

## PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mid-Month Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2023  
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 & Interim County Manager: Pam Bevis  
Road Crew: Ray Rowton  
Sheriff/DES: Bill Cassell

### Guest: Phyllis Arthur

- 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 additions. Paul second it, motion passed.
- Craig made a motion to approve the commissioner meeting minutes of August 21, 2023, September 5, 2023, and September 12, 2023. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> it, motion passed.

### Correspondence: none.

**Public Comment:** Jess addressed public comment about concerns of voters not receiving ballots and adequate notice of election. Jess reported that prior to the election notice was published in the News Argus and at the three locations in town, The Breaks, the Post Office, and the Courthouse as well as social media. During the election notices were published around town and on social media asking voters to make sure they received their ballot and if not to please stop by the Clerk's office to receive a ballot. Jess noted that there are 381 registered voters of those 126 are inactive voters, leaving 255 active voters when the ballots went out August 23, 2023. 157 total votes were cast by September 12, 2023, at 8pm.

### Road Department- Ray Rowton

- Ray reports the new airbags from Canada are still not delivered.
- The power divider on the yellow truck came off, was replaced and is currently running fine. The transmission is starting to miss gears.
- Ray reports they have reached Belk's house with the gravel. Will start hauling gravel past Wade Hoge's towards the county line next.

- Ray reports that Niebur Constructions has completed the Double S bridge repair and installed the culvert at Horse Camp. Should have the culvert north of Dave Hedman's installed within a month.
- Ray reports 130 loads still need hauled from Whisnonat's reject pile by December.
- Hannah Rowton is almost done mowing; she plans to redo Bench Rd as it was the first road done and has grown back.
- Ray reports that Jeremy is doing a great job.
- Paul reports that he has been working on amending road standards for cattleguards directly off State High easements to make it clearer.
- Ray reports garage doors are not installed yet.

#### **Sheriff/DES – Bill Cassell**

- Bill reports that he received his award letter for EMPG grant monies.
- Bill presents the commissioners with a proposed Establishing a Central MT Drug Interdiction Force between other counties sheriff's offices. Commissioners tabled.
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#### **County Manager – Pam Bevis**

- Craig moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-20 Designation of Publication for County Notices**; Paul seconded it. Motion carried.
- Paul moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-21 Moving October 10<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meeting to October 5<sup>th</sup>**; Craig seconded it. Motion carried.

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

- Pam gave updated financials and pledged securities.

#### **Clerk's Report – Jess Hoge**

- Payroll and claims were signed.
- Next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2023, at 9:00am.
- Jess reports that the Proposed Change of Local Government passed 126 FOR and 31 AGAIST. She would like to give a sincere "thank you" to the Election Judges for helping hand count the election.

#### **Flatwillow Bridge-Robie Culver – Zoom – Robie Culver, Amy Strainer, and Justin Lundvall**

- Review TCA Groups contract. Craig moved to approve GC/CM Contract for the Flatwillow Bridge at the cost of \$516,205; Paul seconded it. Motion carried.
- Paul reports that Chris & Jay King are interested in the old bridge.
- Discussion with Robie about getting the application process started for the McDonald Creek bridge next.

**Courthouse Rejuvenation Project – Kelly Beevers, Laura Nowlin, Brad Kafer**

- Wednesday September 20, 2023 Commissioners plan to meet with Brad and T&W Ridley construction to go over contracts and designs in person at High Plains Architect.
- Commissioners report on Shipo's visit to the courthouse.
- Kelly has sent emails to Wishniff contacts to see the status of those contracts.
- Paul met with the mechanical engineer and reviewed the ceiling and other mechanical concerns, over all the visit went well.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed: 

Attest: 

