

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

August 11, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

Fergus County Commissioners

712 W. Main St., Suite 210

Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Butcher, Commissioner Saunders, Commissioner Willson, and Clerk and Recorder Janel Tucek. Maxine & Harry Scott via telephone. In person public: see attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to July 22, 2025 minutes. Hearing none, he 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. Public hearing opened at 2:01 p.m. on the CBDG grant. Commissioner Butcher read a required script for opening the 1st hearing. Sara Hudson, director of Snowy Mtn Development, spoke about the housing need that would be developed with a CDBG grant. Thomas Peterson, executive director of the Farm in the Dell, asked for the county's support for their grant application. Hearing closed at 2:15 p.m.

BID OPENINGS:

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Planning Office/Planner in Training - perm/full-time
- Planning Office/Planner - perm/full - time
- Road Department/Road, Bridge, & Gravel Crew Member - perm/full-time
- Sheriff's Office/Detention Officer – perm/full-time
- Sheriff's Office/Deputy – perm/full-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

1. Road Viewers Report on PN Road given by DES Steve Fanning. Road has a few sections that the past petitions hadn't been completed and so this will clean up the whole section of road. Road Viewer's recommend to adopt all of PN Road to a county road.
2. Courthouse elevator replacement still in progress.
3. Commissioner Butcher reported on his trip to Washington, DC.
4. MT SOS sent a thank you to Fergus County for the use of the Fergus County Fairgrounds for a meeting with the State Association of Clerk and Recorder's. Janel Tucek thanked

the commissioners once again for allowing the Association to use the Trade Center Facility last week for the state convention. It was very well attended and received.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the August 11, 2025 claims. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
2. Commissioner Saunders motioned to remove the table motion on the South McDonald Creek SD from the last meeting. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed to remove the table.** Commissioner Saunders discussed the hardships from the previous meeting. Garth French with WWC engineering spoke to the utility easement hardships. Commissioner Butcher also spoke of the utility easements. Commissioner Saunders said the cistern requirement cannot be dictated by the county but should be more of the fire district to educate the landowner of fire prevention. Commissioner Butcher believes condition 18 should be dropped and that the county agrees with the Planning Board to deny the variance. Commissioner Saunders motioned to accept the Planning Board recommendation with exception to delete #18 and add verbiage to #5 unless a letter from the power company has been denied. Commissioner Willson 2nd; discussion ensued between commissioners. Commissioner Butcher does not want to approve without that letter before approving. If they get a letter of denial, then they can come back with a variance. Commissioner Saunders amended her motion to by in which case the motion would be reconsidered for a variance. Maxine Scott, landowner of proposed SD, spoke of her confusion by the power issue. Stated she has talked to FEC and an adjoining landowner and believes she can get easements. Commissioner Butcher explained to Ms. Scott the issues the county has with the utility easements and that she will need to get the letters from FEC first. Commissioner Willson 2nd the amendment. **Motion Passed on the amendment to the first motion. Motion Passed on Main Motion.**
3. Discussion ensued on the draft agreements with 3 Butte/Tuss land swap for the new Road Shop in Grass Range. Land swap agreement is good as drafted. Lease agreement will have language added about who will pay utilities in #4. County will also pay for all the 4-strand barb wire fence in exchange for a lease payment instead of monthly payments. JR Tuss also asked for a gate so if cattle get in to the property, they can be removed easily. Also, an approach for both parties to use. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the Land Swap Agreement as presented and the Lease Agreement as amended. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
4. RFP's had been requested for a new auditor as the current auditor had retired and canceled all contracts with current customers. One bid was received from JCCS. Finance Director Neal Tucek is very comfortable with this company and their proposal. Bid came in at \$59,500 for the first year, with a 7% increase over 3 years of the contract. Commissioner Willson motioned to accept the bid from JCCS. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

APPOINTMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: none

NEXT MEETING DATES:

August 20, 2025
Wednesday – 5:15 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

August 25, 2025
Monday – 2:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

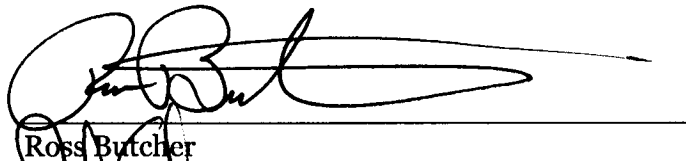
September 10, 2025
Wednesday – 2:00 p.m.

Regular Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher

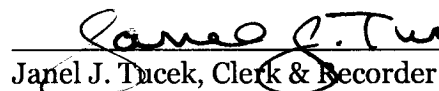


Jennifer Saunders



Travis Willson

Attest:



Janel J. Tucek, Clerk & Recorder

