

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

November 9, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Fergus County Commissioners

712 W. Main St., Suite 210

Lewistown, MT 59457

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Presiding Officer Seilstad called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Presiding Officer Seilstad asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the October 25, 2017 minutes. Hearing none the minutes will stand approved as distributed and they will be on file with the Clerk and Recorder and on the Fergus County Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1) Public Hearing and 1st Reading – An Ordinance Establishing Penalties for Violating Fire Restrictions and Burning Without a Permit: Commissioner Seilstad opened the public hearing and summarized the content of the ordinance. Guest Tom Wojtowick asked if the penalties are progressive and was told they are up to \$500.00. Clive Rooney with DNRC commented they are in favor of this ordinance. Commissioner Seilstad said the rural fire chiefs and departments are in favor of this as in the past it has been difficult to enforce the regulations. Commissioner Seilstad stated that to get a burn permit you need to call the Sheriff's office and your local fire chief. Hearing no more comments the hearing was closed.
- 2) Public Hearing and 1st Reading – An Ordinance by the Fergus County Board of Commissioners Declaring the Sale and Public Use of Medical Marijuana to be a Nuisance in Fergus County, Montana: Commissioner Seilstad opened the public hearing and summarized the content of the ordinance. Guest John Payne asked why the County is looking to do this. Commissioner Seilstad replied that the City of Lewistown has already done it so it forces the issues to the outlying areas in the County. He went on to state we have seven (7) law enforcement officers to cover over 4000 square miles. Guest Ruth Thayer asked if we currently have a problem with this, and if so what is it. Commissioner Seilstad commented that the Commissioners are being proactive. Guest Maria Whitcraft stated they had to go to Washington to get it for her mother. Ruth Thayer feels it puts undue access problems on families. Questions were asked about what research was done that showed this is a problem. John Payne stated that people are very limited in the amount they can have on hand and the amount you can transport. This causes problems with access. Ruth Thayer said that Dr. Mark Anderson, originally from Lewistown, has done numerous articles on this and they are backed by data. Guest Keith Bruski said that anybody in Fergus County that wants marijuana can get it. For medical purposes it should be

called Cannabis to take the stigma away. Commissioner Butcher said there currently is no tax on medical marijuana so regulating it is very difficult. Guest Karl Hartman from Helena said there is a State sales tax on it. He is involved with providers around the State. John Payne stated he objects to the working in the ordinance. Guest Tom Wojtowick said he is against the ordinance. He said it shouldn't be a criminal issue but a health issue. Commissioner Seilstad stated the Commissioners and County Attorney have done research both in support of and opposed to and will do more. The second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for November 27, 2017. Hearing no more comments the public hearing was closed.

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Fairgrounds

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

- 1) There is an opening on the North Central Tourism Board as Jennifer Pfau resigned.
- 2) Council on Aging Director Staci Auck is resigning so a replacement will be sought.
- 3) The Commissioners are on the December 14, 2017 agenda with the Montana Department of Transportation in Helena regarding the intersection at Grass Range.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Approval of October 30, 2017 and November 9, 2017 claims: Commissioner Butcher moved to approve the October 30, 2017 and November 9, 2017 claims. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Resolution Allowing the Closure of Unmaintained County Roads Due to Emergency Conditions: Commissioner Butcher moved to approve a Resolution Allowing the Closure of Unmaintained County Roads Due to Emergency Conditions. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEXT MEETING DATES:

November 15, 2017
Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.

Business Meeting

Fergus Co. Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

November 27, 2017
Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

Fergus Co. Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

December 11, 2017
Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

Fergus Co. 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:

ABSENT

Carl Seilstad, Presiding Officer

Sandra Youngbauer

Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner

Attest:

Ross Butcher

Ross Butcher, Commissioner

Rana J. Wichman

Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

