

COMMISSIONERS

I go up the Miles City and Custer County courthouse steps heading into a governmental world relegated to the three Custer County Commissioners. It is said that curiosity killed the cat. Still, where human beings are concerned, the only thing a healthy curiosity can kill is ignorance—(Harry Lorayne-the Yoda of Memory Training). So, this ole kitty wanted to listen, learn, and practice a healthy curiosity on behalf of all members of Custer County.

Sitting at a large table in the Miles City and Custer County Court House, I faced three elected male commissioners, each representing a different Custer County District related to and required to represent an equal number of residents. There is no election reference or expectation of gender dominance. In fact, the Custer County voters have elected female county commissions in the past.

With kindness and professional responses, all three commissioners listened and responded to my simple questions about their activities. Their answers helped result in a better understanding of the role of county commissioners. It is with succinctness that the following Custer County Commissioner information is shared with the Miles City community and Custer County residents.

To Locate or Talk with the Commissioners:

Phone: (listed below)

Address: 1010 Main Street

Miles City, MT 59301

District commissioner representation: Voting occurs throughout Custer County and is divided into districts according to approximate population numbers. Voting occurrence is related to varying lengths of Custer County commissioner board service. All three commissioners, in addition, have a responsibility for a portion of Miles City:

District 1, Jason Strouf (chairperson) (406) 874-3352

District 2, Jeff Faycosh (406) 874-3350

District 3. Kevin Krausz (406) 874-3351

Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8 A.M.--4 P.M.

Friday from 8 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

Session Meetings: According to an established agenda, public input, and possible resolutions.

Actions, decisions, and the necessity of actions are determined.

(Call for day & time)

Business Meetings: Discussion only.

Philosophy (belief system):

The Custer County Commissioners believe they are (and intend to be):

- **A close governmental representative to the people of Custer County.**
- **A community governmental office that maintains a welcoming atmosphere where community members can freely state their community concerns, difficulties, and needs.**
- **Local governmental representatives performing as necessary or required with personal commitments of free overtime, no identified sick time, and no compensation for the extended and exceptional effort.**
- **Independent community government representatives mutually determining their participation on numerous Local/Custer County, Montana State, and National Boards and selected committees to effectively perform their Custer County Commissioner positions/responsibilities.**
- **Representatives of economic development, stability, and fiscal responsibility for the Custer County tax base.**

Long Term Goal(s):

- **To maintain a shared vision between commissioners on behalf of residents of Custer County economic development, stability, and maintenance of fiscal responsibility—including preventing arbitrary tax increases.**
- **To maintain and improve (for the better) constituent’s lives and the lives of future generations within Custer County.**

Short-Term Objectives for Meeting Long-Term Goals:

- **Pursue funding for Custer County that does not/won’t negatively impact the tax payor.**
- **Approve a responsible Custer County budget.**
- **Discuss with Custer County employees the Custer County Policy Manual, personnel roles, and expectations that guide employees’ service to the community.**
- **Empower and enable Custer County employees needing support and guidance through training when applicable and necessary.**
- **Determine and conform to expectations of state-wide programs required to exist within Custer County.**
- **Determine and conform to appropriate expectations of privately-owned businesses in Custer County.**
- **Maintain a Custer County public decision-making process.**
- **Maintain consistent problem-solving to maintain Custer County administrative stability.**
- **Implement activities related to the quality and effectiveness of Custer County leadership.**
- **Access personal Custer County commissioner training by Montana Association of Counties (MACo)---a resource “tool” for advising and guiding local governmental leaders. There are two yearly conferences—one in February and one in September. The MACo organization also conducts district meetings, peer associations, networking opportunities, and other problem-solving activities.**

- **Meet the job description/performance standards of a shared and united commissioner responsibility, accountability, and communication with all Custer County constituents regardless of the district of residence.**
- **Share information about the commissioner's role and shared responsibilities on any day and at any hour. Any commissioner provides Custer County constituents access to all data in any district, accepts any district information, and any district constituent problem resolution.**

A special community "Thank You" is extended to each Custer County Commissioner for the unrelenting attention to the needs of our community in Miles City and the entire Custer County. They are tireless and committed in their shared and personal efforts on behalf of the constituents of Custer County.

Carolyn Taylor, Ed.D. M.N. R.N.

(content approved by commissioners)