County Commission Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

ANACONDA-DEER LODEGE COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
6 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022
COURTHOUSE COURTROOM

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

Excused Absence: Commissioner Kevin Hart (Vice-Chair)

Members of the Press: James Rosien, Anaconda Leader

Members of the Public: Per Sign-In Sheet

Commissioner Huotte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Huotte explained the Commission rules of procedure.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Commission meeting of January 4, 2022; and the Commission Work Session Meeting of January 11, 2022

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Minutes from the Commission meeting of January 4, 2022; and the Commission Work Session Meeting of January 11, 2022; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

Approval of Claims

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to authorize the payment of claims numbered 138198 through 138304 in the amount of $247,240.94 Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

• Leigh Ann Holmes Public Health by Speaker Phone – Provided a COVID update to the Commission. As of today, there are 123 active cases including 30 patients at the state hospital. Reported that there was another death last night, a nursing home resident. There are 4 residents at the nursing home and 11 staff that are positive. The
Jr/Sr High School is closed for the rest of the week because they have 18 faculty and 90 students. (Thirty students are positive and the 60 are close contacts). It is expected that this will taper off over the next few weeks.

- **CEO Everett** – Questioned about the vaccinated and non-vaccinated and a comparison of how they are affected?
- **Leigh Ann Holmes** – Typically people who are fully vaccinated and have a booster are having less severe symptoms. This can also be problematic because they are not sick enough to stay home and do not know they have been exposed. Example of a runny nose and a slight headache. We have had some severe folks who have not been vaccinated. Our strategy is that a lot of people are positive. We are trying to get the word out through flyers at the grocery stores, social media etc. What to do if you are exposed or test positive. The best line of defense is the vaccine.

- **Commissioner Gates** – Nothing to Report.
- **Commissioner Smith** – Nothing to Report.
- **Commissioner Vermeire** – Attended the Old Works Golf Course Authority Board Meeting and a DUI Task Force Meeting.
- **Commissioner Huotte** – Attended the Old Works Golf Course Authority Board Meeting and the Greenway Service District Meeting.
- **CEO Everett** – Nothing to Report.
- **County Attorney Krakowka** – Attended the DUI Task Force and an ACI Meetings.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

**CEO Everett** – Excited about this hire. We advertised this throughout the country. We had a lot of great applicants, but one application stood out and it was Erick’s. His background in paramedics is phenomenal and he has a great sense of fire fighting background. His personality is perfect for Anaconda. We have some great ideas moving forward such as more about paramedics instead of EMT’s as we do a lot of transport for the hospital. We are going to look at our boarders of fire boundaries and how to possibly expand. He is also going to look at the building structure of the services we provide to increase revenue.

- **Erick Brittain, Fire Chief** – Thanked the CEO and Board of Commission for entrusting him with the honor of this historic town and department and the Citizens of Anaconda. I take direction from the CEO, the Commission and I work for YOU. No doubt that the people sitting with me tonight are a shining example of commitment, compassion, and courage. From this day forward, myself and my team will strive to make this organization faster, safer, and stronger. I look forward to the future. Cannot wait to learn, lead and to teach.
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Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Appointment of Erick Thomas Brittain as the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Fire Chief/Ambulance Director as of January 10, 2022; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Cooperative Agreement between Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and Board of Health; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve Task Order Amendment Number Four Task Order for PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Task Order Number 20-07-6-11-017-0; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to Award of Bid for the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Police Digital and Analog Portable Radio’s to Dunne Communications Inc.; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve Resolution No. 22-04, A Resolution Adopting a Building Permit Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 2022; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0
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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.

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve 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; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Award of CDBG Grant, ADA Street Corner Inventory and ADA Transition Plan to Great West Engineering; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

FY2022 County Motor Vehicle Graveyard Grant for Deer Lodge County JV Graveyard Anaconda II (JVCG-0078)

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the FY2022 County Motor Vehicle Graveyard Grant for Deer Lodge County JV Graveyard Anaconda II (JVCG-0078); Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve a Request for a Public Hearing for the Old Works Estates major subdivision by Discover Anaconda for February 1, 2022; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0
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Resignation of Megan Rediske from the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Board of Health

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Resignation of Megan Rediske from the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Board of Health; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

Request for Reappointment to the Board of Adjustments by Donna Kostelecky

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Reappointment of Donna Kostelecky to the Board of Adjustments; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

Request for Reappointment to the Board of Adjustments by Judy Barber

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Reappointment of Judy Barber to the Board of Adjustments; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

Request for Appointment to the Board of Adjustments by Jerry Arneson

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Appointment of Jerry Arneson to the Board of Adjustments; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

Request for Appointment to the Board of Adjustments by Steve Boyer

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Appointment of Steve Boyer to the Board of Adjustments; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

Special Event Permit, Anaconda Job Corps – Laser Tag at the Dwyer School, February 5, 2022 (Pending Certificate of Insurance)

CEO Everett – There is a little difference of opinion . . . the Job Corps is stating that they do not believe they need a Certificate of Insurance because they are a federal entity.

- Discussion followed between the CEO, the County Attorney, and some of the Commission. Brought up facts such as the certificate of insurance is designed to protect the county. Insurance is required for events such as Easter egg hunts. The CEO brought
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up the that the Commission could do a waiver and noted that waivers do not hold up in court. This is for Laser Tag in the Dwyer School building.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Special Event Permit, Anaconda Job Corps – Laser Tag at the Dwyer School, February 5, 2022, Pending Certificate of Insurance; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0


Commissioner Huotte – Pointed out that Sam has reached out to the Public Health Director, and she had signed off on their plans.

- CEO Everett – I talked with Leigh Ann as well and she is fine with it. She was able to make some agreements and we also hope by the middle of February that the Omicron virus will have run through us.

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Special Event Permit, Friends of the Hearst Free Library – Chocolate, Wine and Cheese Fundraiser, February 13, 2022; Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Advertise for Bid – Arbiter Major Subdivision Water and Sewer Main Extensions

Mike Johnson, Alloy – Hoping to advertise for bid for the Arbiter Major Subdivision mainly Water and Sewer Extensions in the subdivision. You have an Engineer’s Estimate, a set of plans and a set of specifications. If you divide the subdivision in half and focus on the West half, looking at mainly a water extension. That would be to service 3 main lots within the subdivision. (East of East town pump and on Arbiter Plant Road) On the East half of the subdivision there is some existing water infrastructure, so this would be to extend the sewer line that was partially built. The project is about 12,000 feet of water main and about 790 feet of sewer main. That would include 3 sewer manholes and 4 services for water for the new lots and 4 services for the sewer. There will be very little road restoration, not a major paving.

CEO Everett – We have a lot of projects going forth this summer. We will be tearing the city apart this summer as well.

- County Attorney Krakowska – It is inconvenient when you are driving around in construction, but when the new roads are done it is nice to drive.
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Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Request to Advertise for Bid – Arbiter Major Subdivision Water and Sewer Main Extensions; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.  

Motion Carried 4-0  

MISCELLANEOUS  

- Commissioner Gates - No Miscellaneous.  
- Commissioner Smith – No Miscellaneous.  
- Commissioner Vermeire – I thought there was going to be a pinning of the Fire Chief tonight?  
  - CEO Everett – We have not done anything like that.  
  - Erick Brittain - Informed the CEO that the badge was not received in time for a pinning.  
  - CEO Everett – Maybe we could do something outside of the Commission.  
- Commissioner Huotte – I did not mention at the beginning that Commissioner Hart was excused tonight.  
- CEO Everett – No Miscellaneous  
- County Attorney – Reported that he did look up a pinning for Erick. When he gets the badge . . . we can have a pinning ceremony.  

PUBLIC COMMENT  

Rose Nyman – Pinning ceremonies have been done for Probationary Firemen. Expressed appreciation for the Snow Removal done. The Road Department has been putting in a lot of hours. The Historic Resource Board held the first “Speaker Series”, and it was a great success. Brought up the status of the URA money for snow removal. Did that contractor work?  
  - CEO Everett – Steve Johnson Construction . . . there was $20,000 set aside. Moving snow is like moving dirt and it is expensive. I don’t like to use the county crews for Commercial and Park as it is not ours. That money was budgeted from TIF to help clean up with the state. The state does a fantastic job, but people need to understand how much roadway they must deal with. The first priority is to keep the roads clear and dealing with parking and side snow is for free time.  
  - Rose Nyman – It is my understanding that the URA grant had to be used throughout the URA district?  
  - CEO Everett – I don’t know how that would be . . . as we do projects. That is sort of impossible. The state is helping, and it is slowly getting cleaned up, and then we will have another snowstorm.
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ADLC Meeting Dates and Times

Commissioner Huotte - Read the meeting dates and times.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Lori Sturm
Clerk of Commission

Mike Huotte
Commission Chair