

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

August 10, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Fergus County Commissioners

712 W. Main St., Suite 210

Lewistown, MT 59457

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She indicated that the agenda is being amended to add a donation request from SAFE.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Youngbauer asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the July 24, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, she stated the minutes 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:**

- 1) Building for Lease or Rent Application – Terry and Terri Selph: Commissioner Youngbauer opened the public hearing and asked County Planner Pam Vosen to present the application. Terry and Terri Selph have applied to put in a twelve bay storage unit at Winifred. Since there will be no water or sewer, and no living quarters involved, it is a pretty straight forward process. No problems were anticipated. Commissioner Youngbauer closed the public hearing.

**BID OPENINGS:** None

**PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1) DES – Part Time Deputy DES Coordinator and Deputy Fire Warden (30 hours) – an offer was made.
- 2) Facilities/Events Manager – filled.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:**

- 1) Road Supervisor recapped the road and bridge work done by the County in FY1920.
- 2) Commissioner Seilstad reported that speed studies were requested by Grass Range and Hilger. At Grass Range the speed from the Wrangler Bar 300' to the school intersection will be lowered to 55 mph. The speed limit by Hilger will be increased from 45 mph to 55 mph.
- 3) DES Coordinator Ben Phillips reported on the COVID19 status in Fergus County. There are currently four active cases, which puts us within the category where maps are required per the Governor's mandate. Access to the Courthouse will be limited to the back door by the elevator. The public will be encouraged to do as much business on line as possible. A hand sanitizing station will be placed by the back door.

**DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) August 10, 2020 Claims: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the August 10, 2020 claims. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Agreement between Fergus County and the City of Lewistown regarding the Fergus County Justice of the Peace acting as a City Judge: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the Agreement between Fergus County and the City of Lewistown regarding the Fergus County Justice of the Peace acting as a City Judge. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Discussion included that this may be amended regarding the date payments need to be made. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Non-Exclusive Easement Deed and Agreement: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the Non-Exclusive Easement Deed and Agreement between Fergus County and David and Helen Wilson. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Commissioner Seilstad reported that the Wilson's land was land locked and this gives them a 30' easement. Passed unanimously.
- 4) Fergus County Attorney – Case Management System: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the purchase of a case management system for the County Attorney's office. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. County Attorney Kent Sipe stated that approximately forty counties are going with this CARPAL system. The City of Lewistown will also benefit from this so they will submit a reimbursement for part of the cost. The total will be about \$35,000.00 and Kent was authorized to sign for it. Passed unanimously.
- 5) FY1920 Budget Resolution Regarding Unanticipated Revenues and Cash Reserves: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve Resolution #27-2020 Regarding Unanticipated Revenues and Cash Reserves. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 6) Building for Lease or Rent Application – Terry and Terri Selph: Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the Building for Lease or Rent Application submitted by Terry and Terri Selph. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 7) SAFE (Saving Animals from Euthanasia) donation request: Commissioner Seilstad moved to donate \$1000.00 to SAFE. Commissioner Youngbauer seconded. Passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There will be a preliminary budget hearing at the August 19, 2020 meeting, and the final budget hearing will be held at a special meeting on September 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

August 19, 2020 Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457
August 25, 2020 Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210 Lewistown, MT 59457

September 2, 2020  
Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Special Business Meeting  
Final Budget Meeting

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

September 10, 2020  
Thursday, 2:00 p.m.

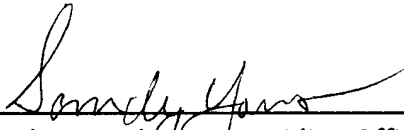
Regular Business Meeting

Fergus County 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:**



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Youngbauer, Presiding Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ross Butcher, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder

## **SUMMARY OF WORK DONE YEAR 19-20**

- GRAVELED 45 MILES OF ROAD
- HAULED 100,000 CYDS GRAVEL
- BUILT 2 NEW BRIDGES
- TEAR OUT 1- 16'X20' BRIDGE & REPLACE WITH 2- 54"X 92" CULVERTS
- REBUILD 5 BRIDGES
- DO 1 STREAM RESTORATION AND RIP RAP FOR 1 BRIDGE
- INSTALL 15 NEW CATTLE GAURDS
- PATCH 20 MILES OF PAVEMENT
- TORE DOWN THE SHEEP BARN
- INSTALLED THE GUARD RAIL ON THE EAST SIDE OF PAVILLION

Saving Animal from Euthanasia  
1011 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
(406) 366-5905



August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Fergus County Commission,

We hosted our first Spay and Neuter Clinic on May 26, 2019. That clinic saw 98 cats, most of which were trapped, neutered, and returned to their colonies. Many of these were from Ruby Gulch, where the cat population was in rough condition, between overpopulation due to drop-offs, inbreeding, and food scarcity. That clinic costed \$6400. Your \$1000 donation for that clinic made a huge impact on our ability to keep having clinics going forward and to find homes for animals in need. We genuinely appreciate your kindness and generosity!

Since this clinic, we've had 2 other smaller clinics (August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019). Since we began our journey in 2019 toward impacting the feral cat population, we've spayed/neutered 199 cats through clinics and more than 40 additionally through local vets. We also require a sterilization agreement to be signed upon adoption of kittens (and puppies) to ensure that they follow through with sterilization. One of the biggest reasons people avoid spay or neuter is the cost. Through these clinics, we have given access to low-income spay and neuter for people who would otherwise deign to skip the procedure altogether for financial reasons. By offering this service, there will be less unwanted breeding leading to overpopulation and "dumping" of unwanted animals. A female cat can produce three litters in one year, and the average number of kittens in a litter is 4-6. These kittens can reproduce as early as 6 months of age. If just 50% of the 199 animals we have sterilized are female, that's an estimated 400-600 unwanted kittens that have been prevented. These clinics are paramount to keeping the population and disease transmission in check.

We have found appropriate homes for many animals since our founding in 2013, via foster, adoption, "pass-through", and trap-neuter-return where appropriate. In 2019, 55 cats and 40 dogs have been through our program. So far this year, 43 cats and 23 dogs have been through our program. We will continue to have clinics to control the feral cat population and help low-income households gain access to spay/neuter. We hope to incorporate dogs into future clinics as we grow and as funds allow. We have spent approximately \$12,775 on spay and neuter clinics. These feral colonies didn't pop up overnight, so we know that it will be an ongoing project, but once the breeders are out of commission, they cannot add to the problem, so we will vigilantly continue chiseling away at the population until the problem is under control. We appreciate your time and hope you will consider partnering with us to better our community.

With Warm Regards,

Saving Animals From Euthanasia

