

**9:30 AM CONVENE**

**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**

**9:32 AM Shanny Spang-Gion, SMART Director joined the meeting.**

**Façade Improvement Grant-** The Commission asked Shanny if it would be an option for the Senior Citizen Center to apply for the Façade Improvement Grant that SMART offers. Shanny explained that the boundary for the grant has just been extended and the Senior Center would have a strong case for being accepted. Commissioner Rost gave an overview of what the project would entail if the grant were to be rewarded to the Senior Citizen Center.

**9:50 AM Shanny left the meeting.**

**Commissioner Rost made the motion to accept the minutes from April 8-12, 2019, with corrections.**

**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.**

**9:58 AM Bobby Wiedmer, Road Supervisor; Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman; Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor joined the meeting.**

**County Auction-** Alba asked when the Commission will be planning a County Auction. The old Weed Truck will need to be auctioned off. The Commission explained that Dustan Davis, IT TECH, has been working towards completing the online auction.

**10:08 AM Shannon Hewson, Brosz Engineering joined the meeting.**

Alba expressed his concerns with online auctions. Commissioner Rost explained how the auction will work and cleared up any misunderstandings.

**10:14 AM Robbie Christiaens, Parks Supervisor joined the meeting.**

The Road Department has various equipment that they would also like to send to the auction.

**10:16 AM Mary Grube, Planning Administrative Assistant joined the meeting.**

Dale expressed the idea of holding one big County auction before the online auctions start taking place. There is a large amount of equipment that is taking up room at the Road Department. The Commission would be interested in a large auction early this fall before the online auctions begin.

**10:25 AM Dale left the meeting.**

**Road Department Updates-** The Road Crew has not yet had a chance to get all of the culverts finished due to the wash-outs. Bobby explained the status of a couple car gates on roads that may eventually be considered County roads.

**10:34 AM Alba and Bobby left the meeting.**

**Sidewalk Project at Iron Horse Park-** Shannon gave the Commission the project manual for the Sidewalk Project at Iron Horse Park. He reviewed the plans and explained where the sidewalks will be added. A two-foot retaining wall will be poured in near the boat ramp. A landing at the bottom of the steps will be added in order to stay ADA compliant.

**Project Updates-** Shannon is still waiting on the permit for the Plevna North Bridge Structure. A company will need to be hired to do the striping for the Parkview Apartments parking lot. Shannon will search for companies and quotes and get them back to the Commission for approval.

**10:53 AM Melissa Rost, Museum Curator joined the meeting.**

**10:53 AM Mary left the meeting.**

**Parks Updates-** The first baseball game is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Robbie will get into contact with Mike Griffith with the Baseball Board. He will go over the inventory that the Baseball Program will be using before the first game.

**10:58 AM JoDee Pratt, City Mayor joined the meeting.**

**Baker Clean-Up Days-** JoDee let the Commission know that they are having Baker Clean-Up Days from April 17<sup>th</sup> - May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**11:02 AM JoDee left the meeting.**

**11:04 AM Robbie left the meeting.**

**Museum Updates-** Melissa reported that there have been 11 visitors at the Museum so far this month. The Star Lab has been filling up quickly, which will run April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A Great Depression themed Escape Room has been set up for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders this week. There has been damage to one of the walls in the Jail Building. Steve Zachmann has given a quote to do the repairs needed.

**11:09 AM Andrea DeGrand, Newell Broadcasting joined the meeting.**

Commissioner Ranum approved of accepting the quote from Steve Zachmann. Melissa will double check that there is money in the budget to cover the expense. Traci Bruha, Seasonal Museum Aide, has been working out very well and Melissa is happy to have her help.

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

**Fallon County Clean-Up Days-** Newell Broadcasting would like to hold their yearly clean-up days at the Gazebo at Baker Lake and would be calling it Fallon County Clean-Up Days. During this event, different organizations clean up the highways. A spot is needed to place the garbage and metal containers. It is a one-day event. The date for the event has not yet been chosen. Andrea will meet with Robbie Christiaens, Parks Supervisor, to find a spot where the trucks and containers weight can be held without damaging the surfacing. Different options of where the trucks and containers could be placed were discussed. Liability insurance will be needed on any County property.

**Baker Lake Grand Opening-** Andrea asked the Commission if Newell Broadcasting could be a part of the Baker Lake Grand Opening on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be before lunch. The Commission and Brosz Engineering will keep them updated of times and events. It will be a live broadcast from the Lake.

**11:26 AM Shane Bettenhausen, Shooting Range Attendant joined the meeting.**

**Gun Range-** Shane would like to start advertising on the radio for the Gun Range. He will add it into his budget for the next fiscal year. Andrea will get a quote to Shane for the package he is wanting.

**11:32 AM Andrea, Shannon and Shane left the meeting.**

**11:43 AM Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder; Lynda Herbst, Inside Custodial Supervisor joined the meeting.**

**Insurance Issue – Damaged Window-** Lynda was notified of a broken window in the back of the Dispatch area. It has been split as if a rock has hit it. It is unknown if it can be re-glazed, if it's bulletproof or not and if it needs to be completely replaced. It is a new window from 2013. Steve Zachmann will take a look at where it came from and where to move forward, as he was the last one to work on the project. Lynda will also call Stevenson's Design because they designed the window.

**12:00 PM Debbie and Lynda left the meeting.**

**12:00 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to take a noon recess. 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.**

## **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.

**1:12 PM Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor joined the meeting.**

**1:16 PM J.K. Kinsey, Alison Enos, Joe Nagell, Anthony Breitbach, Members of the Public joined the meeting.**

**1:17 PM Thomas Culver, Office of Senator Jon Tester joined the meeting.**

**Right to Life Resolution Committee-** The Committee would like to meet with the Commission to add and change portions of the resolution for the Right to Life. Alison reviewed the definition of a resolution and the intent it poses. The intent of the resolution would be a voice of Fallon County stating where the Commissioners stand with abortion and the right-to-life. The Commission reviewed the changes to the proposed resolution. The Commission gave different advice on how they would like to revise the resolution, such as how the code is cited and some of the wording. The County Attorney will need to look into this resolution as well. Discussion on how this can be put into place for support and guidance of our community.

**1:41 PM Steve Zachmann, Member of the Public joined the meeting.**

**1:42 PM Mary Grube, Planning Administrative Assistant joined the meeting.**

**1:43 PM Julie Straub, HRM; Kim Cuppy, Director of Public Health; Rich Menger, Sanitarian joined the meeting.**

**1:45 PM J.K., Alison, Joe, Steve and Anthony left the meeting.**

**Jon Tester Updates-** Thomas is a representative for Senator Jon Tester's office. The Commission gave updates on Baker Lake, including the status of the EPA and the Grand Opening.

**1:52 PM Thomas and Dale left the meeting.**

**Department Roles-** Julie stated the purpose of this meeting to discuss and work through a disagreement with Rich and Mary. She would like the Commission to clarify the different department roles and how to work through disagreements without allowing things to escalate. This disagreement stemmed from the operations of the Baker Lake Upper Gate and resulting interactions. The City of Baker has sole operation and maintenance of the Upper Lake Gate. The NRCS has not approved of a County employee operating the equipment. Rich advised the City has been training him to operate the gate in case of an emergency. In order for Rich to be a back-up operator of the gate, a plan will need to be established by all parties and approved by the NRCS. The City is to operate the gate at all times. Mary's role is the record keeper for both the NRCS and the Floodplain Administrator. Due to liability, the County is not to have any operation of the Upper Gate. In emergencies, the established Emergency Action Plan will be followed. If changes in the agreement are pursued by the City and approved by the NRCS, any role Rich may have will be revisited. Rich and Mary need to work together professionally, and do have overlap in their duties with subdivisions and Lakeshore Protection. Julie would like permission to continue to mediate with Mary and Rich further. Mary would like her supervisors present; therefore, the mediation will continue to take place during scheduled Commissioners' Proceedings. Rich and Mary will need to communicate in a professional manner. Both parties agreed to be professional and courteous in future interactions.

**2:44 PM Elin Kittelmann, Extension Agent; Tara Turbiville, Colten Turbiville, 4-H Members joined the meeting.**

**2:45 PM Julie, Kim, Rich and Mary left the meeting.**

**2:45 PM Shyla Hadley, Fairgrounds Manager joined the meeting.**

**Fairgrounds Barn Addition-** The 4-H members, as well as Shyla and Elin, would like to build an addition to the Fairgrounds barn for the wash racks for livestock, while Commissioner Rost would like to explore the idea of using the existing space in the barn instead. Shyla presented the details and pros of cons of having the wash racks inside the current structure.

**2:50 PM Debbie Wyrick, Deputy Clerk and Recorder joined the meeting.**

Elin stated that they will need about 20 more pens this year for the amount of livestock there will be at the Fair. Commissioner Rost explained that if it were to be an addition built, the wash racks would not be in a covered area because of the cost. If they were added inside the existing structure, it would be covered. To add to the current structure, it would be a much cheaper option. Elin would still prefer it outside, even if it were not covered, for the functionality. Shyla will set up a meeting for next week to discuss further.

**3:01 PM Julie Straub, HRM joined the meeting.**

**3:02 PM Shyla, Tara and Colten left the meeting.**

**3:03 PM Larry Brence, Eastern Region Department Head joined the meeting via phone call.**

**3:03 PM Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder joined the meeting.**

**Decision on Extension Office and Positions-** A 60/40 relationship was formed with the Extension Office in 1934, where an Extension Agent is shared and Carter County pays for 40% and Fallon County pays 60%. In order to be hired for this position, a bachelor's degree is required, preferably in agriculture or a youth development field. A master's degree is preferred. Employees have six years to complete their Master's program. Discussion on whether or not a full-time agent is needed in Fallon County or if the Commissioner's would like to stay with a part-time employee.

**3:18 PM Steve Rosencranz, Rod Tauck, Mike Watkins, Carter County Commissioners joined the meeting via conference call.**

Larry stated that MSU has the ability to re-appoint Elin to solely a Carter County Extension Agent, as she is an employee with MSU. It will be up to both counties to decide what they would prefer. If both counties want to stay part-time, they could still keep their 60/40 relationship. Commissioner Ranum asked that this decision not be made today, as more discussion is needed.

**3:28 PM Dale Butori, Weed Supervisor joined the meeting.**

The Commission, Larry and the Carter County Commissioners will meet on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for further review. Larry will put together other scenarios and what similar counties do in this situation for the meeting. Carter County is also unsure of the route they would like to take.

**3:36 PM Larry, Steve, Rod and Mike hung up the phone, therefore leaving the meeting.**

**3:38 PM Julie, Brenda and Debbie left the meeting.**

**3:45 PM Elin left the meeting.**

**Weed Department Chemical Bids Discussion-** Dale and the Weed Board members would like to change how the chemical bids are ran. They were previously doing an all or nothing bid; however, now they would like to propose a system where all reasonable bids are accepted. This will allow them the flexibility to shop around and get the best prices for each chemical. Individually, the bids will not be over the \$80,000 mark. The Commission is in favor of accepting all of the chemical bids this year.

**3:57 PM Dale left the meeting.**

**3:58 PM Kim Cuppy, Old Skool Brewery Owner/Public Health Director joined the meeting.**

**Possible Brew Fest in Town-** Old Skool Brewery would like to host a brew fest in town. It is still in the very beginning of the planning stages. Kim would like to host it at the amphitheater by the Lake. They would invite local breweries and provide entertainment and food trucks. The Commission stated that they would have to be careful with the weight of the trucks in the asphalt of the parking lot. Kim has also talked to Trent Harbaugh, Sheriff, in regards to open containers.

**Emergency Preparedness Money-** Kim asked if there was a generator at the Fairgrounds. The Commission was unsure. Through the Emergency Preparedness Grant, the Health Department was offered money to purchase a generator for an emergency shelter. K & S Electric gave them an estimate for wiring in a generator. The County would pay for it, but would be reimbursed. Kim will also talk to Chuck Lee, DES-911 Coordinator.

**4:15 PM Kim left the meeting.**

#### **Commission Work Session**

Commission reviewed various e-mails, correspondence, revenues, reports, board minutes and agendas. They signed a Certificate of Appreciation for Hugo Bumgardner, Road Crew Operator, as he has worked for Fallon County for 5 years. Thank you, Hugo, your service and dedication does not go unnoticed.

**The Commission reviewed and approved the Mid-Month Claims for April 2019 in the amount of \$260,898.23. They are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's Office.**

**5:13 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to recess the meeting. Commissioner Ranum seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any further discussion; being none. 2 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent (Commissioner Baldwin). The motion carried.**

**EVENING RECESS**

**2:45 PM CONVENE**

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

**FALLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**2:32 PM Steve Rosencranz, Carter County Commissioner joined the meeting.**

**2:45 PM Larry Brence, Eastern Region Department Head; Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder; Julie Straub, HRM joined the meeting.**

**Decision on Extension Office and Positions-** Larry reviewed statistics and levels of agriculture in Fallon County and other surrounding areas. The wages for the Extension Office, including both the 4-H Program Assistant and the Administrative Assistant were discussed. Elin Kittelmann, Extension Agent, is currently working in both Fallon and Carter County. She would like to continue to work part-time in Carter County only. Both counties need to decide if they would like to hire a part-time or full-time employee, and whether or not they would like to keep their 60/40 agreement. If they choose to keep their 60/40 relationship, Elin will need to decide whether or not she will continue the position. If Fallon County chose to hire a full-time Extension Agent, they would also assume both of the assistants as County employees. Right now, Carter County is contributing 40% to their wages and benefits. The Carter County Commissioners have not yet had time to discuss or decide on a vote regarding their decision. Once separating the two counties, it may be nearly impossible to come back together for an agreement at a later date. Commissioner Baldwin and Commissioner Ranum both agree that they would like to stay in the 60/40 Extension agreement with Carter County. Commissioner Rost explained that it may be hard to keep someone employed that has to travel back and forth. If the agreement is going to stay in place, it may need to be amended, as it has not been re-done since 1934. The Fallon County Commissioners would like to know what Carter County's decision is before making their own, as it will be a ripple effect depending on Carter County. Larry will wait to hear from both of the counties before moving forward.

**3:21 PM Larry, Brenda, Steve and Julie left the meeting.**

**3:21 PM Commissioner Rost made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum asked for any further discussion; being none. 2 Ayes. 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

**The Fair Board meeting was held on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Fallon County Fairgrounds.**

**The City Council meeting took place on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

**Weather Spotter Training took place on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center.**

**The Fallon County Safety Meetings were held on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM.**

s/Deb Ranum, Chairman

Minutes:

s/Kelsey DuCharme, Recording Clerk

Attest:

s/Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder