

AUGUST 2014  
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	MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
DES – Disaster and Emergency Services	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, August 1, 2014

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are both in office today. Commissioner Mosness stamped checks and compared them to the claims.

Monday, August 4, 2014

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all made it through the weekend and were back for county business. Staff meeting was held at 9:30 a.m., present were Vera Pederson, Deanna Novotny, Erik Wood, Marc King, Vicki Uehling, Jami Moody, Page Dringman, Laura Nelson from Big Timber Pioneer, Jane Stene came in after finishing helping customer, and the law enforcement and DES were busy on a truck accident. Clerk of Court Deanna Novotny reported that her office had 19 new cases last month and that she had 27 people served with their jury duty notice. PMC CEO Erik Wood reported that the mill levy election is August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Hearts and Hands golf scramble is August 15<sup>th</sup> and that they have been working on a cost savings with their vendors. Extension Agent Marc King reported that our 4H group won the state title for the 16<sup>th</sup> time. He had gone to Oregon to judge a hog show. The fair sale was up \$32,000 this year. The judging team helped with the Hospice Thrift Store move. Treasure Jane Stene reports that some of the protested taxes have been settled with Verizon, Alltel and WWC Holdings and that some of those date back to 2009. Finance Officer Vicki Uehling reported that she has been busy with year-end projects, budget meetings and resolutions. Jami Moody reported that the County Attorney's office has been busy with PMC/Billings Clinic merge, Fish and Game at Boulder fishing access, ditch easement and the trial for David Welk issues. Planner Page Dringman reported that her office is working on updating the rural addressing; there will be a Growth Policy public hearing in September, and working on two certificates of surveys. Clerk and Recorder Vera Pederson reported that the PMC Mill Levy election ballots are being mailed today and due back by August

19<sup>th</sup>. She said her new employee Brooke Metcalf-Bare is doing great. She will be traveling to Hamilton next week for Clerk and Recorder's Convention. Commissioner Mosness attended Yellowstone River Conservation District boat tour, PMC Board meeting, Board of Health meeting and Mental Health meeting. She also reported that we received the taxable values from the Department of Revenue and most of them went up. On Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> they will be meeting with a design team for the next 7 miles of the Main Boulder Road. Commissioner Faw reported that he attended a Northwestern Energy Board Meeting and working all month with the budgets. Commissioner Wallace reported that they met with the City of Big Timber and asked them to increase the law enforcement budget by ¾ percent. He also attended a transportation meeting, LEPC meeting and approved an encroachment permit.

The Commissioners met for a workman's compensation meeting with Kevin Babcock from First West and Jeanne Wisler from State Fund, also present was Erik Wood, Catherine McKenzie, Miki Gregorich and Vera Pederson. Kevin will come back in September for staff meeting to meet with department heads.

Finance Officer Vicki Uehling stopped in to discuss issues with budgets, all the budgets, revenues, and excess mills were reviewed again.

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

All Commissioners were in the office today

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

All Commissioners are in the office today. The Commissioners had a meeting with Mayor Stephens, Pat Dringman, Vicki Uehling and city attorney Bill Frazier regarding a FAA grant for the Big Timber Airport in the amount of \$123,539.00 for a crack seal project on the runway. Commissioner Mosness moved to accept this and Commissioner Faw seconded, it passed with 3 ayes.

A salary compensation board meeting was held for the elected official's salary. Present were Sheriff Tronrud, Doug Lowry, Pat Dringman, Vera Pederson, Jessie Connolly and Michael Wright from the Big Timber Pioneer. Commissioner Wallace asked the board for a 1.5 % raise for the elected officials but County Attorney will not be included in this. Pat Dringman made a motion to have 1.5 % raise and Doug Lowry seconded this, it passed with 8 ayes. The Commissioners will vote on this next week.

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Everyone is in the office this morning. Vicki Uehling came in office to go over the budget one more time; Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer was also present. At noon an addictive disorders meeting was held. Commissioner Wallace reviewed and stamped payroll checks and Clerk and Recorder Pederson did the same. Claims were reviewed and signed by all the Commissioners. A short meeting was held with Justice of Peace and City Judge Jessie Connolly regarding her sick and vacation that she accrues on the city judge hours. Nothing was resolved and we will meet again with the city and county attorneys to get this fixed.

Friday, August 8, 2014

All Commissioners are in the office this morning. The Commissioners had a discussion regarding a letter to WinData LLC written by Planner Dringman addressing the process for tax abatement. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to sign this and Commissioner Faw seconded it, motion passed with 3 ayes. Further discussion was held regarding having the planning board look at developing an application for this process and have some type of bonding for reclamation at the end of the generators life. Commissioner Wallace compared claims to warrants and stamped them.

Monday, August 11, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness attended MACO District meetings in Billings and Commissioner Faw is on vacation all week.

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Commissioner Mosness is in the office today. Public Works Director and Jay Federer stopped by with a road update. Commissioner Mosness was out that afternoon.

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness both in office today. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept the elected officials salary compensation board proposal of a 1.5% COLA for elected officials. Commissioner Wallace seconded it and it passed with 2 ayes. Commissioner Wallace attended a Custer/Gallatin working group meeting in Bozeman. Airport manager Bob Bryan stopped by to inform us the repairs to the radios at the airport have been fixed.

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are in today. Finance officer Uehling came in to discuss that FEMA reimbursing us fully for the Terland Bridge and we have a meeting set-up to discuss Wormser Loop. Claims were reviewed and signed.

Friday, August 15, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are in today. Commissioner Wallace stamped warrants and compared them to claims.

Monday, August 18, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are in today and Commissioner Faw is still on vacation. Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Pederson stamped warrants for the PMC. Clerk and Recorder Pederson came in to go over the agenda for the next week. Commissioner Mosness attended a PMC board meeting that evening.

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are both in the office today.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness are in today. Public works director Cory Conner stopped in to let us know that the Swamp Creek Road bridge deck is starting to break down due to the trucks hauling gravel and asphalt. He will continue to monitor this and stay in contact with the contractor. An encroachment permit for Triangle Telephone on the Boulder Road was approved.

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Mosness signed claims for the week. Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Pederson stamped payroll. Commissioner Mosness attended a meeting for the Main Boulder Road hosted by Western Federal Lands.

Friday, August 22, 2014

Commissioner Wallace was out today and Commissioner Mosness was in Billings for a Mental Health governing board meeting.

Monday, August 25, 2014

All Commissioners are in the office this morning. We signed an agreement with Golden Valley County for Susan Metcalf to serve as their superintendent of schools. Finance officer Uehling stopped in to review the final budget before the hearing tomorrow.

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

All Commissioners are in today. PMC working group was held from 7a.m. to 9a.m this morning. Great West Engineering met to discuss Wormser Loop, present were Bill Lloyd, Cory Conner, Vicki Uehling and Laura Nelson from Big Timber Pioneer. Commissioner Wallace reviewed with those the history of the project and told those at the meeting that if we move forward it needs to be resurveyed and then a bid package can go out. The budget hearing was held later that afternoon. Those in attendance were Clerk and Recorder Pederson, Finance Officer Uehling and Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept the 2015 proposed budget in the amount of \$20,676,366.00 and Commissioner Mosness seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes. That afternoon we accepted the 2015 MSU Extension agreement, Commissioner Faw moved and Commissioner Mosness seconded, it passed with 3 ayes.

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is in Lewistown with DES coordinator.

Thursday, August 28, 2014

All Commissioners are in today. We had a conference call with Montana DES, Tim Thennis on Wormser Loop Road. We discussed whether to move forward with the project. Tim mentioned that they are 12-18 months behind getting the money back out to the counties. We will be reimbursed for actual costs as long as the scope of work is completed. If they are over 10% of original they would require more documentation and FEMA would have to approve it. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to move forward with the Wormser Loop repair from the 2011 flood. Commissioner Faw offered comment that this is an expensive fix for the amount of road. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. There was a LEPC meeting at 11:30 a.m. The lease agreement for the Hospitality House was reviewed; Jim Fellows from the senior center came in to discuss this. We will get a new copy and sign it giving the senior center a lease for another 10 years until 2024. The PMC ballots were canvassed later that afternoon.

Friday, August 29, 2014

All Commissioners were in to finish the month of August out. PMC payroll and warrants for the claims were stamped by Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder Pederson.

Claims for the month of August amounted to \$147,510.20

County and PMC August payrolls totaled \$512,088.58

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

William Wallace, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk