

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

March 11, 2019 – 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 Clerk & Recorder Rana Wichman. Public present: See attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the February 25, 2019 minutes. Hearing none he stated the minutes will stand approved as presented and will be on file with the Clerk and Recorder and on the Fergus County Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

BID OPENINGS: None

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) CMHD – Sanitarian
- 2) Road Department
- 3) County Nurse's Office
- 4) DES – Deputy – Part-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

- 1) Commissioner Seilstad attended NACo in Washington DC. It was a good conference. He is on the Human Services Committee.
- 2) Commissioner Seilstad will be going to Helena on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, for a meeting regarding a speed study.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) March 11, 2019 Claims: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the March 11, 2019 claims as presented. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) 911 Contract with Central Montana 911: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the 911 Contract with Central Montana 911 with an effective date of 7/1/2019. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Commissioner Youngbauer stated the City of Lewistown is fine with the effective date of 7/1/2019. This moves the expense into the next fiscal year so it can be put in the budget. This contract is for five (5) years. Passed unanimously.

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between Fergus County
and the MONTANA MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this MOU is to establish how Fergus County will use the Montana Medical Examiner's Office as a resource in Coroner investigations.

1. On August 10, 2017, the Fergus County Board of Commissioners voted to combine the offices of County Sheriff and County Coroner.
2. On January 1, 2019, Richard Vaughn took office as the Fergus County Sheriff/Coroner.
3. On February 26, 2019, the Montana State Medical Examiner offered to provide Coroner-related services to Fergus County at the following rates:
 - a. Complete postmortem examination (includes review of pertinent records, external examination, internal examination, sample collection for toxicology, photographic documentation, and report preparation including cause and manner of death determination and opinion): \$1,500.
 - b. Partial postmortem examination (includes all the above but is limited to a partial dissection only): \$1,000
 - c. External examination only (includes all of the above; however, no internal examination or dissection is performed): \$500.
 - d. Documentation only (includes photographic documentation of the decedent's remains as received and after undressing and cleaning as necessary). No written report would be prepared. Samples would be collected for toxicology. The decedent would be received at the medical examiner's office and placed in the cooler prior to documentation and then available for release after the documentation was complete. The cost for documentation only would be \$250.

4. The Montana Medical Examiner will provide refrigeration and secure storage for remains in the custody of the Fergus County Coroner without charge and shall receive remains on a 24/7 basis.
5. The Montana State Medical Examiner also agrees to provide case review to the Fergus County Coroner.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Carl Seilstad 3/11/19
CARL SEILSTAD (date)

Sandy Youngbauer 3/11/19
SANDY YOUNGBAUER (date)

Ross Butcher 3/11/19
ROSS BUTCHER (date)

ATTEST:

Rana Wichman 3/11/19
RANA WICHMAN, (date)
Clerk & Recorder

Robert Kurtzman 3/13/2019
Robert Kurtzman, (date)
Montana Medical Examiner

3) Coroner/Deputy Coroner Agreement:

- a) Resolution 2-2019 – A Resolution Appointing Deputy Coroners: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve Resolution 2-2019 appointing Tracy Lewellen, Gatlin Lamb, and Brenton Koch as deputy coroners. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Guest Delilah Duffy asked the Commissioners to confirm that none of these individuals are affiliated with any funeral home. Sheriff/Coroner Vaughn commented that at this time he doesn't know how many deputy coroners he will need and will possibly train all of his deputies. Passed unanimously.
- b) Memorandum of Understanding Between Fergus County and the Montana Medical Examiner's Office: Commissioner Youngbauer moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Fergus County and the Montana Medical Examiner's Office. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Discussion included that if it appears the body needs to go for further examination the body is taken directly to Billings to the Medical Examiner. This decision is made by the Coroner or Deputy Coroner. How the body would be transported will be decided soon. No funeral home will decide where a body goes. Commissioner Butcher stated two concerns (1) we must make sure there is no conflict of interest, and (2) it needs to be recognized that this is new to us. This document is a Memorandum of Understanding and does not commit Fergus County to anything. Commissioner Seilstad stated that these decisions need to be made and that he doesn't want to see any more extensions. Guest Jerry Hanley feels this is a tremendous step forward and agrees that it doesn't bind Fergus County to anything. Ralph Milfeld with Creel Funeral Home feels this is creating a new conflict. He stated that a basic rotation system is all that is needed. Commissioner Youngbauer said that the rotation Request for Proposal will be placed on the March 20, 2019 agenda. Passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

- 1) City/County Planning Board: a) Tracy Golik, b) Sue Johnston: Commissioner Seilstad moved to appoint Tracy Golik and Sue Johnston to the City/County Planning Board. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Port Authority: a) Laura Bennett: Commissioner Youngbauer moved to appoint Laura Bennett to the Port Authority. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING DATES:

March 20, 2019 Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
March 25, 2019 Monday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus Co. Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

April 10, 2019
Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

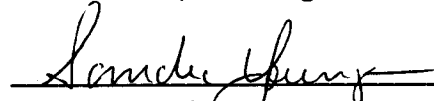
Fergus Co. Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

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

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher, Presiding Officer



Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:


Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

