JUNE 2014

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Sweet Grass County Commissioner meetings are held in the office of the county commissioners in the Sweet Grass County Annex in Big Timber, Montana, unless otherwise noted in the minutes. Regular commissioner meeting days are the first working day of each week (usually Monday unless Monday is a holiday then Tuesday) and every Thursday during the month. These are the days to schedule issues that require the commissioner to take action. The first Monday of each month a department head staff meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Claims will be reviewed and approved for payment every Thursday unless a conflict arises. At least one commissioner will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily unless they are at a conference or a meeting requiring them to be out of the office.

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**Acronyms**

BC – Billings Clinic

DES – Disaster and Emergency Services

CCR – Coordinated Community Response

FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program

IC – Incident Command

L.E.P.C. – Local Emergency Preparedness

MACo – Montana Association of Counties

MDT – Montana Department of Transportation

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

PMC – Pioneer Medical Center

RC&D – Rural Conservation and Development

RFR – request for reimbursement.

TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program – provides matching grant funds to local government agencies for construction of infrastructure projects.

Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.

Monday, June 2, 2014

Commissioner Wallace, Mosness and Faw in office today.

Staff meeting for month was held with Susan Metcalf, Evie Halvorson, Vicki Uehling, Marc King, Vera Pederson, Deanna Novotny, Jami Moody, Jane Stene, Page Dringman, Dan Tronrud, Big Timber Pioneer staff Michael and Lindsey Kroskob, Brooke Osen and Jessie Connolly all in attendance.

 Marc King reported on flooding at fairgrounds. Friday there will be a cover crop demonstration at Charlie Rein’s (NRCS soil health program). He attended the stock growers Yellowstone River Advisory Council meeting. He is helping with the Bigger, Faster, Stronger program at SGHS. Kayla Sargent was hired for summer employment. The county fair is set for July 21 – July 25, 2014.

 Clerk of Court Novotny reported they have 11 new cases in May, 3 felonies and 1 marriage certificate issued. The jury duty notices have all been mailed out. They had a bond modification hearing for David Welks.

 Jami Moody reported that the County Attorney has been very busy in May. They have been meeting with PMC regarding the language for the bond mill levy and the business structure. They had 3 new felonies cases and the David Welks case has been consuming a lot of their time.

 Treasurer Stene reported they are very busy with collecting 2nd half taxes. So far they have receipted in $2,750,000.00 of that $1,631,000.00 was Stillwater Mining Company.

 Sheriff Tronrud reported that some of the dispatchers and the Chaplin attended training this last month. Undersheriff Mahlum attended a violent crimes and coroner class. Sheriff Tronrud attended Mental Health Trust and the Sheriff’s and Peace Officer training.

 DES coordinator Brooke Osen reported that her office met with Leif Oiestad regarding Boat Float Palooza next month. Also, that there has been flooding at the Grey Bear and Boulder River campground. The Sweet Grass fest is expanding this year to include street dance and bands Saturday afternoon.

 Page reported that the planning office has been busy with subdivisions, road policy, city/county zoning, surveys applications, variances, flood plain applications and updating the rural addressing.

 Finance officer Vicki Uehling reported that she will be taking over the budgeting. She has been busy with cash meeting, web training, audit exit interviews, RAC paperwork, bid opening for the airport and budget training.

 Justice of Peace Connolly reported 5 new city cases and 93 new justice cases. She met with the company that issues and monitors the SCRAM devices which 17 county residents are monitored on them. They reported that 99.9 % did not violate while on the unit and that 92.9% were compliant. She attended the Mental Health board meeting. She is also setting up site pay for the justice court where individuals can access the internet and make their bond payments and the defendants pays the fees associated with it.

 Weed Coordinator Evie Halvorson reported they moved their office out of the Annex building to the weed building. She has hired her summer help and does not know when Heidi Todd will be returning. The weed department sold three 4-wheelers and sold a pick-up to the road department. They have been busy spraying already.

 Superintendent of Schools Metcalf reported she has moved into rest of office where weed department was. The schools are in the process of hiring for next school year.

 Commissioner Mosness attended PMC/Billings clinic meetings, a district meeting in Stanford where they had succession planning at MACO, and Juvenile Detention Board meeting in Billings. The count is up for the Juvenile Detention center because of the Sidney facility closed their juvenile side and there is no juvenile officer training at this time. The commissioners signed a MOA with the conservation district on Greycliff. Also they held a meeting with all the agencies regarding the fire department.

 Commissioner Faw attended Beartooth RC&D meeting and buffalo range management meeting in Gardiner. He informed those at meeting that the new website is up and running but we need to refine it. They are working on budgets and he would like the department heads to cut back and consider their wants vs. needs and that the COLA is 1.5% this year.

 Commissioner Wallace was helping the road department a lot last month. The commissioners met with Stillwater Mine regarding the tax allocation. He is working with the airport board on the Airport Master Plan Review. The commissioners signed the sanitarian agreement with Park County.

 After the staff meeting Sherry did a budgeting 101 training for all the department heads.

 Vicki Uehling met with the commissioners regarding $9,400.00 on the video gambling that is due the county for Lucky Lil’s from 2010 to present. They discussed if the State of Montana or the City of Big Timber reimburse the county. Commissioner Faw will talk to Gayle at the city regarding this.

 Vicki Uehling asked the commissioners to remind DES coordinator Brooke Osen about the Homeland Security Grant reimbursement that was due February, 2014.

 Sheriff Tronrud came in to discuss funding the active shooter class that 7 people from Sweet Grass County are interested in attending. They have received some donations to cover the cost. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to put $1,700.00 - $2,000.00 from PILT contingency fund to finish covering the cost of the class. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion, passed with three ayes. They also discussed a letter they received from Mark Norem regarding the speed limit on Howie Road.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

 Commissioner Faw and Mosness attended a PMC working group meeting.

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

 Western Federal Highways met with all three commissioners, USFS, and Park County for the project kick-off for the Main Boulder Road. After the meeting Commissioner Faw and Mosness, Public Works Director Cory Conner went with the team to view the Main Boulder Road project.

 Commissioner Wallace attended a work group meeting on the Custer-Gallatin National forest.

Thursday, June 5, 2014

 The commissioners approved the PMC claims submitted by Jessica Talkington and stamped by Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal. Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal went over the schedules for the following week. Public Works Director Conner met with the commissioners to update them regarding the roads. Katie Walsh with JGA Architects met with commissioners to offer their services for projects. A conference call for the PMC / Billings Clinic affiliation was held at noon with all three commissioners, County Attorney Dringman, Erik Wood, Erin McCrady, Dorsey-Whitney, Joel Kelman, Darcie – Crowley Fleck Law firm attending.

 The crack seal bid for the Big Timber airport was awarded to Ridge Rock Inc. for a bid of $96,512.00. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept this bid, Commissioner Wallace seconded and it passed with 2 ayes.

 Commissioner Mosness made a motion to donate $1,000.00 from the Metal Mines account to the Carnegie Library Centennial celebration. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes.

 It was also decided to place an ad in the Big Timber Pioneer congratulating Stillwater Mining Company on the BLM award they are receiving.

Monday, June 9, 2014

 Commissioner Wallace, Faw and Mosness were all in today. The commissioners reviewed and signed the Intergovernmental Transfer for the PMC. We will send $215,259.28 and receive $289,356.84 back for a new gain of $74,097.56. Commissioner Mosness made the motion and Commissioner Wallace seconded and it passed with three ayes.

 The commissioners reviewed their budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year and filled in the line item amounts.

 The commissioners counted the provisional ballots for the June 3, 2014 primary election.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

 Commissioner Faw and Mosness are in today. Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal met with the commissioners to review and accept a resolution 06-10-2014 for a mail ballot election for the PMC mill levy. After reviewing the ballot language for the 25 mill levy election Commissioner Mosness moved to accept this and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with two ayes.

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

 All three commissioners are in the office today. The votes for the June 3, 2014 primary election were canvassed and approved. Claims were approved and signed.

 Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal presented the commissioners with resolution 06-11-2014 that accepts Sherry Bjorndal’s resignation and appoints Vera Pederson to the office of Clerk and Recorder. Commissioner Mosness made the motion and Commissioner Faw seconded it and it passed with three ayes.

 Finance officer Uehling met with the commissioners to discuss items.

 The commissioners signed an Interlocal Agreement resolution 6-11-2014 to form the Custer-Gallatin working group, a coalition of Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties working with the US Forest Service for better forest management. Commissioner Mosness made the motion and Commissioner Wallace seconded it and it passed with two ayes.

Thursday, June 12, 2014

 Commissioner Wallace, Faw and Mosness all in office today. Sherry came in and went over the schedule for next week. Commissioners reviewed the insurance policy for the Big Timber airport and Commissioner Wallace signed it.

 The Commissioners met with Sherry Tronrud and Jennifer Tulley from the Big Timber After School program to discuss a donation of $10,000.00 to that program. Commissioner Mosness moved to donate $10,000.00 from the Metal Mines License line item, Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes.

 Commissioners met with county attorney Dringman and discussed the open meeting lawsuit.

 Morgan Darlington from Congressman Steve Daines office stopped in to hear updates and discuss what issues we were having. There was a lot of discussion regarding the wilderness and forest service.

Friday, June 13, 2014

 All Commissioners were in the office on the Friday the 13th with a full moon!

Monday, June 16, 2014

 All Commissioners were in this morning. PMC invoices were approved and stamped by Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal. County Attorney Dringman met with the Commissioners to present his budget.

 Jennifer Magic from Senator Tester’s office stopped in to visit and give updates.

 County planner Page Dringman met with the Commissioners and Travis West from Engineering West with a preliminary plat application for a minor subdivision for Shannon and Christine Bakke. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept the Bakke Minor subdivision application with recommendation from the planning board on fire and weeds. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with three ayes.

 Marc King met with Commissioners to present the county extension office budget and Treasurer Jane Stene also met and presented her budget.

 Commissioner Mosness and Faw attended the PMC Board meeting at 5:00 pm.

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

 All Commissioners are in this morning for another round of budget meetings. The Commissioners met with representatives from the Hospitality House, Finance officer Uehling and Char Fuller who presented a list of upgrades totaling $21,000.00. The Commissioners will look at taking money out of metal mines license line item.

 Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal met with commissioners to read the minutes from Feb and March 2014. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept February 2014 minutes as corrected, Commissioner Faw seconded it and it passed with three ayes.

 John Bandy with MACO Insurance came down and inspected the flood damage at the fairgrounds with Commissioner Faw.

 Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal came back in to finish reading March minutes. Commissioner Mosness made the motion to accept and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with three ayes.

 Sheriff Tronrud presented the law enforcement budget. Commissioner Wallace attended a Weed Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

 All Commissioners are in this morning. Public works director Cory Conner came in to present the Road and Bridge budget. After lunch Finance Officer Uehling and the commissioners went over the shared budgets.

Thursday, June 19, 2014

 Commissioner Faw is in Billings attending the Republican Convention and Commissioner Wallace is helping the road department. Commissioner Mosness spent the day cleaning out papers and signing claims.

Friday, June 20, 2014

 Commissioner Faw is in Billings and Commissioner Mosness is in Billings attending a meeting for Area II on aging. Commissioner Wallace was in to stamp warrants and compare them to the claims.

Monday, June 23, 2014

 All Commissioners were in the office this morning. Clerk of Court Novotny presented the District Courts budget and then we discussed the courthouse budget which was attended by Sheriff Tronrud.

 Several offices presented their budgets that day starting with Evie Halverson with the weed department, Brooke Osen with the DES, 911 and Communications, Jessie Connolly with Justice Court, City Court, and Court Compliance, and Susan Metcalf wrapped up the day with the Superintendent of Schools budget.

 Commissioner Wallace attended a meeting at City Hall to review the applications for the Fire Department job.

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

 Commissioner Faw was in the office, Commissioner Wallace was out and Commissioner Mosness was home in the morning and then attended a HRDC Board meeting in Billings.

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

 All Commissioners are in the office today. Casey Durham with First West Insurance, Kevin Babcock, Erik Wood (PMC CEO), Catherine McKenzie (Deputy Clerk and Recorder) met with commissioners to discuss the renewal of the workman’s compensation rates. They went up 10.9% from last year with a MOD factor of 1.25 this year up from the MOD factor of 1.13 last year. Our workman’s comp. insurance is provided by Montana State Fund.

 Several offices presented their budgets starting with Bill Hibnes with the fair, Page Dringman with the planning and Vera Pederson with the Clerk and Recorder’s budget. Commissioner Wallace swore in Vera Pederson as the new Clerk and Recorder effective July 1, 2014. After lunch we did the Coroner and the Airport’s budgets. Outgoing Clerk and Recorder Sherry Bjorndal came in and read the April 2014 minutes. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Commissioner Faw seconded it, it passed with three ayes. Clerk and Recorder Bjorndal finished reading the May 2014 minutes. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and Commissioner Wallace seconded it, it passed with two ayes.

Thursday, June 26, 2014

 Commissioner Mosness is in Helena for a MACO conference and planning committee meeting. Commissioner Wallace and Faw reviewed and signed claims and attended LEPC meeting.

Friday, June 27, 2014

 Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for Mental Health governing board meeting. Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in.

 County Planner Page Dringman brought in 3 certificate of surveys (Dept. of Transportation ROW retracement, amended plat for Keen, and RCB for Meadows/Heinemann) all of these were approved with Commissioner Faw making the motion and Commissioner Wallace seconding it, each passed with two ayes.

Monday, June 30, 2014

 All Commissioners were in for the last day of June. Finance Officer Uehling came in with 3 resolutions, 2 for GASB 54 fund balances. Resolutions passed were 06-30-2014A and 06-30-2014B. Also, 06-30-2014H a resolution distributing the cash from the Events Center fund number 2790 to the fair fund 2160 and capital improvement fund 4100 for the 2013/14 fiscal year. All passed with three ayes.

 Mike Martinz was in to discuss the house on the property the family had sold to the county last year. It did not get winterized properly and had damage from pipes that busted so he was wondering who was responsible for it.

 Public Health Nurse, Jennifer Chappel met with Commissioners to approve and sign DPHHS contracts, Task order 15-07-5-01-049-0 Maternal Child Health Block Grant Program running from 7/1/14 until 6/30/15 and Task order 15-07-6-11-051-0 the Master Contract for Public Health Emergency Preparedness. The total received will be $26,459.00 for Master Contract and $3,626.00 for the Maternal Child Health Block Grant. Commissioner Mosness made the motion to accept both of these and Commissioner Faw seconded this, it passed with three ayes.

 Commissioner Wallace will be attending the interviews for the new fire department position tonight.

 Commissioner Wallace and Deputy Clerk and Recorder reviewed and stamped PMC payroll.

Claims for the month of June amounted to $588,246.53

County and PMC June payrolls totaled $495,714.64

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

 Board of County Commissioners

 William Wallace, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk