

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting
August 10, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Ross Butcher, Commissioner Carl Seilstad, Commissioner Sandy Youngbauer, and Superintendent of Schools Rhonda Long. Public present See attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Presiding Officer Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the July 24, 2018 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: Presiding Officer Butcher opened public hearing on the TSEP – Forest Grove Road Bridge Environmental Review Record. This is a new bridge project 6 miles West of Forest Grove. The public hearing was held once before but the commission missed acting on environmental review so we are bring it back to the public. No public comments were made. Presiding Officer Butcher closed the public hear.

Presiding Officer Butcher opened the public hearing on the FY1819 Preliminary Budget. Finance Director Neal Tucek gave a brief overview. Increases that can be seen are due to a 5 year rotation on equipment. This year up for purchase is two new road graders, two side dump trailers, and three Sheriff's vehicles. The Road and Bridge are adding two short term drivers. The County paid off the Intercap loan and increased the cash reserve in other areas. Employees were given a \$1.00/hour raise to help the county have competitive wages. The Department heads worked hard last year and came in \$300,000 under their budgets. The Health Insurance Mill was lowered by 5.73 mills. No public comment was made. Presiding Officer Butcher closed the public hear.

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Administrative Assistant in the Clerk and Recorder's Office
- 2) Administrative Assistant in the Treasurer's Office
- 3) County Attorney's Bad Check Coordinator/Receptionist (in process of interviews)
- 4) Road and Gravel Crew has just had position accepted
- 5) Detention Officer
- 6) Facilities position
- 7) Tourism Regional Board Position

- 8) Health Insurance Committee Position (to be filled internally)
- 9) Fair Board Member (will be open as of August 31st)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

- 1) Commissioner Seilstad reported in FY1516 and FY1617 the commission signed a Crisis Intervention grant. This was for mental health issues that get called in that are not a crime or a threat. Also, the grant can be used for Officers to received Crisis Intervention training. Law enforcement take the individual to the hospital and the grant paid for. With cut backs at the state it was unknown if we'd get it for this fiscal year.
- 2) Commissioner Butcher reported that the Airport receive an OshKosh snow blower which was a military surplus item. It arrived two weeks ago. The only cost to the Airport was shipping. The old snow blower had its motor give out. Last winter Bozeman airport gave our airport an older model of blower. We have two units now.
- 3) Commissioner Seilstad informed everyone that the Commission had their MACo district meeting Monday in Billings.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the August claims. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Resolution #20-2018: State v Jason Terronez Prosecutorial Assistance. Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Diane Cochran explained that this was a district court case from 2015. It was appealed to the Supreme Court, and is now back in district court. The Attorney General's Office assist with the trial. This is at no cost to the county. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Commissioner Youngbauer moved to approve the TSEP- Forest Grove Road Bridge Environmental Review for the new bridge project 6 miles West of Forest Grove... Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 4) Presiding Officer Butcher introduced the Speed Study on Lewistown West 87/200 and Truck Bypass. Commissioner Seilstad opened the discussion asking people to refer to the page in the packet. The suggested speed zone is 55 mph into Lewistown which is 300 feet west of town to H Street. On the Truck Bypass it is 55 mph at the intersection until where the current 45 mph sign is. Commissioner Seilstad explained that if we don't send a note this is what it will be. If we send a note, it will be read before the State Transportation Committee and taken into consideration, but it does not mean that the committee will agree with what we ask them to do. Commissioner Seilstad explained that we currently have a 45 mph merge curve that then goes back to 55 mph. His thought is that the 45 mph zone needs to begin back by Darryl Tuss's.
 - a) Kyle Grimsrud stated that 45 mph means people drive 55 mph and 55 mph means people drive 65 mph. It's important to move the 45 back further.
 - b) Darryl Tuss asked if the project was completed and signed off on. He stated that the stop sign is ineffective as not everyone is stopping. He felt that we should look at moving the 45 back to Dick Jergensen's driveway.
 - c) Vicky Ruckman spoke about near misses she has had when she slows down to turn into her business. People heading west don't watch for people turning into her business.
 - d) Shannon Ruckman stated that if it already is 45 mph at the intersection then it would be best to continue it all the way into town.

- e) Clyde Merwin said that 16 cars have been on his business's property in the last two years. 45 mph in all directions would be good.
- f) Darryl Tuss pointed out that across from Coley Bass's there is a turn out crossing the walking path and the railroad grade.
- g) Dan Bartel asked if we can request other safety issues be dealt with.
- h) Kyle Grimsrud stated he believed a blinking light would help.
- i) Clyde Merwin feels any action would help. He's never seen an intersection built in recent years created this way.
- j) Darryl Tuss believes that revamping the road did not fix the dangerous intersection but instead just moved where the accidents happens. He also thinks it was designed in a way that can easily be changed into a roundabout.

Presiding Officer Butcher reminded everyone that we can send in what our community wants, but it could be rejected. Nothing is done until the Highway Commission hears it and they have the final decision. An idea would be to send up a delegation of people to be at the Highway Commission hearing and to be unified in our request.

Darryl Tuss asked is a petition would help. Presiding Officer Butcher stated that data such as Clyde's and first hand observations such as Vicky Ruckman's is what we need to present to the Highway Commission. Commissioner Seilstad echoed that people need to gather up the information they have and bring it back to the County Commissioners before they send in their letter.

Commissioner Seilstad stated that we need a reference point. He then spoke about the different ways speed zones are handled in the Central Montana area wonder how the Highway Commission would choose to slow down to the 45 mph. Darryl joined Commissioner Seilstad in discussing the reference point. On the Speed Study Station 300 was referenced as was 320 which is right at the intersection. Commissioner Seilstad will take a drive out and look at the stations for the correct reference point.

Commissioner Seilstad asked everyone to address their safety concerns on a different letter separate from the one on the speed zone.

Vicki Ruckman asked if there is a traffic count for the intersection. Commissioner Seilstad said there was. The speed zone is actually figured by looking at how fast people go through and finding a percentage.

Shannon Ruckman wanted to know when the County Commission wanted the letters for the Highway Commission. Commissioner Youngbauer said to have them to the County Commission by the next meeting that is scheduled for Monday, August 27th. Shannon Ruckman then wondered if a letter to the editor would have any impact on the Highway Commission decision. Presiding Officer Butcher did not feel that the Highway Commission would see a letter to the editor.

Commissioner Seilstad reminded everyone that the County Commissioner letter has to be ready by the 27th so to have their letters to the Commission by the 27th so all the letters can be mailed together. He then made a motion for the Fergus County Commissioners to write a letter requesting a 45 mph speed

limit beginning west of 320+00 continuing into Lewistown on the Truck Bypass and from the same station until the 35 mph zone coming into Lewistown. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

- 1) Chris Cooler to the Central Montana Tourism Board. Commissioner Youngbauer moved to appoint Chris Cooler to the Central Montana Tourism Board. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

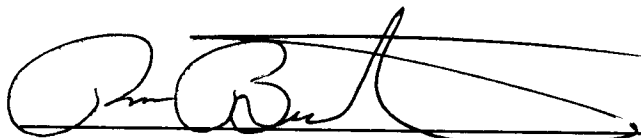
NEXT MEETING DATES:

August 15, 2018 Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
August 27, 2018 Monday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting <i>Final Budget Meeting</i>	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
September 10, 2018 Monday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

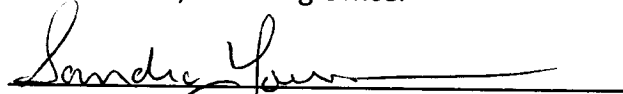
Reminder: Agenda items are due to the Commissioners 5 days prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

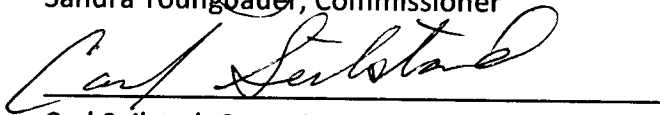
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher, Presiding Officer



Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:



Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

