

AUGUST 7 - 11, 2023  
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. 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.

**NOTICE: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder (MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b)).**

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**Monday, August 7, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

Commissioner Moody called the August Staff Meeting to order. Present were County Attorney Pat Dringman, County Planner Page Dringman, County Superintendent of Schools Callie Rech, Sweet Grass County Weed Supervisor Connie Weston, Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly, Sheriff Alan Ronneberg, DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy, and Clerk & Recorder Vera Pederson. There was no public present.

County Attorney Dringman said it has been a busy summer and said he has been working on the Mirro 310 violation.

Planner Dringman said she is working on an 80-acre county subdivision and a small one in the city, several certificates of surveys and changes to the subdivision regulations.

Superintendent Rech has been working on budgeting, TFS, training for accreditation, new students, and McLeod parking issues.

Weed Coordinator Weston said they held a weed board meeting, she attended the Conservation District Board meeting, Department of Labor inspection and was at the fair all last week.

Justice of the Peace Connolly reported the numbers for the month and attended a commission meeting to prepare for the school in September, they had a jury summoned and released and discussed handicapped access at the courthouse.

Clerk and Recorder Pederson said she has been busy with the upcoming school bond election and municipal election, and she will be off to Chico for her convention today.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported the numbers for the month, said there were no firework complaints in the city, said boat float had about 35 floaters Friday and 225 Saturday. He informed us of a scam using deputies names, said Andrew Greydanus will be leaving August 14<sup>th</sup>, he has a conditional hire for a new deputy from South Dakota and he hired a high school student as a part-time dispatcher.

Public Works Director Conner said they spent July cleaning up roads from June rains and replaced the bridge on East Boulder Road.

DES/911 Coordinator Brophy said he has been busy with reports and paperwork.

Commissioner Roe said they have been busy with budgets, DOR meetings, Voges Bridge, approach repair, fairgrounds – new roof and siding @ the exhibit building, airport apron will be starting soon, senior center apartment remodel, new server and the .gov emails.

Commissioner Wallace mentioned the Sibanye Stillwater Mine Amendment #4 with the Forest Service.

Commissioner Moody added that they are in the final stages of the tank removal at the courthouse and he attended a fair board meeting, the CWPP and LEPC meeting.

Commissioner Moody called the meeting to order for the review and approval of encroachment permits with PWD Conner and all the Commissioners present. There was no public present.

1. Encroachment permit for Triangle Telephone - boring at Ray Stenberg's property near Howie Road. Commissioner Roe moved to accept the permit as presented with no conditions. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.
2. Encroachment permit for Chuck & Kandi Schuman - to enlarge the existing approach for a new house and address. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the permit as presented with no conditions. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.
3. Encroachment permit from the Little Timber Creek Ranch, LLC for the placement of a No Trespassing sign with other verbiage was presented. Following discussion, the permit was tabled pending more information and review from the county attorney.
4. Encroachment permits from Intermountain Infrastructure Group, LLC were presented. This group is plowing/boring fiber cable from the Stillwater County line on Rapelje Road, under HWY 191, then onto Featherbed Road and Dugout Road into Park County. They have arranged a video meeting this afternoon at 1:30. Commissioner Wallace moved to table the decision on these permits until after the meeting this afternoon. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Moody called the meeting for the discussion of support for the East Boulder Sibanye Stillwater Mine EIS amendment - preferred alternative 3. Planner Dringman presented her comments for discussion. There was no public present. Commissioner Wallace moved to sign the letter of support, Commissioner Roe seconded, and the motion carried with 3 ayes. The meeting was adjourned.

Commissioner Moody called the meeting to order for the purpose of reviewing the encroachment permits for Intermountain Infrastructure Group, LLC. They are requesting permits for approximately a 45-mile-long area stretching from the Stillwater County line on Rapelje Road to 191 then onto Featherbed Road, continuing on Dugout Road to North Yellowstone Trail until it enters Park County. They are planning on installing a fiber optic cable in the road right of way. This cable provides service to large internet users, not residential. A discussion followed about the county's expectations as far as cleanup, weed control and damage repair, if necessary. It was also requested that we have a contact person. This person will be David Leon. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the encroachment permits with the conditions attached. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes. The meeting was adjourned.

**Tuesday, August 8, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

Brandon Duffey with Great West called to touch base on the bid letting next Monday for the Voges Bridge (Grey Bear Fishing Access site) over the Yellowstone River scour repair. He also wanted to add an addendum that will clarify that Class III Riprap must

come from a SHPO approved pit (DEQ or exempt). He also mentioned that some of the interested parties are concerned about the tight timeframe and the laying of the asphalt this year. FEMA will require that we ask for an extension if we can't spend the money by December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Roe and SG Mental Health Department Head Dan Tronrud had a Teams meeting with Rachel Norris and Sydney Pearce of the MSU Office of Rural Health – AHEC to discuss the Community Health Worker and Telehealth Grant Programs. They have additional funding available and would like to make it available to the current programs.

Commissioner Wallace signed the two FAA Grant agreements for the airport apron expansion.

### **Wednesday, August 9, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

A resident on Deadman's Canyon Road called in about the beaver dam on Lower Sweet Grass Road almost causing the water to go over the county road. Public Works Director Conner was notified.

Another resident called about some trees on Bainter Road that blew over during Sunday night's rainstorm. The Public Works Director was notified.

The County Attorney stopped by to discuss the encroachment permit requested for the placement/wordage on a sign that a landowner wanted to place in the ROW on Swamp Creek Road.

Chamber of Commerce representatives Tamara Warwick and Christine Bakke came in to discuss upcoming Chamber of Commerce events, finances and to request continued funding.

A resident stopped in to ask about the cattleguard on the county road located 2 miles up Dry Creek. It is currently filled with gravel that the inexperienced operators pushed in. He also was concerned about the lack of access due to the removal of the wire gate on one side of the road to the other (not complete) which is not suitable for emergency vehicle access.

Finance Officer Uehling came in to discuss revenue budgets.

### **Thursday, August 10, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

CFO Uehling came in and we discussed various budget scenarios with the new mill valuation.

The agenda for next week was discussed. Claims were presented for review and approval.

Commissioners Moody and Wallace attended the MT Department of Transportation/Conservation District meeting on the Old Highway 10 bridge erosion.

Commissioner Roe and CFO Uehling had a video conference with Tyler Tech. Michael Carroll and Nicholas Pinnon discussed the migration of the software and data from the old server to the new server. This has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>. School ERP PRO will be followed by Tax Wise. Doc U Pro has been scheduled for some time in October. The server will be shut down for approximately 6 hours on Tuesday and hopefully 4 or less on Wednesday. All departments will be notified.

Commissioner Roe attended the District Conservation meeting.

**Friday, August 11, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.


Budget discussions continue on the impact of the Department of Revenue market assessments, value of the mill and potential impact on the taxpayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

  
JV Moody, Chairman

Date Approved: October 31, 2023

  
Attest: Vera Pederson, Clerk

