APRIL 2017

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**

DES – Disaster and Emergency Services

CCR – Coordinated Community Response

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

TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program – provides matching grant funds to local government agencies for construction of infrastructure projects.

Monday, April 3, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. A staff meeting was held, present were Deanna Novotny, Vicki Uehling, Susan Metcalf, Cory Conner, Evie Halverson, McKenzie from the Big Timber Pioneer, Marc King, Pat Dringman, Jane Stene, Jessie Connolly and Dan Tronrud. After the staff meeting Superintendent of Schools Metcalf requested isolation status for the Greycliff school which is for under 10 students to keep direct state aid. The isolation status was approved. Big Timber Wind LLC road agreement was approved and signed.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

All Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder Pederson attended the Mental Health First Aid training taught by Karl Rosten.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Mike, Ranna and Kevin McCauley came in to question the recording of a lien by the IRS, also present were Clerk and Recorder Pederson and County Attorney Dringman. They felt that their right to due process had been denied and that an abstract of judgement should have been filed with the lien. They were informed that the Clerk and Recorder’s office records what is presented and that their fight should be with the IRS.

Crazy Mountain Wind (2017) came in to present the new and expanding industry classification application to the county. Present were Shelby DeMars, Michael Thompson with Pattern Energy, Jan Engwis, Olivia from the Big Timber Pioneer, Pat Dringman, Page Dringman, Cory Conner and Evie Halverson. This would be an 80 megawatt project located on the western boundary of Park and Sweet Grass Counties. Construction would begin in a year. They will work with us to draft road, weed and impact fee agreements. As of now, they do not have a signed PPA. Pattern Energy will let us know when this happens and we will schedule the hearing for tax abatement.

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today. Commissioner Wallace was in after lunch. Board of Health meeting was held. Commissioner Faw attended a fair board meeting. Commissioner Mosness was on a conference call with WFH on right of way acquisitions and then attended an interview for the new PMC CEO.

Friday, April 7, 2017

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today.

Monday, April 10, 2017

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

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out all week. The Big Timber Fire Department was in to talk about the donation funds. Present were Matt Cremer, Kris Novotny, Pat Leary, Larry Plaggemeyer, Stuart Stenberg, Bill Brownlee and Nathan Anderson. It was decided to leave the accounts as they are for now.

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out all week. Barb Beck and Abby Nelson from FWP was in to discuss wolf issues and introduce Abby as the new wolf biologist for our area. Millie Woolley was in to invite us to the senior center on May 17th for lunch and to collect rent.

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out all week. County Planner Dringman was in to go over changes to the impact fee agreement with Big Timber Wind LLC. One item was to correct a typo of 0.05% per year to 0.5% per year. The other item was to change the true-up adjustment from 15 days prior to 30 days following commercial operation date. Dick Christ also attended this meeting. An airport board meeting was held at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14, 2017

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

Monday, April 17, 2017

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today and Commissioner Wallace is helping the road department on the Main Boulder Road. Commissioner Mosness attended an interview for the PMC CEO.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. The cleaning contract for the courthouse was signed. Loretta Hurley was the winning bid for $2200.00 a month starting April 10, 2017. Chris Fortune came in to talk about Family Heritage supplemental insurance. He will present to the May staff meeting. Commissioner Wallace attended a weed board meeting at noon.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Public Works Director Conner came in to update us on road department issues. Clerk and Recorder Pederson came in to read February 2017 minutes. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. John Beaudry with Stillwater Mining Company came in with the 2016 Impact Monitoring Report and the 2017 Annual Allocation of Metal Mines License Tax Revenue to eligible counties. All Commissioners signed the report. Olivia with the Big Timber Pioneer was also present for the meeting. Park and Stillwater Counties will also sign this. Commissioner Mosness was out in the afternoon.

Thursday, April 20, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Claims for the week were reviewed and signed. Dick Christ stopped in with concerns on the Custer/Gallatin working group and USFS. Bill Lloyd with Great West Engineering was in to discuss the Old Boulder Bridge. Also present were Dick Christ and Olivia Keith from the Big Timber Pioneer. This would be a potential TSEP project but could also go to an off system bridge project with DOT, but this could be more expensive and higher standards of engineering and permitting. We need to get an ADT (average daily traffic count) done. Commissioner Faw and Mosness attended a LEPC meeting. Shawn Titeca came in to discuss the McLeod Bridge and ROW concerns. Doug Lowry a Triangle Communications board member stopped in about grants for emergency services training.

Friday, April 21, 2017

All Commissioners are in this morning.

Monday, April 24, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Justine Ferguson came in with concerns on the mail ballots and would like a meeting with the Clerk and Recorder and the County Attorney. Commissioner Mosness attended a PMC board meeting at noon.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Commissioner Mosness and Faw attended the Weed Summit this morning and Commissioner Wallace is out.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. A decision was made to apply for a TSEP planning grant on the Old Boulder Bridge. This would require a $15,000 match from the county. Commissioner Faw moved to approve and Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Mosness attended a South Central Regional Juvenile Detention board meeting in Billings.

Thursday, April 27, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. A meeting was held to discuss what happened with the missing ballots for the school election. Present were Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator Pederson, County Attorney Dringman, Superintendent of Schools Metcalf, school board candidates Colleen Conner, Susie Fiveash, and Gilbert Prather, Justin Ferguson, Jackie Franklin, Brad McGann, Dick Christ, Rocky Heineman, Don Franklin, Superintendent Al Buerkle from Sweet Grass County High School, and McKenzie from the Big Timber Pioneer. Clerk and Recorder Pederson went thru the timeline of what happened to the ballots. Justin wanted to hear why this happened. County Attorney Dringman addressed the legal issues and Superintendent of Schools Metcalf talked about what information had come from OPI and the Secretary of State’s office. Clerk and Recorder Pederson and County Attorney Dringman then discussed the safe guards and new procedures for the mail ballots. The post office also did an investigation and found no wrong doing on their part. All candidates felt like the Clerk and Recorder had worked quickly to fix the mistake. County Attorney Dringman went through the process of a challenge to the election. Gary Hablutzel with Joint Powers Trust came in about health insurance quotes. Everyone would have to complete a health questionnaire and that would go to the underwriter. EBMS is the third party administrator for this policy. We are waiting for a quote from MACo Healthcare Trust. All Commissioners went out to the Electric Light Ditch to view the new diversion and head gate structure. Boulder River Watershed and the Conservation District applied for a renewable resource grant for this. Water from this ditch is used on the Mountain View Cemetery. Commissioner Wallace and Faw were both out in the afternoon.

Friday, April 28, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness was in Billings for a Mental Health Board meeting.

Claims for the month of April amounted to $205,286.45.

County April payroll totaled $169,847.30.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

 Board of County Commissioners

 Susie Mosness, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk