REGULAR MEETING
April 19, 2022

PRESENT
Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton, Chair, Mark Crago and Steve Riveland, members. Heidi Stadel, Clerk & Recorder.

Others Present: Stephanie Ray, Economic Development; Christine Baker, Planning; Forrest Mandeville; Randy Smith, SCSO; Chip Kern, SCSO; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Rich Cowger; CRFD; Citizens: Jeff Ruffatto, Jadyn Baker, Caydence Martin, Linda Halstead-Acharya, Gwen Aubrey

PLEDGE
Commissioner Hamilton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES
March 29, 2022. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve the minutes. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS
109309 through 109415 in the amount of $168,110.09. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve claims 109309 through 109415 in the amount of $168,110.09. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Commissioner Hamilton announced that the traveling agenda meeting is Tuesday May 3, 2022 at the Reed Point Fire Hall. The traveling agenda meetings for June and July have been changed to June 14 and July 12, 2022. The June meeting date falls on election day and the July date is after the 4th of July and the Commission would like to give people the opportunity to attend.

FILE ITEMS
Sheriff
A) Sheriff’s report for the month of March in the amount of $400.00.
B) Sheriff’s quarterly report in the amount of $950.00.

Commissioner Crago MOVED to file the file items. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Economic Development
A) A & E contract for designs & construction administrations services for fairgrounds project. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve A & E contract for designs & construction administrations services for fairgrounds project. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Stephanie Ray explained that the FCIP Committee has been meeting over the last several weeks to pivot the project focus from the Law & Justice Center to the fairgrounds. The committee has been working with the stakeholders and the Commission on a programming phase that fits both the intent of the user group and the budget. Phase I will be civil site work, which consists of egress and ingress from Sheep Dip Road, grading, septic, connection to potable water and vertical construction of the pavilion and a livestock building. The pavilion is scheduled to be approximately 12,000 square feet and the livestock building at approximately 21,000 square feet. The project is fully funded and have identified funding mechanisms for this project. The design phase is currently being entered with an aggressive schedule with the intent to turn dirt for the project in September of 2022 with the vertical construction scheduled for the spring of 2023. The bid advertisements for the pre-engineered building will be out this week. Commissioner Crago
noted that the funding identified for this project are mostly metal mines money. The money identified for the fairgrounds project do not affect the funding of the Law & Justice Center or any of the other projects moving forward. Commissioner Hamilton added that the bulk of the funding is metal mines money. This is a contract which will be put in place and is dependent on the bids for the steel structure coming back within the range of the budget before dirt is ever turned. There will be some preliminary work out of this but construction management and other expenditures won’t come unless the project is a go and falls within the budget parameters. The budget is currently $6,800,000.00. This contract total is $548,045.00. Motion passed unanimously.

B) A & E contract for designs & construction administrations services for Road & Bridge projects. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve A & E contract for designs & construction administrations services for Road & Bridge projects. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. Discussion – Ron Van Hoosear asked if this is for the Road & Bridge projects that are in the current CIP or what are these projects. Stephanie Ray responded that the Road & Bridge projects are the campus projects located on the current Road & Bridge campus. During the original FCIP process the Commission had envisioned the Weed & Facilities shop on the north side of the interstate to be part of the larger development of that area. When the project was tabled, there was still a need to find services and office space for Facilities and to update the Weed department into a more modern working environment. The county had space available in the Road & Bridge shop that was underutilized. The Road & Bridge Superintendent, Facilities, Commissioners, Weed Department and the Weed Board worked to repurpose the underutilized space and it was determined that it would work. The team started looking into revamping the campus into a larger public works facility. The projects will include reskinnning the mechanic bay, reroofing the mechanic shop, internal construction on the Road & Bridge bays, repurpose areas for offices for the Weed Department and Facilities. There will be wash bays installed for all departments out there. A new well will be drilled. There will be a new vehicle storage facility and sand shed. There will be a fill station and perimeter fencing and a new entrance for the Weed Departments. This will be several projects to make this a fully functional space for all of the aforementioned departments. Commissioner Hamilton noted that this is not part of the general FCIP plan but an independent project. Stephanie Ray added that this is a significant cost savings for the county versus new construction. Commissioner Hamilton also added that the majority of this funding is Road & Bridge capital improvement funds and Weed Department capital improvement funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Facilities
A) Vehicle purchase request. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the vehicle purchase request. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Riveland explained that this is a request for an F-150 crew cab for the Facilities maintenance program. The bid quote is for $38,679.95 from Beartooth Ford. Commissioner Crago explained that part of this request is due to the Commission asking Facilities to start maintaining outlying road shops and solid waste facilities. This will give Facilities reliable transportation to haul items to repair to and from outlying areas. Commissioner Hamilton added that there only other pick up is a two-wheel drive full size diesel pickup so this vehicle is four-wheel drive and is more economical. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission
A) Compensation Board appointments. Commissioner Crago MOVED to re-appoint Natasha Sailer to the compensation board. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Conditional use permits (CUP)
   a) Beaver Creek Wind Farm II

Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the conditional use permit for Beaver Creek Wind Farm II. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Ron Van Hooser asked that regarding labor, does the county have any input regarding whether contractors would be local. Commissioner Crago replied that throughout the course of the meetings, Nick has
continued to state that there are boxes to check off and the CUP is their last box to check off with the county. With this being done they can now begin negotiations with contractors and subs. Commissioner Crago further stated that he does not believe that they are to the point where they have hired anybody yet to the scale of who is performing the on-site work. They county has to believe that they will stay true to the attempt that they will use local contractors to do the work as they can. Nick Lofing stated that throughout the course of this process there have been a lot of local contractors who have attended these meetings and some of those conversations are already happening. The first step in the process is to hire the general contractor who can then identify and hire as many local contractors as possible and that are available for the timeline. The company wants to stay in the public, Commission’s and communities good graces. The potential general contractor if from Billings. Commissioner Hamilton noted that this will create 17 to 20 full time jobs at the end of this project and those jobs will be local to the area, whether they currently reside here or move here to the community. Linda Halstead-Acharya asked about key points of the CUP. Commissioner Hamilton replied that there is a staff report available which is an abbreviated version of the full CUP for both wind farms. This covers lessons learned from previous wind farms. Forrest and the planning department have worked hard to make sure the community input, within reason, has been added to the CUP. Nick Lofing added that this is the fourth of the public meetings. Going through this process, there has been a lot of correspondence and work with the Commissioners and the staff. This has been a very positive experience and also a rigorous experience. Nick commented that Commissioner Crago has repeatedly stated that they need more information put into this record so the public can comment on it. By going through this whole process, there has been as much information as the company could possibly provide to the county and the public about the plans, the intentions, the timelines and how these projects get off the ground. There has been a lot of opportunity for public input and for informed public input. The CUP process in a new process to the county but it is a good model. There are things that can be refined but overall, it is a really good process. Forrest Mandeville read the attached Beaver Creek Wind Farm Conditional Use Permit. Commissioner Hamilton noted there are two of the same staff reports for Wind Farm II and Wind Farm III. They are the same staff report but there were two unique permit requests. Forrest Mandeville added that they combined it into one conditional use permit. Linda Halstead Acharya asked while looking through the public comments and there is a Bon Van Oosten, is that Bob and just a typo. Forrest said that was a typo. Motion passed unanimously.

a) Beaver Creek Wind Farm III

Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve the Beaver Creek Wind Farm III conditional use permit with conditions. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Columbus Rural Fire District software upgrade request. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the Columbus Rural Fire District software upgrade request. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Riveland explained that the county owns a training table for different types of incidents. The table was acquired in 2013 and requires software updates. Columbus Rural Fire District has grant funds available for the updates. This is a request for permission to upgrade the county’s training table using the Columbus Rural Fire District grant funds. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Approve HR job description. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the HR job description as they have been updated and reviewed. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton explained that this was created to update the job description to HR Specialist and an update to an HR Director position which is being split from Finance as was agreed upon when Joe Morse departed, it would become two separate departments. Commissioner Hamilton noted that there are interviews scheduled for the Finance position and the hope is to have that position filled shortly. Motion passed unanimously.
E) Bid award for Road & Bridge fencing project. Commissioner Crago MOVED to award the bid to Montana Fence for the Road & Bridge project for a total amount of $83,719.00. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

F) Bid award for Road & Bridge fencing project. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the bid award for the Crow Chief Meadows fencing project to Montana Fence in the amount of $9,982.50. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – None heard.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Tyrel Hamilton, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder