

MAY 5, 2025 – MAY 9, 2025
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, May 5, 2025

Commissioners Wallace and Roe are in.

The Department Head Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

County Attorney Pat Dringman said he is reviewing legislative updates, the Mirro case is wrapped up, his office had a felony trial last month and that they have 21 pending felonies which is more than normal.

Clerk of District Court Barb Swanson reported on her case and filing numbers which were up this month, they got a reimbursement from the State on the trial; she is also reviewing legislative changes.

Finance Officer Vicki Uehling sent out budgets this last month and has several trainings coming up.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her cases and pending cases with new cases going up; her clerks went to training for a week, she had judge school in Butte, she has had jail and holding facility discussions.

DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy has been working on emergency operations plans, weather issues and he has worked with Safety Coordinator Weston to get all fire extinguishers checked and approved.

Extension Agent Marc King had State FFA in April, they cored and shipped wool samples, had a nutrition conference, several judging competitions and received their shipment of seed potatoes.

Safety Coordinator Weston was unable to attend but left a written update saying the weed summit went very well with 96 attendees and she has been busy hiring summer help.

Clerk & Recorder Dawn Curry said her office has been busy with the school election which wraps up tomorrow, she has also worked on budgets and has been fixing some payroll errors.

Commissioner Bill Wallace discussed the closing of the assisted living facility issues.

Commissioner Melanie Roe said they had worked on elevator issues, encroachment permits, legislative and property tax changes, budgets, the Flemming Bridge, the Bainter Bridge, Melville Road, some subdivision issues and health insurance changes.

Meeting was adjourned (this meeting was recorded.)

The county attorney requested we set up a public meeting to discuss the PMC's recent decision to close the assisted living facility.

Discussion was held on the possibility of signing a lease agreement with Whitetail Acres Subdivision to use a building to store a firetruck(s) plus \$400.00 per month for 10 years in lieu of paying their fire fees. Several concerns were raised.

The Sanitarian stopped in to visit about concerns he has with a septic installation on the Main Boulder.

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

All Commissioners are in.

Commissioner Chairman Roe called the Commission to order at 9:25 AM. Commissioner Moody moved that we give \$15,000.00 to the After School Club program. Commissioner Wallace seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes. The meeting was recessed at 9:27 AM.

The meeting was reconvened. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve with no conditions the encroachment permit 05-06-2025 submitted by Justin and Denise Beach at 852 East Shanks Basin Road. This permit is for a driveway approach for a new house. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion carried with three ayes.

The Commission received a complaint on Howie Road from one of the bus drivers.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Commissioners Moody and Roe are in.

TrueNorth Steel submitted a change order to add the backwalls to the bridge package for Bainter Bridge. The change order was signed and submitted.

Thursday, May 8, 2025

All Commissioners are in.

Clerk & Recorder Curry came in to prepare the agenda for the week of May 12th through May 16th. This meeting was recorded.

Commissioner Chairman Roe called the meeting to order with CEO Peterson of the Pioneer Medical Center, Brandi Schweigert, Chairman of the PMC Board, County Attorney Pat Dringman and all of the Commissioners at 1:00 PM. Discussion followed on the decision of the PMC board to close the Assisted Living Facility due to the large financial losses sustained over the past several years. Losses exceeded \$400,000.00 per year and it was becoming increasingly more difficult to find adequate staff. The 16-apartment facility was only operating at about half of its capacity. Options reviewed prior to closing were: to continue operating at a loss jeopardizing other services, increase the rates by more than 100 percent or close the facility. The meeting was adjourned.

Discussion with the Sanitarian and the County Attorney was held regarding an unapproved modified septic system installed up the Main Boulder.

Claims were signed and reviewed.

Friday, May 9, 2025

Commissioners Moody and Roe are in.

Clerk & Recorder Curry stopped in to discuss the road records and the need to develop a system for organizing the old records.

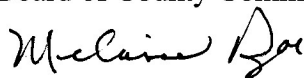
A local resident stopped in to ask about upper Swamp Creek Road. The owner of some property at the NW end would like to have it graded. It has become very rough over the past few years. It is a Class 6 road and maintenance is limited.

A local resident came in to inquire about where the Commission agendas were posted. She asked questions about the PMC closure and PMC board meeting agendas.

Clerk & Recorder Curry and Finance Officer Uehling came in to talk about the health insurance options that the committee had reviewed. The committee recommended that the county go with the BC/BS quote for large groups. The coverage seems to be comparable to what we have currently and the cost is slightly less.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners



Melanie Roe, Chairperson

Date Approved: July 2, 2025

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk

