

NOVEMBER 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	Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.
MACo – Montana Association of Counties	
MDT – Montana Department of Transportation	

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Friday, November 1, 2013

Commissioner Mosness was in the office for the first day of November. Commissioners Faw and Wallace both had the day off.

Warrants were present to be compared to the claims and stamped for payment. They were then passed on to Sherry to compare and stamp.

PMC CEO Erik Wood came in to visit about the PMC and Billings Clinic affiliation and the timeline to roll it out for the public.

Monday, November 4, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all came in to brave a new week in the next to last month of 2013.

Staff meeting for the month was held with Deanna Novotny, Sherry Bjorndal, Daryl Hodges, Cory Conner, Pat Dringman, Erik Wood, Evie Halverson, Marc King, Vicki Uehling, Susan Metcalf, Brooke Osen, Dan Tronrud, Jerry Mahlum, Jessie Connolly, Page Dringman and Lindsey from the Pioneer in attendance.

Commissioner Mosness made announcements that the Annex is having soup pot luck on November 13, 2013, and the Treasurer’s Office, Vicki Uehling and Susan Metcalf are in charge of the Christmas Party.

Coroner Daryl Hodges had only one home death during the month of October. Erik Stenberg is resigning as deputy corner.

Treasurer, Jane Stene, sent out tax bills last week that were over \$8 million. Stephanie and Char both attended motor vehicle training during the month of October.

Road Supervisor, Cory Conner, reported that the road department has a new CAT grader. His crew has been working on the Melville Road, Donald Road, 2 cattle guards, signs and gravel on Tony Creek Hill Road, and a wash out on the East Boulder Road. They are currently working on Featherbed, Berg, Howie, and Hump Creek Roads. They are also cleaning up behind the courthouse.

Weed Supervisor, Evie Halverson, attended a weed management class in Bozeman, North America Weed Management School in Jackson Hole, and a meeting on organic weed control on county roads. Evie is working on a noxious weed grant for Bridger Creek and Upper and Lower Deer Creeks. This would include about 20 land owners.

Financial Officer Uehling held a cash meeting that covered July, August and September. Vicki also went to a grant and loan class, and a two day technology class. The Christmas Party will be on December 13th at the Grand. JohnPaul the auditor will be here on Tuesday and Wednesday to work with Vicki on the year end closing and grants. Vicki also announced that her computer crashed and she took it to Tyler Technology in Billings to have it wiped clean.

DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen, announced that they will be going live with the new dispatch system during the month of November. She has been involved in changes and improvements on the Courthouse and Tin Can Hill towers.

Jerry Mahlum announced that mental health issues are starting. It seems like these and domestic issues always crop up during the holiday season.

Planner, Page Dringman, has been involved in meetings and hearings on the DNRC new flood plain mapping. She and Lana have been working on updating the rural address book, zoning and subdivision regulations and the growth policy update.

Justice of the Peace, Jessie Connolly, reported that 6 new city court cases and 65 justice court cases during the month of October. Jessie attended the monthly addictive disorders meeting. The State insurance verification system is up and running. Jessie attended her semiannual judges training and is now the President of the Association. Sandy Thomas is now gone and they have not yet hired a new person.

Susan Metcalf announced that it is report time. BTGS enrollment is down and the rural schools have remained steady. Susan attended the Superintendent of Schools convention during the month of October. Springdale lost their teacher and a new one from Harlowton will be starting soon.

Sheriff Tronrud handed out the sheet with the numbers for his department for the month of October – 237 complaints, 13 cases and 15 offenses. His department is working on three major cases at this time. Dan traveled to Glendive for the annual Sheriff's and Peace Officers annual gathering. Search and Rescue has had several calls lately. Hunting season has started so the law officers are doing a lot more patrolling in the county.

County Agent, Marc King, informed the group that his senior judging team took first at the Nile and the junior team took fourth. The cement is done for the new bleachers at the rodeo arena. It will take about seven days to put the new bleachers up once they start. Stock Growers banquets are November 22, 2013.

PMC CEO, Erik Wood, announced that the strategic planning with Studer Group is progressing. The PMC will be interviewing a provider candidate on November 11th & 12th. Jill Brown resigned as manager of the assisted living facility.

County Attorney Dringman attended CPT, CCR, and Weed Board meetings during the month of October. His office has been busy as the law department has been busy.

Clerk of District Court, Deanna Novotny, attended clerk's certification school during the month of October. Their department saw 10 new cases in October.

Commissioner Faw said October was a slow month. Wormser Loop Road project is ongoing. It will cost about \$30,000 to blast the hanging rock before the road repair can begin. The commissioners passed a resolution to give money back to donors for the Events Center. The donors have the option of having their donation returned or donating it for maintenance and improvements to the fairgrounds. Bob met with a contractor on the hail damage to the courthouse and is waiting for an estimate on the damages. Health insurance premiums are bothering Bob as the premiums may go up due to the affordable health care plan.

Commissioner Wallace was involved in issues with the ambulance and getting all of the shifts covered. Bids were received and awarded on some old equipment that the road department had. The commissioners met with Granite TCS to talk about a new

county web site. Park and Sweet Grass County Commissioners met to talk about FLAP for the Main Boulder Road project. He also attended meeting on the affiliation of the PMC with Billings Clinic, which is an ongoing project.

Commissioner Mosness attended a meeting with staff from the Governor's office at the Mental Health Center in Billings and is hopeful that some things will change as a result of the meeting. Financial Officer Uehling and Commissioner Mosness participated in a finance and loan workshop. Sweet Grass and Park Counties signed the FLAP 2016 engineering start up agreement for the Boulder Road Project. Susie also went to Billings for an HRDC Board meeting and attended a PMC Board meeting during the month of October. The commissioners worked on getting the letters out on the Events Center donations.

Erik Wood announced that the PMC had folks come in and talk about the affordable health program. The deadline is being extended to March 31st. Erik would like to see if he can get there folks to come back and do a community forum. The Montana exchange should be fully operational by the end of November.

Vicki Uehling met with the commissioners after the staff meeting to talk about the contract with Denning, Downey & Associates to do the GASB 54 (Post Employment Benefits audit). If an actuarial does the audit the cost is about \$8,000. Since the county has less than 100 employees on the group health insurance plan as of July 1, 2013, Denning, Downey & Associates can to the audit for \$1,600. We will take and automatic finding on the FY 2013 audit. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to have Denning; Downey & Associates do the GASB 54 Other Post Employment Benefit audit for FY 2014 and take the automatic finding for FY 2013. The motion passed with 3 ayes and the commissioners signed the agreement.

At the time that the FY 2013/2014 budgeting was done the county did not have the Federal Lands Access Program Match Agreement; therefore the amount that was budgeted is \$5,831.64 short of the \$28,500 that is due January 1, 2014. It was the general consensus that the difference will have to be paid out of P.I.L.T. for this payment. Sherry and Vicki asked other questions about the in kind match and the acquiring of R-O-W.

The commissioners signed an encroachment permit for Triangle Telephone to bore under 2nd Ave in Grey Cliff.

Great West Engineer, Cole Peebles called about the blasting of rock on the Wormser Loop Road.

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the morning as Commissioner Mosness took the morning off.

Susan Sondeno stopped in to visit with the commissioners about some of her concerns in the moving of the Public Health Nurse from the Annex to the PMC.

At 1:00 p.m. all of the commissioners attended the DNRC flood Plain meeting at the Library.

The commissioners turned their office over to Sherry so that the votes for the 2013 City of Big Timber Municipal Election could be counted.

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in for the day. Commissioner Mosness was out of the office for the day.

JohnPaul Oelman, from Denning Downey & Associates, met with the commissioners to update them on the work he will be doing the next two days. He is here for a pre audit closing review.

Thursday, November 7, 2013

All of the commissioners began the day at 7:00 a.m. with a meeting at the PMC with the Commissioner, PMC Board and County Attorney present. This was a meeting to further go over the Billings Clinic/PMC affiliation.

County Attorney Dringman met with the commissioners to discuss civil matters including the PMC/Billings Clinic affiliation and the 25 voted mills for the operation of the PMC.

Sherry Bjorndal stopped in to go over the agenda for the next week.

The commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment.

Erik Wood brought the PMC claims and warrants over for the commissioners and Sherry to review and discuss before Susie and Sherry stamped the warrants.

David Thompson with Brick House Creative met with the Commissioner and Brooke Osen to talk about a new website for the county.

Friday, November 8, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in for the day.

Claims and warrants were presented for Commissioner Mosness to compare and stamp. They were then forwarded to Clerk Bjorndal to compare and stamp the warrants.

Monday, November 11, 2013

Most of the county offices were closed for the Veteran's Day holiday.

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all returned after a long holiday weekend.

Cory Conner stopped in to update the commissioners on happening in the road department.

Public Health Nurse, Susan Sondeno brought in a copy of her resignation.

Clerk Bjorndal came in to have the Commissioners Mosness and Faw canvas the votes for the 2013 Municipal Election. Following are the results:

	Ward 1	Ward 2
Mayor		
Mark Stephens	240	216
Councilman		
Justin Ferguson		206
Kevin McCauley	92	
William (Bill) Miller	159	

Commissioner Mosness was gone in the afternoon.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in for the day and spent the morning catching up on correspondence.

The Annex group had a soup potluck at noon. Good food shared with good coworkers.

Commissioner Mosness worked on the Events Center following up on letters that were sent out and responses that have come back in.

Jenifer Madgic from Senator Tester's office met with the commissioners and talked about what it happening in the Senate. The Farm Bill, SNAP, social security, interest rates and the affordable care act were topics of discussion. Commissioner Faw expressed his concerns over regulations on fuel and coal and the effects it has on agriculture.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

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

Financial Officer Uehling and Char Fuller, the Airport Board Secretary, brought in a \$77,706.00 request for reimbursement from the FAA for the work that has been done so far on the Master Plan and the Obstruction Survey at the Big Timber Airport.

Public Works Director, Cory Conner, stopped in to discuss trading off one of the belly dump s for a side dump and replacing the triple axel belly dump. Cory will continue to look into and check prices on used and new side dumps.

Commissioner Mosness reviewed the county payroll and stamped the warrants before sending them on to Sherry to review and stamp.

Commissioner Faw attended the RC&D meeting in the afternoon.

Ban Selenski with Cross Winds Heating came in to talk about the HVAC system in the Annex.

Kietra Nelson and Maria Ferret', from Visual Grease, met with the commissioners to discuss designing a website for the county.

Friday, November 15, 2013

All of the commissioner arrived in the morning to end the week. Commissioner Faw checked in and went home for the rest of the day.

Warrants were compared to the claims and stamped for payment then sent on the Sherry to compare and same.

Monday, November 18, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived to kick off another week.

Sherry came in to go over the agenda for the week as she was out on Friday.

Vicki Uehling came in with the application for a grant from the MDT Aeronautic Division for the obstruction survey. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve the grant application and sign it. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

Gayle and Jessica brought over the PMC warrants to be reviewed and stamped by Susie and Sherry.

Coralee Hicks with the Tri County Victim Witness Programed brought in the interlocal agreement for the commissioners to review and sign. This is a program that is shared with Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Carbon counties. Coralee went over the agreement and what Sweet Grass County provides for this program.

After lunch the Commissioners and the PMC Board traveled to Billings to meet with Billings Clinic on the pending affiliation of the PMC and Billings Clinic. The meeting was attended by Dr. Nick Wolter, CEO of Billings Clinic, Scott Dukes and Kyle Gee, who both work with Billings Clinic regional Health Care, all three of the Sweet Grass

County Commissioner, PMC CEO, Erik Wood and PMC Board members, Paula Curtin and Perry Anderson and County attorney Dringman. Erik Wood gave a report on the work that has been done to this point and what still needs to be done.

The group traveled back to Big Timber and Commissioners Mosness and Faw attended a PMC Board meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the PMC.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Commissioner Wallace and Faw arrived in the morning. Commissioner Mosness stayed home in the morning and came at noon for a Mental Health Board meeting which Commissioner Faw also attended.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived for hump day.

Public Works Director, Cory Conner, stopped in to visit about road issues. Cory and the commissioners also discussed the possibility of buying a 2010 Circle R side dump trailer at a cost of \$36,700. Commissioner Faw asked Cory to hold off for a day so that he could look into prices in other places.

Clerk Bjorndal came in and read the minutes of the September 2013 commissioners meetings. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Minutes of the October 2013 meetings were read by Clerk Bjorndal and a motion was made by Commissioner Wallace and seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Wallace attended a Weed Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Mosness and Planner Dringman met with Anne Boothe from Triangle Communications.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Wallace and Mosness were all in the office on a cold Thursday morning.

The October cash meeting called to order by Financial Officer, Vicki Uehling, with Commissioners Faw, Wallace and Mosness, Clerk & Recorder, Sherry Bjorndal and Treasurer, Jane Stene attending. Vicki updated the group on some webinars that she participated in during the months of September and October.

Cole Peebles from Great West Engineering called to discuss the scheduling of the blasting on the Wormser Loop project. He wants to move the date back 15-30 days, from the first of the year to the first of February. Need to get a date nailed down so that the landowners can be notified.

Back to the cash meeting the group went over:

- The monthly credit card report as of 10-15-2013

- PMC cash balance of \$1,349,037.32

- July 2013 investment interest distribution

- CD ladder

- New Bank accounts

- Journal entries 419-477 not all inclusive were reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve these journal entries. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

- Line item adjustment were reviewed and discussed.

- Discussed outstanding grants

- Went over capital project funds

The group then went over the expenditure, revenue and cash reports as of October 31, 2013 discussing anything that looked odd and asking questions as we went.

Planner Dringman brought in a boundary relocation COS for Sue Tooley. Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Faw seconded to approve the certificate of survey. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

Friday, November 22, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the morning. Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a regional Mental Health Board meeting.

Commissioner Faw attended the Crazy Mountain Stock grower meetings in the afternoon.

All of the commissioner attended the Crazy Mountain Stock Growers meeting and dinner that evening.

Monday, November 25, 2013

All of the commissioners arrived ready to take on the last week of November.

Cory Conner stopped in to update the commissioners on the happenings of the public works department.

The commissioners discussed which firm to hire for the county website. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept the Visual Grease proposal to develop a website for the county. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

The commissioners spent the afternoon looking at the county boards and discussing appointments for folks whose terms are expiring.

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

All of the commissioners were in.

Brooke Osen and Brenda Timms stopped in to let the commissioners know that they have talked to the Department of Transportation on rebooting the DUI task force. They will get ads in the paper to recruit interested people.

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived to tackle another day of county business.

Claims for the week were presented, reviewed and approved for payment.

Sherry Bjorndal came in to go over the schedule of meetings for the next week.

Commissioner Mosness stamped the county payroll warrants and passed them on to Sherry to review and stamp.

The PMC brought over some warrants to be reviewed and stamped by Susie and Sherry.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Friday, November 29, 2013

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

Commissioner Mosness stopped in to stamp PMC payroll warrants.

County claims for the month of November were \$ 466,972.87.
County and PMC payroll for the month of November amounted to \$481,090.60.

Respectfully submitted

Sherry Bjorndal