of attending these focus groups.

**2:03 PM Commissioner Rost re-joined the meeting.**

**2:07 PM April left the meeting.**

### **COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

Commission reviewed Revenues, E-mails/Letters, Reports, Board Minutes and Agendas. They also looked at the amount of money that has been spent the last couple of years from placing the Commissioner's Proceedings in the Fallon County Times each week. Discussion took place regarding removing the minutes from the newspaper, as it is a very high expense for the County each year. The Commissioner's signed a Certificate of Appreciation for Adam Pinkey, Road Crew Operator, as he has been employed with Fallon County for five years. Thank you, Adam, your dedication and hard work does not go unnoticed.

**Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to Re-Appoint Randy Hoenke to the Planning Board.**

**Commissioner Rost seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

**2:29 PM Shyla Hadley, Fairgrounds Manager joined the meeting.**

**Donation Sponsorship Ability-** Shyla would like to know if the Fair Board is allowed to donate or sponsor prizes for events. During the Women's Ranch Rodeo, they wanted to put on the event themselves and only wanted the Fair Board to sponsor a prize. The Commission would like to check on the legalities of this question before moving forward.

**2:40 PM Shyla left the meeting.**

### **TIMESHEET APPROVAL**

**The Commission reviewed and approved the March 2019 timesheets in the amount of \$477,955.76 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's Office.**

## **CLAIMS APPROVAL**

The Commission reviewed and approved the End of the Month Claims in the amount of \$167,014.34 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's Office.

3:24 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to recess for the evening. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

## **EVENING RECESS**

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

## **9:30 AM RECONVENE**

**PRESENT:** Deb Ranum, Chairman; Roy Rost, Steve Baldwin, Members; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No one appeared for public comment.

## **10:00 AM PETITION FOR RIGHT TO LIFE**

**PRESENT:** JK Kinsey, Frances Zachmann, Paul Zachmann, Miriam Kirschten, Derrick Enos, Raenette Kendall, Tom Kendall, Tammy O'Donnell, Pat Madler, Alvin Madler, Clinton Allerdings, Jennifer Tudor, Allen Allerdings, Roberta Allerdings, Jack Kinsey, Sandra Kinsey, Alison Enos, Steve Zachmann, Iris Wiedmer, Merritt Duffield, Todd Adamson

**Resolution to Support the Rights of the Unborn Discussion-** J.K. started off the meeting by reading the resolution that he has prepared in Support of the Rights of the Unborn. In addition to the resolution, a petition was signed by 604 members of the public in favor of the resolution. Abortion is a large issue within the legislation at this time. The group would like to encourage the County Commissioners to take this opportunity to sign this proposed resolution. Discussion took place in length from different members of the group and why they support this resolution personally. They would like this to start small at a local level, to help the voice start throughout the State of Montana. The Commissioner's would like the County Attorney to be able to read and review this resolution. There is also House Bill NO. 500 going through the legislation right now, which is an act adopting the Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act; Prohibiting the Abortion of an Unborn Child Capable of Feeling Pain. It was expressed that this is simply a resolution, it would not be a law, and would have similarities to ordinances throughout the City and County. Discussion took place regarding whether or not this should be on the ballot, therefore it could be more of a voice from the public. For it to be on the ballot, a large process takes place regarding the Secretary of State. It was stated again that the group would like the County Commissioners, as leaders, to start the process by signing the resolution in support of the rights to the unborn. The purpose of today's meeting was to bring the facts to the Commissioner's, but they will respect their opinion and decisions moving forward. The Commission will review the information and speak with the County Attorney before making a further decision.

**11:00 AM J.K., Frances, Paul, Miriam, Derrick, Raenette, Tom, Tammy, Pat, Alvin, Clinton, Jennifer, Allen, Roberta, Jack, Sandra, Alison, Steve, Iris, Merritt and Todd left the meeting.**

12:05 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to take a noon recess. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

## **NOON RECESS**

## **RECONVENE**

**PRESENT:** Deb Ranum, Chairman; Roy Rost, Steve Baldwin, Members; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**1:17 PM John Hrubes, McCone County Attorney – Fallon County Temporary Retained Council joined the meeting.**

**Right to Life Resolution-** John has had the opportunity to look over the resolution for the right to life. He reviewed the constitutionality of it with the Commissioners. If it were passed, it would be unconstitutional because it would limit the rights of individuals. It would have no effect, it would only be a statement. It would have to be done at the State level to have an effect. It could not be enforced if the resolution were to be signed. It needs to be voted on first at the State level. John does not recommend the Commission signing this resolution, as it is unconstitutional and shouldn't come from a government entity at this level.

**1:26 PM Melissa Rost, Museum Curator joined the meeting.**

**1:31 PM John left the meeting.**

**1:31 PM Commissioner Rost recused himself from the conversation.**

**Request Decision for Increase in Hours-** Melissa would like to ask permission to increase her hours worked at the Museum each week from 30 to 40 hours.

**Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to increase the hours for Melissa Rost, Museum Curator, to be 40 hours per week instead of 30, starting immediately. Commissioner Ranum seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 2 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain (Commissioner Rost). The motion carried.**

**1:40 PM Commissioner Rost re-joined the meeting.**

**1:43 PM Mary Grube, Planning Administrative Assistant; Forrest Sanderson, KLJ Contract Planner joined the meeting.**

**1:44 PM Melissa left the meeting.**

**DNRC Certificate of Survey-** Forrest reviewed the DNRC Certificate of Survey, as they are claiming the exemption for State lands where they don't have to go through subdivision review. Exemption is appropriate and has been reviewed. All parties have signed the certificate of survey and Forrest would like to recommend the Commission sign it as well.

**Commissioner Rost made the motion to approve the Certificate of Survey Submitted by Territorial Land Works on Behalf of DNRC to Create a Tract of Record. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Planner Updates-** The quarterly Planning Board meeting was held last night and they were able to have a quorum. Forrest explained the legislative changes that are occurring with the agricultural exemption. In the long run, it will benefit the County. Mary and Forrest toured the effects of runoff and flooding around the City of Baker and Fallon County, in which they found nothing problematic. The NRCS has served a notice to the County and the City that they have had program and employee cut-backs. Due to these cut-backs, the City and the County will have to pay for the 5-year inspection on the Upper Lake. Beforehand, the NRCS paid for this service. The contract with KLJ for planning services is nearing expiration. It will expire in 2020 and will need to be reviewed in the near future.

**2:18 PM Mary and Forrest left the meeting.**

**2:30 PM Beth Epley and Ashley Bonamie, Eastern Plains joined the meeting.**

**Baker Lake Grant-** Discussion took place on the amount of money that is left in the grant for Baker Lake, where the County had up to \$90,000 to spend on improvements and signage. The Commission would still like to purchase buoys for the Lake. Some of the money will also need to go to signage. The Caviar Grant is available to apply for now as well. The Commission would like to apply for the Caviar Grant for possible signage at the Lake. The way-finding signage would still go through the grant for Baker Lake.

**2:44 PM Beth left the meeting.**

**2:45 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to recess for the evening. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

**EVENING RECESS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**

**9:30 AM RECONVENE**

**PRESENT: Roy Rost, Steve Baldwin, Members; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary**

**ABSENT: Deb Ranum, Chairman**

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No one appeared for public comment.

**10:04 AM Margie Losing, FMC CFO; David Espeland, FMC CEO joined the meeting.**

**FMC Updates-** Margie reviewed the financials for the month of February at FMC. The Emergency Room was very busy; however, it was a slow month for inpatients and skilled nursing. David elaborated on the purpose of the community health services survey. It needs to be done every three years and is an IRS requirement. It also helps FMC see what they should be implementing into their facility. The mill levy meeting is next Tuesday evening at the Senior Center. During this meeting, David will review the reasoning of the mill levy, go through the financials and what plans this mill levy would offer.

**10:32 AM Margie and David left the meeting.**

**10:33 AM Commissioner Baldwin made the motion to take a noon recess. Commissioner Rost seconded the motion. Commissioner Rost asked for any other discussion; being none. 2 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent (Commissioner Ranum). The motion carried.**

**NOON RECESS**

**RECONVENE**

**PRESENT: Deb Ranum, Chairman; Roy Rost, Member; Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk/Secretary**

**ABSENT: Steve Baldwin, Member**

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No one appeared for public comment.

**1:15 PM Shannon Hewson, Brosz Engineering joined the meeting.**

**1:17 PM Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman joined the meeting.**

**Plevna North Structure Permit-** The CORE permit for the Plevna North Structure Bridge has not yet been received. Shannon would like to ask the Commissioner's to call them for information, as he is having no luck getting through. The Commission agreed.

**1:25 PM Mary Grube, Planning Administrative Assistant; Rich Menger, Sanitarian; Forrest Sanderson, KLJ Contract Planner; Luke Holstein, Public Works; Julie Straub, HRM; Rich Batterman, City Attorney; Kevin Dukart, City Clerk; Kim Cuppy, Director of Public Health joined the meeting.**

**Operation of Upper Lake Gate-** There is an agreement between the NRCS and the City from 1974 that state the City is to maintain operation and maintenance of the Upper Lake gate. According to the agreement, it states that the Public Works employee is in charge of the operation of the gate. In order for the County to be able to legally help operate the gate, an amendment would have to be agreed upon by the agency and added as an addendum to the Operations and Maintenance Manual. Conversations arose regarding how the Upper Lake gate operations have been handled in the past. Luke felt that there needed to be a back-up operator in case of his absence, in which he trained Rich of the operations. Luke gave a brief explanation of how the Lake gate is operated. A formal agreement with the County and the City has not yet been written; therefore, the entire liability falls onto the City. It may be beneficial for the City and the County to get together in a working session to create an amendment. Until there is an amendment, it would be deemed inappropriate for a County to be a back-up for the City's responsibility. A written agreement will need to take place that will distinguish the third party.

**2:17 PM Forrest left the meeting.**

The topic will be discussed tonight at the City Council meeting; however, it is not on the agenda for a decision.

**2:37 PM Kim, Shannon, Alba, Rich M., Rich B., Kevin, Julie and Luke left the meeting.**

**2:52 PM Mary left the meeting.**

**2:52 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ranum seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any other discussion; being none. 2 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent (Commissioner Baldwin). The motion carried.**

**On Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council Meeting occurred at 7 PM at the Fallon County Courthouse.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**On Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber meeting occurred at 12:00 PM at Thee Garage.**

ADJOURN  
s/Deb Ranum, Chairman

MINUTE TAKER:  
s/Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Secretary/ Clerk

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