

Vera Pederson

SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2023
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. 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.

NOTICE: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder (MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b)).

Monday, September 11, 2023

All Commissioners are in. Commissioner Moody went to the cemetery.

Department Head Meeting – Commissioner Wallace called the meeting to order, and the group observed a moment of silence in memory of the 9–11 attacks.

Finance Officer Uehling reported that the Commissioners adopted the budget. She is also working on end of year stuff; the auditor will be here mid- December; we got a new server and migrated all our software and data over with minimal issues; and she will be gone next week to a fraud conference and possibly attend part of the MACo conference with the newly formed finance officer group.

Superintendent of Schools Callie Rech reported that she has been in contact with OPI about the FP – 9 so we can set the school mill levies. Schools have started and everything is moving forward. Greycliff did open with 2 students and possibly there will be one more. The Farm Fair was Thursday – Rapelje joined with 10 kids – very successful. Very cool opportunity.

Marc King, MSU Extension, reported on multiple fairs and judging season has started. Mid-week he will be headed to Miles City to a ram judging contest as well as some wool judging. 4-H season ends this month, new year starts. Hay is starting to move a little bit. Worried about smut on some barley but false alarm – fungus instead due to the large amount of moisture we have had this year.

Weed Supervisor/Safety Coordinator Weston is finishing up spraying and still has one active employee. She also assisted with the Farm Fair. She then addressed the group and introduced herself as the new safety coordinator. She will be doing building checklists for safety walk-throughs and explaining her job and expectations.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her numbers. She has been attending lots of judges’ meetings and her school is at the end of the month. She reported the last hanging in Montana was in Ryegate in 1938. Her office is seeing a steady increase in civil claims. She also stated she is having a trial at the end of this week with a potential juror that will not be able to access the court room. She stated that she will not be excusing them from jury duty.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that August had slowed down a little bit. Reported that the new deputy started last week, however the flu is running rampant throughout the department. They have several complicated cases that they are starting. The Sheriff discussed the Central Square proposal that would consolidate several of the vendors who supply 9-1-1, 9-1-1 text and administrative phone services.

DES/911 Coordinator Brophy reported on the generators and the complications associated with them.

Public Works Director Cory Conner reported that his department is working to get things cleaned up and prepping for winter. The new grader has still not shown up. Apparently, it is in Great Falls waiting for a part to be attached. The department has been fixing millings and potholes, cleaning cattleguards and continuing to blade on roads. East Boulder Bridge at state section had the diaphragm beam attached per engineer's request. They will not be doing another bridge until next year.

Commissioners Wallace and Roe reported on various things that are going on.

The primary focus of the past month was on the budget and the complications associated with the shift in taxes due to the change in the makeup of the mill, the increase in value of property due to re-appraisals, and the desire to minimize the impact to the taxpayer. The Oil Tanker is scheduled to be drained and cleaned and then removed within the next couple of weeks. Saluting Branches, a volunteer group of arborists, is here to evaluate the cemetery and hopefully remove some of the large cottonwood trees. The Voges/Greybear FA Bridge Scour repair was let for bid and the airport apron project was started. There being no further reports, the Department Head meeting was adjourned.

Public Works Director Conner presented three encroachment permits:

1. Commissioner Roe moved to accept the Flying Horses, LLC - Main Boulder Road - 11 miles south of Natural Bridge - new main entrance encroachment permit. Conditions are a culvert at the approach and grading for positive drainage away from the road. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.
2. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the Triangle Telephone Encroachment Permit on Lower Deer Creek Road with no conditions. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.
3. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the Triangle Telephone Encroachment Permit to place fiber optic cable in parts of the Old Boulder Road and in the ROW, adjacent to the George Wanlass property. Conditions include using a rock saw and flowable fill when placing cable in the road as well as the removal of rocks and cleanup in the barrow ditches.

A resident of Whispering Pines called to inquire about the status of the West Boulder Road. She also wondered if we had any contact information for the Park County Commission as her concerns were primarily in Park County.

A resident on the Old Boulder Road stopped in to say the road was really getting rough from approximately Hermans' to the 8 Mile Bridge where the county road crew had stopped grading a month or so ago. Public Works Director Conner was notified.

Commissioner Moody attended a Soil Conservation District conference call with DNRC, the Conservation District, MDOT and others regarding a funding source (595 money) to control the erosion on the banks near the Boulder Bridge, East of Big Timber on Old HWY 10.

Commissioner Roe attended the monthly Soil Conservation District meeting.

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

All Commissioners are in.

Great West sent out the Notice to Proceed, the agreement and an amendment for having them (Great West) inspect the Voges Bridge @ GreyBear Fishing Access Scour project. A schedule was included showing the project beginning on approximately October 3rd.

The Environmental Solutions – Waste Management tank cleaning people have started removing the oil from the tanker behind the courthouse.

Colleen Singer from Judge Gilbert's 6th Judicial Drug Court stopped in to introduce herself and ask us to support the drug court.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Commissioners Moody and Wallace are in. Commissioner Roe is out.

A resident of the East Boulder stopped in to ask about putting up speed signs on his property on the East Boulder Road.

DES Coordinator Brophy was in to present the Request for Proposals on the generator at the annex and the PSAP radio console system. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the RFP for purchase and installation of the PSAP Radio System and Recorder. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion carried with 2 ayes.

Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the RFP for the purchase and installation of a new emergency backup power system for the annex. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion carried with 2 ayes.

Commissioner Wallace attended the Custer/Gallatin Working Group meeting in Bozeman.

Jeff Ruffatto, Stillwater County Commissioner, called to discuss the letter written by MACo Executive Director, Eric Bryson, to DOR concerning the State's 95 mills.

Randy Rembold stopped in to give updates on the county boiler systems in both the annex and the courthouse.

Agenda and claims were reviewed.

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Commissioners Roe and Wallace are in. Commissioner Moody is out.

Commissioner Wallace called the meeting to order for the purpose of reviewing two Certificates of Survey. The first is a court ordered partition of property. Planner Dringman presented the COS of Thompson and Townsend per the court order. She requested that the Commission review the Certificate of Survey prior to recording. Everything appeared to be in order pending filing of the deed.

Planner Dringman then presented the Aller family transfer. Commissioner Roe moved to approve the family transfer between Steve and Jeanne Aller and Jordan Aller. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it carried with 2 ayes.

Friday, September 15, 2023

Commissioners Wallace and Roe are in. Commissioner Moody is out.

Commissioner Wallace stamped the checks and signed some airport paperwork to change the Quality Assurance company.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

JV Moody
JV Moody, Chairman

Date Approved: October 31, 2023

Vera Pederson
Attest: Vera Pederson, Clerk

