

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting

August 25, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

Fergus County Commissioners

712 W. Main St., Suite 210

Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Commissioner Butcher, Commissioner Saunders, and Clerk and Recorder Janel Tucek.
In person public: see attached sheet.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Butcher called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Agenda approved as submitted with the continued discussion of the Town of Denton FY26 Mill Levy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to August 19 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:

- Commissioner Butcher opened the public hearing on the intention for authorizing the transfer of property between the Lewistown rural fire district and the Grass Range rural fire district. Fire Chief Jimmie Jensen spoke about the proposed intention of selling a structure/wildland fire truck for \$19,000. There will be a comment period and at the September 10th meeting, it will come back for action.

BID OPENINGS: 2 bids were opened for the Poor Farm Bridge project. Bids were as follows:

- 1) RTI Bridge - \$157, 850
- 2) Contech Engineered Solutions - \$234,072

Bids will go to the county's engineers and County Attorney office for review and approval.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sheriff's Office/Detention Officer-perm/full-time
- Nurse's Office/Public Health Director-perm/full-time
- District Court/Office Clerk-perm/full-time
- Sheriff's Office/Deputy-perm/full-time
- Attorney's Office/Legal Assistant-perm/full-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS: Commissioner Willson is attending a Central MT Foundation meeting and the reason for his absence of this meeting.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the August 25, 2026 claims. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; **Motion Passed**
2. Commissioners have reviewed the Henderson Conservation Easement involving portions of Sec's 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 in T16N R19E from the Montana Land Reliance. All looks like it is proper order. No action taken.
3. Commissioners have reviewed the City-County Planning Commission by-laws proposed updates and have some areas they would like to send back to the Planning Commission. **Tabled item to continue.**
4. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve Resolution 23 – 2026 intention authorizing the transfer of property between the Lewistown rural fire district and the Grass Range rural fire district. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
5. Commissioner Butcher and Finance Director Neal Tucek met with the Town of Denton Clerk and MACo Finance director Nancy Everson regarding the miscalculated FY26 Mill levy for the Town of Denton and options on how to correct the situation. Fergus County can use PILT funds to cover the \$20, 000 shortfall and then possibly using the Errors and Omissions part of the insurance. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve up to \$20,363 after verification of amount to reimburse the Town of Denton using PILT funds. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

APPOINTMENTS:

- Commissioner Saunders motioned to appoint Dane Rider – North Fork/Flatwillow Fire - term ending 5/31/2027. Commissioner Butcher 2nd; **Motion Passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- Jim Simac requested that the south fence between his property and the airport be put back that was taken down in the 1980's. Commissioner Butcher advised that the airport board has authority over these matters.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

September 10, 2026 Thursday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
September 16, 2026 Wednesday – 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
September 25, 2026 Friday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Ross Butcher

Jennifer Saunders

Travis Willson

Attest:

Janel J. Tucek, Clerk & Recorder

