

Commission Proceedings
03-19-2024

The Board of Carter County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, in the Carter County Commission Board Meeting Room of the Carter County Courthouse at 214 Park Street in Ekalaka, Montana. Rod Tauck, Chairman, Mike Watkins, Vice Chairman and Pamela Castleberry, member were present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Rod Tauck.

There was no public comment.

There was an update given by Commissioner Tauck on the status of the generator install at the new hospital. Don's Electric will return to work on issues found during the install.

Commissioner Watkins also gave an update on the Landowner Co2 sequestration meeting held March 15, 2024 at the Hope Baptist Church.

Commissioner Castleberry presented a written report regarding over-time of County employees.

Treasurer Jesi Pierson stepped into the meeting with a statement to be sent to tax payers to collect the remaining 17.1 mills that would make up the difference between the 77 mills that was levied by the county and the 79 mills that was levied by the Montana Department of Revenue. Jesi left the meeting.

Sheriff Neil Kittlemann joined the meeting where the commissioners questioned the use of County vehicles for private use by Neil and others. "The Employee Handbook of Personnel Policies" Use of vehicles and Equipment section was referenced as guidelines for authorized use of County vehicles.

Neil brought up the fence between Kittleman's leased pasture and the current county shop. Neil stated that his side of the fence is good but the County side is not due to the junk and concrete pushed up against the fence. He is willing to fix the fence if the County will remove the junk and concrete. He plans to fence the corner and gate in a straight line for Hammel's easement.

There was discussion of Kittleman's equipment and mobile home on County property adjacent to the old County shop. Neil's has plans to move it all once the underground cable installers have completed their work. The old school house that is owned by Kittlemann sits over the property boundary. The commission suggested a survey and an adjustment of the property boundary if needed.

The Commission questioned the damage to the County owned Bobcat trailer. Neil has a replacement fender for it. He informed the commission that the damage happened two years ago and he was using the trailer.

Neil requested information regarding hiring Deputy and / or Reserve officers as the need arises. Neil left the meeting.

Deputy Clerk and Recorder Dana Eshelman joined the meeting for approval of invoice and accounting code to use for payment of the Don's Electric Invoice in the amount of \$38,881.00. this will be paid from Road funds. The Don's Electric invoice in the amount of \$49,750.00 will be paid out of the 4101-hospital building fund.

The Commissioners attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting from 11:45-1:00 pm. in the Dahl Memorial Conference room.

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The meeting was called to order 1:00 with Road and Bridge Supervisor Carl Knapp attending. Chairman Tauck opened the one (1) bid for the 1995 Western Star truck from Sizemore Motors. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to accept the bid of \$3,000.00 for the 1995 Western Star truck. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Carl provided a list of upcoming Road Crew projects. Including finish Plevna Rd., clean car gates and surveying the Durm Rd. The crew plans to gravel Stoltenberg hill, Newberry hill, Murphy Hill and North Ridge Road with Loken pit gravel. There is plans to spot gravel on the Miles City cut-off and Valley Rd.

The new Sany Road Grader is still in Rapid City where the company is completing the needed improvements.

Carl had questions regarding the Capital expenditures line items when replacing bridges with culverts and building roads. Commissioner Castleberry agreed to look into the coding for capital outlay for the Road and Bridge.

The Commissioners requested that the Road Department clean up the concrete and junk along the fence between Kittleman's pasture lease and the shop. There was discussion regarding selling the bridge that is setting near the fence. Carl left the meeting.

Carter County Extension Agent Amanda Williams stepped into the meeting to review a list of supplies and equipment that she will need in the coming months as the new full time County Extension Agent. She was granted permission to have a phone line set up and a P O Box. Amanda left the meeting.

The Commissioners placed a call to Deputy Director Jason Rittal of Montana Association of Counties (MACo) with questions regarding Pipeline revenue and assessment. Jason will reach out to the Department of Revenue for answers.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the proceedings for February 29, 2024 and March 12, 2024. Commissioner Castleberry seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried.

Southeast Electric Manager Tye Williams joined the meeting to request a letter of support for Southeast Electric's application for the GRIP Grant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Board of County Commissioners

Carter County, Montana


Rod Tauck, Chairman *Acting 4/8/24*

Attest: 
Clerk of the Board