

PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mid-Month Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024
Petroleum County Courthouse
302 E. Main – Winnett, Montana

Commissioner's Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Guest: None.

- Meeting called to order at 9:05a.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Craig made a motion to approve the agenda with added discussion on housekeeper resignation and deputy treasurer in house hire, motion passed.
- Craig moved to approve the January 8, 2024 meeting. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence: DEQ Invitation for comment about their recent amendments. MT Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties annual dues. Craig made a motion to approve paying the annual dues to the Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal, Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Road Department- Ray Rowton

- The turbo went out in the John Deere grader, it was under warranty and has been fixed.
- Volvo needs a new pin to be replaced; Ray has one on order.
- Ray hasn't heard anything from CAT about a trade in value of the CAT and
- Ray is going to be awarded a Road Scholar at MACR's this year.
- The mower blades have been replaced and it's ready to go.
- Jeremy and Ray are now certified flaggers for 3 years.
- Ray is looking into prices of a welder generator; he will report on prices at the next meeting.
- Ray reports that they haven't picked up the backhoe from Bevis's yet.
- Freightliner needs to go to Billings for repairs.

Sheriff/DES – Bill Cassell

- Sig reports that she hasn't heard from Brad about the wall in the new sheriff's office downstairs.
- Generator grant – homeland security is the way to go. Bill has sent emails to other DES coordinators that have been awarded this grant. Bill is going to consult with Robie Culver with the grant application.
- Bill reports that he received a phone call from a gentleman that purchased a lot down on the river, the State told him that he can't put in a septic or technically build on his lot because of being in a flood plain. The Commissioners, with the assistance of the County Attorney, will probably draft a letter to all landowners advising them of possibly being in a flood plain zone. DNRC Flood Plain communications ladies plan to meet with the Commissioners and discuss this issue further at the next meeting.
- Laura Kiehl contacted an engineer in Helena that is interested in the project. Discussed some funding options that could be a possibility for the project. The Engineer stated that a formal board doesn't have to be formed but an authority board of a group of volunteers with the intentions for the airport.

Commissioners Report

- Sig moves to approve to hire Kris Rowton as the new Deputy Treasurer, Craig seconded it. Motion carried. Her start day is immediately. Her pay rate will not change, and her seniority will not change for longevity.
- Sig moved to posting the Clerk & Recorder, Deputy Clerk of District Court, Deputy Election Administrator.
- Craig moved to set a 4-mill levy for Resolution 2024-7.
- Craig moved to adopt Resolution 2027-7 to Call for an Election on the Question of Conducting a Local Govt Review of Petroleum County, Paul seconded. Motion passed.
- Paul moved to adopt Resolution 2024-8 a Resolution Amending the Mill Levy for the State Equalization, Craig seconded motion. Motion carried.
- Craig moved to adopt Resolution 2024-9, A Resolution Amending Reimbursement Rates Payable to Officers and Employees for Travel Related Expenses, Paul seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Pam Bevis

- Pam gave updated financials and pledged securities.
- Pam presented the commissioners with MACo's template for resolution that will need to pass in order to mill for the school mills that the Supreme Court ruled on.
- Interviews for the Deputy Treasurer's position will be scheduled.

Clerk's Report – Jess Hoge

- Payroll and claims were signed.
- Timecards were presented for review.
- Jess reports she will be gone to Election Certification in Helena February 5-7.
- Jess will post for the Deputy position.

Courthouse Rejuvenation Project – Robie Culver & Brad Kahler

- Brad reports that the contractor Shane hasn't put anything out for bid thus far due to the MEP & ARCH.
- The Coal Grant will meet early March. No further update.
- Plan to have contractor documents finished up by March 19th.
- Tentatively opening for bids April 23rd.
- Start of construction has been pushed back to May early June start date.

Commissioners Report Continued

- All County staff met in the commissioner's room and reviewed the updated County Employee Policy Manual as we are now a Commissioner Charter Form of Govt. Staff had a good discussion and signed their acknowledgement forms.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Signed: _____

Attest: _____

