

AUGUST 2013
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.

Acronyms

	PMC – Pioneer Medical Center
DES – Disaster and Emergency Services	RC&D – Rural Conservation and Development
CCR – Coordinated Community Response	RFR – request for reimbursement.
FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program	TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program – provides matching grant funds to local government agencies for construction of infrastructure projects.
L.E.P.C. – Local Emergency Preparedness	
MACo – Montana Association of Counties	Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.
MDT – Montana Department of Transportation	
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness were in the office for the day. Commissioner Faw is vacationing.

Mayor Stephens and Commissioner Wallace signed the acceptance of FAA grant 3-30-0007-008-2013 for a master plan study and an Airport Geographic Information System. This grant is \$237,200 with a 10% county match to be paid from the airport budget. GDA will administer the grant.

The commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment.

The rest of the day was spent reviewing budget figures and taxable values.

Friday, August 2, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness spent most of the day reviewing budget information.

Commissioner Mosness spent some time comparing claims to the warrants for correctness and stamping the warrants for payment. She also went down to check on things at the 4-H Fair.

Monday, August 5, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived to kick off another warm August day.

Staff meeting for the month was held with John Becken, Deanna Novotny, Marc King, Brooke Osen, Evie Halverson, Jane Stene, Darryl Hodges, Erik Wood, Vicki Uehling,

Jessie Connolly, Pat Dringman, Dan Tronrud, Page Dringman, Jerry Melham, and Lindsey for the Pioneer in attendance.

Deanna Reported that July was a busy month in District Court. Barb Swanson was off most of the month. They had three felonies in June and one in July and 3 new civil cases in July. The Judge will be here four times during the month of August. Most of the jury notices have come back in. There are still about 20 that have not been returned.

Darryl Hodges reported that the Coroner's Office had two deaths last month and has had eight YTD.

County Attorney Dringman reported that justice court was slow and he attended training last month.

Erik Wood announced that the PMC has signed a contract with the VA for long term care for veterans. The PMC is continuing to work on the business structure and they are still interviewing for the ambulance manager position. Erik attended two conferences last month (National Rural Health Association and AHA).

Financial Officer Uehling was involved in many budget meetings and has been working on the end of the year stuff. She also held the monthly cash meeting.

Justice of the Peace Connolly reported that her office saw 97 new cases in justice court and 21 in city court. She attended a salary compensation board meeting and a Mental Health Board meeting during the month of July. All Highway Patrol tickets are now downloaded through the State – there are no more paper tickets that come to her office.

Planner Page Dringman reported that the DNRC has preliminary flood plane mapping done and will be having a meeting to review the maps and get input from the county. The 2013 Legislature passed ten bills that require changes to the subdivision regulations. Page and Lana are working on a Family Dollar store applications on the property to the east of Stephens Auto. The Kodiak Lodge has broken ground.

DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen, reported that the new dispatch system will go live on August 18th and Sweet Grass County went to Stage I Fire Restrictions during the month of July.

Weed Coordinator, Evie Halverson, informed the group that they floated the Yellowstone and found 12 Salt Cedar plants on the first go around. Her crew has been collecting bugs and verifying NRCS spraying projects.

Sheriff Tronrud passed out the sheet with the numbers of complaints, cases and offenses for his department for the month of July. Officers attended certified weapons training and two dispatchers were in Bozeman for training. Officer Stene is back from DARE training.

Treasurer Stene informed us that it has been same old same old in her office, vehicle registration, driver's license and delinquent taxes.

County Agent, Marc King, reported that the 4-H Fair and the sale went well in spite of the hail storm and the clean up after it. All of the livestock is gone and the carcass data should be available about Wednesday. The champion of champions will be in Livingston on Saturday.

Assessor John Becken stated that taxable values were certified last week.

Commissioner Faw went on a cruise to Alaska and worked on budgets.

Commissioner Wallace informed the group that the county received seven applications to the public works director position. The City and the County met to discuss shared budgets. The commissioners met with Terrill's Office Machines about our supply and maintenance contract with them.

Commissioner Mosness gave a report for Sanitarian, Barbara Woodbury. Barb attended the Boulder River Watershed meeting and an HRDC meeting in Billings.

Commissioner Mosness announced that AB Telecom moved phones and worked on the phone system last month. The Commissioners were involved in several meetings about worker's compensation and have changed to State Fund for our new w/c carrier. The Otter Creed Bridge TSEP project has been closed out, the commissioner met with FWP about parking issues at Grey Bear Fishing access and the Eight Mile Bridge. The commissioners will be going out for bids for the blasting on the Wormser Loop Road project. There will be a public meeting on the Community Events Center and what to do with the funds that were donated for the project. The next staff meeting will be on September the 9th. Sweet Grass County and Park County have been programed in for the nest 6 to 7 Miles of the Main Boulder Road.

Erik Wood from the PMC remained after the staff meeting to talk to the commissioners about the DPHHS contract the Public Health Nurse to bill for immunizations for the period of 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2019. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the DPHHS contract. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Erik and the commissioners visited about the ambulance service and volunteers. Erik has done a lot of research and feels that it won't be long until the county will have to pay for folks to do ambulance runs.

Cole Peeples called about blasting the rock on Wormser Loop. Great West engineering will get and easement written for the property owners.

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw were all in the office for the day.

The commissioners took action on the year end budget amendments. See attached schedule of resolutions and action taken. Commissioner Faw did not vote on some of the resolutions as he was not involved in the process and probably would not have supported the process if he had been involved; therefore he abstained from voting.

The commissioners talked about interviewing applicant for the Public Works Director position next week. Seven applications were received. The commissioners went over the interview questions.

The rest of the day was spent catching up on correspondence.

Commissioner Wallace attended a Weed Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

All of the commissioners attended a Community Events Center meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for the day.

Erik Wood presented the PMC invoices for the commissioners and Sherry to review and discuss. Having discussed the invoiced Susie and Sherry reviewed the checks and stamped them for payment.

The Commissioners signed a permit for exemption for State I fire restrictions for Range Riders Land Management.

Commissioner Wallace attended an Airport Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the airport.

Thursday, August 8, 2013

Bill, Susie and Bob all arrived ready to tackle another day.

Financial Officer Uehling and Clerk Bjorndal spent the morning with the commissioners going over the preliminary revenue budgets and looking at taxable valuations.

At noon the Commissioners attended an Addictive Disorders Board meeting in the Commissioners' Office.

Budget meetings continued in the afternoon.

The commissioners approved claims for payment as did Financial Officer Uehling.

Susie and Sherry stamped payroll checks for the county.

Friday, August 9, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in for the day.

Warrants and claims were reviewed and stamped by Sherry and sent on to Susie to do the same.

The day was spent reviewing and answering correspondence and e-mails and catching up on reading materials.

Monday, August 12, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Faw arrived to man the office. Commissioner Wallace is off for a few days.

Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept TSEP Grant # MT-TSEP-TL-15-794 for planning and engineering for future TSEP projects in the amount of \$15,000.00
Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with two ayes.

County Attorney Dringman stopped in to discuss several legal matters.

The commissioners spent some time working on interview questions for the Public Works Director position.

Commissioner Faw attended a meeting with the Electric Light Ditch for a grant for engineering. This is the ditch that runs through the cemetery.

At 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Faw and Mosness attended an ambulance meeting.

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

All of the commissioners are back in action.

The day was spent in closed meetings interviewing for the Public Works Director position.

Mayor Mark Stephens and Steve Bue were in to discuss the CTEP project to put new sidewalks in by the Civic Center and on West 5th Ave. from the Annex to the High School. The city asked if the county would remove the debris. The commissioners also visited with Steve about Wormser Loop Road and if the county will be able to remove the rock when the blasting is done?

Commissioner Faw met with Riggs Bedford, the insurance adjuster, and showed him around to review the hail damage on the county buildings and vehicles.

Four applicants were interviewed for the Public Works Director position.

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness traveled to Lewistown with Vicki Uehling and Brooke Osen for a DES workshop on the EMPG grant.

Commissioner Faw was off for part of the day.

Thursday, August 15, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for the day.

Steve Bue was in to visit about the tank in the back of the courthouse. Bob will work on getting the tank moved so more parking will be available for the courthouse.

Bob Bryan came in to talk about issues with the aviation fuel sales at the airport and how everyone needs to be treated the same.

Interviews were continued for the Public Works Director position.

The commissioners talked to Joe Nye an FAA representative from Helena about the contract between Sweet Grass County and Yellowstone Air Service. Joe advised the commissioner to make sure that they get an economic nondiscrimination clause in the contract the next time it comes up.

Justin Ferguson stopped in to discuss the issue of the fuel sale or lack of it, and said he would not ever discriminate about selling fuel to customers again. The commissioners will send a letter to Joe Nye at FAA letting him know what was discussed.

Friday, August 16, 2013

The entire board was in for the day.

The commissioners conducted one last interview for the Public Works position. The commissioners met after the last interview to narrow the field of applicants down.

Lauren Oswald with the USFS came in to give the commissioners an update on the happenings at the Forest Service.

Monday, August 19, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Faw were in for the day and Commissioner Wallace is on vacation for a few days.

Sherry Bjorndal came in to do the weekly agenda as she was off on Friday.

After lunch several members of the Senior Center Board came in to discuss hail damage to the building. Present at the meeting were Jerry Hauge, Jim Esp, and Bob Noland. The commissioner will make sure a contractor looks at the damage and reports back to the insurance company.

Dan Lingen with RDO (John Deere) stopped in to visit about equipment needs.

Commissioner Mosness and Clerk Bjorndal stamped warrants for the PMC.

Commissioners Faw and Mosness attended a PMC monthly Board meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the PMC

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Commissioners Faw held down the fort as Commissioner Wallace is still out playing in the woods (camping) and Commissioner Mosness stayed home for the morning to catch up on some personal business.

In the afternoon a reception was held for Marc King celebrating 20 years as Sweet Grass County Extension Agent.

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

All of the commissioners are back in action.

Vicki Uehling came in to talk about reimbursement for EMPG from the State.

At 9:30 a.m. Clerk & Recorder Bjorndal and Financial Officer Uehling came in for the final budget review.

The Annex had a pot luck luncheon at noon.

The commissioners discuss the applicants and interviews for the Public Works position. They decided to call three of the applicants back for a second interview.

Thursday, August 22, 2013

Commissioner Mosness kept things at the Annex under control for the day.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace along with Steve Bue and Monte Fjare went to Great Falls to look at road equipment and a bridge.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed and signed claims and stamped payroll checks.

Marc King was in to talk about the concrete pad for the new bleachers. It was decided to let the contractor do the site prep and bring in the materials that are needed.

At 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Mosness attended and L.E.P.C. meeting and heard the agency updates. The USFS is going to stage I fire restrictions on Saturday for both the Gallatin and Custer National Forests.

Friday, August 23, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in for the day. Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Mental Health Regional Board meeting.

Commissioner Wallace compared warrants to the claims and stamped the warrants for payment and sent them to Sherry to compare and stamp.

Monday, August 26, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness arrived at the office and Commissioner Faw is with an insurance adjuster looking at hail damage to his personal property and vehicles. Bob returned in the afternoon.

Vicki Uehling and Sherry Bjorndal stopped in to discuss the airport grand and how to budget for it.

The Commissioners approved a special exemption for fire restrictions for Park Electric.

From 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. the commissioners held the second interview with three of the Public Works Director applicants.

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

All three of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

Sherry and Vicki came in to go over the FY 2103/2014 preliminary budget one more time before the budget hearing on Thursday.

The commissioner spent time discussing two possible candidates for the Public Works position.

Vicki Uehling and Sherry Bjorndal met with the commissioners on some employee issues.

Commissioner Mosness attended an HRDC meeting in Billing in the afternoon.

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

Ben Selinsky was in to talk about the HVAC system. He will bring in a quote for routine maintenance and changing of the filters twice a year.

The commissioners offered the Public Works Director position to Monte Fjare. He declined the position and chose to remain in his current position on the road crew.

Discussion was held with Vera, Sherry and Vicki about charging meals to the county. Sherry has just returned from convention and one of the speakers was from the IRS and addressed charging meals to the county. The IRS is tightening up on some of these issues. Because this is an issue with some of the employees the commissioners will send out an e-mail letting everyone know the guide lines.

At 11:30 a.m. the commissioners attended a pipeline safety luncheon put on by Phillips 66 at the Grand.

Paul Westervelt stopped in to talk about the PMC.

Dan Lingen with RDO (John Deere) came by to discuss a new grader.

Commissioner Mosness took the afternoon off.

Thursday, August 29, 2013

Commissioners Mosness, Wallace and Faw were all in for the day.

Commissioner Susie compared warrants to claims and stamped the warrants for payment then sent them to Sherry to review and stamp.

Vicki came in to review numbers before the final budget hearing. She also went over the contracts for audit services with Denning, Downey and Associates. The contract has expired and the new contract is as follows:

\$18,350 for 7/2012 – 6/2013
\$19,080 for 7/2013 – 6/2014 and
\$19,845 for 7/2014 – 6/2015

This will be discussed more next week.

Planner Dringman came in to talk about the CTEP. The county will put up \$20,000 to finish the third block of the West 5th Ave. project. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to take the \$20,000 out of the Metal Mines money for Planning and Economic Development. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

At 4:00 p.m. the FY 2013/2014 budget hearing was held with all three of the commissioners, Financial Officer Uehling, Clerk Bjorndal and Rick Reed general public in attendance. The group went over and discussed the proposed budget. Rick Reed is an ex-commissioner so was very knowledgeable and familiar with the budgeting process. Having reviewed and discuss the proposed budget Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the FY 2013/2014 countywide mill budget of 122.28 mills for a total of \$3,486,907. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept the FY 2013/2014 rural mill budget of 41.58 mills for a total of \$1,100,208. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to adopt the FY 2013/2014 Soil Conservation budget of \$8,820 which is 1.5 mills. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. The county permissive levy for group health insurance was discussed and Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the 13.29 permissive mills for a total of \$229,392. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the non-levied funds FY 2013/2014 budget of \$14,818,944. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Faw and passed with 3 ayes.

Friday, August 30, 2013

All of the commissioners came in to finish off the grueling budget month of August.

PMC payroll checks were reviewed and stamped by Commissioner Mosness.

The commissioner called all of the applicants for the Public Works Director position to let them know their decision. Cory Conner was offered the position and accepted it.

Claims for the month of August were paid in the amount of \$301,062.93

County and PMC payroll for the month of August was \$485,135.40.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal, Clerk