

PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 4, 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: Diane Cochran

Guest: Vince and Justin Murnion

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Craig made a motion to approve the agenda with added discussion, Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Craig moved to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections, Paul seconded motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence: CAT Invitation dinner.

Public Comment: Vince and Justin Murnion came in with Old Cat Creek Rd maintenance issues, needing some gravel hauled. Vince also commented about some culverts that are filled in and water is going over the road. Ohio Wells Rd also has a culvert not placed in the correct spot. Ray noted all concerns and once the ground is not frozen, they can work on the projects.

Road Department- Ray Rowton

- Ray reports the purchase of Bevis's backhoe is complete. They have done a complete service on the backhoe.
- Still waiting for the Volvo part (pin).
- Kenworth semi is in Billings getting worked on. Should be done in a week.
- Gravel testing for the main street project has begun. Thank you to Dave Harris for your tenacious effort in getting the main street sides corrected.
- Ray reports he is still waiting on portable welder prices.

Sheriff/DES – Bill Cassell

- Bill reports that he got a quote for roughly \$130,000 for a generator for the PCCC building, two for the town wells and one for the chlorination building. There will be additional funds needed to finalize the installations. This is all meant to be covered under a Home Security grant the county will do in behalf of the town and PCCC.
- Bill discussed interest in a new I Crime Fighter database that would help with communication with residents, county attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies. Attorney Cochran reports that Fergus County is currently using the database and is very happy with it. Bill is going to set up a demo with the company.

Commissioners Report

- Judge William Menager reports to the commissioners that a deposit paid towards a fine that was mailed to 1st Security Bank in Roundup has been delayed several days and even weeks. Commissioners are aware of the issue.
- Paul moved to approve the new health insurance rates; Craig reluctantly seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Petroleum County is hosting the MACo District 6 & 7 Regional meeting June 12, 2024. Commissioners reserved the PCCC for the event.
- Craig moved to adopt Resolution 2024-10 designating Tyler West as a Deputy County Attorney for Petroleum County; Paul seconded. Motion carried.
- Lance Bowser present via Zoom who works for Robert Peccia Engineer from Helena, discussed how other airports operate and ownership. Most airports are owned by Counties and some County/City. It was decided that an airport board comprised of several pilots or flying enthusiasts will need to be formed. The Commission agreed to be a sponsor for future grants but would like to see aviation enthusiasts spearhead and operate the project.
- Traci Sear and Shylea Wingard presented via Zoom discussed Flood Plain regulation.

Treasurer’s Report – Pam Bevis

- Pam gave updated financials and pledged securities.
- Pam reports that MT DOJ is proposing to change the Motor Vehicle program in March 2025, backing away from covering the expenses of the computers or paper products they had supplied in the past.

Clerk’s Report – Jess Hoge

- Payroll and claims were signed.

Courthouse Rejuvenation Project – Robie Culver & Brad Kahler

- No update at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed: *Sam Pugh*

Attest: *Jess Hoge*

