County Commission Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
6 P.M. TUESDAY, May 3, 2022
COURTHOUSE COURTROOM

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

Excused Absence: District 3 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 April 19, 2022; the Commission Work Session Meeting of April 26, 2022, and the Special Commission Meeting of April 26, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Minutes from the Commission meeting of April 19, 2022; the Commission Work Session Meeting of April 26, 2022, and the Special Commission Meeting of April 26, 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 138899 through 138970 in the amount of $179,094.52; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS

- Commissioner Gates – Attended a Head Start Policy Council Meeting last Thursday via Zoom.
- Commissioner Smith – Nothing to Report.
• **Commissioner Vermeire** – Attended the Airport Board Meeting and there was no quorum.

• **Commissioner Huotte** – Attended on Monday May 2nd the Old Works Golf Course Board Meeting

• **CEO Everett** – Reported that he met with Atlantic Richfield. Moving forward with the covering of the slag pile. Last week had a meeting with Bob Rowe, CEO of NW Energy, and the Board of Directors. Senator Tester and Senator Daines attended. We are pushing hard on the solar project. There is also an interesting concept of the possibility of expansion of the Dave Gates power plant. It would accomplish the same purpose as the solar plant in that it would increase our tax base by about two hundred million dollars. These are possibilities and have to be worked through a process. Also met with BrightNight, a solar company. The main concept is to create firm electricity. The idea is to push a button and electricity is readily available. With solar power that is not always an option. Reported about the trial held last week. Thanked the police department for doing an amazing job in handling the investigation. Thanked the County Attorney Ben Krakowka and his office in doing a fabulous job in presenting the case.

• **County Attorney Krakowka** – Informed the Commission of having the 2nd jury trial we have had since the court has loosened the covid restrictions. It was a 5-day trial, and I was pleased with the results. Thanked Bill for his support and the courtroom security that was needed in this case.

Public Hearing

A Major Subdivision request by Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC) to subdivide a tract of land in the East Yards parcel of Anaconda. The plat proposes the creation of 18 non-residential lots from the existing 91-acres. The land is located in the Railroad Transitional Development District. The subject property is located south of Montana Highway 1 and north of Smelter Rd.

Public Hearing Opened at 6:07

**Commissioner Huotte** – Requested Public Comment three times. No Comments were given

Public Hearing Closed at 6:08

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Five Percent Inflation Index Increase for County Employees.

**Commissioner Huotte** – For the Record Commissioner Hart could not be here tonight but asked me to pass along his support for this.

• **CEO Everett** – I was also informed to state Commissioner Harts blessing and approval of this. To restate briefly inflation has gotten the best of us. We have 8.6% inflationary index happening, social security went up 6.9%, increase in cost of eggs, milk and housing and gas. All are contributing heavily to the cost of living. For that reason, I ask the
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Commission to approve a five percent pay raise. I have spelled it out very clearly so there would be no confusion with unions. We have the dollars in our budget to make this happen. It will help with the retention of employees as well as recruiting new employees.

- **County Attorney Krakowka** – One of my big concerns is retaining quality employees. I spend a great deal of time and energy training them and getting them ready for court. I believe this will assist in retaining employees in my office and providing services to our community.

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve a 5% Health Insurance Contribution Increase to $820 per employee and a 5% base salary or hourly wage Increase for All Full Time and Part Time Employees and all Union Employee’s Excluding APPA Police Union Members and Seasonal Employees. (To further clarify, base salary and hourly wage does not include for example the following items: longevity, clothing allowance, pension, stipends, licensing, tool allowance, trainings, and endorsement pay.); Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

**Designation of Deer Lodge County Earmarked Alcohol Tax Money.**

- Clerks Note – Motion on 4/19/22 did not name the Designation of Deer Lodge County Earmarked Tax Money to the CCCS SMART Corp.

**Commissioner Smith** – Disclosed that CCCS the SMART program is a sister company where I work at community counseling and corrections.

- **CEO Everett** – Institutions right now that provide adequate mental health are a rarity in the state of Montana. We have had a lot of issues over the past 4 years. Dealing with CCCS has been fantastic. All the feedback we get from the police Department, County Attorney and members of the community have been very positive.

- **County Attorney Krakowka** – I agree with the CEO.

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Designation of Deer Lodge County Earmarked Alcohol Tax Money to the CCCS SMART Corp; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

**Designation of Polling locations for the 2022 Federal/Primary Election**

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Designation of Polling locations for the 2022 Federal/Primary Election as shown by attached letter; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0
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Designation of Election Judges for the 2022 Federal/Primary Election

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to approve the Designation of Election Judges for the 2022 Federal/Primary Election as show by attached letter; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

Ground Transport Services and Lease Agreement between Life Flight Network, LLC, and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Motion made by Commissioner Vermeire to take action to approve the Ground Transport Services and Lease Agreement between Life Flight Network, LLC, and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County; Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion Carried 4-0

Request for Appointment to the Health Board by Katie Gruss.

Motion made by Commissioner Gates to take action to appoint Katie Gruss as a member to the Health Board; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.

Motion Carried 4-0

Resolution 22-08 - Boundaries of the Special Improvement Lighting District No. 150. (Daly Addition) (Linden Street, Lincoln Ave, Hayes Ave., Garfield Ave., and Hemlock)

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve Resolution 22-08 – Boundaries of the Special Improvement Lighting District No. 150. (Daly Addition) (Linden Street, Lincoln Ave, Hayes Ave., Garfield Ave., and Hemlock); Seconded by Commissioner Gates.

Motion Carried 4-0

Major Subdivision request by Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC) to subdivide a tract of land in the East Yards parcel of Anaconda. The plat proposes the creation of 18 non-residential lots from the existing 91-acres. The land is located in the Railroad Transitional Development District.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to take action to approve the Major Subdivision request by Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC) to subdivide a tract of land in the East Yards parcel of Anaconda. The plat proposes the creation of 18 non-residential lots from the existing 91-acres; Seconded by Commissioner Vermeire.
NEW BUSINESS – No New Business

MISCELLANEOUS

- Commissioner Gates – No Miscellaneous
- Commissioner Smith – No Miscellaneous.
- Commissioner Vermeire – No Miscellaneous.
- Commissioner Huotte – No Miscellaneous
- CEO Everett – Provided a brief synopsis of construction projects:
  - In the East Yards the Economic Development Area you will see crews on the East and West on Hwy 1. In the East they are putting in turn lanes and then the construction will move into creating a new road that will be adjacent to the Town Pump going to our Economic development area. We are trying to get the Highway done before the state comes in and chip seals. They will be coming from the rest area into town. We want a smooth transition
  - East Yards Industrial Development Area – The other side of the highway. All is going smooth. We have water lines and most of the sewer lines in. Project is on schedule.
  - Housing Subdivision – This is close to the Old Works golf course. There will be a 34 homes subdivision. We have pipe in place. Asked Chief Police Sather to inform his officers on duty to keep an eye out on the supplies stationed in three places. Would hate to have someone steal our stuff.
  - Residential Development revamping . . . the area behind West Thriftway. Crews should be mobilized today. We will start tearing out streets soon. Construction will be in full bloom.
  - Murdoch’s should be breaking ground this week or next. All is on schedule. We have a lot of cool stuff happening.
- County Attorney – No Miscellaneous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Goddard – Spoke on 2 topics: Anaconda is at war and that is the war on drugs. That is one of the reasons for the increase in our police department. We have 2 doctors in town who are psychiatrists who deal with the drug issues. They need to have these issues taken care of. Money is being appropriated for opiate use and Dr.’s are responsible for that problem. This is a serious issue for drugs. Each person we take away from meth use we are protecting our community. Anaconda can work with Dr. Baker and Dr. Ray (both psychiatrists) trying to rehab these people. They would like to see a rehab center put into one designated use. Believes this is currently this is a catch and release program for our police . . . they catch them and when their defense comes up . . . the judges release them. We need to rehab and succeed in solving the problem. Approach from the medical end of the field . . . both Dr.’s would like to be
involved in getting a rehab program. The older buildings are a big value to me. In November I will be speaking at the Forge about the homes.

- Informed the Commission about personally taking “drug homes” and converting them into homes for myself and my family. Talked about a home that exists at 812 Cherry. The deed is dated 1884. This was a Wing home and is a family home and has not been designated as a historic home. I would like to take this home and restore it back to a wing home. Provided the Commission with some history about this home Would like the Commission to be aware of the historic value.

Kayleen Kidwell, MSU Extension – Introduced herself to the Commission and explained that she is currently working on a needs assessment. Informed the Commission that she would be emailing them and asked if they would be willing to speak with her about some of the needs in the community.

**ADLC Meeting Dates and Times**

**Commissioner Huotte** - Read the meeting dates and times.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Lori Sturm  
Clerk of Commission

Mike Huotte  
Commission Chair