MARCH 2015

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

DES – Disaster and Emergency Services

CCR – Coordinated Community Response

FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program

IC – Incident Command

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

RFR – request for reimbursement.

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

Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.

Monday, March 2, 2015

Commissioner Wallace and Faw in today and Commissioner Mosness is out. Public Works Director Cory Conner came in for us to review an encroachment permit for Cayuse Livestock on Donald Road. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept this and Commissioner Wallace seconded, it passed with 2 ayes. There was a staff meeting at 9:30 a.m. present were Vera Pederson, Pat Dringman, Cory Conner, Peggy Graham, Susan Metcalf, Deanna Novotny, Jane Stene, Marc King, Vicki Uehling, Brooke Osen, Dan Tronrud, Lindsey from Big Timber Pioneer and Jessie Connolly. Superintendent of Schools Metcalf informed us that she went to an Emergency Plan Workshop meeting and her Annual Convention. She also went with rural students to the Capitol in Helena and then spent some time up there with legislative issues. The spelling bee was held and the schools are getting ready for the upcoming election. Clerk of Court Novotny stated her office has been steady but the cases are down by about half. Treasurer Stene has nothing new this month. DES Coordinator Osen informed us that the EOP has been updated except for the health nurse position. Also, they are looking into updating the CAD System with Nord Systems. She has also been busy working on Hazmat Grant and Homeland Security Grant along with an LEPC meeting. Sheriff Tronrud said the EOP was signed off. Finance Officer Uehling has been busy trying to get the BCBS statements balanced and the RAC Grant. She informed us that the auditors will be here the 16 – 18th of this month and she will be attending a budget class at Tyler this month. Lindsey stated that the fire department will be conducting a TIMS training for interstate incidents this month. Department of Revenue agent Peggy Graham stated she has completed the new constructions and the new values will take effect this year. Extension Agent King has completed 3 of the ranch roundtables, an applicator class and the judging team won Miles City and 3rd place in Nebraska. County Attorney Dringman has a few felonies coming up for trial and he has been in Helena a lot for legislative issues. Public Works Director Conner informed us that they have completed about 5 miles of gravel on Otter Creek Road and that Sourdough to Rapelje will be getting millings. Also, the East Fork Bridge was replaced with a culvert. He has been traveling around viewing loaders to purchase. Justice of Peace Connolly informed us that citations were down with city court 5 new ones and justice court 37 new ones. She met with the alternatives representative from Columbus that will be offering services in Big Timber for compliance issues with the SCRAM, drug testing, etc. She swore in the new reserve officers. She attended a meeting with Coordinated Community Response group with the victim advocate coordinator, Mental Health 1st Aide training and in Helena with legislative issues. Clerk and Recorder Pederson sent approximately 475 first notices to voters in the NVRA process. She attended mid-winter meeting in Helena with a lot of discussion regarding the new NVRA system and some legislative issues. Commissioner Faw attended MACO in Helena, a fair board meeting and has been in Helena with legislative issues. That afternoon we signed an agreement with the MDT for the millings from the interstate 90 project.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Sheriff Tronrud stopped by with some updates.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Catherine and Vicki came in to discuss the insurance information sheet language be changed from 60 days to 30 days for signing up. Ray Mosness came in to work on the phone system and we talked to Triangle Telephone about the problems we have been experiencing. The DUI task force agreement was signed.

Thursday, March 5, 2015

All Commissioners are in the office today. Public Works Director Conner came in to discuss the purchase of a loader for the new crusher. Landowner Dan Burmeister and Planner Dringman came in to discuss alternate route for truck traffic through town. Claims were reviewed and signed by the commissioners. Courthouse staff came over to visit about issues. Present were Jessie Connolly, Deanna Novotny, Pat Dringman, Carolyn Osen and Brooke Osen. Payroll and claims were stamped by Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Pederson. PMC claims were also reviewed and stamped.

Friday, March 6, 2015

All Commissioners are in the office today. Ray Mosness came in to discuss new equipment for the phone system. He will work up a purchase order for this. Commissioner Faw went to fairgrounds to fix the old outhouse that blew over.

Monday, March 9, 2015

Commissioner Mosness and Faw are in today and Commissioner Wallace is out. Commissioner Mosness attended a marketing group meeting that afternoon.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. We did a pre-bid walk thru at Wormser Loop with Great West Engineering, Cole Peebles and several contractors. Bill Keil from the airport board came in to discuss airport projects. The fair board members came in to visit, present were Marc King, Jed Evejene, Ronda Johnston, Pat Dringman, Bill Hibnes and Dale Wood. We had a discussion regarding the language in the fair board policy and whether the fair board supervises the caretaker/groundskeeper. The fair board would like to have better communication with the Commissioners. They are willing to supervise and have timesheets turned into commissioners and signed with her keeping track of her hours and not a set amount of hours every pay period. Bill Hibnes also discussed some safety issues. The Commissioners will talk to Public Works Director Conner about supervising the caretaker.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Commissioner Mosness attended the Custer/Gallatin working group meeting in Bozeman this afternoon. Commissioner Wallace sat in on interviews for the BTVFD position.

Thursday, March 12, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. We met with the Sweet Grass Conservation District to discuss ideas for the Greycliff Bank Stabilization project, present were representatives from the Army Corp of Engineering, Conservation Board members and engineers. Claims were approved and signed.

Friday, March 13, 2015

All Commissioners are in today.

Monday, March 16, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. The auditors are here to finalize the audit. Commissioner Mosness and Faw attended a PMC board meeting at 5 pm.

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Bob Denning with Denning and Downing came in for the audit exit interview, present were Vicki Uehling, Vera Pederson, Erik Wood, Mary Parker and Anne Marie with Billings Clinic called in. There were no federal findings and discussion was held on claims, cost report and the fact that the AR days are up.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. At noon an addictive disorders and mental health meeting was held. That afternoon a meeting between the PMC and Billings Clinic about payroll transition was discussed and also the lease agreement. Present at the meeting were Pat Dringman, Erik Wood, Miki Gregorich and Kyle Gee. The fair board members met with us concerning how the caretaker is paid, present at the meeting was Bill Hibnes, Vicky Schwartz, Marc King and Pat Dringman.

Thursday, March 19, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Commissioner Mosness drove the roads in the morning. All Commissioners attended the Weed Summit at various times. The InterCap loan paperwork for the loader and the vertical crusher in the amount of $289,397.00 was signed by Commissioner Wallace. At 2:00 pm we opened bids on the Wormser Loop soil nail project, Cole Peebles with Great West Engineering was on conference call for this. A question was raised about a bid that was received by email and this is addressed in the bid package form and is not allowed. This will be taken under advisement. Claims were signed for the week and Commissioner Wallace and Clerk and Recorder Pederson stamped and reviewed payroll.

Friday, March 20, 2015

Commissioner Faw and Mosness are in today. Commissioner Mosness and Clerk and Recorder Pederson signed warrants and compared to the claims. Commissioner Faw and Mosness are out for a funeral in the afternoon.

Monday, March 23, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Public Works Director Conner was present for a vote to purchase a 2009 John Deere 644K Loader for $110,387.00. Commissioner Faw moved to purchase this and Commissioner Mosness seconded this, it passed with 3 ayes. Bid was let for the final FEMA project on Wormser Loop, present were Lindsay Kroskob from Big Timber Pioneer. There was one bid submitted and it was from GeoStabilization International LLC out of Grand Junction, Colorado. Commissioner Mosness moved and Commissioner Faw seconded this. Commissioner Faw discussed being worried about FEMA being able to reimburse and also how costly this is. The motion passed with 2 ayes from Commissioner Wallace and Mosness and a nay from Commissioner Faw. Commissioner Mosness drove roads in the afternoon, Commissioner Wallace went home sick and Commissioner Faw stayed in the office. Paul Westervelt stopped by to discuss PMC issues and Ty Cumin stopped in to visit about road work.

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. County Planner Dringman came in to go over the new Flood Plain Ordinance; also present was McKenzie Reiss from the Big Timber Pioneer. There was a lot of discussion held on various aspects of the documents. A public hearing will be held April 16, 2015. Also, a COS between Starr-Lehman LLLP and Starr-Rein LLLP along Howie Road for a boundary relocation; the motion was made to approve this by Commissioner Faw and seconded by Commissioner Mosness and passed with 3 ayes.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. We wrote some correspondence to the legislature regarding HB 235 and Commissioner Wallace sent a letter to Switchback Aviation on the cost of airport upgrades. Myrna Finn came in to discuss her compensation. She has been paid a salary with set amount of hours and will be changed to hourly with her hours tracked every week. The State of Montana and MACo are trying to change all the counties to this. She will be turning her timesheets into Public Works Director Conner. Also discussed was the fact that she has been using her own vehicle down at the fairgrounds so Commissioner Wallace will look at finding a pickup for her to use. After lunch a conference call was held to discuss PMC bonds with InterCap Loan, Erin McCrady from Dorsey Whitney, Louise Welsh and Julie with InterCap loans. At this time we have bonds through Rural Development totaling $1.023 million.

Thursday, March 26, 2015

All Commissioners are in today. Claims were reviewed and signed.

Friday, March 27, 2015

Commissioner Faw is out of state for a week; Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for Mental Health Center governing board meeting.

Monday, March 30, 2015

Commissioner Mosness is in today, Commissioner Wallace is in Great Falls at MACRS and Commissioner Faw is out of state this week. The insurance board met to discuss the BCBS rates for next year. Present were Becky Todisco, Mary Parker, Miki Gregorich, Mary Gaub, Gail Arnold, Jami Jarrett and Catherine McKenzie. We will see a 3 % rate increase in the premiums this year and we need to discuss whether we want to drop coverage on spouses and let them shop the market. Dan Rostad stopped by to discuss dry hydrants in the county.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Commissioner Mosness is in this morning and then went to the Juvenile Detention Center Board meeting in Billings. Commissioner Mosness stamped PMC payroll along with the Clerk and Recorder.

Claims for the month of March amounted to $224,917.68.

County and PMC March payrolls totaled $547,498.90.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

 Board of County Commissioners

 William Wallace, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk