County Commission  WS Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY
COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING
6:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022
COURTHOUSE COURTROOM

Present:  District 1 Commissioner Terry Vermeire, District 2 Commissioner Steve Gates, District 3 Commissioner Kevin Hart (Vice-Chair), District 4 Commissioner Paul Smith, District 5 Commissioner Mike Huotte, CEO Bill Everett, County Attorney Krakowka and Clerk of Commission Lori Sturm

Excused Absence:

Members of the Press: James Rosien, Leader

Members of the Public: Per Sign-In Sheet

Commissioner Huotte – Without objection of the Commission the Agenda will be amended to have Leigh Ann Holmes give us a COVID update.

Leigh Ann Holmes, Public Health Director – We were about 3 to 5 cases in the county for a couple of months, but we have been hit by the Omicron variant. We currently have 63 cases in the county. The new recommendation for a short period of time is to limit meetings like this. Some counties are even going back to a Stage 2 type restrictions using universal masking and limiting events. My plea is not to approve any Special Events right now until this surge is over. Fully vaccinated people are having very mild cases, some don’t even think they could be positive, but they are. People who are not vaccinated are getting hit hard. We do not have any current hospitalizations and have not had any additional deaths. Believes our community is highly vaccinated, even the High School is at 65% vaccinated. Our elders are in the 90% vaccinated area and believes that is why we are doing as well as we are. Expect in the next week the cases will double and we will be in the hundreds.

• CEO Everett – Thanked Leigh Ann and her team. They have done a phenomenal job.
• Commissioner Hart – It has been reported that 40% of individuals going to hospitals or Dr.’s offices nationwide for any illness are testing positive for the Omicron virus.
• CEO Everett – Keep in mind that if the Commission puts regulations on the county that are stricter than the state, we lose about 20% of our grants, such as water and sewer grants. Gianforte is very clear.

Appointment of Erick Thomas Brittain as the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Fire Chief/Ambulance Director as of January 10, 2022

CEO Everett – We advertised nationally and had some phenomenal candidates from around the country and even one of our own firefighters applied. Commissioner Vermeire participated in the interviews; it was a unanimous decision from the interview committee that Erick would be the guy. He is the perfect guy at the perfect time for what we want to do with our fire
department. We keep evolving department’s, public health is a great example. It is time for evolution to happen in our fire/ambulance department. The first step is to put in place a way to get our EMT’s up to paramedics. That will be a huge asset. He also understands the building cycles and ways to maximize building for ambulance emergency care. Believes we will have a huge infusion of revenue. We will also be looking at our borders or boundaries that the local city fire department oversees. We have to see who receives the benefit of the full-time fire department and who is contributing to that department. Erick will be here next week.

- **Commissioner Vermeire** – He is well qualified and his reasons for moving here were quite adequate such as family in Bozeman. He is motivated, smart and will do a fantastic job.
- **County Attorney Krakowka** – I had the opportunity to meet Erick. We talked about his qualifications, and he will be a great addition to the community.

**Place on Agenda**

**Cooperative Agreement between Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and Board of Health**

**Leigh Ann Holmes** – This is generally presented by the board of health, but our board of health is shrinking. We have a cooperative agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the Board of Health are the sanitarians who do the inspections for the food establishments. I am presenting this as the health officer at this time.

**Place on Agenda**

**Task Order Amendment Number Four Task Order for PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Task Order Number 20-07-6-11-017-0**

**Leigh Ann Holmes** – We have a contract with Public Health Emergency Preparedness and started out with a basic Task Order. As more money or Covid funding comes from the federal government they have made amendments. This is the fourth amendment. I had applied for “Work Force Crisis Supplemental Funding” from July 1 2021 – June 30th, 2023; that was approved to hire an additional RN to help with Covid activities. However, we have not been able to recruit and hire another RN. This would help support the Work Force Crisis Supplemental Funding. If we don’t hire someone, nothing changes. The funding will exist as it has.

**Place on Agenda**
Award of Bid for the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Police Digital and Analog Portable Radio’s

CEO Everett – If you listen to dispatch or a scanner you can barely make out what they are saying. Dunne led us in the right direction, and we put out a proposal and the only one who responded was Dunne Communication. Other providers could not even come close to the price that Dunne was talking about. It is nice to see a local guy come through and provide us with the right equipment.

Place on Agenda

Resolution No. 22-04, A Resolution Adopting a Building Permit Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 2022

Carl Hamming, Planning Director – This is an annual that needs to be reviewed and formally adopt the building fee schedule. About a year ago we dramatically decreased our building permit fees. We have no proposed changes currently.
- CEO Everett – I am a big fan of this as well. Cutting our fee’s last year showed a heck of a statement for the direction this county is heading. We are very progressive in building.

Place on Agenda

Resolution No. 22-05, A Resolution Establishing Registration Fees and Inspection Fees for Ordinance No. 256 Vacant Registry and Vacant Structure Registration Requirements for Calendar Year 2022.

Carl Hamming, Planning Director – This is another Resolution that requires review. We are not proposing any changes at this time. Our previous Code Enforcement Officer has switched to the Parks Department. We are trying to hire a Code Enforcement Officer for this position. We want to have this Fee schedule on the books for when we do have a Code Enforcement Officer.

Place on Agenda

Award of CDBG Grant, ADA Street Corner Inventory and ADA Transition Plan. (one bid received – Great West Engineering)

Carl Hamming, Planning Director – The County was awarded $30,000 for the CDBG Planning Grant for the ADA Street Corner inventory. Great West Engineering is a reputable firm out of Helena and has done a lot of CDBG work. They have done this type of project in several other communities. They submitted a complete proposal. Would like to award this contract to Great West to assist us with this ADA project.

Place on Agenda
FY2022 County Motor Vehicle Graveyard Grant for Deer Lodge County JV Graveyard Anaconda

Carl Hamming, Planning Director – I do not have a lot of personal knowledge on this; I inherited this from Mr. Ungaretti. The DEQ has already approved this grant and it just needs your signature to get the funds for this year’s contract.
  • CEO Everett – This is an annual grant.

Place on Agenda

Request for a Public Hearing for the Old Works Estates major subdivision by Discover Anaconda (formerly ALDC) [Suggested Date of February 1, 2022]

Carl Hamming Planning Director – The Planning Board meeting had a Public Hearing on January 10th for the Preliminary Plat approval for the Old Works Estate subdivision. This is a 34 residential lot subdivision in what is commonly referred to as the A1 tracts between Pizzini and Goosetown Road. The Planning Board recommended approval of the subdivision and the information will be submitted to the Commission at the public hearing date. This is just to request a public hearing date. The Local Development Corporation now “Discover Anaconda“ is working with the Alloy group to prepare the bid package and have it ready in the next couple of weeks. We want to work together on the streets and infrastructure this spring and summer.

Place on Agenda

Resignation of Megan Rediske from the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Board of Health.

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Board of Adjustments by Donna Kostelecky

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Board of Adjustments by Judy Barber

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Request for Appointment to the Board of Adjustments by Jerry Arneson

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Request for Appointment to the Board of Adjustments by Steve Boyer

Place on Agenda

Special Event Permit, Anaconda Job Corps – Laser Tag at the Dwyer School, February 5, 2022.

CEO Everett – We heard this evening from Leigh Ann talking about Special Events. Believes this one is unique because the only kids at the Dwyer will be kids already associated with each other all day. As far as Covid I don’t see a chance of transmission.

• Jeremy Perlinger, Anaconda Job Corps – I run the recreation program. We used Dwyer before Covid to do a Nerf gun event and it was a lot of fun. I have been working with Joe Ungaretti. We would be the only ones there. The students generally do not get off center much anymore. The only time we have been off center is snow shoeing or cross county skiing. There is no public interaction, and they are isolated. The Laser Tags are incredible machines and a lot of fun. The student’s love them and they play all the time on center. We would just like a different venue to go to and have it a bit different.

• Commissioner Hart – Asked if this would be limited only to the Job Corps? Would there be spectators or just a closed event?

• Jeremy Perlinger – “Yes” only the students and staff in answer. I know the school has been broken into several times. We would be willing to help . . . such as painting. I can bring in students when there is no one else there. I have talked to Joe about this.

• CEO Everett – You guys are fantastic. You are a blessing to have and are partners in the community.

• Commissioner Huotte – Commented about the fact that they are together every day, and they have the sign off from the federal government.

Place on Agenda

Special Event Permit, Friends of the Hearst Free Library – Chocolate, Wine and Cheese Fundraiser, February 13, 2022

CEO Everett – It has been done on an annual basis. Hopefully Sam will be here next week for questions.

• County Attorney Krakowka – It would be good to place on the agenda and then we could hear from our public health nurse and Sam about this and make an informed decision.

• Commissioner Hart - Get in contact with Sam and he may want to come with an alternative date.

Place on Agenda
MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Hart – No Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Gates – No Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Smith – No Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Vermeire – No Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Huotte – No Miscellaneous

CEO Everett – No Miscellaneous.

County Attorney Krakowka – Last week there was a question about whether the advertisement was sufficient for the public hearings. I have had an opportunity review the advertisement, previous advertisements and conduct some research. My conclusion is that it was adequate. The requirement of public notice is to provide an opportunity to inform the public that there will be a meeting, provide the topic, and when and where it will be occurring. In this case there were 3 items contained in one notice. They were advertised publicly and if you read the notice a person could see that there were 3 separate items of discussion. It possibly could have been phrased differently, such as listing by number and topic. For the purpose of legislative intent and complying with the law . . . it complied and met the requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose Nyman – Another brain teaser for the Commission. I was always told that you cannot advertise in government. Gave example that if a commissioner opened a business, he could not put up a sign on one of the bulletin boards, or a sign of advertisement on the courthouse lawn. Is that Correct?

- County Attorney Krakowka – Asked Rose to restate the question.

- Rose Nyman – Asking if a business can advertise on government property, specifically Deer Lodge County?

- County Attorney Krakowka – I would have to check for a specific rule against this. I can see situations in which it would be envisioned that a business would be permitted to advertise on county property. If you consider advertising such as a name or decal . . . Dodge and Chevrolet are advertising all over the place on County vehicles.

- Rose Nyman – Asked if advertising on county property would provide an advantage over another business?

- County Attorney Krakowka – It would depend on the nature of the advertisement, where it was occurring and how they obtained permission. I need more specific information about the advertising and cannot give a more specific answer.
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- **Rose Nyman** – I did check other hearing notices and they provide the legal description of the property.
- **CEO Everett** – Usually if you have an advertisement, someone will call and say what are you talking about. Any legal description . . . they usually do not understand.

**Meeting Dates**

Commissioner Huotte read the meeting date and times

**Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Lori Sturm
Clerk of Commission

Mike Huotte
Commission Chair