OCTOBER 2016

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

Monday, October 3, 2016

All Commissioners are in this morning to start the month of October. Staff meeting was held and present were Pat Dringman, Vera Pederson, Cory Conner, Jessie Connolly, Lindsey from the Big Timber Pioneer, Vicki Uehling, Evie Halverson, Brooke Osen and Alan Ronneberg. County Attorney Dringman said they have been busy with several trials coming up in the next 6 weeks. Public Works Director Conner informed us that they have been blading a lot, replaced the deck on the Suzie Creek bridge, met with McLeod school board regarding the bridge over the West Boulder river closure and that the Pony Truss bridge is expected to be completed in November. Weed Coordinator Halverson said they did the range tour and had the weed education trailer set-up there, they have been spraying the high traffic roads and held a meeting on cheatgrass control options with about 50 people in attendance. Justice of Peace Connolly said the city court had 8 new cases and justice court had 42 new cases. She attended judges school in Bozeman, attended MMA meeting in Hardin, Missoula and here; also an Alternatives meeting. Finance Officer Uehling said she has been busy with engineering stuff, budget reports and the audit will start next Tuesday. Undersheriff Ronneberg informed us that there were 122 city complaints, 92 county and the new officer will start on October 6th. DES Coordinator said that the dispatchers have been busy at trainings and she has been working on the DES end of year reports. Clerk and Recorder Pederson stated they are busy getting ready for the election next month with several problems happening to delay the ballots being printed. Commissioner Mosness informed us that Todd Devlin from Prairie County is the new MACo President and MACo will be offering a no cost security training that she encouraged everyone to participate in. She attended the range tour, PMC board meeting, Area II on Aging, McLeod school board meeting and busy with the Main Boulder right of way project. Commissioner Faw said he attended a MACo Energy Committee meeting with a lot of discussion on the closure of the Colstrip mine, he also informed us that River Bend Solar Farm applied for tax abatement and the public hearing will be the 11th and a decision will be made on the 17th. Commissioner Wallace attended Custer/Gallatin meeting and they approved 4 encroachment permits and had several COS’s that they reviewed. After the staff meeting Cory, Pat and Susie discussed what needed to be done to close the McLeod bridge over the West Boulder River to vehicle traffic. Clerk and Recorder Pederson read minutes from July 2016, Commissioner Mosness moved to approve with corrections and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Clerk and Recorder Pederson then read the August 2016 minutes, Commissioner Faw moved to approve with corrections and Commissioner Mosness seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Finance officer Uehling came in to discuss the ambulance insurance.

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

All Commissioners are in today.

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

All Commissioners are in today.

Thursday, October 6, 2016

All Commissioners are in today. Commissioner Mosness attended a PMC board meeting and Commissioner Faw attended a Fair board meeting.

Friday, October 7, 2016

Commissioner Wallace is in today. Commissioner Mosness is in Billing for a Mental Health governing board meeting.

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

All Commissioners are in the office today. Auditors Jon Paul Poleman and Tom Hayes came in with Finance officer Uehling to do the entrance interview for the audit. We will not have a federal audit this year. At 7 PM a public hearing was held for the tax abatement for the River Bend solar project. The meeting was recorded and see the sign in sheet for those in attendance. Wiley Barker with Crowley Fleck and Amy Berg Pickett with Cypress Creek Renewables presented information on the River Bend Solar Project. This will be voted on by the Commissioners on October 17, 2016.

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Commissioner Mosness is out for the rest of the week. Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Justin Ferguson voiced his support for the River Bend Solar Project.

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Commissioner Faw is in today and Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are both out. Claims were reviewed and signed for the week. Commissioner Wallace stopped in to sign the payroll with Clerk and Recorder Pederson.

Friday, October 14, 2016

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. Matt Cremer stopped in to compliment us on the roads in the Melville area.

Monday, October 17, 2016

All Commissioners are back in the office today. A vote was held to accept or deny tax abatement to River Bend Solar Project located along I90 west of Reed Point. Commissioner Mosness moved to accept Resolution 10-17-2016A to allow tax abatement for the project. Commissioner Faw seconded this and offered discussion on how wind and solar need to be firmed (stored energy). The motion passed with 3 ayes. Present at the meeting was Rick Jarrett and Pat and Page Dringman. Resolution 10-17-2016B setting the salary for the Sweet Grass County Attorney was read, Commissioner Mosness made the motion to approve and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today and Commissioner Wallace is in Missoula for the MT Forest Counties Summit. Commissioner Mosness and Superintendent of Schools Metcalf signed the paperwork to re-certify taxes for all the schools, city, county general and rural then turned them into the Department of Revenue.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today. Claims were reviewed and signed. Commissioner Mosness went to Chico for a Billings Clinic Regional Trustee training for the next two days. Commissioner Wallace is on his way back from Missoula.

Friday, October 21, 2016

Commissioner Faw is in today.

Monday, October 24, 2016

All Commissioners are in today. Cory came in to update us on what is happening in the road department. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept the MACo inmate coverage, Commissioner Faw seconded and it passed with 3 ayes. The price for this insurance stayed the same. Finance officer Uehling came in to discuss the effect of recertification. Tom Hayes and Jon Paul Poleman with Strom and Associates stopped by for the FY 2016 audit exit interview, also present was Finance officer Uehling.

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

All Commissioners are in this morning. Planner Dringman brought in a COS for John Esp boundary relocation in Boulder Meadows Subdivision between Einar & Jane Stene and John and Stoney Esp. Commissioner Faw moved to approve and Commissioner Mosness seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. A second COS for Marty Wolf family transfer to Donna Wolf was presented. Commissioner Faw moved to approve and Commissioner Mosness seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. They cannot sell this for 3 years.

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Commissioner Faw is in today and Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are out.

Thursday, October 27, 2016

All Commissioners are in today. DES Coordinator Osen came in to discuss 911 issues with Sheriff Tronrud, Undersheriff Ronneberg, McKenzie Reis from the Big Timber Pioneer, and Garrett Johnson and Sam Samuelson with DIS Technologies. Granite Technology does our IT and this is a different layer above what they provide. A new server would be needed along with a Meracki devise to encrypt data going over a public network.

Friday, October 28, 2016

Commissioner Wallace is in today, Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Mental Health Center strategic planning session and Commissioner Faw is out.

Monday, October 31, 2016

All Commissioners are in today. Superintendent of Schools Metcalf came in to recertify the county mills after the recent NWE settlement with DOR. Also present was City Councilman Justin Ferguson. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to recertify the county mill levy. There was lots of discussion on raising taxes by Councilman Ferguson and Commissioner Faw and that the schools should use the reserves. Commissioner Wallace seconded this with the comment that this will reset everything and the numbers will be correct for the next year. Motion passed with 2 ayes and one opposed. Planner Dringman came in with a letter for the River Bend Solar project regarding zoning. Commissioner Mosness moved to approve this letter and Commissioner Faw seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes.

Claims for the month of October amounted to $400,452.52.

County October payroll totaled $202,115.24.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

Susie Mosness, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk