

SEPTEMBER 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

DES – Disaster and Emergency Services	MOU – Memorandum of Understanding PMC – Pioneer Medical Center
CCR – Coordinated Community Response	RC&D – Rural Conservation and Development
FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program	RFR – request for reimbursement.
IC – Incident Command	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	

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Monday, September 2, 2013

Most of the county offices were closed to observe the Labor Day Holiday. Our emergency services and the Pioneer Medical Center remained open and we appreciate their dedication and sacrifices.

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Commissioners Bill Wallace, Susie Mosness and Bob Faw all arrived after a nice three day weekend.

Clerk & Recorder Sherry Bjorndal came in at 9:30a.m. With Resolution 09-03-2013, a resolution for the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the final FY 2013/2014 budget for Sweet Grass County with total appropriations of \$20,084,791. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve Resolution 09-03-2013. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. The group also discussed the increase in the PMC budget for the next fiscal year.

Financial Officer Uehling came in to talk about the audit contract with Denning, Downey and Associates. Sweet Grass County currently has two agreements with them to perform audits and assist and review some of the yearend closing procedures (GASB 34, cash flow statement, and other post-employment actuarial. The base audit cost does not include a Federal Audit if one needs to be done. Much discussion was held about the agreements with Denning, Downey and Associates and how they are staggered and do not run concurrently. A call was placed to Bob Denning to see about shortening one contract so that they will both end at the same time and then rebid both contracts at one time.

Cole Peebles with Great West Engineering called about the bids for blasting on Wormser Loop Road. Deer Ridge Properties is willing to allow the county to blast to get the hanging rock down before construction on the slide area begins.

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in the office for the day. Commissioner Wallace is driving the water truck on Cremer Road work that is being done by the road department.

Thursday, September 5, 2013

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

A call was made to Bob Denning with Denning, Downey and Associates. This is the firm that has been doing the county audits. The commissioners had questions on the audit contract and the work that the firm does for the county. A new audit contract will be sent out for the commissioners to review.

Commissioner Wallace spent the rest of the day driving the water truck.

Planner Dringman came in with boundary relocation for Ron Boe. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept the certificate of survey. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

Commissioners Faw and Mosness reviewed claims and approved them for payment. The claims were also reviewed and approved by Financial Officer Uehling.

Bob and Susie also signed payroll checks.

At 7:00 p.m. a public hearing was held on subdivision for rent or lease. Present at the meeting were Planner Dringman and Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer and Commissioners Mosness and Faw.

Friday, September 6, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Faw were in the office. Commissioner Wallace is attending a family wedding.

PMC CEO, Erik Wood brought in the first run of the PMC claims. The Commissioners, Erik and Sherry Bjorndal went over the claims and Erik answered any questions that the Commissioners had. Susie and Sherry stamped the warrants for payment. A discussion was held on the Ambulance Director position. The position was offered to an individual and turned down to it has been offered again and they should hear today if the individual will accept the position.

Kevin Schott was in to visit about Public Works Department concerns.

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

Dan from RDO stopped in to visit and pick up a bid packet for a new grader.

Monday, September 9, 2013

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all arrived ready to tackle another week of county happenings.

Staff meeting for the month of September was held with Evie Halverson, Deanna Novotny, Jane Stene, Susan Metcalf, Daryl Hodges, Dan Tronrud, Vicki Uehling, Cory Conner, Erik Wood, Brooke Osen, Pat Dringman, Page Dringman, Jessie Connolly and Laura Nelson attending.

Treasurer, Jane Stene announced that her office has been running very well. She attended convention during the month of August.

Susan Metcalf has been working with the schools on their FY 2014 budgets. SGHS and BTGS budgets will be up some due to teachers' retirement being up approximately \$80,000. Susan will be attending Expedition Yellowstone next week. She participated in for Farm Fair for 4th graders. A christen school has started in Sweet Grass. There are three families with a total of 6 kids participating at this time. There are about 45 home schooled kids this year.

Evie reported that most of the county roads have been sprayed and the crew is dwindling. She is down to 2 employees now. They have been checking for salt cedar and found about 25 plants on one island. Evie also took part in the Farm Fair.

Planner Dringman has had several certificates of survey to review. She also held a public hearing on land for lease or rent.

County attorney Dringman had two felony sentences and will have two trials this week. His office has been very steady.

Erik reported that Medicaid/Medicare center for services was here to survey the facility. Pavement and cement work behind the Assisted Living is done.

Brooke reported that the DES department has been closing out some of their grants and working on a new grant. Vicki, Susie and Brooke all attended a seminar in Lewistown.

Jessie Connolly reported that justice court has 38 new cases in August and 8 new civil cases. Jessie attended a Montana Magistrates meeting in Livingston. She has been using the SCRAM and 24/7 programs for sentencing. She also attended an Addictive Disorders meeting. Sandy Thomas will be leaving this fall.

Cory Conner reported that although he has only been on the job for a week they have been moving along. He and his crew have been working on the following projects:

Reshaping Bridger Creek Road, working on Rapelje & Gibson Roads, East Fork road, Otter Creek and Cremer Roads, Elk Creek Bridge and Lower Sweet Grass Bridge by Agnew's. They have installed two new culverts on Cremer Road, put gravel on Lower Sweet Grass and went out for bid on a new grader.

Vicki Uehling attended a lot of budget and the budget hearing meetings during the month of August. She also attended a class on federal audits.

Sheriff Tronrud handed out the numbers for his department for the month of August – 309 calls, 12 cases. He has been working on 4 felony cases and 12 misdemeanor cases. Dan also was involved in Montana Mental Health Trust meetings to award funds.

Daryl had one traffic fatality during the month of August. Eric Stenberg will be attending the fall corners class.

Deanna reported that district court case court is about the same as in July. Her office will be closed on September 19 for a passport certification class.

Commissioner Faw welcomed Cory Conner as the new Public Works Director. Commissioner Faw showed the hail adjuster around to all of the building and vehicles that were damaged by hail. He was also involved in all of the budgeting process. The PMC budget is up \$1.3 million over last year. The MDT audited 18 bridges on I90 in Sweet Grass County. Bob and the other commissions were involved in negotiations on the county audit contact. He also attended a pipe line safety meeting on the 28th of August at the Grand.

Commissioner Wallace spent some of the month assisting the road department by driving a water truck. He attended a weed board meeting, an airport board meeting, and an Airport master plan kick off meeting. Bills also had the pleasure of the budgeting process.

Commissioner Mosness gave the report for the sanitarian. Susie attended an HRDC meeting in Billings, a PMC Board meeting, and a Mental Health Board meeting in Billings. Susie and the other commissioners went to Wormser Loop to check out the area that will need to have the blasting done.

The county has transferred to Montana State Fund for our workers' comp. coverage and a workers' comp. 101 class was held after the staff meeting. It is crucial that we notify W/C ASAP after an incident has occurred.

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

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

The day was spent reviewing correspondence, catching up on e-mails and cleaning things up.

Commissioner Faw attended a Fair Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for the day.

Commissioner Faw reported that bids were accepted for the concrete pad under the new bleachers at the Fair Board meeting last evening. D L Groff Construction as the only bid at \$16,980.00 if use ½ inch rebar or \$13,898 if use wire mesh. It will be up to the manufacturer and the building inspector to decide what will be used. It was later decided to go with the rebar for a cost of \$13,898.

Thursday, September 12, 2013

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

The commissioners reviewed the claims and the attached invoices and approved them for payment. They were then sent to Financial Officer Uehling to review and sign off on.

The Commissioners attended a Board of Health meeting at noon in the Commissioners' Office.

Commissioner Mosness was out for the afternoon.

Friday, September 13, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived to finish off another week of county business.

Dan McCauley from Great West Engineering came in to discuss the Grey Cliff bank stabilization. The landowner will not allow access to remove old rip rap. Commissioner Faw made a motion to decline the DNRC RRGL funding of \$100,000. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Commissioners Faw and Wallace voted for the motion and Commissioner Mosness voted against it.

Susan Metcalf, County Supt. of Schools, came in with the school budgets for FY 2014. The commissioners reviewed the budgets for Sweet Grass County High School, Big timber Grade School, McLeod Elementary, Grey Cliff Elementary and Melville Elementary schools.

At 1:00 p.m. Vicki Uehling came in to go over the closing check list for the county audit that will be done by Denning, Downey & Associates.

Bob Bryan stopped in to visit about some issues at the airport.

Monday, September 16, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness is in Butte for an Economic Conference.

At 10:30 a.m. the bids for a new grader for the road department were opened. Present for the opening were Cory Conner, Public Works Director, Craig Pester from T & E, Dan Lingen from RDO, Dave Mills and Dennis Morelocks from TriState.

Bids Submitted:

Tri State:

Volvo 2014G 40B \$247,156 less trade in of \$82,500 for a total of \$164,656 with 90-120 days delivery. It appears that all paper work is in order.

Volvo 20144 G930B \$236,827 less trade in of \$82,500 for a total of \$154,327 with 90 – 120 days delivery. It appears that all paper work is in order.

RDO Equipment

John Deere 2013 670GP \$279,280 less trade in of \$104,000 for a total of \$175,280 with 110 days deliver. All paper work seems to be in order

T & E

CAT 2012 12M2 \$229,000 with a trade in of \$95,000 for a total of \$134,000 and it is in stock. All paper work seems to be in order.

The commissioners will take all of the bids under advisement and make a decision on Thursday, September 19th and notify all parties.

The commissioners reviewed Resolution No. 09-16-2013, a resolution to rescind all fire restrictions in Sweet Grass County. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

Cory Conner stopped in to let the commissioners know that he wants to hire Chuck Schuman part time to push – up the shale at the Pine Hills Road pit. The fire department dozer will be used.

Commissioner Faw took the afternoon off to work on his upcoming auction.

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

All three of the commissioners were gone in the morning. Commissioner Wallace was in in the afternoon and Commissioner Mosness is still in Butte for the economic conference. Commissioner Faw is working on his auction this afternoon.

Bob Bryan was in to discuss the parking garage at the airport. It needs a floor in it.

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Commissioner Wallace was in for the day. Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Regional Mental Health finance meeting. Commissioner Faw is in Livingston.

JohnPaul from Denning, Downey & Associates called about audit questions.

Fisher Construction called to discuss Bainter Construction payment for royalties on the gravel taken from the Plaggemeyer Pit. They will override the royalties and invoice Bainter Const. \$.50 per cubic yard to cover permitting, reclamation, etc.

Thursday, September 19, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived to kick off another day.

At 9:00a.m. Cory Conner, Public Works Director came in to finalize the bids on a new grader. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the bid from T & E Equipment for the CAT 12M 2012 for \$229,000. They will take the John Deere 772CH as a trade in for \$95,000 for a difference of \$134,000. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Some of the funds will be coming out of P.I.L.T. A discussion was held about putting bigger tires on the new grader.

Joe Hansen, Carolyn Osen, and Ken Rockeman, met with the commissioners to talk about concerns with the ambulance. They will get ahold of Erik Wood from the PMC and meet again to express their concerns.

Commissioner Faw left to work on getting everything in place for his auction. Commissioner Mosness went to Billings for an HRDC program committee meeting.

Friday, September 20, 2013

Commissioner Mosness was in Laure for an Area II on Aging meeting and will be back in the afternoon, Commissioner Faw is in Livingston for the day, and Commissioner Wallace was in for the afternoon.

Commissioner Wallace compared the warrants to the claims and stamped the warrants for payment. They were sent on the Sherry who reviewed the claims and attached receipts and stamped the warrants for payment.

Monday September 23-Wednesday, September 25, 2013, all of the commissioners were in Helena for the MACo annual convention.

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in the office. Commissioner Mosness is still in Helena for a Leadership Montana conference.

Planner Dringman brought in the Tinch subdivision final plat for review and approval. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the Tinch - Fishing Hole Subdivision, which is a 5 lot minor subdivision. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes. The Pauline Mack certificate of survey for a family transfer was discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Faw and seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the Mack family transfer COS. Motion passed with 2 ayes.

Claims were presented by Accounts Payable Clerk Pederson for the commissioner to review and approve for payment. The claims were also reviewed by Financial Officer Uehling before being returned to Vera to cut the checks.

Friday, September 27, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace came in to finish off the week. Commissioner Mosness is still hanging out in Helena for the Leadership Montana Conference.

DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen came in to have the commissioners sign an EMPG Grant Application.

PMC warrants and claims register were presented and reviewed by the commissioners before the commissioners and Sherry stamped the warrants for payment.

County warrants were compared to the claims and stamped by the commissioners and Sherry.

Monday September 30, 2013

All of the commissioners are back for a very confusing day. It is the start of another week and the last day of the month of September.

Cory Conner and Vicki Uehling met with the commissioner to discuss where to fund the purchase of the new grader. \$50,000 will come from the P.I.L.T. contingency fund, \$50,000 from Capital Improvement for road machinery and equipment and \$34,000 from P.I.L.T. road machinery and equipment. The group also discussed a new tank set up for the water truck. The \$23,500 for the water truck will be taken out of road machinery and equipment.

The Commissioners reviewed, discussed, signed and mailed the audit contracts with Denning, Downey and Associates.

The Commissioners went to the PMC at 1:30 p.m. for a meeting with Joe Hansen, Carolyn Osen, PMC CEO Erik Wood and PMC Board Chair Paula Curtin. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss issues and concerns about the ambulance department.

Commissioner Mosness and Clerk Bjorndal reviewed and signed PMC payroll warrants for payment.

The commissioners spent the rest of the day catching up on correspondence and e-mails since they were gone most of the prior week.

Claims for the month of September in the amount of \$180,042.38 were approved and paid during the month.

County and PMC payroll of the month of September amounted to \$437,154.36.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal, Clerk