

## PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mid-Month Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 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 – Called in

- 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 March 4, 2024, meeting minutes, Paul seconded motion. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** List of Leadership Courses from MSU Extension

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Road Department- Ray Rowton – called in.**

- Ray updated that the welder he ordered from AWG is in and ready for pickup.
- Ray plans to attend MACR's next week.
- Kale is taking the backhoe and blade to fix the corner on HWY 500.
- The Kenworth was said to be done but ran terribly coming home. Motor Power was called to retrieve it and fix it; it was too dangerous to risk driving back to Billings.
- Discussion on the next lease option for a new grader. Sig is going to again contact Truman at CAT and ask for appraisals. Jess will verify the timeline for getting the next mill levy vote on the fall ballot.

### **Commissioners Report**

- Sig reported on the Coal Grant Award process that she attended in Billings. Petroleum County was awarded \$250,000 for the courthouse rehab project.
- Sig discussed things learned from the Coal Grant board. She would like to see Petroleum County apply for road equipment or other capital improvements, but the County will have to develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CIP is a five year plan that sets priorities, is reviewed annually and revised as needed.
- There was discussion on putting out a RFQ for an auditor.

**Treasurer's Report – Pam Bevis**

- Pam gave updated financials and pledged securities.
- Pam reports that she plans to attend Treasurer's Certification in April.
- Pam reports that Kris is adjusting well to her new role as Deputy Treasurer.

**Clerk's Report – Jess Hoge**

- Payroll and claims were signed.
- There is an applicant to interview for the Deputy Clerk opening.

**MDT Bridge Quick Fix Program – On line: Ryan Dahlke and Jermev Miles with MDT along with Adam Hagel and Kathy Thompson of Stahley Engineering**

- Ryan Dahlke discussed how Hale Bridge out north can be repaired with HB536 funding from the State. Jeremy Miles reviewed the bridge report and options of how to repair this bridge, decking, timbers or grinder replacement. Stahly Engineer will have to come review the bridge and submit what they think will be the most efficient fixed. The repairs will be fully funded by the state. There is a deadline of getting the work done within 10 years; no immediate timeline for when the work will happen.

**Courthouse Rejuvenation Project – On line: Robie Culver, Brad Kahler, Laura Nowlin**

- We reviewed the plans that reflect the numerous changes downsizing the project since all the early estimated expenses were grossly underestimated. Code updates caused a couple other design changes in the bathrooms. The engineering for the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing changes are not complete and will take another 4-6 weeks. Reportedly Shane will start getting bids from sub-contractors when that engineering is finalized. That will lead us to a Guaranteed Maximum Price Agreement. Work may start late May or June.
- Laura will need to get an extension on a grant to allow for the delays in building.
- Brad doesn't expect to have anything new to report for at least the next month.
- Brad will send final drawings for us to review and approve within the next couple days.

**Airport Idea Project – Laura Kiehl**

- Laura reported on what had been learned about how Garfield County operates their airport.
- The commissioners requested that Laura find a group of local flying enthusiasts or pilots that want to serve on the board that will operate the airport. The commissioners would be willing to sponsor grants for airport improvements but do not want the ongoing operation and maintenance of the airport to become a county responsibility.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

