JANUARY 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, January 2, 2017

New Year Holiday

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

All Commissioners are in to start the new year. Election of officers was held, Commissioner Faw nominated Commissioner Mosness for chairman, Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Mosness nominated Commissioner Faw for vice-chairman, Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Resolutions for the new year were read and passed. Resolution #01-03-2017A establishing hours for commissioners. Commissioner Faw discussed the full-time commissioner status and that he would like to see us be part-time. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve and Commissioner Mosness seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes and 1 nay. Resolution #01-03-2017B setting hours for all county offices. Commissioner Faw moved and Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Resolution #01-03-2017C setting mileage and lodging rates for county employees. Commissioner Faw moved and Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Resolution #01-03-2017D establishing reimbursement rates for county employees. Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. A staff meeting was held and present were Vera Pederson, Cory Conner, Deanna Novotny, McKenzie Reis from the Big Timber Pioneer, Vicki Uehling, Jane Stene, Evie Halverson, Dan Tronrud, Alan Ronneberg and Susan Metcalf. Clerk of Court Novotny reported she had 10 new cases in December and also said that there are 10 new clerk of courts in Montana this year. Weed Coordinator said things have been slow with the weeds so she has been submitting reimbursements and grants. She will be holding the weed summit in April and maybe a refresher in May. Sheriff Tronrud reported that they have been extremely busy with the weather. There were 334 calls for service in December and 7 citations issued. Also, they will have to replace the truck that was involved in the accident last month. Superintendent of Schools Metcalf said they are holding a suicide grief counselling at the McLeod school today and that McLeod was up to 14 students this year. Finance Officer Uehling reported she submitted the annual report and working on TSEP grant for Lower Sweet Grass Bridge. Treasurer Stene said the first half taxes were due December 9, 2016 and now her office is pretty slow. Public Works Director Conner said they have been busy plowing road and replaced a grader with a newer one. Clerk and Recorder Pederson informed us that she attended elected official training in December and her office will be gearing up for a special federal election this next year. She also informed us that there will be a board training for all county board members in February. Commissioner Faw said that Beartooth RC & D came in and gave an update last month. Commissioner Wallace reported that they renewed the Superintendent of School contract with Golden Valley County, held a cash meeting, he attended a Custer/Gallatin working group meeting, approved a COS for Reed Point cemetery and some encroachment permits. Commissioner Mosness attended a PMC meeting where they were introduced to the Interim CEO who started today, she travelled to Helena for a Mental Health meeting and informed us that MACo has a new lobbyist named Eric Bryson.

Sheriff Tronrud and Undersheriff Ronneberg stayed after the staff meeting to discuss options on a replacement truck for the law enforcement, the 2015 Dodge pickup was totaled on the interstate 12/31/16. Discussion was held on plowing the town site of Grey Cliff. Present were Carol and Ellis Faw, Rocky Heinemann, Walt Frese, Amy Newman, Cory Conner and Lindsey from the Big Timber Pioneer. Cory talked about plowing 2nd Street then “A” Street to 4th Street. We will have Page research the Faw Subdivision to see what else the county may need to plow. Keith Wong with Western Federal Highways called to let us know the bids were over and that he would try to find more funding if we could come up with the match of $130,000 this is split between Park and Sweet Grass Counties. Commissioner Mosness will contact Park County. A MOU between Beartooth RC & D and Sweet Grass County was reviewed, Commissioner Wallace moved to approve this and Commissioner Faw seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes.

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. A Board of Health meeting was held at noon. The cooperative agreement for licensed establishments contracts between the State and the County was approved and signed.

Thursday, January 5, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Clerk and Recorder Pederson came in to read October and November 2016 minutes. Commissioner Faw moved to approve the October 2016 minutes as corrected and Commissioner Wallace seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept November 2016 minutes as corrected and Commissioner Faw seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes. All Commissioners reviewed and signed claims for the beginning of the month. John Novotny came in with concerns on the Main Boulder Road Project.

Friday, January 6, 2017

All Commissioners are in this morning. John Novotny came in with more information on the Main Boulder Road Project.

Monday, January 9, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is on vacation. John Novotny and Kathy Agnew stopped by to discuss the Main Boulder Road Project.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

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

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. David Kaplan from KULR 8 News stopped in to discuss the River Bend solar farm. Mark Norem was in to complain about the road department plowing at his place.

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. Planner Dringman was in to go over Ellison Ranch Limited Partnership / VF Farm LLC certificate of survey. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the boundary relocation and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. Dan Rostad and Jenna McKinney from Senator Daines office stopped in to visit. Claims for the week were reviewed and signed.

Friday, January 13, 2017

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

Monday, January 16, 2017

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. Clerk and Recorder Pederson was in to go over the insurance renewal application. We will have the Sheriff’s office, Public Works and Fire department go over their part. Clerk and Recorder Pederson also read the December 2016 minutes. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept as corrected and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. A Mental Health Board meeting was held at noon.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw travelled to Helena to testify in support of HB156, a bill to make permanent the statutory appropriation for the county payment from the hard rock mining impact trust fund. Commissioner Mosness is out today.

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. Commissioner Faw went to Billings for a Beartooth RC & D meeting.

Friday, January 20, 2017

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

Monday, January 23, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. A conference call with Western Federal Highways on the bid coming in above estimate on the Main Boulder Road project was held. We have enough money going out for ROW purchases that it will cover the shortfall. Glen Berg stopped by to tell us how good the county roads are.

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. There was more discussion on plowing Grey Cliff. County Planner Dringman will draft a resolution regarding the plowing. Commissioner Wallace attended the Custer/Gallatin working group meeting.

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. The Senior Center representatives came in and presented and update on what was happening. Present were Jim Scholten, Jerry Hauge, Bob Nolan and Ben Gavne. We gave approval to reside the outside of the building and paint the front for a total of $12,000. County board appointments were made, present were Bill Hibnes, Nathan Ruth and Marc King. Commissioner Faw made motion to appoint Vera Pederson to the City/County Planning board, Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Wallace moved to appoint Dan Halvorson to the County Planning board, Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. There were four applications for the 2 seats on the Fair Board, each applicant was voted on with Rocky Cosgriff and Nathan Ruth with the most votes. Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Mosness seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes and 1 nay. Commissioner Faw stated that the fair board had accomplished a lot in the last 2 years and hope the new board members would attend the meeting. The Weed Board appointments were Alex Blake and Jason Schwers, Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Also, Commissioner Wallace made motion to replace Dick Rath who resigned from the Weed Board, with Ron Hoagland, Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes.

Thursday, January 26, 2017

All Commissioners are in this morning. A discussion about Western Federal Lands requiring $130,000 more in match for the Main Boulder Road project was held. This would be split between Park and Sweet Grass Counties. It was determined that Sweet Grass County would be spending that much in ROW acquisition and also in administrative expenses. Commissioner Wallace made motion to move forward with the match, Commissioner Faw voiced concerns over the fact of future over runs and the county having to come up with the additional money. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 3 ayes. Bids were opened for the cleaning contract at the courthouse, Carolyn Osen for the County Attorney’s office was present. There were 4 bids that came in; Amy Ward $2000/month, Theodore Bare $2100/month with contractor’s license and workman’s compensation attached, Loretta Hurley $2200/month with contractor’s license attached, and Ginger Camp $2150/month and will provide license in 30 days. We are taking this under advisement and will interview candidates next week with employees from the courthouse. Claims for the week were reviewed and signed. Grey Cliff Wind Project came in with an update. Rhyno Strinchfield, Ryan Pelstring, Steve Story, Linda Story, Josh Franklin, Bill Hibnes, Planner Dringman, and Daniel Duke were present.

Friday, January 27, 2017

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today and Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Mental Health Center meeting.

Monday, January 30, 2017

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

All Commissioners are in today. Planner Dringman came in with two COS’s one for Baur and one for Bakke Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Faw moved to approve final plat for the Bakke Minor 2 lot subdivision, Commissioner Wallace seconded this and the motion passed with 3 ayes. The Baur certificate of survey is a boundary adjustment with an amendment to the contract for deed and consent to certificate of survey. Commissioner Wallace moved and Commissioner Faw seconded this subject to attached document. It passed with 3 ayes. All the commissioners went to the courthouse for the interviews with the perspective cleaning contactors. We accepted Ted Bare’s one-year contract for $2100/month.

Claims for the month of January amounted to $225,110.24.

County January payroll totaled $212,815.64.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

 Board of County Commissioners

 Susie Mosness, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk