

NOVEMBER 6 – NOVEMBER 10, 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)).**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday, November 6, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

A Department Head Meeting for November was held. Present were Deputies Trevor Martin and Jason Ferguson, Clerk of Court Barb Swanson, Weed Supervisor Connie Weston, Treasurer Char Rasnick, Planner Page Dringman, Financial Officer Vicki Uehling, DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy, Extension Agent Marc King, County Attorney Pat Dringman, Public Works Director Cory Conner, Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly, Clerk and Recorder Vera Pederson and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Dawn Curry.

Deputies Martin and Ferguson reported since Sheriff Ronneberg was on vacation. There is one new sexual violent offender reported in town. October had several snowy days with increased activity. Halloween went well. Deputy Orr has returned from the academy.

Clerk of District Court Swanson reported on her case numbers. The judge will only be here one time this month.

Extension Agent King reported that the last month has been busy wrapping up the 4H year. The FFA team that went to Indianapolis came home with second place at the national championships, which everyone celebrated.

Weed Supervisor Weston attended a safety conference online and the MWCA conference online. The weed board meets today and November 21<sup>st</sup> is the organizational meeting for the feasibility of creating a weed co-operative.

Justice of the Peace Connolly reported her case numbers. She went to judge school the last week of September.

PWD Conner reported that the motor grader that they ordered had finally showed up. The parking lots have been graded and paved. They have attended snowplow training; The Voges Bridge project has been paved.

DES/911 Coordinator Brophy had nothing new this month.

Treasurer Rasnick said they have been busy with collecting taxes. They had cut one employee to part-time and she has now quit. They are going to try for a while with just the two of them.

Planner Dringman reported that there are several county subdivisions in discussion phases.

Financial Officer Uehling has been working on the end of year matters and audit matters. She said the high school has cancelled their credit cards and instead is using P cards, which is something we may want to consider.

County Attorney Dringman said he has been busy with several trials, researching the mills question and the Mirro/Conservation District lawsuit.

Commissioner Roe said the commission has been busy with the mills questions and hiring MACo to represent the County, as well as the resolutions to re-do the budget. She also reported that the Airport Apron is finished.

Commissioner Wallace reported he had worked on issues for the PMC and the South-Central Mental Health Center.

Commissioner Moody reported on the commission's involvement with the remodel of the upstairs of the Senior Center, road matters, the safety committee, the Voges Bridge and the Old Hwy 10 Bridge.

Clerk and Recorder Pederson reported on the recent city municipal/BTGS bond election. Currently, 50% of the ballots have been returned, with one day to go. Last year, 57% were returned. She stated that a cybersecurity assessment is coming up. She also notified everyone that she is leaving her position and her last day will be December 29, 2023. She introduced Dawn Curry as her replacement until the next election.

The Department Head Meeting was adjourned.

\*\*\*\*\*

Public Works Director Conner presented an Encroachment Permit for approval. The permit was from Intermountain Infrastructure Group LLC for an approach to the closed portion on the west side of Dugout Road close to Old Yellowstone Trail Road. This approach will allow access to a generator site. Commissioner Roe moved to approve the permit with conditions and Commissioner Wallace seconded. The motion carried with three ayes.

Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the ARCA Search archiving proposal for the on-site digital preservation of the Transcribed Records, Index to Water Rights, Notice of Water Rights, the Index to Miscellaneous Records and Road Records for \$9,000.00. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.

A concerned resident came in to talk about the large hole in front of the civic center handicapped parking where the curb meets the street. Several people have damaged their vehicles or injured themselves falling into this hole. She was referred to the city.

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

Commissioners Moody and Wallace are in. Commissioner Roe is out.

Extension Agent King stopped in to visit about issues at the county fairgrounds.

A resident of Featherbed Road called to complain about Featherbed Road, culverts and drainage ditch issues.

Weed Supervisor Weston stopped in to discuss the UTV and ATV's at the weed shop.

A concerned resident called to ask questions regarding the recent city and school bond election process.

Election Judges are in to use the Commissioner Conference room for the municipal and school bond election.

Airport Secretary, Kandi Schuman, was in to talk about the inventory of aircraft at the Big Timber Airport/Howard Field for the FAA.

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

All Commissioners are in.

Clerk & Recorder Vera Pederson and Dawn Curry were in to go over Agenda items.

Commissioner Moody went to the weed shop to get information for the ad to sell the UTV and ATV from that department.

Commissioner Moody stopped at Key Insurance to get an estimate for repairs to the county car, which was damaged when an employee using the car hit a coyote.

Nate Ruth, of the Fairgrounds Board, called to ask about purchasing a piece of equipment for the Fairgrounds tractor.

**Thursday, November 9, 2023**

Commissioners Moody, Wallace and Roe are in.

Weekly claims were reviewed and signed.

Commissioners Roe and Moody went out to Featherbed Road with a resident to look at the road, culverts and drainage issues. Some of the problems are caused/exacerbated by the fiber optic installation.

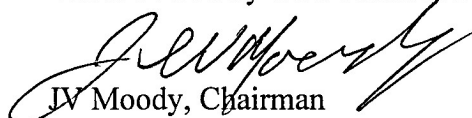
Commissioner Moody is working with the airport secretary on the airport aircraft inventory for the FAA.

**Friday, November 10, 2023**

Veterans Day Holiday – offices closed.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

  
JV Moody, Chairman

Date Approved:

Attest: Vera Pederson, Clerk



