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FERGUS COUNTY, MT Recorded 1/25/2023 at 2:50 PM

Janel J. Tucek, Clk & Rcdr By

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LEWISTOWN MT 59457

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Special Meeting
January 14, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.
Fergus County & Petroleum County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Ross Butcher, Commissioner Jennifer Saunders, Commissioner Carl Seilstad, Commissioner Sigrid Pugrud, Commissioner Craig Iverson, Commissioner Paul McKenna (via zoom), and Clerk and Recorder Janel Tucek. Public present: see attached list.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Butcher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Saunders made a motion to appoint Commissioner Iverson as Chair for this meeting. Commissioner Seilstad 2nd; **motion passed.** Commissioner Butcher moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Pugrud 2nd; **motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: none

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

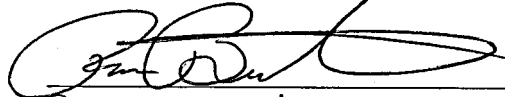
- Quorum met with three commissioners from Fergus Co and three commissioners from Petroleum Co that comprise the counties in HD 29. Commissioner Butcher read the list of nominees that the Republican Central Committee brought forth: 1) John Koch, 2) Ed Butcher, 3) Terry Gill. Commissioner Butcher made a motion to allow three minutes of speaking from the floor for nominees and the public. Commissioner Seilstad 2nd; **motion passed.** Commissioner Seilstad advised that he had taken nearly 50 phone calls from the public yesterday. Commissioner Seilstad kept a record of those who called and who they supported. The list was read and then submitted for the record (see attached).
- Bruce Williams read a letter from Larry Gill in favor of Terry Gill. Mr. Williams also gave his support to Terry Gill.
- Nominee Koch addressed the room and respectfully requested that his name be taken off the list of nominees and put his support behind Ed Butcher.
- Nominee Butcher gave a summary of his background and qualifications.
- Terry Ernst – Terry Gill
- Martha Boyce – Terry Gill
- Kathy Eastman – Ed Butcher; Ms. Eastman asked a question of Nominee Butcher and what he has been doing to keep up on happenings with the current session in Helena. Nominee Butcher advised he has been in Helena the last two weeks at hearings.
- Rana Wichman – not voicing support for any said candidate but requested that whomever gets in, to reach out to constituents and those in public office in Fergus and Petroleum counties.

- Gary Barta – agreed with Rana Wichman and the need to talk to constituents.
- Scott Seilstad – Terry Gill
- Paul Harris – Terry Gill; Mr. Harris asked what Nominee Butcher’s plans were about running for the office. Nominee Butcher said he has no plans to run for the office.
- Kirk Eastman – Ed Butcher
- Janel Tucek – no support for any nominee, but wants whomever gets in to please contact the Fergus/Petroleum county election admins office regarding any of the election bills that come for vote and to leave their personal feelings out of it.
- Commissioner Seilstad spoke about the major importance of this legislative session.
- Commissioner Butcher addressed the potential issue of nepotism. Under advisement from the County Attorney’s office and definitions set forth in MCA, he can vote even though he is related to a nominee based on the merit of that nominee.
- Denise Seilstad – Terry Gill
- Commissioner Saunders read a text message she had gotten from Nominee Gill that he has proxy voting in place as he is out of town and won’t be back for another week.
- Commissioner Saunders motioned for a vote. Commissioner Pugrud 2nd; **motion passed.** Votes were taken from the commissioners as follows: Commissioner Pugrud – Ed Butcher; Commissioner McKenna – Ed Butcher; Commissioner Iverson – Terry Gill; Commissioner Seilstad – Ed Butcher; Commissioner Saunders – Terry Gill; Commissioner Butcher – Ed Butcher. (see attached sheet with vote weights). Clerk and Recorder declared Nominee Butcher the successful nominee for HD 29.

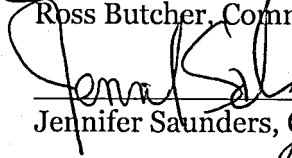
PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEM: none

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

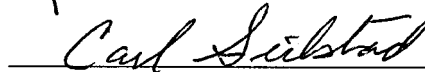
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher, Commissioner

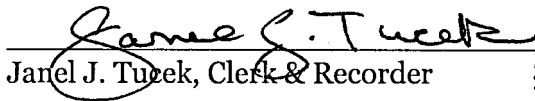


Jennifer Saunders, Commissioner

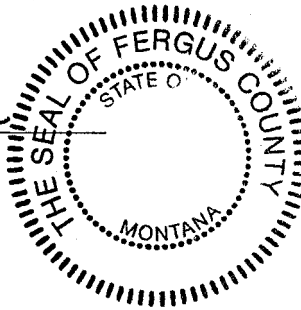


Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:



Janel J. Turek, Clerk & Recorder



PETROLEUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Craig Iverson, Commissioner

Paul McKenna, Commissioner

Sigrid Pugrud, Commissioner

Attest:

Jess Hoge, Clerk & Recorder