

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting  
December 26, 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 Clerk & Recorder Rana Wichman. Public present: See attached

**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 December 10, 2018 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) Sheriff's Department – Deputy (2)
- 3) Clerk of District Court – Office Manager / Deputy

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:** None

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) December 26, 2018 Claims: Commissioner Youngbauer moved to approve the December 26, 2018 claims as presented. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Resolution 31-2018 Appoint Deputy Coroners and Continuation of Coroner Agreement: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve Resolution 31-2018 along with the Continuation of the Coroner Agreement to get them to discussion. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Commissioner Seilstad asked how the Sheriff/Coroner will get around the problems with first point of contact if Dick Brown and James Jensen are deputy coroners. Sheriff/Coroner Elect Richard Vaughn said he is elected to do what is best for the community and wants to keep in place the procedure that is currently there. He and his undersheriff have the required training and a year of service under a licensed coroner. Deputy Lamb went to the training last April, and Deputy Koch went in December. The sheriff/coroner and undersheriff will do all death notifications for now. Vaughn said he is asking for six months to get everything in place. He said there will be a law enforcement officer on all calls. Commissioner Youngbauer stated nothing in regard to coroner calls has been put in the CBA. She handed out a memorandum of understanding. Commissioner Butcher asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. Ralph Mihlfeld stated he is adamantly opposed to appointing coroner deputies that are affiliated with either funeral home. He questioned the refusal to utilize a local funeral home for storage, to draw fluids, etc. He asked if the funeral home without the forty hour coroner training will

be used. He said both funeral homes can transport, draw fluids, and refrigerate. Vaughn said he feels it is a liability to the County to not have someone available that has the coroner certification. Commissioner Butcher said he understands the concern over having a qualified individual do blood draws, lock up the body, etc. Vaughn stated that law enforcement will do all death notifications. He wants the opportunity to have someone with Dick Brown's expertise available. He needs more time. Commissioner Youngbauer questioned the need for this. Commissioner Youngbauer moved to amend the original motion to have Resolution 31-2018 effective through March 1, 2019. Commissioner Seilstad seconded. Passed unanimously. Commissioner Butcher asked if the chain of custody can be protected if the deputies haven't taken the coroner training. Ralph Mihlfeld stated he is willing to go to the coroner training at County expense but the County would have to cover the cost of a mortician to cover his business while he is gone. Even at that he will not become a deputy coroner. The original motion failed at the point.

- 3) City/County Justice Court Agreement: Commissioner Seilstad moved to table the City/County Justice Court Agreement. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

January 2, 2019

Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Reorganizational Meeting

Fergus Co. Commissioners

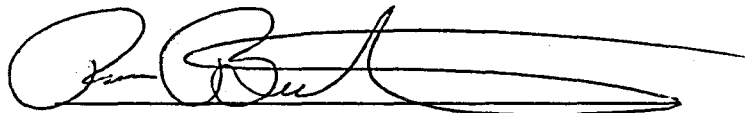
712 W Main St., Suite 210

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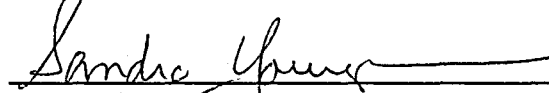
Reminder: Agenda items are due to the Commissioners 5 days prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

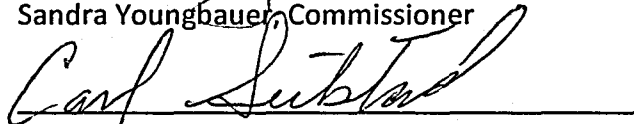
**FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**



Ross Butcher, Presiding Officer

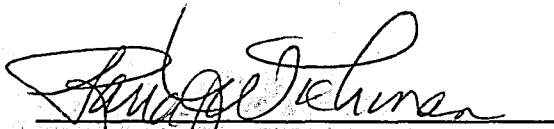


Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:

  
Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

