

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

March 9, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

Fergus County Commissioners

712 W. Main St., Suite 210

Lewistown, MT 59457

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Seilstad asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the February 26, 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:

- 1) TSEP – Commissioner Seilstad opened the TSEP public hearing. Robie Culver and Kathy Thompson with Stahly Engineering gave a presentation on bridges in Fergus County. Robie Culver indicated that we are going to TSEP for a grant and the application is due in June. We can apply for up to \$500,000. The applications are scored as follows:

- 1) Health and Safety Needs – 1250 points
- 2) Financial Need – 1000 points
- 3) Design – 750 points
- 4) Planning and Management – 650 points
- 5) Funding Package – 550 points
- 6) Economic Development - 450 points
- 7) Community Support – 350 points

Road Supervisor John Anderson said Yellowstone County is the only county with more bridges than Fergus County. Kathy Thompson said TSEP has bridge ranking criteria and only level 4 and 5 bridges can be submitted. Fergus County has no level 5 at this point but we do have 12 level 4. Stahly Engineering is recommending we submit the application for the South Fork McDonald Creek Bridge which is six miles SW of Grass Range. The estimated replacement cost is \$330,000. Commissioner Seilstad closed the public hearing.

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) County Planning Administrative Assistant
- 2) Nurse for County Nurse's Office

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

- 1) Commissioner Seilstad announced that Mary Frieze asked that the February 21st, 2018 meeting minutes be amended to reflect that a comment letter had several signatures on it and to add one person that gave testimony that was missed. Because the minutes were approved as distributed on February 26, 2018 we are unable to amend them. However, after reviewing our documentation, there were comment letters turned in that had also signed the comment letter being requested to reflect the signatures. To be fair we submitted all calls, emails and comments as one as we had various other emails that listed more than one person or group. Therefore we will not make any changes to what has been done on this issue. We will document at this meeting that there was one gentleman by the name of Mark Good from Great Falls, Montana, who gave testimony at the 21st meeting in opposition to releasing the WSA designations.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) March 9, 2018 claims: Commissioner Youngbauer moved to approve the March 9, 2018 claims. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Opportunity Zones – Federal Program for Low Income Areas: Kathie Bailey with Snowy Mountain Development Corporation asked if the County would support Opportunity Zones when applicable. This is a new project that they are investigating to see what might be eligible. They are asking the Board of County Commissioners to write a letter of support. Local support is imperative for approval of any funds. Commissioner Youngbauer moved that the Commissioners write a letter of support. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 3) TSEP: Commissioner Youngbauer moved to apply for TSEP funds for the bridge recommended by Stahly Engineering. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC INPUT:

Peter Mickelsen said the County did a phenomenal job with the flooding a few years back. He asked that in the future the Engineers, Commissioners, and Road Supervisor talk with the local residents about water movement in the area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Kathie Bailey stated that the EPA is considering approval of funding to clean up the “On Your Way” site. There will be a conference call and she would like involvement from the Commissioners, Sheriff, and Facilities.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

March 21, 2018	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners
Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.		712 W Main St., Suite 210
		Lewistown, MT 59457

March 26, 2018
Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

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

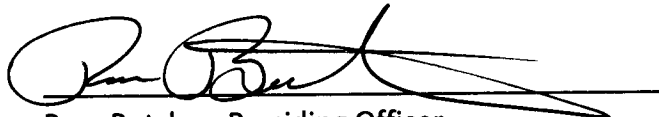
April 10, 2018
Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.

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.

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher, Presiding Officer



Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:



Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

