

APRIL 8 - 12, 2019
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, April 8, 2019

All Commissioners are in today. Public Works Director Conner was in for encroachment permits for Triangle Telephone at the Fairgrounds and Otter Creek Roads. Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the encroachment permit for 397 Otter Creek Road. Commissioner Moody seconded this and the motion carried with 3 ayes. Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the encroachment permits (3) on the Fairground Road. The permits are necessary to install fiber optic cable. Commissioner Moody seconded this and the motion carried with 3 ayes. Commissioner Roe made a motion to approve the encroachment permit for McLeod's Flying Bull Bison Ranch to install fencing on the Lower Sweet Grass and East Fork Roads. The motion came with stipulations that the fencing must be wire if in the right of way. Commissioner Moody seconded this and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

A staff meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. with Kris Novotny, Vera Pederson, Cory Conner, Pat Dringman, Vicki Uehling, Alan Ronneberg, Connie Weston, Char Fuller, Barb Swanson, Page Dringman, Marc King, Jessie Connolly and Susan Metcalf present.

Public Works Director Conner said March was busy with snow plowing and flooding. Last week he attended the MACRS convention in Great Falls with the Commissioners and Monte Fjare.

Fire Chief Novotny informed us the they will have the final inspection for the new fire truck on April 21, 2019. He will be attending the Montana County Fire Wardens leadership conference in April. Also, informed us that the County Co-Op Plan needs updated and signed.

Finance Officer Uehling said the audit will be issued this week, budgets will be out this month, she held a cash meeting and budget "565" meeting and that the job descriptions are due back to her.

Extension Agent King said that in March the judging team traveled to Idaho State contest and won that competition. The potatoes are in and the orders will be put together tonight.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported the numbers for March and gave the Commissioners a heads up that the Broadwater County jail bill will be a significant amount this month.

Justice of Peace Connolly attended a Commission on Courts meeting, Alternatives, Mental Health, MMA meetings, and worked with the high school on vaping concerns. She has been in Helena to testify on HB217 and will be attending judge school the end of April.

Weed Coordinator Weston attended a Conservation District meeting, Co-operative Weed board, local weed board and a meeting with MDT. She is hoping to have the summer spray crew hired by next week.

Treasurer Fuller reported the numbers for March. She informed us that a large CD matured and she reinvested the funds amongst the local banks. She will be attending certification school later this month, mobile home taxes will be mailed out on April 25, 2019 and she had a meeting with DOR and they will be assisting with the downloads still.

Clerk of District Court Swanson said there were 8 new cases in March and will hold a jury trial in May. She will be attending her convention in May and discussed HB136 regarding marriage licenses.

Planner Dringman has been busy with flood plain applications, certificate of surveys, subdivision up the Boulder, subdivision regulations, wind energy and planning board meetings.

County Attorney Dringman said the criminal docket has been busy, wind farm issues, and the legislative session looks good for their association.

Superintendent of Schools Metcalf informed us that the school election in May will be a poll election with the high school having a mill levy and trustee position and the grade school having 2 trustee positions on the ballot.

Clerk and Recorder Pederson said she will be mailing the absentee ballots for the upcoming school election on April 17, 2019 and the polls will be open on May 7, 2019 for the election. She gave an update on legislative issues concerning her office.

Commissioner Roe reported for the Commissioners that they have had budget meetings with Vicki, Mental Health meetings, and Area II on Aging meeting that she is working with the Senior Center on.

Commissioner Moody informed the department heads that the Commissioners approved the deferred compensation plan, met with PMC on the clinic remodel, approved the Crazy Mtn. Wind impact fee, attended MACRS in Great Falls, and is working with Firehouse Fitness on a membership discount for the employees.

Commissioner Wallace added that the PMC will be requesting a resolution to continue the mill levy, they have been talking with Great West regarding the TSEP money and HB652 for the bridge money and wrote letters in support of various legislative issues.

Doug Phair called to request that we talk to Senator Esp regarding HB661, the aviation fuel tax bill.

Clerk and Recorder Pederson stopped in to talk about a bench that was requested at the cemetery.

Dick and Linda Burch met with the Commissioners regarding load limits on Howie Road and the possibility of roadside markers.

Mela Witt stopped in to express her concerns about the remodel at the PMC.

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

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

Sara Decock-Reed met with the Commissioners to discuss the services at American Bank

Alfred Anderson stopped in to inquire about the closing date for the public comment on the Crazy Mountain Wind tax abatement.

Commissioner Roe attended the planning board meeting on the Graham Creek subdivision that evening.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

All Commissioners are in today. Nolan Lister with the Big Timber Pioneer called in to inquire about the upcoming tax abatement hearing.

Jacque Scott with the Carnegie Library called to discuss the venue for the tax abatement hearing. She also asked to get on the agenda for a resolution proposal.

A phone call was made to Betsy Brandborg with the Montana State Bar Association on Ethics concerning Pat Dringman and Page Dringman's involvement and possible conflict of interest with the Crazy Mountain Wind farm project. Ms. Brandborg did not see a clear conflict of interest that was undermining the process.

Clerk and Recorder Pederson was in to set the agenda for next week.

Erin Wall with Montana Rural Water Systems met with the Commissioners about establishing a committee concerning drinking water.

Ed Parrent stopped in to discuss repairs at the Senior Center.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

All Commissioners are in today. Claims for the week were reviewed and signed. Clerk and Recorder Pederson was in to go over agenda items and read the minutes. Commissioner Roe made a motion to accept the minutes from March 25-29, 2019 with corrections. Commissioner Moody seconded this and the motion passed with 3 ayes. Commissioner Roe made a motion to accept the minutes from April 1-5, 2019 with corrections. Commissioner Moody seconded this and the motion passed with 3 ayes.

Peggy Campbell with the Department of Revenue came in for a Commissioner Connect meeting.

Brett Thibeau and Marc King dropped off written comment on the Crazy Mtn Wind tax abatement.

The Commissioners went to the library to set up for the tax abatement hearing. The public hearing for the Crazy Mtn. Wind tax abatement was held at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was recorded and posted.

Friday, April 12, 2019

All Commissioners are in today. Finance Officer Uehling was in for a budget meeting. Dick Christ was present for this.

Dan Rostad stopped in to ask about desks that he has in surplus.

Commissioner Moody went to the airport with Bob Bryan to look at the fence, light controls and other items.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Vera Pederson

Board of County Commissioners

William Wallace, Chairman

Date Approved: April 25, 2019

Attest:

Vera Pederson, Clerk