

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting
July 15, 2025 – 11:00 a.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. In person public: see attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Butcher called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Agenda approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to June 25, 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: none

BID OPENINGS: none

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
- Fairgrounds/ Office Clerk- short term/full-time
- Fairgrounds/ Grounds-short term/full-time
- Detention/Detention Officer – perm/full-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS:

1. Courthouse elevator replacement starting July 7 – out for 40 days.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the July 15, 2025 claims. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
2. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve the County Attorney FY26 contract services with Petroleum County. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
3. DES Fanning presented the updated 2025 Central MT Fairgrounds and Events Center emergency plan from 2010. New signage will be placed around the grounds for evacuation information. The safety team has been having meetings with all personnel involved. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the 2025 plans. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

4. Danette Thurman with the County Planning office explained that due to board member meeting date conflicts, the County Planning Board By-laws need to be updated to reflect meeting date changes. Meetings will be moved from the 2nd Thursday to the 1st Thursday of the month for meetings. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve this by-law change. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
5. Thomas Peterson with the Farm in the Dell requested Fergus County to sponsor their organization for a CDBG grant. The grant will go towards building a new house and shop on the property. Snowy Mtn Development will assist in writing the grant and publishing notices. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve holding the first required public hearing at the August 11 BOCC meeting and for SMD to publish notices. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.** Thomas is also requesting a newly worded lease between the FC and Farm in the Dell. He will meet with the FC Attorney's office on drafting a new lease.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve Bret Smith to the Beaver Creek/Cottonwood Fire District board. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.** Term ends 5/31/2028 but will need to be elected or reappointed in the next special district election cycle.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

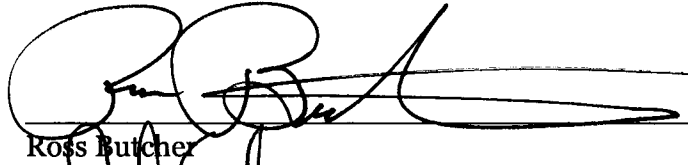
1. Kylie King-Thompson with the Petroleum County 4-H came in to voice her concerns about rumors she has heard about the 4-H program directors and the open positions not possibly being rehired. Commissioners Saunders assured that the positions will be filled at a later date, but not 2 weeks before the fair.
2. DES Fanning also reported how impressed he was with the Wilder Fire agency coordination between about 5 different agencies. Because of the coordination, the fire was stamped out in a timely manner.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

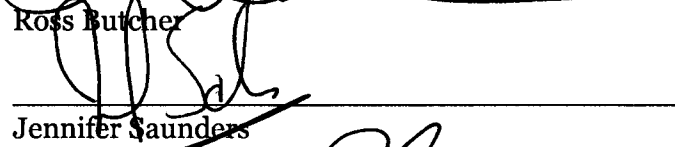
July 22, 2025 Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
August 11, 2025 Monday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
August 20, 2025 Wednesday – 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

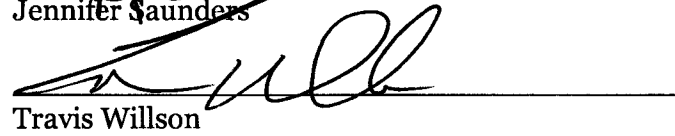
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Ross Butcher

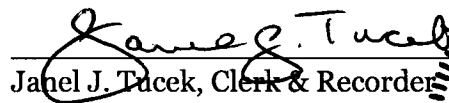


Jennifer Saunders



Travis Willson

Attest:



Janel J. Tucek, Clerk & Recorder

