

OCTOBER 2013  
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**

	PMC – Pioneer Medical Center
DES – Disaster and Emergency Services	RC&D – Rural Conservation and Development
CCR – Coordinated Community Response	RFR – request for reimbursement.
FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program	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	
MACo – Montana Association of Counties	Tyler Technology – CAS sold to Tyler – the company that Sweet Grass County contracts with for all of our financial software.
MDT – Montana Department of Transportation	
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	

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Tuesday, October 1, 2013

All of the Commissioners were in the office for the day. Today is Susie’s birthday.

Commissioners Faw and Wallace went down to the road shop to look at the new grader.

USFS called to let the commissioner know that they are shutting down due to the Federal Government shut down.

Great West Engineering called and will set up a time to look at Wormser Loop with the contractor and the blaster.

Vicky Schwartz stopped in with some fairgrounds issues – gravel under stairways and work on leveling some on the area to drain and fill holes.

At 11:00 a.m. a meeting was held with Victory Insurance representative Keith Brown on the phone and all of the commissioners, PMC CEO Erik Wood, County Attorney Pat Dringman and Clerk Sherry Bjorndal. The purpose of the call was to discuss a Worker’s Comp. claim for a PMC employee who was also a PMC patient. Keith felt that some of the PMC charges were excessive and wanted the PMC to reduce the bill. A lengthy discussion ensued and the final result was the PMC will stick with their charges and Victory Insurance can take whatever action they feel necessary. Keith warned us that this case could show up in the next legislative session.

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Commissioners Mosness and Wallace reported for duty.

Bids were opened on various pieces of county equipment. Monte Fjare submitted the high bid on the compressor of \$225.00 and Rocky Cosgriff bid \$500 for the Terex scraper.

Commissioner Wallace was out for the afternoon.

Thursday October 3, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office, Commissioner Mosness is at a Leadership Development Institute meeting for the PMC. Susie then attended a planning meeting for the Conservation District and discussed projects that they are looking at including in the RRGL for Grey Cliff.

Claims were presented to be reviewed and approved for payment.

Undersheriff Jerry Mahlum came in to talk about personal issues.

At 4:00 p.m. John Esp and a group of students from U of M Environmental Studies met with the commissioners to discuss issues that affect local government.

Friday, October 4, 2013

All of the commissioners were in for a snowy Friday.

Commissioner Faw reported on his trip to Utah for an American Land Council meeting. This organization wants Federal Lands to go to local government to manage in the future.

Brook Osen met with the commissioners to go over issues with her department.

Monday, October 7, 2013

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

Staff meeting for the month was held with Cory Conner, John Bakken, Evie Halverson, Susan Metcalf, Daryl Hodges, Dan Tronrud, Jerry Mahlum, Vicki Uehling, Pat Dringman, Page Dringman, Erik Wood and Lindsey (from the Pioneer) attending.

Commissioner Mosness announced that we need volunteers to plan the county Christmas Party.

Evie Halverson reported that she took part in the Farm Fair for grade school kids at the fairgrounds, attended a fall weed conference in Glasgow, her crew is down to two or less, and was involved in a weed ID class.

Erik Wood said that the PMC will be working on the cost report this week. The construction in the basement of the PMC is done except for some ventilation issues. There will be a Leadership Development Institute meeting on Thursday.

Susan Sondeno came to the meeting to announce that flu vaccine is in and she will be going to various facilities and organizations to give flu shots. The cost for a shot is \$27.00 and insurance can be billed.

Jerry Mahlum is just back from vacation and deferred his comments to Sheriff Tronrud.

County attorney Dringman spent a week in Yellowstone Park with all of the rural school kids on expedition Yellowstone. His office has been busy as there is a lot going on in the county. Pat will be in Havre Thursday and Friday for an MCAA Board meeting.

Financial Officer Uehling has been working on year end closing and preparing for the annual audit. There will be a cash meeting on October 16th this will be the first cash meeting since the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Planner Page Dringman has had a couple of final plats to review, has been working on lease for rent regulations and CTEP approved projects. The preliminary flood plain maps are out for review and Page has been involved in that process.

Sheriff Dan handed out the sheet with the number of cases, complains and offences that his department has dealt with in the past month. His department is involved in a couple of investigations and things are progressing well on these cases. Dan is on the

Montana Mental Health Trust Board and was in Helena for meetings. He also was in Glendive for the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers board meeting.

Cory Conner reports that the road department has been doing a lot of maintenance. They have put shale on the Gibson road, replaced plank on the Big timber Canyon Road Bridge, and worked on two cattle guards and laid gravel on Tony Creek road. They have also been doing routine grading of Pine Creek, Rapelje and West Boulder Roads.

Daryl Hodges reported that the coroner's office had one pedestrian accident during the month of September.

John Becken has most of the new construction caught up and has been working on market analysis.

Susan Metcalf was in South Dakota teaching a reading and cooking class. The school mill levies have been set and she was involved in in the Farm Fair.

Commissioner Faw attended a Fair Board meeting and the new bleachers will be installed about 30 days after the cement work is completed. He and the other commissioners have been working on the Wormser Loop Road hanging rock issue. Commissioner Faw traveled to Park City, Utah (at his own expense) to an American Lands Council meeting where 13 states were represented. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss States taking control of federally controlled lands within their state. 30% of the land in Montana is federally controlled. We receive PILT and SRS funds for these lands; however these funds are not a for sure thing.

Commissioner Wallace was involved in the kickoff public hearing for the Airport master plan project. He and the other commissioners were in Helena September 23-25 for MACO convention. The commissioners reviewed and signed the EMPG grant application.

Commissioner Mosness was involved in meetings and conversations with Montana State Fund on worker's comp. coverage for volunteer firefighters. She also attended and Economic Summit meeting in Butte, Mental Health and HRDC meetings in Billings, and Area II on Aging meeting in Laurel. She attended the MACo convention in Helena where she took part in meeting on Health and Human Services funding for mental health, and Hard Rock Mine meetings. Susie also attended Leadership Montana workshop, and LDI meeting for the PMC and planning meeting for the Conservation District. Commissioner Mosness announced that SRS funding has been approved for another year.

Commissioner Faw announced that he will be gone tomorrow afternoon.

The Commissioners spent part of the day preparing the Community Events Center donation return letters to be mailed out.

Erick Wood from the PMC brought over the claims register and the PMC warrants. The Commissioners, Erik and Sherry went over the claims register and discussed the expenditures. Commissioner Mosness and Sherry stamped the warrants for payment. County Attorney Pat Dringman joined the group and a discussion was held on the PMC becoming affiliated with Billings Clinic. Pat and Erick have been involved in meeting with Crowley Law Firm to make sure that all of the entities that the county deals with in relation to the Pioneer Medical Center can be brought on board with the affiliation. Some of the topics addressed were voted mill levy, bonding companies, insurance companies, 501 C3 vs. County, employees, cost report and contracts with commercial payers.

Cement was poured at the Fairgrounds for the new bleachers.

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

All of the commissioners were present in the morning. Commissioner Faw went to water certification school in the afternoon in Billings.

Commissioners continued to work on the Community Events Center letters. The commissioners also responded to Victory Insurance on the worker's comp. claim that they wanted the PMC to discount. The commissioners agree with the PMC that Victory Insurance needs to pay the claim in full.

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

The three commissioners all arrived ready to face another day. They continued to work on the Events Center letters.

At 10:00 a.m. Luke Zachman with FDIC came in to discuss local economic conditions. FDIC is in town auditing a local bank.

Sheriff Tronrud came in to update the commissioners on several cases his office is investigating.

The weekly county claims were reviewed and approved for payment by the commissioners and the financial officer.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

The Commissioners traveled to Wormser Loop to meet with Public Works Director, Cory Conner, Cole Peebles from Great West Engineering, Lyle Stenberg from Stenberg Construction and Scott Urlacher from Precision Drilling and Blasting. Lindsey Kroskob from the Big Timber Pioneer was also at the meeting. This was a site review to look at what rock needs to come down before repairs are made to the road. The falling rock is a safety issue for contractors making repairs as well as the public. Areas of hanging rock were looked at and it was decided which ones to blast. Precision and Stenberg Construction will come back with estimates for the work that needs to be done.

Commissioner Mosness attended an Addictive Disorders Board meeting at noon.

Planner Page Dringman brought in two certificates of survey for the commissioners to approve.

The first COS was boundary relocation for Ellison Limited Partnership. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the boundary relocation and Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

The second COS is a boundary retracement for Dave Williams and Gina Bradley. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve this COS. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

The commissioners mailed the events center letters.

Sherry came in to go over the calendar for next week. She also let the commissioners know about a penalty and interest payment to the IRS for 941 tax payments that were late in the third quarter of 2012. Commissioner Mosness signed the paperwork to submit the FY 2014 budget to the State Department of Revenue.

Friday, October 11, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office for the day. Commissioner Mosness is in Big Sky doing a site review for the MACo 2015 conference.

Val Bainter called the commissioners to talk about the \$0.50 per cubic yard that Fisher is charging them for the pit reclamation bond. Val and Clyde would like to come in and visit with the commissioners about this issue.

Monday October 14, 2013, was Columbus Day and most of the county offices were closed for the day.

Tuesday, September 15, 2013

All of the commissioners were after a three day weekend.

The commissioners received an encroachment permit from Triangle Telephone to bore under the West Boulder Road. The permit was reviewed and signed by the commissioners.

The commissioners met with Bill Proconier, Brooke Osen and Kevin Langhus to talk about web-site issues that Sweet Grass County is having. Bill will get us a list of some companies that will be able to help us build a new web-site.

The commissioners drafted a letter in support of all of the Sweet Grass County/ Big Timber emergency service first responders and volunteers. The Big Timber Pioneer is doing a special edition to recognize all of the emergency service folks in the county.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

The commissioners spent the day rotating in and out as Commissioner Faw had a doctor's appointment, Commissioner Wallace had a dentist appointment and Commissioner Mosness attended a funeral.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

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

Financial Officer Uehling, Treasurer Stene, Clerk Bjorndal and all three of the commissioners gathered for a cash meeting. This cash meeting covered July, August and September. Following are some of the topics discussed by the group during the day:

Monthly credit card report and activity, PMC cash balance, investment interest, CD ladder, new bank accounts (American Federal CD for \$500,000, American Federal Investment Account for \$800,000, and District Court appeal account for \$3,500), bank and cash balances, quarterly pledged securities, budget line item adjustments, and capital project funds.

The group reviewed and discussed general journal entries 9-397 not all inclusive. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to accept journal entries 9-397 not all inclusive. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Faw commented that he would like to see corrections cut down. Expenditure report, revenue report and treasurer's cash report as of September 30, 2013, were reviewed by the group and discussed.

Claims for the week were reviewed and signed by the commissioners and Vicki Uehling.

County payroll warrants were reviewed and stamped by Susie and sent to Sherry to review and stamp.

Accounts payable warrants were compared to the claims and stamped for payment by Commissioner Mosness and sent on to Sherry to review and stamp.

Friday, October 18, 2013

All of the commissioners were in to finish off the week.

Sherry brought in a draft resolution for the commissioners to send letters to the donors to the Events Center fund giving them the option of having their donation refunded or leave the funds to be used for maintenance and upgrades at the Sweet Grass County Fair Grounds.

Commissioner Faw went to look at a road issue on the Howie Road.

Commissioner Mosness was gone for the afternoon.

Monday, October 21, 2013

Commissioners Bill, Bob and Susie all arrived ready and willing to take on county business for the week.

Cory Conner came in to discuss various road issues:

Swamp Creek Road

Trading the county wood chipper to Stillwater County for a self-propelled chip spreader – not going to do – maybe work out a deal to trade use of the equipment.

Discussed putting chip seal on millings when as laid.

Sherry brought in the FY 2014 agreement with MSU for extension agent services. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

Resolution 10-21-2013 for disbursement of the funds donated for the Events Center was again discussed. Commissioner Faw made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wallace to approve the resolutions. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

Lisa Berg-Weller stopped in to visit about the Events Center donation made by the Otter Creek 4-H Club.

Commissioner Wallace took the afternoon off. Commissioners Faw and Mosness attended a PMC Board meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Commissioner Faw manned the office for most of the day. Commissioner Wallace was out for part of the day and Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for an infrastructure planning and financing workshop and an HRDC meeting.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

At 7:00 a.m. the Commissioners, PMC Board and the County Attorney met to discuss issues involved in Billings Clinic taking over the management of the PMC. It currently looks like it can move forward with regards to the current bond situation. There was a lot of discussion on the 25 mills levied for the operation of the PMC and whether they would be able to continue.

Sheriff Tronrud came in with Vicki Uehling to talk about Homeland Security Grant issues.

County Attorney Dringman stopped in to let the Commissioners know that the agreement for matching funds for FLAP project looks ok.

The commissioners filled out a survey from the Environmental Quality Council (a joint legislative committee) dealing with how we feel federal lands are managed in the county.

All of the Commissioners and the County Attorney Dringman went out to look at the land that David Smith is having issues with on Swamp Creek Road.

Commissioner Wallace attended a weed board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 24, 2013

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

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

Minutes of the May 2013 commissioner meetings were read by Clerk Bjorndal. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to approve the May 2013 minutes as corrected. Motion passed with 3 ayes,

The June 2013 minutes were read by Clerk Bjorndal. Commissioner Faw made a motion to approve the June 2013 minutes as amended. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes.

After lunch all of the commissioners went to Park County to meet with the Park County Commissioners to discuss the match agreement for Federal Lands Access Program. This is the project to improve the Main Boulder Road from 2 mile bridge to Fleming Bridge. The commissioners took the West Boulder Road and the Old Boulder Road back to Big Timber.

Claims for the week were reviewed and approved for payment by the Commissioners.

Friday, October 25, 2013

Commissioner Mosness traveled to Billings for a Regional Mental Health Board meeting. Commissioner Faw took the day off and Commissioner Wallace came in to compare warrants to the claims and stamp the warrants for payment. The warrants were then sent to Clerk Bjorndal to review and stamp.

Commissioner Wallace talked to DES Coordinator Osen about the HSGP that will expire on October 31, 2013. Brooke will apply for an extension from the State. The remainder of the grant is for a security system for the courthouse.

Monday, October 28, 2013

All of the Commissioners came in to finish off the last week of October. It is a very cold and snowy Monday.

Laura Nelson from the Big Timber Pioneer came in to visit with the commissioners about the FLAP agreement.

At 10:00 a.m., Planner Dringman presented a family transfer certificate of survey for Mary Wallace. There was a lengthy discussion on whether or not this is an attempt to evade subdivision. The Wallace family signed an affidavit saying they would not put this on the market for two years. Commissioner Faw made a motion to accept the COS. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes. Planner Dringman will look into a resolution tightening up some of the subdivision exemptions.

At 10:30 a.m. the commissioner discussed the agreement between Sweet Grass and Park Counties to pay the 13.42% match for the Main Boulder road Project. Commissioner Wallace made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Faw to accept this agreement. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

The commissioners helped the Treasurer's office get tax notices ready to be mailed out.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Commissioners Bill, Bob and Susie all arrived ready and willing to help the Treasurer's office with the rest of the tax notices.

Cory Conner came in to discuss what is going on in the Road Department. The group also discussed items that Cory and Bob might want to buy at the Richie Brothers auction in Belgrade on Thursday.

Brooke Osen stopped in with new agreement for entities using the Grey Cliff tower site.

Sheriff Tronrud came in to look at the renewal for inmate medical insurance. The rate is going up .04/day starting November 1, 2013. It was discussed to drop the security and guarding part of the contract so that there won't be budget overruns.

Thursday, October 30, 2013

Commissioners Faw and Wallace were in the office. Commissioner Mosness is in Billings for a meeting with staff from the Governor's office at the Mental Health Center.

Sherry came in to read the July 2013 Commissioner Meeting's minutes. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Faw seconded the motion and it passed with 2 ayes.

Tom and Nancy Stock from Whispering Pines stopped in to give the commissioners a cheesecake and thanked them for work that has been done on the Main Boulder road. They have been involved in a group of individuals who have put mag chloride on the road and are very pleased with the results. Tom would like to work on a program that would coordinate private individuals and the county working together next year to see what can be done.

David and Linda Smith stopped in to talk to the Commissioners about a cattle guard that was moved several years ago on Swamp Creek Road by their property. There is a piece of ground about 25 to 30 feet along the road that is being grazed by Burns' cattle. Mr. Smith wants the cattle guard put back where it was. Mr. Smith is in the process of having the property surveyed. Once it is done he will come back and talk to the Commissioners. He is willing to pay for a cattle guard if the county puts it in. He will not pay for the fencing.

August 2013 minutes were read by Sherry. A motion was made by Commissioner Faw to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wallace and passed with 2 ayes.

Bob Bryan stopped in to go over Airport happenings.

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Commissioners Wallace and Mosness were in the office for the day and Commissioner Faw and Road Supervisor, Cory Conner went to an auction to look at equipment.

Sherry and Vicki met with the commissioners to talk about the FLAP grant and the installments that the county must make over the next three years. Great West Engineering did the grant application. The upcoming audit was also discussed by the group.

Commissioners Bill and Susie attended an L.E.P.C. meeting at 11:30 at the ambulance station. After the meeting Bill and Susie discussed some issues with the DES Coordinator, Brooke Osen. They discussed the extension of the HSG 2012 grant for a security system for the courthouse and the grant closeout documents that need to be into Vicki before the auditor is here next Tuesday.

During the afternoon the commissioners reviewed and approved claims for payment. Both the PMC and the county payroll warrants were reviewed and stamped for payment and sent on to Sherry to review and stamp.

There was a going away party for Justice Court Clerk, Sandy Thomas, at the courthouse. The Commissioners and most of the Annex employees attended at some point during the day.

Claims for the month of October were paid in the amount of \$394,118.55.

County and PMC payrolls paid during the month of October were \$515,059.72.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Bjorndal