

MARCH 4 – MARCH 8, 2024
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, March 4, 2024

All Commissioners are in.

Commissioner Roe spoke with Granite Tech phone services as the courthouse is still having issues with their phones.

The monthly Department Head meeting was held. Attendees were Page Dringman, Cory Conner, Barb Swanson, Connie Weston, Marc King, Alan Ronneberg, Callie Rech, Vicki Uehling, Cliff Brophy, Dawn Curry, Jessie Connolly and the three Commissioners.

Planner Page Dringman reported that she's been working on several surveys and subdivisions in the works. Deerfield Subdivision is moving along. She's also had flood plain work.

Public Works Director Cory Conner reported that they have burned some wood and cleaned up at the airport; they had a Hazmat exercise, worked on Triangle encroachment permits, and is planning on attending the MACRs convention this month.

Clerk of Court Barb Swanson reported that there had been a jump in filings and she has a jury trial coming on March 25th so they have been busy with jury questionnaires, Tech Electric put in LED lights in her office and they've updated the communication system in the courtroom.

Weed/Safety Coordinator Connie Weston said they had a good turnout at the weed summit last month; she is getting ready for summer and cleaning out the shop; she also is working on updating the Grab and Go packets for all county vehicles.

Extension Agent Marc King went to Reimagining Rural meetings, and to a judging in Miles City; he also had the weed summit and 2 rancher round tables; he has also started grading wool.

Sheriff Alan Ronneberg said Josh and Jason are at training this week, they are expecting their new vehicles soon and are selling the old explorer; he also reported on numbers of calls and tickets for the month.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly had a jury trial in January, there have been steady filings and cases; she has had an increase in Spanish-speaking defendants.

Superintendent of Schools Callie Rech reported on the spelling bee this month, they are looking for a teacher for McLeod; they have one student who had to do the ESL test.

Finance Officer Vicki Uehling has been working on packets for the salary compensation board and working on the supplemental tax billings.

911/DES Coordinator Cliff Brophy reported on the table top exercise and the MACo conference; he has also been working on cybersecurity issues.

Clerk and Recorder Dawn Curry said she had gone to election training last month; she's also been working on the cybersecurity committee and reminded everyone to take the cybersecurity training and also to continually remind their employees about not clicking on suspicious emails and gave examples.

Commissioner Melanie Roe said she had been busy with the MACo conference and the new phone system, Reimagining Rural, attended a joint county/city meeting, several board meetings and worked on the resolution for the government review ballot issue.

Commissioner Bill Wallace attended several board meetings during the month and had several meetings for the PMC.

Commissioner JV Moody reported that the AMTOP program is coming to look at the trees at the Fairgrounds to do their training while we get free maintenance, he wants to have a human resources class here, and he is looking into an HRDC program through mental health coming here.

Department Head Meeting was adjourned.

County Planner Dringman presented a COS family transfer for Baird. Commissioner Roe moved to approve the COS as presented. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion and it carried with 3 ayes. There was no public comment.

Finance Officer Uehling came in to discuss some of the questions regarding the tax billing of the 17.1 mills for school equalization. Tax Assessor Campbell explained that not all of the districts (mine gross proceeds) should be billed for school equalization.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

All Commissioners are in.

Financial Officer Uehling brought in the Salary Compensation Committee packets for review. The committee meeting has been scheduled for March 18th at 10:00 AM.

Clerk & Recorder Curry came in to visit about the PMC lease agreement, a bankruptcy notification (opioid class action suit) and the Salary Compensation Committee meeting.

The Commissioners sent an email to State Senator Esp and Representative Marty Malone regarding the Notification of Intent for MVD to transfer all equipment and responsibilities for upkeep, replacement, and everything else associated with motor vehicles to the county. However, all monies collected would continue to go to the state MVD. This also includes IT support for state software programs.

A local resident came in to visit about what he perceived to be some of the shortcomings of the Community Mental Health network and his perception of substance abuse assistance within the county.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

All Commissioners are in.

Public Works Director Conner was in for approval of several encroachment permits.

Permit 03-06-24 A – A permit for Park Electric with no conditions. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

Permit 03-06-24 B – A permit for Triangle Communications to perform a bore at 592 Howie Road (Mallory Walker) with no conditions. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the permit. Commissioner Roe seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

Permit 03-06-24 – C – A permit for Triangle Communications to open cut in the ROW on Melville Road from American Fork rock walls to Wheatland County line – approximately 2 miles – with conditions. Commissioner Roe moved to accept the permit. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Roe moved to accept the following permits for Triangle Communications – open cut in the ROW with conditions. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

- Permit 03-06-24 – D – Mendenhall Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – E – Sheep Mountain Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – F – Dugout Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – G – Featherbed Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – H – North Yellowstone Trail
- Permit 03-06-24 – I – Cow Creek Road

Commissioner Roe moved to accept the following permits for Triangle Communications – boring – no conditions. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes.

- Permit 03-06-24 – J – 10 bores across Yellowstone Trail
- Permit 03-06-24 – K – 2 bores across Dugout Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – L – 1 bore across Duck Creek Road
- Permit 03-06-24 – M – 2 bores across Cow Creek Road

Commissioner Wallace moved to table the application for the encroachment permits across Duck Creek Road open cut and West Duck Creek Road open cut pending more information. Commissioner Roe seconded the motion and it carried with 3 ayes.

Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the dental/vision insurance for 24/25 from the MACo Health Care Trust. There were no changes to the rates. Commissioner Roe seconded the motion and it carried with 3 ayes.

Thursday, March 7, 2024

All Commissioners are in.

Claims were signed and reviewed for the week. The agenda for next week was set.

Treasurer Rasnick came in for clarification on the wording for the informational letter to be included with the 2nd half and correctional billing on the 17.1 mills per MT Supreme Court ruling.

The Sanitarian came in to discuss septic site evaluation on new septic systems and inspection fees on hotels, VRBOs and new eating establishments.

Commissioner Roe attended the Pilot Tourism Grant meeting.

Friday, March 8, 2024

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

Commissioner Moody participated in a Zoom meeting regarding the Sweet Grass County Community Health Program, Catalyst for Change and various Musselshell County officials.

Claims and checks were signed.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners

JV Moody
JV Moody, Chairman

Date Approved: April 8, 2024

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk

Dawn M. Curry

