MAY 2018

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.

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Commissioner Faw was in and he attended a Mental Health/Addiction Advisory board meeting. Commissioner Wallace attended a weed board meeting and helped Cory at the courthouse.

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Commissioner Faw was in and Commissioner Wallace was helping Cory at the courthouse. A TSEP public hearing was held at 6:30 PM.

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Commissioner Wallace helped Cory at the courthouse and attended a PMC board meeting. Commissioner Faw attended a fair board meeting.

Friday, May 4, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. MACo gave a presentation on health insurance.

Monday, May 7, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. A staff meeting was held, present were Cory, Deanna, Susan, Connie, Vera, Marc, Jane, Vicki, Dan, Pat and Jessie. Clerk of Court Novotny reported the numbers for April and said that she was mailing out new jury panel list. She informed us that Barb Swanson is attending the Clerk of Court convention this week. Treasurer Stene said things are starting to get busy with 2nd half taxes due this month. Finance Office Uehling has been working on the salary schedule and budgets, she will be in Helena this week for training. Weed Coordinator Weston informed us she had a weed board meeting, put on the weed summit and has 3 of the summer help starting. County Attorney Dringman has been busy with a lot of felonies. Sheriff Tronrud reported the numbers for April and said there is an increase in the mental health cases. Public Works Director Conner said they have been busy with cleaning out culverts, blading Spannring and Lower Sweet Grass Road, replaced bridge on Lower Sweet Grass, attended the MACRS conference and fixing the sidewalk at the courthouse. Extension Agent King said they tagged 60 hogs and 29 lambs for the fair. He took 2 teams to Idaho for a judging competition and they took 1st and 2nd place. He is also working on training for those that didn’t get applicator license class done in December. Justice of Peace Connolly reported the numbers for April and said she attended judge school in Billings, MMA meeting in Livingston and will have an Alternatives meeting on the 15th of this month. Superintendent of Schools Metcalf said there are only 3 weeks let of school, she will be swearing in boards and the mill levy election is today. She also attended her conference in Whitefish with a lot of discussion on the Flathead school cyber attack. Clerk and Recorder Pederson reported a 53% turnout for the school mill levy mail ballot election. She is sending out 950 absentee ballots for the primary election. Also, had election judge training in which 35 attended the class. Commissioner Wallace said he attended 2 airport board meetings, PMC board, 2 Custer/Gallatin meetings and Mental Health board meeting in Billings and they approved encroachment permits for Triangle Telephone and both commissioners attended the weed summit. Commissioner Faw attended a fair board meeting, they opened bid for the Bronco with plow that was awarded to Ben Gavne, had a salary meeting in which they decided to give a 1% raise and $500 to all employees. They also approved March minutes and had a meeting on the Old Boulder Bridge TSEP Project where they will be asking for letters of support. They will have a public meeting on May 23rd.

After the staff meeting Finance officer Uehling was in to discuss a new fixed assets software program. She is going to try the sample system and get back with us. Public Health Nurse Chappell was in to go over the renewal of the PHEP contract for 2018-2019.

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in Roundup today for a MACo spring district meeting.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. An insurance meeting was held to discuss the county health insurance. Commissioner Wallace attended a CGWG meeting in Bozeman.

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Commissioner Faw was in today. Commissioner Wallace and Faw attended the LEPC meeting at noon at the courthouse.

Friday, May 11, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today.

Monday, May 14, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Catherine was in to give us the insurance committee’s recommendation for our county health insurance for 2018-2019. They would like to stay with Pacific Source. Commissioner Faw made a motion for the county contribution to remain at $700 per month for each employee. Commissioner Wallace seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. Sherri Tronrud and Jennifer Tulley from the Big Timber After School Club were in to discuss funding options for the program. Commissioner Wallace moved to help fund the program for 2018/2019 in the amount of the $13,000 that was requested from the Metal Mines Planning and Economic Development account. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. A city/county budget working meeting was held at 5:15 in the commissioner’s meeting room.

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Clerk and Recorder Pederson was in to read April 2018 minutes. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept April minutes and Commissioner Faw seconded this, it passed with 2 ayes.

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Commissioner Faw is in today and Commissioner Wallace is out.

Friday, May 18, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Vicki stopped in to discuss a fixed asset software program.

Monday, May 21, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Alex Sienkiewicz from the Forest Service was in to talk about forest service updates.

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Ben Gavne stopped in to discuss the Old Boulder Bridge project.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. We signed a contract with MACo for Vision and Dental insurance. A public hearing was held at 11:00 a.m. on the Old Boulder Bridge replacement TSEP project (see attached). Sweet Grass Tech was in to present their program for consideration of a donation to help fund the project. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to fund it with a $7,000 donation from Metal Mines Planning and Economic Development fund. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. An airport board meeting was held at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Commissioner Faw was in today and Commissioner Wallace was out.

Friday, May 25, 2018

Commissioner Faw was in today and Commissioner Wallace was in Billings for a Mental Health board meeting.

Monday, May 28, 2018

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept resolution 05-29-2018A, B and C regarding the Old Boulder Bridge TSEP project. Commissioner Faw seconded this and it passed with 2 ayes. Vicki was in to go over finance budget and Marc King stopped in for the extension office budget.

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. We had budget meetings with County Attorney, Victim/Witness Advocate and Clerk and Recorder. Julie Schmidt with Key Insurance and Shannon with MACo PCT were in to go over the insurance policy renewal.

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Commissioner Wallace and Faw are in today. Vicki was in to visit about budgets. A cooperative agreement between the county and DNRC for fire control was signed. Claims for the week were reviewed and signed.

Claims for the month of May amounted to $118,383.23.

County May payroll totaled $208,803.43

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

Bob Faw, Chairman

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk

ATTACHMENT

May 23, 2018 Public Hearing on Old Boulder Bridge for TSEP Grant

Carl Yakwhich from Great West Engineering provided information on history of the bridge and reason for replacement. Proposed 130 feet concrete, 2 lane structure. Estimated 1.184 million dollars.

Applying for TSEP grant the decision won’t be until July 2019 and construction in May 2020 at the earliest. On May 2, 2018 a public hearing was held on the environmental assessment.

Brad McGann spoke about rehab the existing bridge. What would the cost be? Carl: Still an option but still have width restrictions, load, and the age of the bridge. Bill: We are here to get support for the TSEP grant…. If we don’t get it then we will have to explore other options. Cory: Yes we can rehab it will still have load and width restrictions. Also, steel truss would still have limited age on them. Commissioner Wallace said that decision will be made if we get grant or not.

Phil Moulden asked if it was just wood decking and Cory Conner explained that the 20-foot approach on each side is wood and the deck sits on strings that are wood.

Brad McGann asked does the county have the money and what is the alternate plan if we don’t get TSEP. Commissioner Wallace said county has about 430,000 saved right now and we would save some if we did some of work.

Jim Baldwin asked what the immediate plans are for the decking. Commissioner Faw thought to pull asphalt off and put wood planks down but Cory said we can’t scrape it off. He is afraid it will pull up the laminates under the deck. They can try a test section and see how it goes.

Brad McGann said at last meeting an alternate route around golf course was discussed that would eliminate the bridge. Commissioner Faw wanted to hear from public that was there what they thought about that route. Gary Smart lives across bridge and member of golf course board said he doesn’t want to see a road up the edge of the golf course and they would have to move power poles and a new tee box. Joe Bartlett said there is a road on the other side of the interstate from when they put the interstate in and why not use that road that is already there. Commissioner Faw stated that there is about a ¼ of a mile thru private land they would have to get an easement for. Brad asked those who oppose the alternate route by the golf course to stand up and 20 people opposed this.

Gary Smart also wanted to discuss alternative routes. He said if we decide to have alternative route along golf course that there are lots of power poles that would need to be moved.

Joe Bartlett suggested using the road on the south side of the interstate but the commissioners said there is about ¼ mile without right of way thru it.

Commissioner Faw this would be a temporary for 3 months and maybe just for emergency services.

Brad McGann asked how many people were at the meeting that actually live on the road…. 7 in attendance live on the road.

Phil Moulden suggested he would prefer to use the road south of the interstate instead of the edge of golf course.

Dale Wood asked if bridge meets state or county standards and Cory said it does not.

Ben Gavne said he was against the new bridge

Norene Brown asked about the TSEP rating regarding the age of the bridge. Yes, it is based on the age and other factors.

Jim Baldwin noted he did not get a letter of the public hearing and Lana said letters were mailed out and none were returned.

Phil Moulden said if we don’t have to have the alternative route in place for the grant then he would suggest going ahead with the grant application and discuss the route later.