

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS

##### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to elect Commissioner Larry Hendrickson to serve as chairman of the board this year. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### RESOLUTION SETTING COMMISSIONER MEETING DATES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to set the Commissioner meeting dates to every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month. Furthermore, that the hours shall be established as 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING OFFICE HOURS

Commissioner Tempel made the motion that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, and except the following offices, which are as follows:

County Superintendent of Schools: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM,  
excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM

-and-

Justice of the Peace Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM,  
excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PER DIEM RATES

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel. When traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, employees shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals, lodging and per diem within the rates established pursuant to MCA 2-18-501, 2-18-502, and 2-18-503 and in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed standard state rate per day. All claims for lodging reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 2) Meal reimbursement may not exceed the prescribed standard state rate per meal per day.
- 3) The mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed standard state rate.
  - a) Except that if the county vehicle is available for use and the choice is made not to use it, the mileage reimbursement for use of your personal vehicle for county business, will be at 60% of the state rate.

Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### COUNTY CLASSIFICATION / BOND INSPECTION

As suggested by MACo, the topics of county classification and bond inspection were briefly discussed. Due to the fact that these subjects had been discussed thoroughly at a September meeting as prescribed by Montana law, they were only briefly re-visited on this day.

##### COUNTY BOARDS

The list of appointments to the various county boards was reviewed. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to re-appoint the current members to the respective boards. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Penny Walston was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding her PHER money. She reported that she has approximately \$36,745 remaining. Public Health Nurse Karla Kulpas is requesting a vaccination refrigerator. A list was provided to the Commissioners regarding what items may be purchased with the PHER money. It is "use it or lose it" money. Penny also reported that her lap top has died. Barb Wolfe is currently looking at whether or not it is repairable.

Penny also reported to the Commissioners that the memorial plaque for Dave Hunnewell will be presented at the EMS meeting on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

**HRDC**

Commissioner Tempel attended an executive HRDC meeting held in Havre on Monday night.

**COUNTY CLASSIFICATION**

As per Montana Code Annotated 7-1-2111 and 7-1-2112, the Commissioners reviewed the County Classification. The specified formula indicates that Liberty County will remain a Class 4 County for 2010. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to affirm Liberty County as a Class 4 County and so designate it in the official minutes. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**ABSENCE FROM THE STATE**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to allow all three of the Commissioners to be absent from the state. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CITIZEN / TAX ISSUE**

Dennis Hanson stopped by to visit with the Commissioners regarding a tax issue. He has discovered that he has been paying taxes on a building site that had been sold years ago. He is requesting that the Commissioners look into the matter for him.

**AMBULANCE**

Yvonne Hunnewell stopped in about a Coop Gas Excise Tax for DES and Ambulance bills.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINT**

The Commissioners received an e-mail from Alan R. Kietzman, who was upset that her name was included in the September 2009 minutes, regarding her application/interview for the NCAAA director's position in August of 2009. She felt the inclusion affected privacy issues. Commissioner Rockman was the reporter of these minutes, and he referred the incident to Deputy County Attorney Elizabeth Woods.

**GRAVEL**

Jeremiah Johnson stopped in about the possibility of gravelling the last 1/2 mile to his place.

**HI-LINE HEALTH FOUNDATION MEETING**

Commissioner Rockman attended the annual and monthly Hi-Line Health Foundation meeting on this day. Updates and special requests were being considered (specifically, the possibility of the foundation offering collateral funds to Liberty Medical Center for financing their loan).

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**EXTENSION AGENT INTERVIEWS**

The Commissioners met on this day, along with a panel of various others to interview four extension agent candidates. The panel included Dave Phillips, Darlene Skari, Kurt Kammerzell, Ken Osterman, Dena Fritz, Jeannie Ohmsted, Ann Wickum and John Maatta.

**CLAIMS**

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment, the monthly claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Thursday**

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Cemetery board meeting held on the above stated date. There was nothing significant to report.

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Friday**

The three Commissioners came in on the above stated date to meet with Ron Gleason about re-financing the Wheat Country Estates. Ron will keep the Commissioners up to date on any new findings. The group also discussed finding more room for the Public Health Nurse. More options will continue to be sought out.

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

In addition to all three Commissioners, present for the monthly department head meeting were Rachel Ghekiera, Ann Wickum, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Shawn Norick, Rhonda Pimley and Rod Keith.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Rod Keith visited with the Commissioners about the contract for the Senior Center building project. He also offered a "Risk Alert" publication from Jack Holstrom.

#### AIRPORT

Joe Minnehan was in to discuss airport issues and expressed a few opinions/questions about county policies.

#### TRANSIT GRANT

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to allow Rod Keith to apply for a transit grant for the County. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment the payroll as it has been presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE

The Commissioners visited with Karla Kulpas about options for more space at the Public Health Office.

#### SENIOR CENTER

The Commissioners attended three consecutive meetings at the Senior Center:

1. The annual meeting for Council on Aging
2. The monthly meeting for Council on Aging. The year ending balance in the Council on Aging Accounts is \$55,013.82.
3. The quarterly meeting for Liberty County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Rod reported that the TAC grant for fiscal year 2010-2011 will be about \$71,000. This \$10,000 increase will be spent on additional services [i.e., a monthly trip to and from the Hutterite Colony(s)]; the funds will go towards vehicle maintenance and bus driver salaries (not administration).

Also, Rod is applying for a new 80% grant to update our oldest bus. The cost of the bus will be about \$67,500, so the state's 80% will be about \$58,500, leaving our balance at about \$9,000. The Council gave preliminary approval of Rod's grant(s).

#### FIRST RESPONDER & EMT TESTING

Yvonne Hunnewell stopped in to get updates on testing for the new First Responders and EMT trainees. We also talked about a replacement for Dave Hunnewell's responsibilities at the Firehall.

#### SNOW REMOVAL

John Kleinsasser from the Town of Chester came in to ask for assistance on snow pile removal around town. Their main concern is near the hospital, where water hydrants need to be kept clear. The County crew will help out when available.

**NEW YEAR'S OFFICERS / COA & TAC**

Rod Keith was in with the newly approved / recommended slate of board members & officers for the Council on Aging and the TAC. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel to accept the proposed slate as presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HRDC**

Disrict IV's 2010 Community Service Block Grant "work plan" was sent to the Commissioner's for approval. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the work plan. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The paperwork was completed and mailed back to HRDC.

**CLAIMS**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**AMBULANCE / FIREHALL**

Quannah Bailey came in to discuss the Ambulance and building maintenance at the Firehall. The group visited about possible candidates to replace Dave Hunnewell.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### EBMS / BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

Liberty County has received a "Business Associate Agreement" from EBMS, which must be signed per HIPPA regulations. The motion was made by Commissioner Tempel to sign the agreement. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### JPIA / LIABILITY INSURANCE

Insurance Agent Tina Woods, came in to update the Commissioners on the recent JPIA meeting. This past year the property premiums pool statewide suffered a 130% loss ratio, so rates will probably go up! The good news for Liberty County is that our liability premiums show a loss ratio of 0.02, which is one of the lowest in the state. A proposal for MACo board approval will be a recommended 5% decrease in premiums for counties with a 0-25% loss ratio. MACo is encouraging training sessions regarding liability and property losses to county employees, which will result in additional premium discounts. Just for the record, Liberty County's present deductibles are \$2,000 (liability) and \$500 (property).

#### SENIOR CITIZENS PROJECT UPDATE

A conference call was conducted with Annmarie Robinson by the three commissioners, Rod Keith, and Harry Heimbigner. Annmarie e-mailed various forms regarding signature certifications, depository demands, Hatch Act, Fair-Housing, Equal Opportunity employer, and Senior Center funding statements. In addition, our CDBG funds have officially been approved! Funds may be available by April 1<sup>st</sup>, but more realistically by May 1<sup>st</sup> (per Kathy Brendan).

Paperwork completed for Annmarie as follows:

1. Letter to Kathy Brenden, CDBG Program Specialist;
2. Letter to Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation;
3. Letter to Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks;
4. Letter to US Fish & Wildlife Service;
5. Letter to Liberty County Soil Conservation District;
6. State Historic Preservation Office;
7. Letter to NLT regarding geotechnical services;
8. Letter to Big Sky Subsurface, LLC regarding geo-tech services;
9. Letter to SK Geotech Corp regarding geotech services
10. Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility, and voluntary exclusion-lower tier covered transactions;
11. Seismic certification;
12. Disclosure of Lobbying activities;
13. Copies from Liberty County Personnel & Policy Handbook regarding Equal Employment Opportunity rules;
14. Resolution #10-04 – Hatch Act
15. Resolution #10-05 – Fair Housing
16. Resolution #10-06 – Budgetary Authority
17. Signature Certification by Commissioners for "draw requests";
18. Depository account certification for non-interest bearing fund without service fees (to be handled by Treasurer).
19. Information regarding Senior Citizens's special levy, which ends the fiscal year 2011-2012

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the resolutions and complete all the necessary paperwork above. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### SALARY COMPENSATION BOARD

The three Commissioners, Rhonda Pimley, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Rachel Ghekiere, Ron Gleason, Mary Ann Zorn, and Richard Burrows met to re-discuss the county finances and the elected official's salaries. After much discussion, Richard Burrows made a motion to give the elected officials a 1% salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2009. Ron Gleason seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Rockman made the motion that the Board of Commissioner's should accept the Salary Compensation Board's proposal of a 1% raise for the elected officials. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Tempel then made the motion to extend this same 1% wage increase to all other employees who fall under the direct jurisdiction of the Commissioners, and to offer this same 1% to those employees in the bargaining unit pending negotiations. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### HOSPITAL BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Hospital Board meeting held on the evening of Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. He basically reported business as usual with one new change: Dr. Kozakiewicz is the new Chief of Staff at Liberty Medical Center. The Hospital showed a \$4,269 profit for fiscal year 2008-2009. There was discussion about putting the special hospital levy back on the ballot for renewal.

#### JPT / EBMS REGIONAL MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the annual JPT meeting held in Shelby on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was presented by Gary Hablutzel, Vern Peterson, Brendon Henley (EBMS), and Pete Shatwell (My Two Med). They gave a run-down on current medical insurance benefits; tips on controlling costs; the results of last year's health assessment survey; beneficial information on their website; and their continuing "good health" programs. There will be another health survey this year with another \$50 gift card incentive. In addition, they've recently hired a new employee to get out in the counties and provide education and information to the members.

#### DISTRICT COURT

Information received from District Clerk of Court Anne Melton is that sentencing for Liberty County prisoner Joshua Gwynn is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### NCAAA MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly NCAAA meeting in Conrad on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with Betty Marshall. Others present at the meeting included President Allan Underdahl, Commissioner Ken Evans, Commissioner Cindy Johnson (on speaker phone), NCAAA director Karen Roehm, and the new fiscal administrator Connie Bach. Karen will get an updated accounting for the group as soon as possible because there is some excess funds totaling about \$200,000. State funds must be spent yearly and Federal funds are available for three years. The group will discuss this on a conference call in about one month. FYI: There are 21 senior centers in the NCAAA jurisdiction. Financial Review: The NCAAA has presently spent 31% of its budget through ½ of the fiscal year, so they're doing good.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Penny Walston came in to discuss issues at the Public Health Office. She will talk to Karla about copier/fax/printer/answering machine. In addition, Penny's computer has to be replaced. Karla got in 700 doses of H1N1 vaccine, which is "good" until May 2011. Final note: the refresher course for the EMT's / First Responder's will be February 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He's still researching the various brands of tire changers and balancers.

#### MONTANA CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended a CIAA meeting on this day at the Library. Others present were Lynda VandeSandt, Ron Gleason, and Elizabeth Woods. After discussion, the committee will send a letter to all local businesses asking for compliance in posting signage and not smoking in public facilities. Lynda will compose a letter for signatures of the board.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup> were read / reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman to approve those minutes as amended. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Commissioner Rockman made a motion to pay the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WEED ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

Jim Ghekierre was in to update the Commissioners on the Weed Association annual meeting.

**SUMMITNET**

The Commissioners telephoned Summitnet to add the library to the County e-mail. Their new e-mail address will be [library@co.liberty.mt.gov](mailto:library@co.liberty.mt.gov).

**WOLFE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP**

County Attorney Hugh Brown reviewed the final contracts with WAG regarding the Senior Center and Bus Barn. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to sign the contract with WAG. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

In reference to the notation in the Commissioner’s Minutes dated 01-05-2010 regarding e-mail from Alana Kietzman; Deputy County Attorney Elizabeth Woods researched the laws regarding public meetings, privacy issues, etcetera and wrote a letter in response to Alana’s accusations of unethical breach of her privacy. The response was approved by the Commissioners and mailed to Alana.

**LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT**

The Commissioner’s sent Sage Creek Colony a copy of the newly revised proposal regarding the rural transportation service offered by Liberty County Transit.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Tuesday**

**PAYROLL**

Via a telephone conference Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson visited about the payroll cycle of this week. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept for payment the payroll as it has been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

In the absence of a quorum, no other official business was conducted on the above stated date.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Wednesday**

Commissioner Hendrickson was in to the office on the above stated date to catch up on various matters. Via a telephone conference Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson visited about various matters. Together they confirmed that the payment of the payroll this week has been approved and should proceed.

**TRAUMA & DES MEETING**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a trauma and DES meeting conducted at the Hospital on the above stated date.

**ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES**

Robert Peccia and Associates visited with Commissioner Hendrickson and confirmed that Liberty County has been approved for the grant to resurface the Airport runway.

**SENIOR CITIZENS / MINI VAN**

Rod Keith stopped in to show Commissioner Hendrickson the new mini van that has been purchased for the Senior Citizen's Transit program.

**TESTING CENTER**

The Commissioners received word that the Library has received the final approval for becoming a testing site for First Responder's and EMT's.