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SWEET GRASS COUNTY Recorded 3/25/2026 At 1:49 PM
Dawn M. Curry, Clk & Rcdr By Dawn M. Curry
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FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – FEBRUARY 6, 2026
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).

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Monday, February 2, 2026

All Commissioners are in the office.

Commissioner Chair Wallace called the department head meeting to order at 9:29 am.

Planner Page Dringman said she had nothing new. The last of the subdivisions are done. Deerfield Subdivision is running up against their deadline. She talked to Sanitarian Megan Spry about unpermitted septic systems. The board is adding RV parks to their regulations.

Clerk of District Court Barb Swanson reported on her cases and filings for the month, which were about average. She got set up to accept credit and debit cards.

Extension Agent Marc King went to several judging competitions with the team, started the rancher roundtables and has been getting some wool in the warehouse.

Weed/Safety Coordinator Connie Weston has been working on her safety data sheets and prepping for the weed summit in April.

Treasurer Char Rasnick said they had had a lot of new vehicles to register lately, and they have collected about half of the property taxes.

Superintendent of Schools Matt Kleinsasser has been transitioning into the role. He has the spelling bee coming up and has been learning the job.

Justice of the Peace Jessie Connolly reported on her case and filing numbers. She hired a replacement for Lori Demars. She went to Helena for 2 days of meetings with legislative committees and a Justice Oversight Council meeting. There has been an increase in small claims, and she has been finalizing the curricula for spring and fall schools.

DES/911 Coordinator Cliff Brophy oversaw the repair of the courthouse generator, but now the annex generator has an issue. Some areas have been declared disaster areas by the governor for winds and floods.

Commissioner Melanie Roe said the Commission has been working on gravel pit permitting cleanup, encroachment permits, economic development issues and the airport fueling station.

Commissioner JV Moody said they had also been working on courthouse building meetings and working with the architect, LEPC meeting, upper Boulder meeting, and a Mental Health advisory meeting. They had also appointed Matt Kleinsasser to take Susan Metcalf's place as Superintendent of Schools.

Commissioner Bill Wallace has been in and out of the office due to his surgery.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am. This meeting was recorded.

Commissioner Wallace and Road Supervisor Schuman went out to look and measure for the Upper Deer Creek Bridge project.

Mayor Ferguson stopped in to say that the City Council would be discussing the feasibility of including city hall in the new courthouse build at the upcoming city council meeting.

After a brief discussion, the commission decided to go ahead and order a new replacement bridge for Upper Deer Creek. The estimated cost of the bridge is $124,765.00.

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

All Commissioners are in.

Mayor Ferguson stopped by to let the Commission know that the City had decided that it would not be participating in the new courthouse building.

Chamber of Commerce Director stopped in to let us know that there was some interest in a business relocating to Big Timber.

Amber Martinson with Catalyst for Change stopped in to discuss the community health/mental health program. Justice of the Peace Connolly was also present.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

All Commissioners are in.

Collaborative Design – Austin Anderson and Jason Fitzgerald came to discuss next steps in the process of designing and constructing the new courthouse. Following an RFQ, including selection of an architecture and engineering company, the most aggressive schedule would include selection of a general contractor, cost analysis and a possible groundbreaking in late 2026 or early spring 2027. They will assist with preparation for advertising and reviewing prior to awarding contracts.

Josh Sommer, the airport engineer, called to let us know that there would be an engineer at the airport either today or tomorrow to do some preliminary inventory for the pavement work and new gate. The FAA will be picking up 95% of the cost.

Angela Duncan from Triangle Telephone came in to visit about Triangle Telephone and some new things that might help us with our bill.

Commissioner Roe sent back the open cut release forms for Rostad and Stenberg pits that have not been used for over 10 years.

Commissioner Moody worked on the request for qualifications for the new courthouse.

The PSC called looking for a place to hold a hearing.

Friday, February 6, 2026

All Commissioners are in.

The Commission received a draft MOA from Zac Fisher at the Forest Service regarding the Flemming Bridge. It appears the Blackfoot Tribe wants to have input which will be Appendix B when it is completed.

The Airport Board Chairman stopped in to visit about ideas for the security gate at the airport.

The advertisement for hiring an architect/engineering firm for the new courthouse building has been proofed and will go to Clerk & Recorder to be placed in the newspapers and on our website.

Fire Admin Brown came in with a question on some of the bills for the Melville Firehall and the county lean-to portion.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Dawn M. Curry

Board of County Commissioners

William Wallace

William Wallace, Chairperson

Date Approved: March 25, 2026.

Attest: Dawn M. Curry, Clerk

Dawn M. Curry

CLERK & RECORDER SEAL SWEET GRASS COUNTY