MARCH 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

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 3, 2014

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived to start the third month of 2014.

Page Dringman came in with a change to the covenants for Viking springs Subdivision to allow a change of building 100 feet from the 100 foot flood plain to 50 feet. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

The March staff meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. with Deanna Novotny, Marc King, Susan Metcalf, Vicki Uehling, Jane Stene Evie Halverson, Pat Dringman, Dan Tronrud, Jerry Mahlum, Brooke Osen and Lindsey Kroskob in attendance. All department heads gave a brief update of the happenings in their department.

 Deanna reported that district court cases were down in February. They had only 8 new cases. They spent the month cleaning out files and getting organized. There will be DNRC Water Commission training in Helena on April 2nd and 3rd.

 Marc King announced that PED has hit swine twice in Montana. Due to this they will not do a 4-H swine weigh in and people will tag their own pigs. Master Gardner level 2 starts tomorrow and will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 8 weeks.

 Susan Metcalf informed the group that this week is the celebration of Dr. Suisse’s birthday. The spelling bee winner this year was Nolan Johnson. OPI preliminary budgets are out. The rural school enrollments are about the same however the BTGS and SGHS numbers are down some.

 Sheriff Tronrud passed out the sheet with the numbers for his department for February: 284 complaints and 27 offenses. Sweet Grass County was awarded a RAC grant for $25,000+ for additional patrols for Park and Sweet Grass Counties. Dan attended a START program for basic wild land fire training. He has hired a new dispatcher.

 Brooke reported that Homeland Security letter of intent have been sent in. She attended the Governor’s conference in Billings in February.

 Financial Officer Uehling has submitted the annual report, has been working on audit and talked to Tim Tennis about our FEMA flood payments that we have not yet received.

 Treasurer, Jane Stene spent two days in Billings during the MACo mid-winter meetings. Jane had three tax assignments and two redemptions during the month of February.

 Evie did a grant presentation on Helena last Thursday. She is gearing up for the annual weed summit on March 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will include folks from Carbon, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties and the BLM. She has also been doing gravel pit inspections.

 County Attorney Dringman has been busy. He has been working on the proposed wind farm, issues dealing with the affiliation of PMC and Billings Clinic and has had a lot of extraditions. He will be attending COPS court training in March 18th. This is for anyone who may have to testify in court. He also traveled to Seattle to a MAD conference. Carolyn Osen is his new employee and will be starting tomorrow.

 Judge Connolly had 36 justice court cases and 14 city court cases during the month of February. Jessie attended an addictive disorders monthly meeting, a phone commission meeting, MACo council on salary compensation statue meeting, a phone training sponsored by the Montana BAR association. She is also on a committee on judge’s bench book update. They are in the process of a MOU to allow defendants to pay over the internet. This program is at no cost to the county the defendant pays the extra fees. Friday she will travel to Bozeman to a meeting of City Mayors and Justices of the Peace.

 Commissioner Mosness spent a week at MACo mid-winter meetings, went to an Area II on Aging executive board meeting, a Mental Health Regions Board meeting (this is an 11 county region). Area II on Aging helps senior center with food, finances, elder abuse case management, assists the elderly balance check books, and helps them with insurance, etc. Susie was voted onto this board. She also attended a PMC board meeting, met with the Forest Service and a Hard rock counties meeting.

 Commissioner Faw also attended the MACo mid-winter session. He is on the Ag committee. The website is on the drawing board and will be up for test soon. He attended the public environmental assessment on the Pony Truss Bridge for TSEP 50/50 match grant, wind meetings, PMC meetings.

 Commissioner Wallace was involved in many of the same things as the other commissioners plus an airport board meeting on the master plan, an economic development meeting, an L.E.P.C. meeting, meting of the fire department, city council and the commissioners on the executive position that the fire department is trying to implement. The county has committed to $20,000 per year for the position.

Sheriff Tronrud met with the commissioners to discuss jail standards and review. Tom Winters will do training for dispatch and officers. Dan is in the process of updating policies and procedures. He would like to wait until he is further along in the process to meet with the commissioners. MACo insurance will roll the dice on jail status.

At 11:00 a.m. Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer was present as the commissioners reviewed the Montana Department of Commerce Treasure State Endowment Program Environmental Assessment of the Lower Sweet Grass Road Bridge (LSG 1087). Commissioner Faw made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Mosness to approve the EA. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

At 1:00 p.m. a meeting was held for the commissioner to discuss and decide if they want to have a new hearing on the Crazy Mountain Wind project tax abatement request due to receipt of additional information for the application. This meeting was recorded. Attending the meeting were the three commissioners, Jan Engwis, Robyn Roberts, Shirley Layne, Pat Dringman and Lindsey from the Pioneer. County Attorney Dringman started the meeting by asking if the commissioners wanted to republish notice of a new hearing. It is his recommendation that this be done since the original application was incomplete or deficient and additional information trickled in after the hearing was noticed. Give the applicant a drop dead date to have all of the information submitted then publish the date and conduct a new hearing. There has been no recent contact with Marty Wilde. Commissioner Faw wants to know if Mr. Wilde is planning on going forward with the project since the PSC did not approve the CREBS status. Pat has sent all of the information to all of the attorneys that are involved in the litigation against the county and to Mr. Wilde. The county has an active pending application and has heard nothing to indicate that the project is not going forward so proceed with the application process. Discussion followed on all of the pros and cons of holding a new hearing and whether or not there was enough information to make a decision on the abatement. If the application is denied Mr. Wilde can apply again. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to postpone the decision on having a new public hearing until County Attorney Dringman gets more information from the DOS. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with Commissioners Mosness and Wallace voting aye and Commissioner Faw voting against it. This matter will be put on the agenda for Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Faw thinks they need to completely start over.

County Attorney Dringman met with the commissioners to discuss his new employee and the salary structure. He has hired Carolyn Osen.

There was a meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Bill’s Place in Melville to present the proposed affiliation of the PMC and Billings Clinic to the folks in the Melville area.

Tuesday, Marcy 4, 2014

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day. They spent the day cleaning up odds and ends and addressing correspondence and e-mails.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner is Mosness out of the office for the day due to family matters.

The Commissioners and County Attorney Dringman met in a closed door session to discuss litigation.

A meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Faw and Wallace, Clerk Bjorndal, County Attorney Dringman, Jan Engwis, Shirley Layne, Robyn Roberts and Lindsey Kroskrob attending. This meeting was recorded. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss rescinding the September 17, 2012 letter of support for the Crazy Mountain wind project. Shirley presented a letter to the commissioner with her concerns on this project. The Commissioners sent a letter of support for the Crazy Mountain Wind project on September 17, 2012. This action was not properly noticed on the agenda or in the minutes resulting law suit against Sweet Grass County. County Attorney Dringman’ s recommendation to the Board is to rescind the letter due to the fact that without a public meeting the letter should not have been written. The public should have been given the opportunity for input. If the developer wants another letter of support they request it and the commissioners can go through the proper processes. Commissioner Faw stated that he was not here in 2012. Page Dringman reported that she has spoken to Marty Wilde and he is aware of this meeting and has no objections. Jan Engwis has asked his lawyer to call Pat Dringman and have everyone find a way to go forward peacefully. Commissioner Faw made a motion that per the recommendation of the County Attorney the September 17, 2012 letter of support for the Crazy Mountain Wind project be rescinded. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 2 Ayes.

Robyn Roberts asked about doing a resolution or ordinance about wind energy in Sweet Grass County. County Attorney Dringman advised Robyn to get her information together and make an appointment to get on the Commissioners’ agenda to make her pitch. She needs to be specific about what she wants and the meeting will have to be properly notices. Robyn and Page will meet to discuss how to proceed.

County Attorney Dringman and the Commissioner met in closed session to discuss the pending litigation issues.

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Commissioners Wallace and Faw were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness’ Mother passed away so she will be out for a few days.

Clerk Bjorndal came in to go over the agenda for the next week.

Minutes of the January meetings were presented by Clerk, Sherry Bjorndal. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the January 2014 minutes with the noted changes. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

A public meeting was held at 10:30 a.m. to decide if the commissioners want to hold a new hearing on the Crazy Mountain Wind project tax abatement request. The meeting was attended by Commissioners Faw and Wallace, County Attorney Dringman, Clerk Bjorndal, Shirley Layne, Jan Engwis, Bill Hibnes, Cindy Selenski, Robyn Roberts, Page Dringman and Lindsey from the Big Timber Pioneer. This meeting was recorded. Some of the folks who are opposed to the project raised a question on the completeness of the application and the receipt of additional information up until the time of the first hearing. Commissioner Faw gave a summary of the meeting and events beginning in December of 2013 until today. Mr. Wilde has not attended many of the meetings and Commissioner Faw feels it would behoove him to come to the meetings and update everyone on the progress of the project. Commissioner Faw feels that we need to stop the process and start over and do it right.

 Shirley Layne stated that the developer has not been present at the meeting so should not have another abatement hearing.

 Cindy Selensky asked what additional information could the developer present that would allow the commissioners to make a decision?

 Robyn Roberts asked if the commissioners have certification from the Department of Environmental Quality. As of March 5, 2014 DEQ has not seen anything on the project.

 Commissioner Faw made a motion to void the application due to lack of information and have the developer start over.

 Planner Dringman stated that different entities have to review different projects and different stages of projects. She is not aware that 15-24-3111(15), MCA requires DEQ approval for the county to approve abatement requests. Research will have to be done to see if this statue applies to this project. Codes have a wide variety of procedures and processes she needs to look into whether or not 15-24-3111(15) has a correlation to this project. County Attorney Dringman feels that 15-24-3111 does not apply to new and expanding industry.

 Bill Hibnes asked that if the developer selected that type of abatement should the county make a decision on what type of abatement.

 Page is concerned that it has not been noticed to void the application. This meeting was noticed to have a new hearing.

 Jan Engwis requested to just go forward with the process.

 Commissioner Faw rescinded his motion.

 The issue of CREB status being turned down came up again.

 Jan Engwis stated that the statue is clear – proceed with the decision on Monday. Why is is the county worried about the developer? Need to worry about the citizens and please move on.

 County Attorney Dringman noted that there is nothing in the statue that would prohibit a new hearing based on the completeness of the application and the information received after public notice of the hearing. Republish and have a new hearing.

 Robyn stated that there is no power purchase agreement with Northwest Energy so why is this issue.

 Shirley Layne suggested that the commissioner go forward with the meeting on Monday and see what the developer shows up with. Do nothing today and make a decision on Monday.

 Commissioner Wallace the tax abatement is on the total value of the completed project. The commission is taxed with the whether or not to give the abatement not making sure what hoops and certifications he has jumped through. We don’t want anyone to think that we are taking the applicants side. We are trying to address concerns of law firms as to the completeness of the application.

 Jan Engwis stated that it appears there are no standards or process within the county for this situation. The county needs to follow the statue as best it can and meet on Monday and either approve or deny the abatement request.

 The discussion got off track and went on for a period of time before Lindsey asked the group to get back on track

 Commissioner Faw made a motion to take no action at this time and notice and have a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, March 10, 2014, on whether or not to grant tax abatement for the Crazy Mountain Wind project. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Commissioner Faw called for a vote on the motion. Commissioner Faw Aye – Commissioner Wallace Nay.

 Commissioner Wallace made a motion to republish and have a new hearing and start over. There was no second on the motion.

The Commissioners and County Attorney Dringman in closed session to discuss litigation.

The commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment after Financial Officer Uehling had reviewed and approved them.

Friday, March 7, 2014

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness is still out due to family matters.

The commissioners compared warrants to the claims and Commissioner Wallace stamped the warrants for payment and sent them to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

Jessica brought the PMC warrants and claims over for the commissioners to review and Commissioner Wallace and Sherry stamped the checks for payment.

Monday, March 10, 2014

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all arrived to kick off another week.

At 9:30 a.m. a meeting was held to make a decision on the tax abatement request from WinData for the Crazy Mountain Wind project. The meeting was recorded.

 Lynn Sanders, Linda Sanders, Rick Jarrett, Lois Hoffman, Roxanne Hogemark, Cindy Selenski, Pat Dringman, Jami Moody, Jan Engwis, Robyn Roberts, Clair Simons, Shirley Layne, Bill Hibnes, Page Dringman, Sherry Bjorndal, all three of the commissioner and Lindsey from the Pioneer were all present for the meeting. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to table tax abatement because she has been out of the office due to a death in the family. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

 Commissioner Mosness made a motion to re-notice and republish the tax abatement hearing due to the new information that has come in. Commissioner Faw would not second the motion because everyone has had ample time to get information in and review it. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion so that all of the information will be in and available for all to review.

 Questions and comments were:

 Shirley Layne – have you heard from the developer – Commissioners No

 Jami Moody has talked to Marty and he is out of the State but he is supportive of the county’s decision.

 Robyn Roberts asked what legal authority for the Commissioners to hold another public hearing?

 County Attorney Dringmanm advised the Commissioners that he feels due to added information that the commissioners are well with their rights to re-notice the hearing.

 Commissioner Faw feels that if extend the time period and come up with a different finding it could cause problems – County Attorney Dringman stated that there have been no findings yet.

 Commissioner Wallace stated that taking public comment isn’t just taking the numbers and using only that to make a decision. Must get all of the cards on the table and make a decision on what is best for the county.

 Cindy Selensky stated that the commissioners represent the public as a whole and have had a normal time frame to collect information. Why haven’t they been talking to their constituents to get information to make a decision?

 Commissioner Mosness made a motion to notice a meeting for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014 to discuss re-noticing the tax abatement hearing. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Commissioners Wallace and Mosness voted Aye and Commissioner Faw Nay.

After lunch the commissioners met with emergency services personal to discuss the Homeland Security Grant process and what each department wants to put in for.

Election Administrator, Sherry Bjorndal visited with the commissioners about not having the non-partisan justice of the peace race on the primary ballot. She has called both of the candidates for Justice of the Peace (Jessie Connolly and Dale Grosfield) to let them know that they would not appear on the primary ballot but would go directly to the general election ballot. This will also save both of them money on campaign advertising. After visiting with both Jessie and Dale and the commissioners she notified the Secretary of State’s Office that we would not have the nonpartisan local race on the Primary Ballot.

Thursday, March 11, 2014

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw were all in for a wet Tuesday morning.

The Commissioner went to the Hospitality House at 9:00 a.m. to meet with their board. The group discussed various problems with the building and what to do to solve these problems. The Board gave the Commissioners a tour of the building to see the many problems at need to be addressed. It was suggested that the Senior Center prioritize what they want done and come in during budgeting to discuss further work on the building.

Pam Walling, from MACo Health Care Trust Insurance, met with the commissioner and the insurance committee at 1:30 p.m. Those attending the meeting were Catherine McKenzie, Mary Parker, Gail Arnold, Miki Gregorich, Mary Gaub, and Jami Moody.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

All three of the commissioners came in to brave another day of county happenings. Karl from Great West Engineering called the commissioners to talk about the TSEP resolutions.

The Commissioners and County Attorney Dringman met in closed session to talk about litigation issues.

In the afternoon Commissioner Wallace traveled to a meeting out of town. Commissioner Mosness tended to some personal errands and returned so that Commissioner Faw could run some personal errands.

At 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Wallace attended a meeting at the Fire Hall with BTVFD members to discuss hiring an administrative assistant for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Faw attended a Fair Board meeting in the Annex conference room.

Thursday, March 13, 2014

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

A meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. to discuss whether or not to re-notice the Crazy Mountain Wind project tax abatement hearing. This meeting was recorded.

 Commissioner Mosness made a motion to re-notice the Crazy Mountain Wind project public hearing to allow supplemental data to be reviewed. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion.

 Steve Woodruff questioned re-noticing the hearing as the hearing is to be held within 60 days of the completed application. Need to start with a new application - cannot build on the application of 12/16/2014.

 County Attorney Dringman reported opponents of the project had complained about the completeness of the original application and that is why we are revisiting the issue.

 Commissioner Faw is concerned about the process and the developer not showing up at the meetings. The developer does not know what road that they will be using to come into the county.

 Jami Moody asked Commissioner Faw what effect which road they use to access the site and some of the other information that has not yet been provided has on tax abatement. Commissioner Faw stated that the point is how is the public going to get the information. Jami stated that Mr. Weild was at the last hearing and answered all of the questions that were asked. Commissioner Faw still feels that there is a void.

 Rick Jarrett noted that if tax abatement is granted and the project doesn’t go it is a non-issue. He also reminded the group that this is a private project not a public project.

Commissioner Wallace called for a vote. Steve Woodruff asked if the application is complete and if the commissioners have voted to determine or deem the application complete. The answer was no. The motion passed with 3 ayes. The commissioners will schedule a new hearing.

Commissioner Mosness made a motion to allow previous comments and comments received during the new comment period to be used in their decision. Bob seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Clerk Sherry Bjorndal visited with the commissioners on the insurance payments that are still pending on the August 2013 hail storm.

Sheriff Tronrud met with the commissioners at 1:30 p.m. to talk about the jail standards that MACo is presenting. Also attending the meeting were Pat Dringman and Lindsey Kroskob. A peer review was done in 2010 of the Sweet Grass County jail. The law department is in the process of rewriting their policies and procedures. New Nideo equipment has been installed in the jail and booking areas. Prison rape prevention is also a huge concern.

Claims for the week were reviewed and approved by the commissioners.

Friday, March 14, 2014

Commissioners Mosness, Faw and Wallace came in to close out the week.

Warrants and claims were presented for Commissioner Wallace to review and stamp. They were then sent to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

Monday, March 17, 2014

All of the commissioners arrived to kick off another week of county business.

Public Works Director, Cory Conner came in for his 6 month review.

At 9:30 a.m. the commissioners approved the general aviation insurance policy. Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer was also present.

County Attorney Dringman met with the commissioners in closed session to discuss pending litigation on the Crazy Mountain Wind project.

The Commissioners attended a mental health board meeting at noon in the Board room.

Commissioner Mosness and Page Dringman met with Jami Moody to go over the wind files in regard to the lawsuit against the county.

Commissioners Mosness and Faw went to the PMC Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

All of the commissioners were in the office for the day.

At 11:00 a.m. Jennifer Roberts, Public Health Nurse, brought in amendment #1 of contract #14-078-6-11-051-0, which is asking for an additional $3,153.00 to the contract. Jennifer will participate in a full scale 4exercise this spring. The commissioners will review the document and make a decision,

A public hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room for the purpose of getting public input on the Pony Truss Bridge over Lower Sweet Grass Creek. Following are the minutes of the hearing taken by Karl Yakawich:

**TSEP Grant and PER Report Public Hearing**

**MARCH 18, 2014**

Karl Yakawich of Great West Engineering explained that Sweet Grass County is preparing an application for a Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Grant from the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC). The grant would assist in replacing the Lower Sweet Grass Road Bridge. Karl explained the following:

1. In 2001 Sweet Grass County first inventoried 100 of their county bridges. Since 2001 the county has replaced over 45 bridges, 14 with TSEP funds.
2. The County recently reevaluated their bridges and identified the LSG1087 Bridge – Lower Sweet Grass Road Bridge over Sweet Grass Creek - 13 miles northeast of Big Timber as the top priority for replacement due to public safety concerns, inadequate weight limit and high use.
3. TSEP Grant considered to assist with the bridge replacement
	1. Competitive Grant Program for bridge, water and sewer projects.
	2. Funds from the interest earnings from Coal Severance taxes, typically $16-18 million available
		* 1. TSEP program typically funds 35-40 Applications, including 5 to 6 Bridge Applications
			2. The process is typically very competitive as 50+ applications are expected.
			3. Up to 20% of funds for bridges
	3. Dollar for Dollar match 50/50
	4. Grant is ranked based on seven Statutory Priorities – 4,980 points
		1. Health and Safety – 1,100 points
		2. Financial Need - 900 points
		3. Design - 800 points
		4. Planning and Management of Bridge System - 700 points
		5. Funding Package Viability - 600
		6. Economic Development - 480
		7. Community support – 400
4. In the PER several bridge alternatives including a no repair alternative was evaluated. The proposed solution involves replacing the existing bridge with single span 105-foot span by 26-foot wide precast concrete bulb-tee beam bridge with a driven piling foundation. The new structure will be located on the existing roadway alignment; however, with an increased skew and increased useable roadway width to create a better road alignment. The roadway approaches will be modified to accommodate the wider bridge with better sight distance. The County intends to retain a contractor to implement the project.
5. TSEP grants are a state action subject to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). As required by the MEPA and DOC regulations, Sweet Grass County has prepared and accepted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project.
	1. LSG1087 Bridge
		1. Stream permits – FWP will require in-stream work window 4/15 – 10/15 to minimize impacts to spawning brown trout.
		2. Built in 1910 - Historic structure is eligible for listing on National Register of Historic Places. MDT Bridge Historian recommends conducting a detailed recordation process prior to the bridge removal.
6. Total Grant Application of $607,796, TSEP $303,898, County Cash $288,898, County PER funds $15,000

Additional Comments:

* Jerry Iverson noted that he is in support of the bridge replacement. He welcomed the idea of the county adding a pedestrian access gate at the new bridge to better define current stream access at the site. The county noted this would be explored further during the final design stage.
* It was noted that to date letters of support have been collected from David & Ida Voldberg, Gretchen & Roy Jackson, Steven Plonski, Jerry Iverson, Monte Kock, and John & Sandi Callahan. All were in support of the project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw were all in the office for the day.

Jennifer Roberts, the county health nurse, met with the commissioners to go over Amendment #1 for contract 14-07-6-11-05-0 asking for an additional $3,153.00 for the contract. Jennifer will participate in a full scale exercise this spring. Commissioner Mosness moved to accept amendment #1and Commissioner Faw seconded the motion. Motion passed with 2 ayes and Commissioner Faw obtained.

Cash meeting for the month was held with all three commissioners, Vicki Uehling, Jane Stene, and Sherry Bjorndal. Ranna McCauley, Bill Hibnes and Cindy Selensky also sat in on the meeting. This cash meeting was for November, December, January and February.

 Vicki announced that she has received the preliminary list of findings from the auditor on the FY 2013 audit and will be scheduling a meeting to go over the findings.

 The quarterly securities report was presented by Vicki and discussed by the group. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept the Sweet Grass County Quarterly Securities Report as of 12/31/2013. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

 The group reviewed all of the journal entries made by Financial Officer Uehling.

Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept journal entries 483-801 not all inclusive. Vicki explained the PMC accrual vs. cash method of accounting. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

 Open grants were reviewed.

 The group adjourned for lunch.

The commissioners met at noon with the committee for the BTVFD to discuss haring a maintenance/administrative person for the BTVFD. Present at the meeting were Ron Thomas, Gayle McPherson, Kurt Laubach, Chuck Schuman, Cindy Selensky, Mark Stephens, Vicki Uehling, Cory Connor and the three commissioners. The county will pay wages for the two remaining months of this fiscal year for the half time position.

The cash meeting continued after lunch with Cindy Selensky and Bill Hibnes attending the afternoon session. The group went over expenditures, revenues and cash balances.

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Commissioners Faw, Mosness and Wallace all arrived ready to take on another day.

Vicki Uehling and Sherry Bjorndal met with the commissioners to go over a draft of the 2014 Homeland Security Grant application that the commissioners asked Vicki to draft for panic buttons, new door locks for some of the offices and a backup generator for the Annex. Also present for the meeting were Ranna McCauley, Bill Hibnes and Lindsey Kroskob. A group of department heads and the commissioners met with DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen about a week ago and it was decided to let each group or department write their own grant proposal. Vicki’s grant proposal was for panic alarms for the offices in the Annex. New door handles that would allow the doors to be locked from the inside as all of the doors to the offices currently have to be locked with a key from outside the office. The last request was for a backup generator for the Annex. The total amount of the proposed grant was approximately $35,000. A lengthy discussion followed on wants vs. needs and doing the projects in phases without using grant funds. The commissioners will meet tomorrow morning to make a decision on the letter of intent for the grant.

Commissioner Wallace reviewed the payroll warrants and stamped them for payment and sent them on to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

The Commissioners review claims for payment.

Commissioner Faw traveled to Hardin for a Beartooth RC & D meeting.

Commissioner Mosness left at 2:30 for personal business.

Friday, March 21, 2014

Commissioners Wallace, Mosness and Faw all arrived to finish out the week.

Vicki brought in the brought in the Western Federal Lands claim for the first payment on the FLAP project for the Main Boulder Road.

The Commissioners, Vicki Uehling and Sherry Bjorndal all met to continue the discussion on the Homeland Security Grant letter of intent for a grant for a backup generator for the Annex, panic buttons and door locks for the offices in the Annex. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to disregard the notice of intent and take money from The Annex repair and maintenance fund for panic buttons and part of the new door knobs and save for the purchase of a generator at a later date. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Wallace compared claims warrants to the claims and stamped the warrants for payment. They were then sent to Clerk Bjorndal to compare and stamp before being returned to Vera Pederson to mail out.

Monday, March 24, 2014

Commissioners Faw and Mosness arrived for a day in the office. Commissioner Wallace will be out of the office until Thursday for the Montana Association of County Road Supervisors Conference in Great Falls.

The commissioners spent the day reviewing and answering mail and e-mails.

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Commissioners Mosness and Faw were in the office for the day.

There was an annual weed summit at the Ag Pavilion and the Fairgrounds from 10:00 to 3:00. Commissioners Faw and Mosness sat in on some of the meetings during the day.

Commissioner Faw attended the City/County planning board meeting in the Extension conference room at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Commissioners Faw and Mosness were in the office for the day. Commissioner Wallace is still in Great Falls.

Sherry came in to go over the agenda for the next week.

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Commissioner Wallace found his way back from Great Falls and joined Commissioners Mosness and Faw for a wet and snowy day in Sweet Grass County.

At 10:00 a.m. the commissioners reviewed several resolutions on the Pony Truss Bridge (LSG 1087).

 Resolution # 03-27-2014-A a resolution to adopt the final preliminary engineering report to complete bridge improvements was discussed. Commissioner Faw made a motion to adopt resolution 03-27-2014A. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

 Resolution # 03-27-2014-B a resolution to authorize submission of TSEP application was reviewed. Commissioner Faw made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Mosness to approve resolution 03-27-2014-B. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

 The Commissioners reviewed Resolution # 03-27-2014 –C a resolution to adopt the final bridge evaluations and capital improvement plan. A motion was made by commissioner Faw and seconded by Commissioner Mosness to accept Resolution 03-27-2014-C. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

 Resolution # 03-27-2014-D a resolution accepting the findings of the environmental assessment and determining that an environmental impact statement is not necessary for the Lower Sweet Grass Road Bridge replacement. A motion was made by Commissioner Faw to adopt resolution 03-27-2014-D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mosness and passed with 3 ayes.

Lisa Berg stopped in to let the commissioners know that Otter Creek 4-H would like the donation that they made for the Events Center to stay with the county and be used on the 4-H side of the fairgrounds. They would like to see a tree replaced that was at the site of the Hansen memorial.

The Commissioners and County Attorney Dringman met in closed session to discuss litigation.

The tax appeal board has appointed Debbie Hanson to be their secretary. Arlene Yost has been in that position and is moving to Wyoming.

Commissioner Wallace reported to the other commissioners on the happenings at the MACRS conference.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace went to the courthouse for an L.E.P.C. meeting at 11:30.

Planning Director, Page Dringman met with the commissioners at 2:00 p.m. to review the John Esp certificate of survey. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept the boundary relocation COS. Commissioner Mosness seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. The final plat of the Overland Express Minor Subdivision for Bob and Judy Faw was presented. Commissioner Mosness made a motion to accept the plat. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

At 3:00 p.m. the commissioners discussed funding of the part time position for the BTVFD. Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer was present for the discussion. The county will budget $20,000 in the fire department budget in personal services line item to pay wages and cover worker’s comp. for the part-time employee. This individual will be a city employee. The amount in that line item is sufficient to cover the remaining months of FY 2014.

Friday, March 28, 2014

Commissioners Wallace and Faw spent most of the day in the office. Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a Mental Health Governing Board meeting.

Monday, March 31, 2014

Commissioners Mosness, Wallace and Faw all arrived to end the month of March.

The commissioners again discussed the door lock and panic buttons for the Annex offices. Commissioner Faw questioned the signing of the notice of intent motion that was made earlier in the month. Bill Hibnes and Lindsey Kroskob were also present during the discussion.

At 1:30 P.M. a meeting was held with Vicki Uehling, Erik Wood, Pat Dringman, Sherry Bjorndal, Laura Nelson and the commissioners to discuss how the PMC affiliating with Billings Clinic will affect the outstanding PMC and ALF bonds. This meeting was the result of an e-mail from Erin McCready from Dorsey Whitney with several questions on the PMC and ALF bonds.

Claims for the month of March were paid in the amount of $155,768.93

March County and PMC payroll amounted to $677,191.26 (February payroll was low and this month is high because direct deposits for Feb. got posted to the general ledger in March).

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal

 Approved by:

 Board of County Commissioners

 /s/ William Wallace, Chairman

Attest:

/s/ Sherry Bjorndal, Clerk