

## PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mid-Month Meeting Minutes  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Petroleum County Courthouse  
302 E. Main – Winnett, Montana

### Commissioner's Present:

Chairman: Craig Iverson  
Commissioner: Sigrid Pugrud  
Commissioner: Paul McKenna

### Staff Present:

Clerk: Jess Hoge  
Treasurer & Interim County Manager: Pam Bevis  
Road Crew: Ray Rowton  
Sheriff/DES: Bill Cassell

### Guest: Kelly Beevers, Brad Kahler, Robie, Butch Arthur, Jim Johnke, Austin & Laura Kiehl

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Paul made a motion to approve the agenda with additions to discussion of Growth Policy. Craig second it, motion passed.
- Craig made a motion to approve the commissioner meeting minutes of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> it, motion passed.

### Correspondence: none.

Public Comment: Laura Nowlin – Rancher – Concerned about the BLM's proposed land rule, she asked if the Commissions could submit a request to the BLM to extend the comment period and/or just redact the rule.

### Road Department- Ray Rowton – absent

- No report

### Sheriff/DES – Bill Cassell

- Bill reported that as an alternative idea to hiring a full-time deputy he had met with Sheriff Ryan Peterson and Deputy Cory Smith about Fergus County Sheriff's Department covering Petroleum County at times through when Bill was on vacation. Sheriff Peterson will discuss this with the Sheriff's union in Lewistown and get back to Bill.
- Reviewed invoice from Central Montana Dispatch – Petroleum County will pay their portion of the contract from remainder of ARPA funding.

### **County Manager – Pam Bevis**

- Discussion about wage comp. Final decision will be made at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The commissioners discussed that the revisions to the Growth Policy look acceptable. It was decided the Commissioners were going to look at Land Use Plans from other counties to decide about adopting that separate document as well.
- Reviewed current expenditure and revenue reports.

### **Form of Government Change Second Reading**

- Craig moved to adopt **Ordinance #1** – An Ordinance proposing a change to the adopted alternative form of Government of Petroleum County, Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Craig moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-11** Calling for an Election on the Form of Government of Petroleum County, Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Craig moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-12** Establishing the Petroleum County Form of Government Transition Plan, Paul seconded. Motion carried.

### **Second Public Hearing to discuss County Voting Districts Modifications**

- Craig moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-13** Revising Commissioner District Boundaries; Paul seconded. Motion passed.
- Craig moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-14** Adopting and Designating the Official Precinct Boundaries for Petroleum County, For all County Elections, and Certifying the Same to the Petroleum County Election Administrator; Paul seconded. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report – Pam Bevis**

- Pam reports they are receiving a good percentage of tax payments.

### **Clerk's Report – Jess Hoge**

- Jess reported on Clerk of Court Convention in Glasgow.
- Payroll and claims were signed.
- Next regular meeting scheduled for Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Courthouse Rehab Project – Brad Kahler, Kelly Beevers, Robie Culver**

- Brad presented current and future happenings.
- Kelly reported that she plans to submit another grant application for the Carroll Grant that closes July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will check if the AARP grant has been awarded.
- No update on Port Authority closing documents.

### **Flatwillow Bridge Greg Benjamin & Justin Lundvall by Zoom**

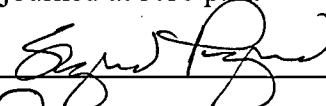
- Commissions received the award letter from Governor Gianforte, awarding \$465,300 to use towards replace Flatwillow Bridge.
- Greg introduced Justin Lundvall who will be their lead man on the Flatwillow Bridge.
- GeoTech has surveyed the property and will have the results by the next meeting.
- Commissioners prefer a concrete bridge but are awaiting the final bids.
- Greg mentioned the State of MT has newly started a program for counties for preventive bridge maintenance. The State selects wood bridges within the County that are on the maintenance list, then provide options of how to correct or fix the bridge without replacing it. The State does not

provide any funding for these projects, they are simply doing it to help prevent bridge closures in the future.

**Airport Renovation Project Proposal – Laura Kiehl & Austin Kiehl**

- Austin presented the commissioners with concern of the current shape of the Petroleum County Airport. Austin had spoken with Morrison & Maierle and got some ideas of how to correct the current airport, but also had ideas of moving the airport to a new safer location. Commissioners are in support of Austin and Laura pursuing this idea and would be a sponsor for any grant funding but did not pledge financial support.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Signed: 

Attest: 