

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Special Meeting
December 15, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Butcher, Commissioner Youngbauer, Commissioner Seilstad, & Clerk and Recorder Janel J. Tucek. In person public: see attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Agenda approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORT:

1. Commissioner Butcher attended the community council public meeting on a countywide speed zone. Those in attendance had varying ideas of what speed limit should be used
2. Commissioner Seilstad advised that a county resident had been in to talk to them about an APR contracted helicopter landing out at Bohemian Corners on private land that did not have permission to do so. The resident did say that the pilot had called and apologized for the mistake as he used to land there in the past but didn't realize the land had changed hands.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Seilstad moved to approve a letter of support for the immediate passage of the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act to Senator Tester's office. This would help veteran service officers support veterans as they navigate the cumbersome bureaucracy of the US Dept of Veteran Affairs benefit process. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; discussion ensued. This letter of support is on a time crunch to get it signed and off. Commissioners would also like it to go to Senator Daines and Representative Rosendale offices. **Motion Passed.**
2. Commissioner Butcher moved to add Fergus Co to the list of counties in support of a letter to the Governor to increase Medicaid rates for county funded nursing homes. Commissioner Seilstad 2nd; discussion ensued that with the closure of various county funded nursing homes, that something needs done soon to try and keep them open. **Motion Passed**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Seilstad stated that he received an email from CMMC asking for his support of them applying for a USDA loan for the new cancer center. The application is going through Mid-Rivers as a local electrical or telecommunications co-op to serve as the intermediary.
2. Commissioner Butcher spoke about the Sheriff's Office purchase of a drug dog, dog handler classes and K9 equipped vehicle. These were not budgeted items in the current FY and the process of purchasing said items were not vetted properly per county policy. Upon the commissioners finding out about this in the newspaper, they have had conversations with

Sheriff Vaughn, Finance Director Tucek, and Sheriff-elect Peterson about how they want to continue with this process going forward.

3. Commissioner Youngbauer advised that the local elections office has received an approved petition from a local group that wants to reverse the county's current "Red" status regarding marijuana to go "Green". Commissioner discussion ensued about various scenarios, what it could mean for the county as far as tax base and small business opportunities. The County and City of Lewistown are already dealing with those that go to currently green counties and bring it back here. Flipping the status for Fergus Co would at least give them added tax revenue to cover the added expenses from dealing with it.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

December 21, 2022
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting
Cancelled

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

December 27, 2022
Tuesday - 2:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

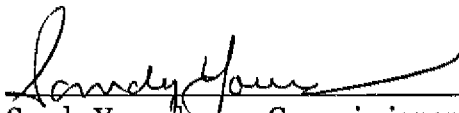
January 3, 2023
Tuesday - 2:00 p.m.

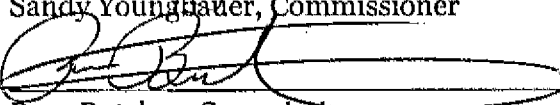
Reorganization meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

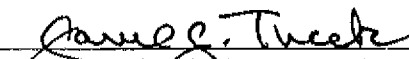
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:


Sandy Youngbauer, Commissioner


Ross Butcher, Commissioner

"absent"
Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:


Janel J. Tucek, Clerk & Recorder

