

Commission Meeting Minutes; Park County, Montana  
Week of March 10 - 14, 2008

March 10, 2008

County Road Issues

@8:30:11 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Ed Hillman, road supervisor; Polly Miller, human resources; Gay Juhnke, public citizen; Dick Juhnke, public citizen; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss county road issues.

Ed Hillman will submit Public Service Announcements to KPRK announcing where road crews will be working within the county each week.

There was discussion about needing correct, legal signage at Point of Rocks on Old Yellowstone Trail South. Lahren conducted reconnaissance on the old railroad right-of-way on Old Yellowstone Trail South in considering options of upgrading the road. There was discussion about obtaining blasting bids to widen the road.

There was discussion on road conditions of Swingley, Willow Creek, Rock Creek and Old Clyde Park roads. Hillman has no hot patch at this time to patch those roads.

There was discussion about providing citizen Dwayne Long with a work permit to move boulders from a county right-of-way on the Main Boulder road.

Durgan reported that MACo attorney Jack Holstrom said it is the JPIA position to not permit county employees to work on personal equipment in the county road shop due to personal injury risk and possible damage to the shop.

Public comment was made by Dick Juhnke. Juhnke asked when the county was going to start fixing roads. He said Willow Creek Road is a mess and has been bad all winter along the oil sections. He said Old Clyde Park Road has holes six inches deep, and he pays taxes to have roads fixed and the county needs to get something done.

There was discussion about Carbella bridge. Hillman will get a bid from Hallett Mineral for upgrading the Old Yellowstone Trail South at Point of Rocks, and Lahren is expecting a bid proposal today from a structural engineer. There was discussion about pedestrian signs not being erected yet at the bridge and the need for signage on Carbella Bridge.

@8:44:17 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 10, 2008

Review and Approve Minutes

@9:00:30 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to review and approve Commission meeting minutes for the Week of March 3, 2008.

On Page 1 of 15, Murphy noted the correct spelling of road crew employee Dave "Amunrud." Lahren noted the correct spelling of "Stands" gravel pit.

On Page 4 of 15, Durgan requested adding "Durgan voiced concern Extension personnel would not have enough space if the county attorney office expanded" to the 10<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

On Page 5 of 15, Murphy noted the correct spelling of Jim "Nys" and Ron "Archilleta." Lahren noted that Mill Creek files are "Mill Creek Irrigation Water District files."

On Page 9 of 15, Durgan noted that Patricia Grabow is a public citizen. Also, Durgan requested adding, "The city's portion would be 37 percent of the monthly maintenance contract cost. The contract would be entered into between the county and KONE and would commence April 1, 2008. The current maintenance contract with Thyssen Krupp will not be renewed" to the last paragraph.

On Page 11 of 15, Durgan requested to strike "Commissioner's Chambers" from the March 6, 2008, 8:30 A.M. – Leave Courthouse to View Old Yellowstone Trail in the Point of Rocks Area meeting.

On Page 12 of 15, Durgan noted bulleted item should read, "Memo from AP clerk re. Verizon cell phones roaming software update instructions."

On Page 13 of 15, Durgan noted bulleted item should read, "Memo from Houck Energy Resources – mineral rights lease offer of \$15/acre/year for land Park County owns - To DePuy for review." Final paragraph under March 6, 2008, Review of Correspondence, Public Contacts, and Determine Action Plan meeting should read, "Al Jenkins reported that the Sheriff's dept does not have a key to enter the Park County quansot on their end of the hut, requiring them to pass through his secure area of the hut. Jenkins requested the Commission take care of that issue."

On Page 15 of 15, Durgan noted meeting announcement should read, "March 7, 2008, 2:00 P.M. – County Road and Mechanic Issues – County Road Shop - Durgan, Murphy and HR Director Polly Miller."

Durgan made a motion to pass minutes as amended. Murphy seconded that motion. Motion passed.

@9:25:45 a.m. Lahren adjourned the meeting.

March 10, 2008

Review Correspondence, Public Contacts and Determine Action Plan

@10:01:40 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to review correspondence, public contacts and determine action plans. Correspondence included:

- Sheep-o-Gram for high school all night party
- Congress of Racial Equality group to sue Bush administration if polar bear is listed as a threatened species
- Memo from MACo Northern Rockies Coordinating Group re. agenda of April workshop at Fairmont re. appropriate management responses, long term implementation plans, cost-share agreements
- Draft resolution of appointment of members to public boards - To Durgan and Denton for review
- Memo re. planning committee for floodplain awareness - March 13 LEPC meeting @ 10 a.m., in Community room - To Durgan for review
- Memo re. IT committee meeting this week - To Hurley for review
- Memo from Hartley re. needs claims by noon March 10
- MT Transportation Commission conference call - 10 a.m. March 10
- Discussion of including in the Montana Department of Transportation Environmental Assessment the Commission comments on 89 Yellowstone River bridge repair and Bennett Street crossing and underpass
- Correspondence re. health insurance committee info - To file
- Frontier Assisted Living business after-hours March 13
- Vision Air newsletter - To Hurley for review
- Memo from Riverside Contracting Inc., Missoula re. offering gravel crushing and paving services throughout Montana and requesting to be included in any bid opportunity - To Hillman for review
- Memo re. Variable Rate Loan Program to Montana local governments - To Miller for review
- Trout Headwaters, Inc., Fleshman Creek cleanup April 19, 2008, requesting trash deposit fee waiver. The Commission recommends taking city garbage to city transfer station. The Commission will wave fee for county landfill items - To Denton for action

- Memo from DEQ re. methane monitoring results review. Results are within regulatory limits
- Memo from Denise Nelson re. insurance committee status
- Memo from Job Service re. scholarship nomination form
- Every Child Matters informational memo
- Memo from Mental Health Advisory Network re. house passed mental health parity
- Draft of Franzen-Davis professional service contract - To DePuy for review

Lahren will call Dwayne Long re. removing boulders from county right-of-way.

Durgan reported on a phone call message on March 6 re. Dan Semaens. Per DePuy, Hurley will pull info from Gardiner Water District book to submit to Semaens.

There was discussion on the conceptual start of a combined Gardiner sewer and water district and about an SEP re. \$18,000 Gardiner sewer spill fee.

There was discussion about office space options for the new auditor. Lahren will check on auditor's security needs.

There was discussion about: the use of the county road shop by road crew personnel for personal use; whether certification is required to weld on county equipment; and the need for a preventative maintenance schedule for the county road crew shop for slow days.

There was discussion about Army Corps of Engineers 205 money and considering whether to continue funding for that.

Memo re. road crew budget issues and outsourcing Carbella bridge work and work on Old Yellowstone Trail South

@11:01:35 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 10, 2008

Consider a Montana Rail Link Property Lease at Transfer Station

@11:28:51 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Tara DePuy, civil attorney; Bill Hurley, operations; Dick Juhnke, public citizen; Gay Juhnke, public citizen; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to consider a Montana Rail Link property lease at the Transfer Station.

There was discussion about parameters of the Montana Rail Link (MRL) Transfer Station lease. MRL proposed to increase the county's lease fee to \$5,000 annually from \$2,500 annually. The county would like to keep the rate the same until April 15, 2009.

The proposed lease would require the county to vacate the MRL premises upon a 30-day notice. The county would like to have a fixed lease with MRL with more time to act if the lease is canceled. The timeline to renew the lease is not critical at this time. The county will continue with the current lease and attempt to get an amendment for more time to vacate the premises if the lease is terminated.

Public comment was made by Dick Juhnke. Juhnke asked how much the county is paying for the lease per year.

@11:35:47 a.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 10, 2008

Forest Service Proposed Park County Projects

@1:29:55 p.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Dann Babcox, rural fire #1; Crystal Hagerman, NRM RC&D and county Extension; Dessa Dale, Gallatin National Forest; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss proposed Forest Service projects in Park County.

Dessa Dale of the Gallatin National Forest Gardiner Ranger District discussed status of a Cooke City water system permit to upgrade new wells and water tanks. Bids are projected in May of this year. The total project will be completed in three phases and may last two or three years. The Forest Service project will abandon some existing springs and wells. There was discussion about Miller Road improvements and improvements to an existing water tank. A private contractor will complete that work.

There was discussion about a large fuels timber harvest and thinning project in Cooke City. The NEPA document will be finished this year and the thinning project will begin on the private land urban interface.

There was discussion about an abandoned mine closure project in Jardine this year. There are 22 abandoned mine closures on the Forest Service list for this year.

There are six re-issuances for private roads crossing Forest Service land, a Park County sewer line re-issuance, and a Silvergate water users association permit coming due.

There was discussion about the McLaren site cleanup, a burn pile site staging area, and the idea of turning that site into sporting recreation fields after work is completed.

There was discussion about hazard mitigation and thinning efforts going on with the Forest Service in the Smith Creek and Big Timber areas. Thinning efforts in a few years are planned in the Cinnabar Basin and Tom Miner Basin.

The Forest Service is planning a timber sale and thinning this summer and next year along Cooke Pass within the Forest Service land along the highway between the edge of the park and Cooke City. The Forest Service proposal is to assist landowners in thinning of their property there in conjunction with Forest Service efforts.

Dann Babcox asked if there was any way to get the Park Service on board with that project to thin the last few miles in the park before the Cooke City exit.

Durgan asked whether weed control measures are planned with thinning projects. Crystal Hagerman reported that the RC&D grant program does provide for education on weed control, but there is not a concerted weed control implementation plan for after thinning is completed. Durgan recommended including the county's weed council and Ron Archuleta in any weed management coordination.

Hagerman reported citizen Sabena Brown sponsors and conducts a weed spray day in the springtime in the Cooke City area that involves a lot of private landowners and private residences.

There was discussion about contractors and cleaning equipment to not spread weeds.

@1:52:26 p.m. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 11, 2008

Main Copier Billing Ideas

@1:10:55 p.m. Commissioner Murphy called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Present were Polly Miller, human resources; Marc Richards, GIS/IT; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present and there was no public comment.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss main copier billing ideas.

There was no Commissioner quorum for the meeting.

@1:11:25 p.m. Murphy closed the meeting.

March 12, 2008

Primary and General Election Polling Places; Community Room for Fire District Election

@8:59:38 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Denise Nelson, clerk and recorder; Dann Babcox, rural fire #1; Chris Schleining, rural fire #1; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss primary and general election polling places and designation of the community room for a fire district election.

Denise Nelson reported that per Montana state law a governing body must designate a polling place for each voting precinct.

Nelson requested moving 5D Pine Creek, 7A Beaver Creek and 7B Springdale voting precincts to the county fairgrounds. That would add 555 active voters to the fairgrounds. Nelson requested adding 6A Brisbin to Emigrant Hall, which would add 199 active voters. Nelson requested adding 5C Cooke City to the Gardiner School polling site, which would add 91 active voters to Gardiner School. Nelson requested adding 7C Wilsall to the Clyde Park Community Center polling place, which would add 358 active voters there. Nelson requested designation of the City/County building as a polling place for late registrants. All precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on voting days. Voters will have the option of voting absentee.

There was discussion about an option of moving to an all mail-in ballot election procedure in Park County in the future. Park County currently has 2,000 permanent absentee voters out of 8,703 active voters and 11,000 total voters in the county.

Murphy made a motion to designate the following poll hours for Park County: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., on voting day. The fairgrounds will include precincts 1; 2; 2B; 3; 4; 6B, in addition to 5D; 7A; and 7B., adding 550 voters at the fairgrounds. Emigrant will include 5A and 6A. Gardiner will include 5B and 5C. Clyde Park will include 7C; and 7D. The motion also designates the City/County Complex as a polling place for all elections. Durgan seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Addressing a Park County Rural Fire Department #1 trustee election, Nelson requested holding that election in the Park County courthouse Community Room on May 6, 2008, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Murphy made a motion to allow use of the Community Room for a special trustee election for Rural Fire on May 6, 2008. Durgan seconded that motion. Motion passed.

Nelson clarified if a school district decides to hold an election on that date, that election would remain separate from the rural fire election.

@9:20:06 a.m. Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 12, 2008

Extension Office Update

@10:00:19 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Mary Anne Anderson, MSU Extension; Marty Malone, public citizen; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss an MSU Extension office update.

Mary Anne Anderson handed out a hard copy of an update of the county Extension office's recent activities.

Anderson provided an update on the master gardener class. The class has moved to the Livingston Healthcare Rehab Institute training lab. Some master gardeners will assist the hospital with grounds aesthetics in return for holding the workshop meetings on hospital grounds.

There was discussion about a Lego 4-H project through LINKS in which a Wilsall child is participating, as well as county shooting sports.

Durgan discussed Malone's request to purchase a cell phone he used as the county Extension agent. The Commission is working on proposing to turn the phone over to Malone. The Commission is working on getting a cabinet in the Extension office to Park Conservation District. The Commission presented Malone with a gift of appreciation for his service to Park County.

There was discussion about Malone remaining on the TV board and the upcoming switch to digital television signal.

Anderson reported Extension has screened 14 applicants for the county Extension agent and selected three to interview in the first week of April. Commissioner Durgan will sit on the interview committee.

@10:14:52 a.m. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Durgan seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 12, 2008

1:00 P.M. Sign Claims

March 12, 2008

Cinnabar Basin Road Issues

@2:00:29 p.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Ed Hillman, county road supervisor; public citizens Mary Meagher; Judy Churchwell; Rod Churchwell; Darlene Tilton; Lorayne Stermitz; Jim Stermitz; Dennis Tilton; Nelson Starkweather; and Peggy Starkweather; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss Cinnabar Basin road issues, and was conducted as an open public comment session.

Judy Churchwell expressed concern over the condition of Cinnabar Basin Road this winter, citing a lack of maintenance. She said the grader has been at the top of the road only a few times this winter and no sand has been applied. Last year sand was applied at least up to Stermitz's. This year it stops at MolHeron. Dennis and Shooting Star Ranch is maintaining upper reaches of the road this winter. Two years ago the road crew sanded to the T.

Dennis Tilton said the sand needs to go up through the S-turns. Ending at the John McDonald residence would be okay.

Lorayne Stermitz said there is no school bus route up the road any longer. Five children get on at Corwin Springs and go down to the school bus, but have gotten stuck in 4-wheel drives this winter getting down the hill.

Darlene Tilton said prior to 2005 the county sanded at least to McDonald's. She has lived there 8 years and she remembers sand up to John McDonald's.

Ed Hillman said his road crew sanded the bottom part of the road 4 times and sanded the upper part 3 times. Hillman has a log of what maintenance was done, and he invited citizens to view that book at any time.

Jim Stermitz plowed twice at the top of the road.

Dennis Tilton said the county plowed Jan 31; Feb 15; and sanded two weeks ago.

Dennis Tilton said he and Rod Churchwell made more than one trip every day this winter to maintain the upper portion of the road. They plowed with a pickup, a Bobcat with blower, and a John Deere with an 8-foot blade and blower.

Judy Churchwell suggested priority should be given to roads with ice on them in the winter time. Rod Churchwell asked who decides what road work is to be done on a given day. Hillman said that decision is made by the road crew onsite. He said the rule of thumb is that the county does not sand gravel roads.

Lorayne Stermitz asked how many hours per week does the road crew work, is there an hourly schedule of work, and does the road crew have a work plan for each day. Hillman said the road crew works 40 hours per week, usually 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Crews do not have a set work plan each day. The Gardiner crew does all school routes first. The crew has to get to Jardine, Cinnabar, Tom Miner and Old Yellowstone Trail.

Lorayne Stermitz said she has lived there 40 years and it used to be Cinnabar was plowed out by the end of each snow event. She said the county roads have never been as bad as now. In the past, she said the road crew would plow Jardine first and then Cinnabar. By the second day of a snow event, Cinnabar would be plowed.

Murphy recommended talking with Mark of the road crew and let him know of the past plowing schedule.

Judy Churchwell said in the past the county truck would come up to look at conditions of the road and then would come up with sander or grader if necessary. That no longer happens.

Rod Churchwell said a problem might be the crewman is on the lower part of Cinnabar Road and not the top. Churchwell said one of the past road crewmen said if the crew is going to cut corners it will be at the top of Cinnabar Road because they know Churchwell and Tilton will plow it. Churchwell expressed concern about spring runoff and the lack of gravel on the upper end of the road.

Hillman said he has been working on roads shapes and ditches in his time with the county. But he needs more gravel, more people and more money throughout the county. This winter has had more snow than many winters before. In addition, the road crewman taking care of the Gardiner area is new to the position and is still learning the roads there.

Judy Churchwell said most of the population on the road lives at the top, including 4 of 5 school kids. Churchwell submitted two citizen letters for the record from Mandy Stephenson and Tami McDonald.

There was discussion about PILT funds and the county likely losing them next year.

Dennis Tilton said there has been less service on the roads from the county than in the past. He said the grader is less able than in the past. The citizens are seeing an unwinding of a snowball effect of degrading services. The citizens would like to see the roads cleared a lot more often.

Hillman said a new grader is on its way for that area.

Rod Churchwell suggested clearing slush off the road now to make roads better this spring. Durgan said it is difficult to clear slush because it takes some gravel with it.

Lorayne Stermitz said her concern is primarily for the safety of kids going to school and getting an ambulance up to citizens. The citizens are fighting hard to keep their mail route.

Rod Churchwell noted that service vehicles such as gas and UPS have to get up the road too, which has been difficult at times. Some deliveries won't come up the road. The citizens meet them at Corwin.

Hillman said the county will try to do a better job. After a year he hopes the new crewman will know better what to do and how to do it regarding road maintenance.

Lahren suggested the road department develop a work plan and schedule and needs assessment for road work in the Gardiner area. That will provide a visual schedule of when maintenance will be and/or was conducted. It could also help justify a request for more road crew help, specifically part time help.

Peggy Starkweather agreed with the comments of the other citizens present. She said her husband has needed an ambulance a few times this winter, which poses a concern relative to the road conditions.

Rod Churchwell offered to accept phone calls from the road crew so it can call the citizens to see if it's necessary for road maintenance on a specific day.

Hillman suggested the citizens call Mark when they need him.

Rod Churchwell suggested since Mark is new, he may need some training. He saw him run the grader, and it appeared he wasn't doing much constructive maintenance with it.

Judy Churchwell said it appears too little sand is coming out of the sanding truck. She asked if there was a policy for how far up a road is sanded.

Lorayne Stermitz acknowledged the citizens were used to a grader man who was familiar with roads and conditions and the fact that all the roads have unique characteristics to navigate. So the citizens are experiencing some growing pains with the new not knowing roads yet.

Durgan said a problem with smooth graded roads in the county is people start going faster on the roads and throw the gravel off and increase washboards.

Lahren reiterated the need for a road crew work plan and schedule, so if a part time sanding crew member is needed, it will be easier to find money for more personnel and sand. A work plan will also inform everyone of what's being done, and complaints can be directed to that log/schedule to show what work was or was not done. It will also help plan for the next fiscal year budget in order to avoid these same issues.

Hillman gave his county cell phone number to the citizens and offered to take their calls regarding road conditions.

@2:41:17 p.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 13, 2008

8:30 A.M. - Safety Meeting - Jim Durgan

10:00 A.M. - Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting (LEPC) - Jim Durgan

11:00 A.M. - Personnel Issue - Canceled

March 13, 2008

Personnel Issue

@11:30:11 a.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Durgan, Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present were Marilyn Hartley, accounting; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss a salary increase request.

There was discussion about a Commission memo sent to Hartley regarding expectations of a contracts management position, as well as accounting office job responsibilities and how the human resources manager is involved in accounting office duties.

Hartley requested a salary increase from Grade 12 to Grade 14. There was discussion about adjusting salaries in the middle of the budget year and some county department budgets being tight on funds. There was discussion about all accounting department budget funds coming from PILT monies. The county expects to lose a significant portion of its past PILT funds next fiscal year. There was discussion about waiting to consider salary adjustments until next fiscal year budgets are known and a salary matrix for county employees is completed. There was discussion about considering changing position titles in the accounting department after June 30, 2008, and department supervisory responsibilities are restructured.

The Commission postponed any decision on the salary adjustment request and title change until after the current FY ends on June 30, 2008.

@12:13:13 p.m. Durgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 13, 2008

2:00 P.M. - Fleshman Creek RFQ Review Committee - Canceled

March 13, 2008

Review of Correspondence, Public Contacts, and Determine Action Plan

@2:30:29 p.m. Chairman Lahren called a meeting to order in the Commissioner's Chambers. Commissioners Lahren and Murphy were present. Also present was Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller. There were no members of the public present, and no public comment was made.

The meeting was scheduled to review correspondence, public contacts and determine action plan. Correspondence included:

- MACo informational memo on outdated, obsolete statutes - To DePuy for review
- Montana Republican Party newsletter
- Letter from John Munis re. Wispering Pines road abandonment issue - To Lahren for review
- Memo re. mental health conference in Washington D.C.
- Dude Ranch Hotel in Billings
- Shields Valley Watershed Group meeting reminder
- Addiction and the Teenage Brain April 10 seminar re. nicotine addiction
- MACo candidate elections for offices
- Memo from John Wayhoff re. received letter of termination of employment at Gardiner Water District - To Gardiner Water District
- Memo from Park Rural Fire #1 response to legal opinion report re. formation of Park County Volunteer Fire Department - To Commissioners, DePuy, and file
- Memo from AP Clerk submit gas receipts
- MACo update from National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition re. trying to secure rural school title money and will come to a special vote - To Murphy for review
- Memo from Job Service re. employment law - To Miller for review
- Alfax catalogue
- Memo to Bruce Martin from Fire Suppression System re. bid to modify existing sprinkler system at courthouse - To Martin for review
- Memo to Lahren re. use of county parking lot for motorcycle tests - To Lahren for review
- DePuy weekly schedule
- IBM catalogue
- Memo from Mr. Evanoff of Gardiner Sewer District re. received termination letter - To Gardiner Sewer book
- RTI Bridge Solutions pamphlet - To Lahren for review
- Memo from Interagency Committee for Change by Women re. nominations

- Memo from MT Dept of Public Service Regulation transportation division re. seminar in Billings
- Letter from Dept of Commerce re. received application for CBDG program and are reviewing materials - To Benner for review
- Information on a free webinar re. online training for county and state governments - To Miller for review
- Memo from Marc Richards working on a CPIA report
- Memo from Harvest and Clean Energy re. biofuels
- Memo from Job Service re. next meeting - To Murphy for review
- Bid request for Whithorn archival enlargements - To Denton for action
- Yellowstone Gateway Museum staff time reports
- The Prevention Connection Center for Substance Abuse newsletter - To Murphy for review
- Memo from Mental Health re. MOAC summit agenda March 20-21 - To Murphy for review
- Hallett Minerals Company bid of \$12,555 re. blasting for Point of Rocks area road improvements - To Lahren, Hillman, file and road book
- Memo from DePuy re. budget meeting March 25
- Memo from Bill Moser re. brucellosis update
- Memo re. rural safety initiative funding applications due April 14 - To Benner for review
- Memo from Bob Evanoff re. his wrap-up efforts with Gardiner Sewer
- Memo from DePuy re. Yellowstone River bridge project EA comments
- Yellowstone Motor Inn Feb. 20 meeting minutes re. Yellowstone River bridge replacement
- MACo Mental Health pre commitment survey - To Murphy for review
- Roads and Bridges pamphlet
- Memo from Harddrives Construction of Billings re. road services and asphalt services - To Hillman for review
- Angelline directors minutes - To Murphy for review
- IT committee meeting minutes - To Durgan for review
- Phone memo from Paul Sneddan re. he would like to do a county employee appreciation dinner sometime between May 19 - 23

@3:15:01 p.m. Lahren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.

March 13, 2008

6:00 P.M. - Carbella Bridge Informational Meeting at Dome Mountain Ranch - 2017 US HWY 89 S.

@6:06:33 p.m. Commissioner Lahren called a meeting to order at the Dome Mountain Ranch Lodge. Commissioners Durgan and Lahren were present. Also present were Ed Hillman, county road supervisor; Peter Vandergrift, Livingston Enterprise; public citizens Colleen Nickerson; John Nickerson; Andrew Nickerson; Marty Malone; Mark Smith;

Matt Klumpp; Virginia Anderson; George Hedrick; Eleanor Stone; Kevin Gallagher; Jack and Melody DeKeepe; Ken Britton; Holli Traucht; Scott Traucht; Jerry Brekke; Warren McGee; Lori Roedell; and Commission Minutes Clerk John Mueller.

The meeting was scheduled as an informational meeting on the Carbella Bridge closure issue.

Since the last informational meeting in Gardiner on February 28, Lahren consulted with Kent Barnes, professional engineer, of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for evaluation. Barnes said the Carbella bridge is fixable. Lahren obtained a list of structural engineers and is looking into Treasure State Endowment Program grant funds for a bridge fix, which is estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

An engineer will be at the next scheduled meeting March 21 @ 6 p.m., @ Dome Mountain Ranch to report on his findings and fix proposal. The engineer is working on getting bids out to contractors. The engineering firm will sign off on the bridge, and the county's liability insurance will cover the bridge repair after it is signed off on by a professional engineer. The other option to repairing the bridge is a possible five-year bridge replacement effort with a non-historic bridge. A structural engineer gave a conservative estimate of 25 year for the life of the bridge after it is fixed.

The bridge repair will include a new, metal deck and guardrails on the inside edge of the bridge and on entrance ways to guard against vehicle/bridge collisions.

Lahren reiterated the county is looking into funding, has an engineering firm on board and is shooting for a July 1, 2008 completion date. There will be height and weight restriction limitations. There will be Old Yellowstone Trail South road improvements at the Point of Rocks area in conjunction with the bridge repair project. The road is in need of repair work for safety reasons and the amount of traffic it receives.

Informational updates on the road and bridge repair projects will be available on the Park County website.

Public comment was made by Kevin Gallagher. Gallagher asked if the quoted bridge repair cost estimate is for bridge repairs only or whether it includes the road work also. The estimate is for the bridge only. Gallagher asked if enough testing was conducted to ensure the bridge won't fall into the river. MDT is conducting that testing. Gallagher asked if pedestrians can walk across the bridge now. The bridge is closed to pedestrian traffic by the county per MDT recommendation due to safety concerns. Gallagher asked if work on Old Yellowstone Trail South at the Point of Rocks will be scheduled to not conflict with school children trying to get to school. The work will be scheduled to be completed at the best times possible.

Public comment was made by Marty Malone. Malone asked if the bridge weight limit would be lowered. The weight limit will be lowered. There was discussion that the community may have to help with the responsibility of informing individuals of the

weight limit. Malone asked if the road work on Old Yellowstone Trail South was a priority. It is of equal priority to the bridge repair.

Public comment was made by Virginia Anderson. Anderson asked whether the county could fix up the railroad bed and make a single traffic, one-way lane so an individual won't have to come up the hill to get out while the bridge is closed. The county is looking into that option, but that right-of-way is on Fish and Game land. Anderson said a bridge closed sign is needed further up the highway to better inform citizens traveling Highway 89 that the Carbella bridge is closed.

Public comment was made by Eleanor Stone. Stone asked if the county applied for or has received emergency grant funding. The county is applying for emergency grant funding. The Treasure State Endowment Program funds will cover the bridge repair engineering phase. The county will accept donations to repair the bridge, but it is optimistic funds can be found with a new fiscal year starting in July 2008.

Public comment was made from a citizen asking what new weight load limits on the bridge will be. That will be the engineer's decision. A height restriction bar will be placed on the repaired bridge to prohibit over-sized vehicles from crossing it.

Public comment was made by John Dickerson. Dickerson said if the load limit is reduced to 3 tons, then most newer pickups will exceed that off the showroom floor.

Public comment was made by Warren McGee. McGee said the county could put a gauntlet on each end of the bridge so heavy equipment can't get across it. There will be a guardrail installed to prevent some big trucks from crossing. McGee said the road at Point of Rocks is part of the original Yankee Jim toll road.

Commissioner Durgan said there will be challenges when fixing the road and bridge, and the county and citizens need to work together to get repair work completed.

@6:27:50 p.m. Lahren closed the meeting.

March 14, 2008

9:00 A.M. – Consider Fleshman Creek Project Engineering Study Award–  
Commissioner's Chambers - Canceled

Larry A. Lahren  
Chairman, Park County Commission  
Park County, Montana

Denise Nelson  
Clerk & Recorder  
Park County, Montana