

Volume

27

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Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation

EPEDC

... providing support for a better economy.



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Local Project Updates

TransCanada awarded the Prairie County Sheriff's Office \$2,395 in funding for new speed monitoring equipment. A new business in Glendive was awarded a \$45,000 Growth Through Agriculture grant.

The Prairie Community Hospital is currently in project start-up.

Director Jason Rittal finished Fallon County's capital improvement plan (CIP) in November. He is currently working on the CIP for Wibaux County.

Next EPEDC Quarterly Board Meeting

Wednesday
April 27, 2016

Terry, MT

at the Prairie County Courthouse
9:30 a.m.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Capital Improvement Plans

Over the past year, multiple entities in our region have engaged in capital improvement planning. The most prevalent rationale given is that it helps entities when soliciting grants. While this may be true, a capital improvement plan (CIP) is an important tool that local governments can use for much more than grant funding applications.

The actual intent of a CIP is to provide a roadmap for the local government's capital expenditures over an extended period of time, usually five years. The document is designed to be updated on an annual basis as new budgets are developed and mill values are determined. It should address infrastructure, machinery, and equipment needs vital to the operations of the local government. The text of the document should outline budget constraints, estimate available funds, and identify known projects. It should also list recommendations for implementation, in addition to noting timelines, costs, and other potential financial partners (e.g. grant sources). Allowances should be made for unexpected project costs and overruns with the intention of assuring the county has a reserve available for unforeseen issues.

All projects are prioritized based on available information, their effects on public health and safety, as well as available funding. The priority ranking should be fluid but outlined by a set of criteria. Projects included in this planning process may be brought forward by department heads, the general public, and/or the commissioners and should be reflective of the local government's needs.

Evaluations made while considering budget constraints are always difficult. Examples of criteria that may be utilized by the local government in making these determinations include:

- "One time only" – those projects for which funding has been promised;
- Addresses an urgent health or safety concern, legal mandate, code compliance, or formal policy;
- Advances existing economic development and/or the attraction of new growth;
- Improves the quality of existing county services and/or expands such services;
- Compliments or supports other projects;
- Generally supports the continued well-being of the population served;
- Currently funded or for which specific funding sources are currently available and can be used to leverage local funds;
- Projects which are separate but an integral part of another project;
- Essential to the implementation of programs previously supported;
- Projects which are totally self-supporting and/or sustainable;
- Projects which take advantage of funding opportunities which exist now but would not be available at a later date (i.e. ARRA funding).

After development, the CIP is in place to achieve the following goals:

- ** Forecast public facilities, equipment, and improvements which will be needed in the CIP term;
- ** Promote sound financial planning and guide budgetary decisions;
- ** Encourage economic development and avoid public works crises when development occurs;
- ** Anticipate and identify financing needs in order to maximize available federal, state, and private funding.

"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort."

-Paul J. Meyer, American businessman

The EPEDC serves the following participating counties and municipalities:
Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County, and Wibaux County,
as well as the City of Baker, the Town of Elkalaka, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna,
the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry, and the Town of Wibaux.



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