

PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mid-Month Meeting Minutes
April 22, 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 Foreman Ray Rowton

Guest: Luann Knutson, Ryan Peterson and Adam Hagel by zoom

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

Correspondence: Letter from the Governor awarding \$250,000 Coal Grant monies for the Courthouse Rehab Project.

Public Comment: The alley on the south side of the Community Center needs gravel and drainage and Luann had attended a Town Council meeting, and they told her they don't have the equipment to fix the issue, to ask the county. The Commissioners explained that the grader is too large to maneuver in that alley and probably too heavy for the water lines placed in the alley. The commission agreed to help with getting gravel dumped in the alley but will be unable to spread it. They recommended PCCC find someone with a bobcat to do the work.

Road Department- Ray Rowton

- Ray updated on cost of new grader and trade in value, discussion of selling the grader outright. No decision was made.
- Ray reports on HWY 500 project, gravel has been hauled, culverts have been cleaned.
- Kale is starting to blade Blakeslee Rd and Jeremy is grading Cat Creek Rd, and Ray is heading for Welter Divide Rd.
- Ray reports the turbo went out in the John Deere grader; he has ordered a new one under warranty.

- Discussion of towing charges for the Kenworth to go back to Billings after not correctly being fixed to Motor Power. Kale spoke with Jake at Motor Power and wants them to cover the towing cost.
- Ray discussed purchasing a new transmission for the yellow Truck. No decision was made.
- Ray agreed to be the new DES coordinator starting in July of 2024; a quarter of his salary will be covered by grant funding.

Sheriff/DES – Bill Cassell & Ryan Peterson by zoom.

- Discussion about Fergus County Sheriff's Department patrolling and being mutual aide for Petroleum County till the fiscal year end. It was decided for Petroleum County Commissioners to draft a MOU for Fergus Commissioners and Sheriff's department to review.
- Discussion of Bill being available to do administration work such as serving papers and concealed weapon permits till June 30th.
- Bill asked to purchase his patrol pistol and body armor, commissioners agreed to withhold the cost of the items from his payout of vacation and sick leave.

PUBLIC MEETING FOR MCDONALD BRIDGE PLANS STARTED

Called to order at 1:15pm

- NO PUBLIC ATTENDED

- Adam Hagel from Stahly Engineering by zoom to discuss the process of replacing the McDonald Bridge. He reported that beams for the bridge are out 12-13months right now.
- MCEP application will be submitted May 23, 2024. Legislation in January 2025 will decide if MCEP monies are awarded.
- Bridge Construction is proposed for 2026/2027.

Public Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm

Commissioners Report

- Resolution to move May 20th commissioner was tabled till following meeting.
- Commissioner reviewed financials.

Treasurer's Report – Pam Bevis

- Pam presented financial statements and pledge securities.

Clerk's Report – Jess Hoge

- Payroll was reviewed and signed by commissioners.
- Claims were reviewed and checks were signed.

Courthouse Rejuvenation Project – Robie Culver by zoom. Brad Kahler was absent

- Robie reviewed financial reports and budgets with commissioners.
- Commissioners reviewed the contract with High Plains and TW Ridley.
- Commissioners discussed concerns of trust with Brad and what is being presented to them and numerous delays in projects with getting bids out for construction.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Eric Pugh

Attest: _____
Jess Hoge

