

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting  
April 20, 2016 – 5:15 p.m.  
Fergus County Commissioners  
712 W Main St., Suite 210  
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Presiding Officer Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner Carl Seilstad, Commissioner Ross Butcher, and Clerk and Recorder Rana Wichman. Public present: See attached sign in sheet.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Presiding Officer Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Presiding Officer Youngbauer asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the April 11, 2016 minutes. Hearing none the minutes stand approved as distributed. They will be on file with the Clerk and Recorder and on the Fergus County Website.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**BID OPENINGS:** None

**PERSONNEL:**

- 1) Positions for weed sprayers, road mowers, and fair summer help will be opening up.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT:**

- 1) Tom Wojtowick with the Community Council reported that they are continuing to gather crisis intervention information. Commissioner Seilstad stated a 70/30 grant for \$85,000.00 has been applied for.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:**

- 1) There are various board openings that still need filled, including three (3) on the Port Authority.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) Health Insurance – Committee Recommendation for tiers and County contribution: Chairperson of the Insurance Committee Pam Vosen reported that they came up with three recommendations:
  - a) Stay with the same five (5) plans that were offered last year
  - b) Stay with Option 1 – Family Friendly Tiers
  - c) County contribution go to \$1250 from the \$1350 it was last year to keep the payments about the same for employees when considering the drop in rates.Commissioner Seilstad asked how many Insurance Committee members were present at the meeting when these recommendations were decided on. He was told three of the seven were present. Rick Vaughn said that last year people were told that their premiums would go down. A reset of premiums was discussed but can't happen until next year when there is a longer claims experience to work with.
- 2) Health Insurance Tiers and County Contribution
  - a) Health Insurance Tiers: Commissioner Seilstad moved to stay with Option 1 – Current Family Friendly Tiers. Commissioner Butcher seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - b) County Contributions: Commissioner Butcher moved to have the County contribution changed to \$1200.00. Commissioner Seilstad seconded it and stated he wanted to amend the

motion to be \$1202.50 as the additional \$2.50 would pay for some life insurance for covered employees. Commissioner Butcher seconded the amendment. Under discussion Commissioner Butcher stated that last year when the contribution was \$1350.00 the County had a couple of additional sources other than taxes to cover it. This year those are no longer available. The topic of milling more keeps coming up and legally they can mill more, but they are not going to do that. Rick Vaughn stated he doesn't feel the taxpayers would object. Phillip Picco said he cannot afford to put his wife on his insurance and asked that the contribution be higher. Commissioner Seilstad stated the County's loyalty has to be with the employees. Neal Tucek asked about splitting the difference and going with \$1220.50. Rana Wichman said if it stays at \$1200.00 there is a possibility wages can be increased. If it is increased above that the money for wage increases will go to cover the insurance. Troy Eades asked what the chances are of an increase in wages. Commissioner Youngbauer stated they won't know more about that at budget time. Pam Walling with MACo Health Care Trust said there are only two counties in Montana that cover the spouses portion of the insurance. The vote on the amendment to the main motion was unanimous, as was the vote on the main motion as amended.

- 3) Pam Walling – Wellness Screening: Pam Walling stated the wellness screening will be May 17 and is free for employees. The Commissioners are offering a \$50 gift card to all employees participating in the screening.
- 4) Letter Opposing National Heritage Area: Commissioner Butcher moved to proceed with sending out the letter opposing the National Heritage Area. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Under discussion Commissioner Butcher reported he attended a conference on this and it has caused several problems. The proposed area now includes all of Cascade and Choteau Counties and the Missouri River Monument area. It is being portrayed as an honorary title that will boost tourism. Commissioner Butcher said a farmer from North Dakota reported it has a larger impact than that. More control is put on the land. Whenever grant monies go into something like this the National Park Service gets involved. Commissioner Seilstad said the Heritage Board is all based out of the Great Falls area. Cascade and Choteau Counties aren't already covered by the designations Fergus County has and we deserve to have local input. Gladys Walling stated she was at the same conference that Commissioner Butcher attended. She said the area the Heritage Board is now looking at is much larger than was presented at that meeting. She commented we are currently regulated out of the use of our land and we need to oppose this while we can. Ron Poertner from the Winifred area turned in a statement he wanted to have attached to the minutes. He asked how many more designations are needed. He said the National Park Service is looking for land that might qualify as a national park. Any time you receive federal dollars there is a hook involved. He feels the letter is a good start and recommended it be sent to our Congressmen. Commissioner Youngbauer stated that is their plan. Rudy Stulc said he also feels Fergus County already has enough designations. He stated another reason to be leery is the Visual Resource Management. Harvey Nyberg from Lewistown asked why Fergus County would want to oppose this. He said he hasn't studied it at length but feels more research should be done. He said rather than slamming the door on this it should just be slowed down so it can be looked into further. He feels more information should be gathered instead of having a knee jerk reaction. Commissioner Butcher said he would like to know that the problem is that the Heritage Area is trying to solve. Commissioner Seilstad said there were promises of a large economic impact when the Missouri River Monument came along. What is another designation going to do that the Monument didn't do? Deanna Robbins said Farm Bureau is vigorously opposing this as it is turning into a zoning issue. Mark Robbins said all land owners need to get involved with this and oppose another designation. A vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

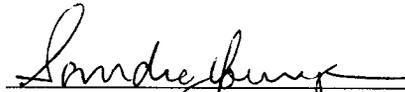
- 1) Tom Wojtowick thanked the Commissioners for their actions today.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

April 25, 2016 Monday, 2:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W. Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
May 10, 2016 Monday, 2:00 p.m...	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W. Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
April 18, 2016 Wednesday– 5:15 p.m.	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

Reminder: Agenda items are due to the Commissioners 10 days prior to the meeting.

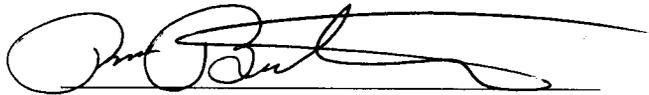
**FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

  
Sandra Youngbauer, Presiding Officer

  
Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:

  
Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

  
Ross Butcher, Commissioner

**Fergus County Public Meeting  
Attendance Roster**

Meeting Date: Apr 20, 2016

Name	Address	Public Comment?	
		Yes	No
Shadup Walling	P.O. Box 53 Winnipeg 59489	x	
Tom Walling	PO Box 545, Lewistown MT 59451	✓	
Tom Shybed	Court	✓	
JACK HOUSER	910 W Pine		x
Tom Ulsen	Planning	x	
Harvey Nyberg	609 W Evelyn St, Lewt		x
Phyllis Smith	Clerk of Court	y	
Randy Copedge	Juried Court		
KELLY MAWTOOTH	JUDGE		
Anna Belden	JP Court		
Renate Ophus	FCSO		
Phillipico	FCSO		
Mat Tuck	HR		
Randy SMC	Winnipeg		
Ron Patton	Winnipeg mt	x	
Mark Robbins	Roy, MT		
Kelly Brasha	Lewistown, MT		
TRON EADES			
Deb Hill	News Angus		
Teri Hayes	612 Brassay		
Deanna Robbins	Roy		
Tony Fulbrinski	FCSO		x