County Commission  WS Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022

ANAConDA-DeER LODGE COUNTY
COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING
6:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022
COURTHOUSE COUTROOM

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, and Clerk of Commission Lori Sturm

Excused Absence: CEO Bill Everett and County Attorney Krakowka (arrived late)

Members of the Press: James Rosien, Leader

Members of the Public: Per Sign-In Sheet

Commissioner Huotte – Announced that CEO Everett and County Attorney Krakowka are both
excused for this evening’s meetings.

Presentation – Report from the Urban Renewal Agency TIF

Adam Vauthier – Every 6 months the Urban Renewal Agency TIF board is supposed to do a
presentation. We did not do that last July. I have done a comprehensive report from before I
was assisting as the administrator; I went back to the inception of the Renewal Agency and
went through each project that was completed starting in 2015. Reminded the Commission
how the Urban Renewal Agency works. These are put together in mostly historical Commercial
Districts and the Urban Renewal Plan gives the Urban Renewal Agency powers that other TIF
districts do not have. We use almost all our funds to do private contracts with private
businesses for building restoration and support. There are 2 sets of papers, one set lists every
project by date; and the second is broken down by each group or business that received funds.
At this time the renewal agency and the county have remitted about $878,938.00 in grants to
businesses; all of which had a 50% match. Right now, the total administrative expenses on the
district have been $33,642.74 which is about 3.83%. The ordinance currently allows 5% of the
funds to go to administration. There is one mistake in the report . . . doubled on Durston Park
project. The district was started in 2015 so we are in the seventh year of the URA district and by
state law it is set to sunset in 2030.

Job Description for the Road/Shop Department for an Operator/Teamster

Wayne Wendt, Road Foreman – We had a Teamster move on to another job, so we were
looking at the Job Description and found some discrepancies on Class A CDL. There were a few
items that were contradictory.

Place on Agenda
Resolution No. 22-06, A Resolution Requesting Distribution of Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Program Funds

Wayne Wendt, Road Foreman – This is the same we have done for the past 3 or 4 years. The Resolution must be passed and name a project where the funds are going. These funds will be going to the Daly Project. The Resolution must be passed to ask for the funds.

Place on Agenda

Application to Town Pump for a Library Grant to ‘Keep Kids Reading’

Commissioner Huotte – Mr. Walters is not here this evening, but we did this last year. It is for a $1000.00 grant.

Place on Agenda

Award of Bid for the Daly Addition

Commissioner Huotte – This is with WET and the total bid with Hoffman was a little over 1.3 million. Mr. Laslovich’s recommendation is to award to Hoffman.

Place on Agenda

Task Order Amendment Number One – Task Order for Healthy Montana Families – Task Order Number 22-25-5-51-160-0

Place on Agenda

Proclamation Designating May 21st, 2022 as “Kids to Parks Day” Proclamation for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County – National Park Trust

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Tax Appeal Board by Dusty McKenzie. (Letter attached) {2 vacancies available}

Place on Agenda
Request for Reappointment to the Tax Appeal Board by Sandi Wenger. (Letter attached) {2 vacancies available}

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Police Commission by Kurt Tarkelson (Letter attached) 2 vacancies available

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Police Commission by Gene Lutey (Letter attached) {2 vacancies available}

Place on Agenda

Request for Reappointment to the Park and Recreation Board by Chad Gochenour (Letter attached)

Place on Agenda

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hart – No Miscellaneous.
Commissioner Gates – No Miscellaneous.
Commissioner Smith – No Miscellaneous.
Commissioner Vermeire – No Miscellaneous.
Commissioner Huotte – No Miscellaneous.
County Attorney Krakowka – No Miscellaneous. (Arrived at 6:12)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erick Brittaiin, Fire Chief – Reported that he did an analysis of the bunker gear within the department. On inspection all the bunker gear is out of compliance. Within the next few months all will be out of the 10-year compliance. This could be a significant risk to firefighter safety. My recommendation is to identify and catalog all turn-out gear, destroy turnout gear with the manufactured date before March 22, 2012. Implement and draft an SOP dealing with care and maintenance of bunker gear, currently there is none. None of the bunker gear had been inspected prior to my arrival. The bunker gear is currently washed with a normal washing machine and not a commercial extractor which significantly decreases the life of the bunker gear. My recommendation would be to reappropriate line item 950 which I believe is for the parking lot and to purchase all members of Anaconda Fire Department at least one set of compliant gear. I do have a quote for about $34,153.00 which is a significant savings to the county.
• **Commissioner Hart** – Asked if this had this been presented to the Chief Executive and if the purchase would be coming out of capital improvements?
• **Erick Brittain** – Informed the Commission the CEO was aware and that he recommended that I be here tonight.
• **Commissioner Hart** – The purchase would be coming out of capital improvements... did he say that this was approved? Is that someplace that he felt it could be paid from?
• **Erick Brittain** – “It has not been approved.” Explained there is about $85,000 for the parking lot.
• **Commissioner Hart** – The gear is an absolute necessity to make sure our firefighters are safe.

**Commissioner Huotte** - This will be on new business on April 5th meeting.

**Meeting Dates**

Commissioner Huotte read the meeting date and times.

**Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Lori Sturm  
Clerk of Commission

Mike Huotte  
Commission Chair