157209 Fee:$ 0.00
FERGUS COUNTY, MT Recorded 10/9/2026 at 2:44 PM
Janel J. Tucek, Clk & Rcdr By Janel J. Tucek
Return to: FERGUS COUNTY 712 WEST MAIN
LEWISTOWN MT 59457

Minutes of Fergus Co. Commissioners Business Meeting
September 25, 2026 – 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. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Butcher asked if there were any alterations or corrections to September 16 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 FY27 Final Budget. Finance Officer Neal Tucek spoke about the capital funds adjustment from the preliminary budget. FO Tucek advised there will be 13 carry forward mills, compared to the 10 from last fiscal year. Commissioner Butcher gave an explanation on "carry-forward" mills. No comments were received. Hearing closed at 2:13 pm.
- Commissioner Butcher opened the public hearing on adopting Erie Ln as a county road in the SW corner of S30, T20N, R19E. DES coordinator Steve Fanning gave a rundown of the road and that FC Road has been maintaining the road. FC road viewers committee recommended to name it as a county road. Hearing closed at 2:15 pm.
- Commissioner Butcher opened the public hearing on adopting a re-routed portion of Judith River Rd as a county road in S24 & S19, T21N, R17E and to abandon the former section. DES coordinator Steve Fanning gave a rundown of the road and that FC Road is building a new straight portion to the road, in hope of avoiding the rain run-off that is causing the erosion. FC road viewers committee recommended to accept the new portion as a county road and abandon the eroded portion. Hearing closed at 2:18 pm.

BID OPENINGS: none

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Sheriff's Office/Detention Officer-perm/full-time
- Nurse's Office/Public Health Director-perm/full-time
- Sheriff's Office/Deputy-perm/full-time
- Attorney's Office/Legal Assistant-perm/full-time

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS: Commissioner Saunders advised that Fergus County is hosting an Energy Academy for FC constituents on November 11, 2026. It is being hosted by a non-biased consulting group. Commissioner Butcher advised that they all will be gone to MACo convention the first part of next week. Commissioner Saunders also advised that the Ag Train is quickly filling up. Commissioner Willson advised that October 7 – 8, 2026, they all will be on a landfill tour across the State.

DISCUSSION /ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve the September 25, 2026 claims. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed**
2. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve Resolution 27 – 2026 adopting the FY27 budget. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
3. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve Resolution 28 – 2026 adopting Erie Ln as a county road. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
4. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve Resolution 29 – 2026 adopting a re-routed portion of Judith River Rd as a county road. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
5. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the MOU between Nexus and FC DES for temporary housing at the Ag building due to displaced inmates in a catastrophic event or damage. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
6. Commissioner Willson motioned to approve the City-County agreement regarding H St annexation. Commissioner Saunders 2nd; Commissioner Saunders gave an explanation for the agreement. **Motion Passed.**
7. Commissioner Saunders motioned to approve the agreement regarding maintenance of public bridges and culverts within the corporate limits of the City of Lewistown. Commissioner Butcher gave an explanation. Commissioner Willson 2nd; **Motion Passed.**
8. Central MT Resource Council and the BOCC held a discussion regarding Data Centers in Fergus County. Joanne Berry read a statement from the Council. Laurie Lohrer wants to keep a partnership with the county. Would like the BOCC to agree to a 4 work session schedule. Discussion ensued over the groups ask for these public meetings. Sam Huston made a request to BOCC to a transparency commitment and that they won't sign a NDA contract for a data center. Joanne Berry would like a list of those who will be on the Energy Academy panel.

APPOINTMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: none

NEXT MEETING DATES:

October 9, 2026 Friday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
October 21, 2026 Wednesday – 5:15 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210
October 26, 2026 Monday – 2:00 p.m.	Regular Business Meeting	Fergus County Commissioners 712 W Main St., Suite 210

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Ross Butcher

Jennifer Saunders

Travis Willson

Attest:

Janel J. Turek, Clerk & Recorder

SEAL OF FERGUS COUNTY STATE OF MONTANA