

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

May 18, 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 May 10, 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 COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL:

- 1) Administrative Assistant Positions:
 - a) Road / Weed
 - b) Clerk & Recorder
 - c) County Planning

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1) Assess Community Needs: Commissioner Youngbauer opened the public hearing regarding assessing community needs. Robie Culver with Stahly Engineering stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to go over the items that were submitted for consideration for the Fergus County needs assessment. This process helps develop a long term financial plan for the County. It also may help with receiving grants if a plan is in place. The process is designed to help prevent the funding of pet projects that only benefit a small group, and it shows the public the decisions made by the Commissioners. A needs assessment plan encourages economic development and can help with a growth policy. The steps used by Stahly Engineering are a) assess needs, b) prioritize needs, c) evaluate funding options, and d) help adopt and implement the CIP. Culver reported that at this time the commissions have done a preliminary scoring of projects. This is a five year plan, and it is a living document that can and should be reviewed each year. The four areas the Commissioners used to score projects are a) critical county function, b) public health and safety, c) improvement of the quality of existing facilities, and d) critical county infrastructure. Scorings and the order of the priorities may change with department input and the availability of funding from other sources. Commissioner Seilstad reported that a letter was received with an essential air request that is not included in the scored requests previously submitted. DES Coordinator Cheri Kilby indicated she was surprised the elevator at the County Complex was not higher on the list. There is also a need for updated plumbing and heating at the Complex. Culver said the next step is to go back and work on the

details. The five year plan will be developed and a public hearing will be held. The plan will be published on the County website. Commissioner Youngbauer closed the public hearing.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

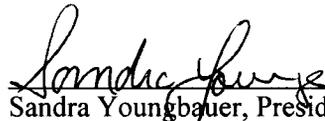
OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Seilstad stated they received a request to give HR Coordinator and PR Officer Neal Tucek access to the First Bank and Bank of the Rockies accounts. Clerk and Recorder Rana Wichman asked to what degree the access was to be and was told to visit with Tucek.

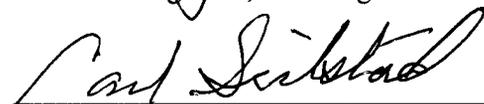
NEXT MEETING DATES:

June 10, 2016 Friday, 2:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W. Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
June 15, 2016 Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W. Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
June 27, 2016 Monday– 2:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

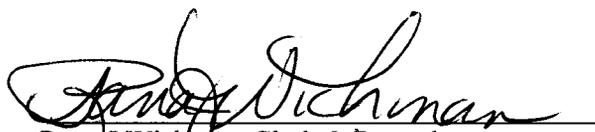
Reminder: Agenda items are due to the Commissioners 10 days prior to the meeting.

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:


Sandra Youngbauer, Presiding Officer


Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:


Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder


Ross Butcher, Commissioner

Press Release/Legal Advertisement

To: Lewistown News Argus

Subject: Fergus County Public Meeting to Assess Community Needs

Fergus County will hold community needs assessment hearings in Lewistown. We need your help to tell us what you think are our biggest community challenges and issues and to help us find ways to make our community a better place to live. We invite you to join us on May 18, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Lewistown at the Fergus County Courthouse.

The hearings' purpose is to solicit public comments and project proposals associated with Fergus County economic development, housing, neighborhood revitalization, and public facilities, especially projects targeted for low and moderate-income community residents. Project proposals will be received for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP). Further discussion on the use of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds and applications for future grants for projects that enhance the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of Montana's transportation system will also be encouraged. If agencies or organizations desire to have the County sponsor a grant on their behalf for the present year or in the near future, representation must be at the meeting to present the project.

For further information, please contact Sandra Youngbauer, Fergus County Commissioner, at 535-5119.

Publish:

Lewistown News Argus weeks of May 1 and May 8, 2016

Agenda
Fergus County Needs Assessment Meeting
Lewistown: May 18, 2016

Welcome and Introductions of County Staff

Introduction of attendees (please sign the attendance sheet)

Purpose of the Needs Assessment Meeting:

Current Projects Being Considered by Fergus County Commissioners

A full list of proposed prioritized County projects by year is available.

Comments and Project Proposals

The public is invited to provide comments and project proposals associated with Fergus County economic development, housing, neighborhood revitalization, and public facilities, especially projects targeted for low and moderate-income community residents.

In addition to making comment today you are welcome to make comment or submit project proposals in writing to the Fergus County Commissioners by June 1, 2016:

712 West Main
Lewistown, MT 59457

Future Opportunity to Comment

Once the County drafts a CCIP the document will be available for public comment.

It is the County's intention to conduct similar Needs Assessment Meetings every year to provide the opportunity for community members and organizations to present project proposals.

Thank you for coming.

314 8th Ave North
Lewistown, Montana, 59457

May 12, 2016

Sandra Youngbauer
Fergus County Commissioner
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Dear Commissioner Youngbauer,

Unfortunately I'm unable to attend the Community Needs Assessment Hearings to be held in Lewistown on May 18. However I did want to address one issue that I feel is a real need in Fergus County. Therefore my request is that you record and share this letter at said Hearings.

For me the fact that there is no transportation int/out of Lewistown (other than the Council on Aging) seems to be a economic deterrent . I particularly feel the lack of air passenger air service is a big problem.

In the last 2 months I have been personally involved with at least 9 roundtrips to/from the Billings airport due to flights. For me every time I have someone visit that involves a flight to Billings it is a 250 mile drive and that is time consuming and rather expensive.

When I ask myself what would be the one thing that would make me consider moving from Lewistown it would be to have an airport. Whether for business or pleasure travel I think we all know someone who has moved away just because we don't have any service.

In the past we had a direct flight to Denver. Given another chance that service could work. I hope someday Lewistown could have it again.

Thank you and your fellow Commissioners for working hard to help find new ways to help Fergus County and Lewistown grow and prosper.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Valach