

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting
August 10, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Butcher, Commissioner Youngbauer, Commissioner Seilstad, County Attorney Kent Sipe, Under Sheriff Tracy Lewellen, and Road Supervisor John Anderson. In person public: see attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Agenda approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Youngbauer asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the July 26, 2022 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: County Finance director Neal Tucek presented the preliminary budget for review. Increase to gravel crushing, employee wages, and fuel budget. Capital Improvements for DES Repeater, Trade Center sound system, 2 patrol vehicles & body scanner for Sheriff's office, new road shop in Denton along with new graders for the road department, and a new spray pickup for weed department. Mid-Rivers no longer the phone provider as of December 31st, 2022, so bids will go out for a new system. Commissioner Seilstad said to expect changes from the preliminary budget to the final budget. Hearing closed.

BID OPENINGS: none

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Family Planning/Clinical RN – perm/part-time
2. Public Health Officer – perm/part-time
3. Facilities/Grounds & Buildings custodian – perm/full-time
4. Sheriff Department/Sheriff Deputy – perm/full-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

1. John Anderson gave a report on the Road Department. See attached sheet.
2. Kent Sipe will be working with Scott Irvin on restoring the water rights on the Poor Farm.
3. Commissioner Butcher asking for any input on housing that he can report to the Housing Task Force.

4. Green Light for Veterans (see attached draft resolution) where county buildings are lit up green November 7 – 13 in recognition of veterans.
5. Ryan Peterson advised there were 25 service calls last month for rural fire, 12 fires last month and 7 so far this month. Neighboring counties are looking to going to Stage 1 fire restrictions. Fergus Co website updated to show current fire restrictions under the Fire Warden tab.
6. Tracy Lewellen thanked the commissioners for ending Katie Kenser’s wage freeze.
7. Neal Tucek gave kudos to the commissioners for putting money away for construction reserves.
8. Kent Sipe advised the County Attorney’s office is very busy.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Montana State Fund presented the Safety Committee with a graduation plaque. This committee over the past several months have been working through the Work Safe Champions program. The class ID’d safety concerns around the county and completed 4 of 7 items ID’d. Committee will continue to meet quarterly. Safety fair to follow on October 20th @ Trade Center from 3 pm – 5 pm. (NOTE: this item was actually presented right after the approval of minutes).
2. Commissioner Youngbauer thanked the Safety Committee for all their time.
3. Marlo Thomas gave a report from the Health Department regarding the disposition of bodies. Previous resolution signed 10 years ago by CMHD. Marlo drafted the resolution and the Board of Health approved it during the July 25th meeting. Commissioner Seilstad suggested adding more to section “H” and to look at current guidelines and compare the two. **Tabled for final draft.**
4. Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve the August 10, 2022 claims as submitted. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Commissioner Butcher moved to appoint Douglas Winter to the Coffee Creek fire district. Commissioner Seilstad 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

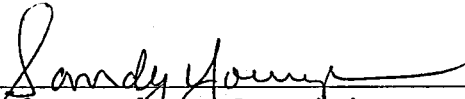
1. Commissioner Youngbauer advised that MACo rolled out a new policy manual for Fergus Co to use as reference when updating ours.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

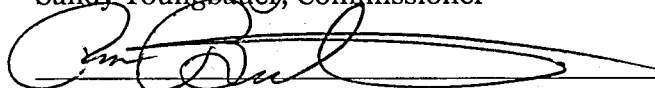
August 17, 2022 Wednesday – 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
August 25, 2022 Thursday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
September 9, 2022 Friday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.


FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Sandy Youngbauer, Commissioner



Ross Butcher, Commissioner



Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:



Janel L. Tucek, Clerk & Recorder

