

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**CLAIMS**

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

**HRDC MEETING**

Commissioner Tempel gave an update on the HRDC meeting he attended last week.

**LEPC**

Twelve members, including the three commissioners, attended the monthly LEPC meeting. Highlights:

- 1. Coop-Cog exercise will be February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM;
- 2. There will be PIO training on March 15<sup>th</sup>;
- 3. Darrell will provide simple hazmat training at our March 1<sup>st</sup> LEPC meeting;
- 4. Possible training classes: Red Cross, Weather Service, and Sargeant Shaffer (shooting in public places);

**DES**

On this day the Commissioners conducted a monitoring meeting with Ed Gehrke and Darrell Stafford regarding Financial Review. The Commissioners completed a financial management survey, equipment inventory, and checked random records regarding payroll sheets, LEPC meetings, agendas, minutes and in-kind records. Quarterly reports are all done and EOP rewrites are all done.

**RESOLUTIONS**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the three annual resolutions regarding:

- #11-01 – Meeting times and dates for Liberty County Commissioners;
- #11-02 – Office hours established for all Liberty County Offices;
- #11-03 – Approval of cost of meals, lodging, and per diem for County employees.

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve and sign the three resolutions. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 11-01**


WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-5-2122, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date;

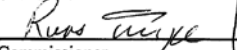
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that they shall meet every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved, that the hours that they shall meet will be from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chairman

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Clerk

RESOLUTION 11-02

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-4-102, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution regular office hours;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, excepting 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.

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

DATED THIS 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

ATTEST:
Clerk

RESOLUTION 11-03

WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, establish mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners, that Liberty County Employees, when traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, 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.

DATED THIS 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

ATTEST:
Clerk

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

The Commissioners made an on-site visit to the Senior Center project.

**SNOW REMOVAL**

Citizen, Tom Osterman, stopped in to thank the County for the efficient job on snow-removal yesterday on the southern county roads.

**NCMRWA**

Tom Montgomery was in to clarify the questionable easement issue on County Road 366 (refer to the Commissioners minutes on 12-28-2010). The group looked at his maps and he claims that these "valves" are electrolysis poles that are placed in their right-of-way. Shawn Norick reported that these poles are approximately 7 feet off the shoulder, so are susceptible to be hit by the plow blades. Tom will move them and replace the county signs that had been removed during construction.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to re-elect Commissioner Hendrickson for another year as the Chairman of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

Three claims were submitted for payment. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve these claims for payment. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The Commissioners sent a letter to the MDOT (Aeronautics Division) requesting their monetary portion of the airport project (2 ½% grant totaling approximately \$25,000).
2. An e-mail was sent to Melanie Denning at Montana VEBA, asking for a response on the Commissioner's decision to follow the State's guidelines on their retirement program.

**TEMPORARY JANITORIAL SERVICE**

John Melton will cover for Ruth Ann Norick on the dates of January 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, as Jacob Knapton has conflicting commitments.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, submitted her completed Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 and a Management's Discussion and Analysis Report for the Commissioners to review.

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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**GAVILON**

A public meeting was held from 10:00 AM to noon in the Liberty County Courtroom: Greg Konsor of Gavilon presented commodity information, how it relates to the world exportation of food grains, and Gavilon's plans / motivations for the construction of an elevator / train-loading facility in Chester. The meeting was well attended by approximately 100 people.

The Commissioners made a site visit with Greg after the meeting was adjourned.

**ROAD SUPERVISOR**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss several road issues:

- 1. The John Deere grader is presently inoperable. They replaced fuel filters as requested, but it won't start. They're trying to solve it as soon as possible.
- 2. What is the County's policy for opening up roads for the convenience of farmers to get to their grain bins? To be discussed further at a later time.

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for approval. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept these claims for payment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**VEBA**

The Commissioners composed a letter to all county employees regarding the VEBA program (to be sent out at the next County payroll).

**DR. KOZAKIEWICZ**

The three Commissioners attended Dr.K's farewell reception at the Liberty Medical Center.

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>, 2011 ♦ Thursday**

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Cemetery Board meeting on 1-06-2011. Business as usual.

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### **LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the changes to the Liberty County Transit Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER / GASTRO SCOPES**

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Liberty Medical Center Board to approve the purchase of two Olympus Gastro Scopes funded out of the Capital Improvement Fund for the price of \$147,460.14. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT LOSS CONTROL**

Commissioner Rockman and Shawn Norick left to attend the Loss Control seminar in Helena. The seminar will be conducted on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. Tina Wood of Wood Insurance will also attend this seminar.

#### **JPT REGIONAL MEETING**

Commissioner Tempel left to attend the annual JPT Regional meeting to be held in Shelby on this day.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

Present for the monthly department head meeting were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Gayle Dahlen, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Jesse Fulbright, Rhonda Pimley, Rachel Ghekiere, Jim Ghekiere, and Holly Frederickson.

Gayle visited some about the credit card machine. They are not finding a need to use it much at all.

Rhonda – Busy with Election administration things such as the annual permanent absentee letters and the NVRA (National Voter's Registration Act) letters.

Jim – plans to attend the MT Weed Control Association meeting this week in Great Falls. He is also closely watching some fairly important legislative issues dealing with noxious weeds.

Jesse – On March 24 & 25 Chester, Conrad and Shelby will jointly hold a seminar on Salsify; the Master Gardner Class will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March (it is an 8 week course).

Anne – She states that the 3 day trial set for May has been settled (Plea agreement). Normal Law & Motion day is set for the 19<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Attorney General Chad Parker will be here that day.

Rod – Too cold to go on the tour of the Center today but maybe next month we can all go. Estimated opening date is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, but Rod is sure they won't make it so it is more likely to be in March sometime. Hal Dafoe has donated a fireplace and he will complete the installation in the new Center. Annual Senior Citizens meeting today at 1:00 PM.

Holly – She states that she has been busy. She has archived 28 years worth of tickets. She is trying to re-organize packets for civil disputes. She also stated that her clerk, Denise Wanken, has been very helpful to her.

Larry – He visited about the VEBA program (basically a health savings account). Our VEBA program has now been re-defined for the Liberty County group. It is now based on the state guidelines. Larry also visited about the DES exercise slated for February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Firehall. He needs the department heads to compose a list of the items that each would need if an event occurred causing the Courthouse to be completely inaccessible for one month. Larry also briefly reported on the public meeting held with Gavilon. Over 100 people attended. He reported that they are still communicating with EGT as well, so that project is still moving forward too.

**CASCADE COUNTY REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICES**

County Commissioner Hendrickson mailed a letter to the Cascade County Regional Youth Services Center stating that their services were not required for Liberty County this past quarter.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE / CTEP**

Commissioner Hendrickson got an update from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the CTEP project at the Lion's Park.

**PAYROLL**

After his return to the office from the JPT meeting in Shelby, Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve payroll for payment. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the annual Senior Citizens meeting held on this date.

**NEW SENIOR CENTER BUILDING**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Tempel went up and inspected the new Senior Center building progress.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Rlynn Rockman is in Helena at the MACo Loss Control Conference.

Rod Keith was in to update the Commissioners about the findings at the stop at the new senior center.

Commissioner Tempel inspected the Haul Road.

**LYDERS FARM**

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the FSA papers with Lyder's Farms. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**MOUNT ROYAL TV DISTRICT**

The Mount Royal TV District with Gary Cady and Russ Twedt, has turned in all the information that has been requested by the County Commissioners.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Richard Burrows visited with the Commissioners about the condition of the roads.

**WAG**

The Commissioners visited briefly with Russ Wolfe on the status of the Senior Center. Russ will be here on Monday.

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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Friday**LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Liberty County Board of Health meeting. County Sanitarian Karen Salo, was not present due to weather and bad roads. Seven board members were present. Several issues were discussed:

1. There have been zero confirmed flu cases in Liberty County per Dr. Young; however, there have been some strep throat symptomology;
2. Public Health office has 90 doses of the flu vaccine still available and some flu mist available (at \$21.50 and \$32.00, respectively). The Clinic has no vaccine available. Rlynn is to contact Dr. Buker and ask him to mention the available flu shots in next weeks Liberty County Times article;
3. When the Public Health office moves into the new senior center, Karla would like signage on Highway 2. Commissioner Rockman will follow-up on this through the Commissioner's office.

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rockman.

**CTEP MEETING**

The Commissioners met with the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce (Linda VandeSandt), Chester Lion's Club (Bob Mattson), and the Town of Chester (Noel Walston and Rod Keith) to discuss the Visitor Info Center (CTEP project at the Lion's Park). Krystal Steinmetz couldn't attend as planned. The following items were discussed:

1. Exterior siding will be changed from rough cedar to steel-siding to provide for a more maintenance free building;
2. Bob Mattson gets annual monies from MDOT for normal maintenance and supplies (i.e., toilet paper, etc.) at the Lion's rest stop. He recently got a letter from MDOT suggesting there may be some additional funds available for construction, site preparation, or related expenses. Bob will pursue these funds;
3. Bob also asked if the building could be moved back a few feet (to the north) to allow for better people flow to the picnic tables in the grassy area;
4. Existing building will probably go to the swimming pool as a shelter area;
5. Linda will contact Krystal per updates and signatures, then ask for letting of bids on the project (hopeful completion date is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011).

**PERMISSION FOR OFFICERS TO BE ABSENT FROM THE STATE**

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to grant permission to Commissioner Hendrickson to be absent from the state on the week of January 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Hendrickson will travel to Denver by airplane and return to Montana via the newly purchased County Ambulance. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to permit Commissioner Tempel to be out of state from February 18<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**ROAD SUPERVISOR**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. All plows are out in force throughout the county because of recent snow and winds. Shawn has had numerous calls for special assistance (4 calls today) in removing snow drifts around grain bins and / or on private roads to these bins. Many farmers don't have the equipment or resources to get this snow removed, but have grain contracts that must be fulfilled. Our dilemma: how far do we go to help these citizens out?

Discussion: How about a basic charge to cover equipment and labor expenses on these special situations? What about our liability risks?

The Commissioners telephoned several neighboring counties to inquire about their rules and regulations or policies regarding this issue.

A call was also placed to Mike Sehestedt (MACo Chief Legal Counsel): After a thorough introduction to our small county; including historical procedures (i.e., plowing driveways into farmsteads), familiarity of residents, etc., Mr. Sehestedt recommended that we probably shouldn't be plowing any private areas (because it could easily turn in to an expected entitlement) and that we should simply prioritize our necessary plowing. He admitted that we wouldn't hesitate to plow a private drive in a medical emergency, and that we would probably do some plowing in special cases of unusual snow-fall (i.e., getting hay to snowbound cattle). The Commissioners could use the premise that this is an economic emergency. If we draw up a contract, use the theme of special circumstance due to urgency and weather conditions. The contract can specify a request for services and release of liability clause. County Attorney Hugh Brown will draw up the paperwork. We do not want to be in "private plowing", but are willing to help out in these extreme weather conditions at a charge for equipment/labor costs only. We will relinquish this work to any private contractors who step forward!

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to authorize a "special circumstances plowing request." Commissioner Tempel 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Thursday

**GAVILON**

The three Commissioners met with two representatives from Gavilon (Jerry Finon and Verlin Friedly) and two representatives from MDOT (James Combs and Tony Strainer).

28 trains / year = 110 car trains + 4 locomotives

1. 12,000 trucks / year is approximately 250 trucks per week, which is about 50 trucks per day, which is about 10,000,000 bushels per year. The typical hours would be from 7 AM to 6 PM (during harvest hours would be extended from daylight to dark).
2. New circulation route with updated map was reviewed and discussed; provides for excellent flow on the Whitlash Road. Two scales to be installed.
3. MDOT has no permitting authority, but has concern for high speed traffic on Highway 2. Request for traffic study is an option. At minimum, a left-turn lane would be nice. Highway 2 is wide enough to have this left-turn lane; however, this would result in a 2-foot shoulder in the right passing lane. A 4-foot shoulder would definitely be better. The left-turn lane would measure approximately 1,000 feet to the west (approximately to the "hill" on Highway 2).

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rockman.

**AMBULANCE**

Commissioner Hendrickson went to Denver to pick-up the new ambulance.

**EXTENSION OFFICE**

Dave Phillips of MSU Extension came in to discuss the first year performance evaluation of Liberty County Agent Jesse Fulbright. The group discussed the working relationship with Jesse and offered constructive comments (personal and public) for Dave's edification.

**RDO**

Jerry Ridgeway stopped in to visit about our John Deere equipment.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Commissioners reminded Shawn Norick to advertise the two generators for sale: Kawasaki model #GA 1400-A; 1400 watts; approximately 25 years old; they run but need fine-tuning.

**CHESTER SCHOOLS**

Cal Moore came in to discuss a few important items:

1. Cal is concerned about HB317, which deals with gas and oil legislation related to schools;
2. The school is mandated to be set-up with a new radio system (bus radios) by January of 2013; they need to change from wide band to narrow band. They need one new radio plus an adjustment to their band width. They have approximately \$3,500 in their budget to get this done, but Cal was told that the County was not changing over at this time. He would like to get this done before he retires this school year;
3. Cal would like to thank our Road Crew for the excellent work they do in keeping our bus roads open and in good shape;
4. Cal is concerned about the ineffectiveness of term-limits at the legislature.



**DNRC**

Eric Eneboe of DNRC came to discuss the current status and threat to the State Air-Fire Support. The State owns 5 helicopters (used in initial attack of fires) plus 3 Cessna airplanes (need in Re-con) with qualified pilots stationed out of Helena. They have mutual aid agreements with most counties to provide air support on big fires. The annual cost of this program is approximately \$1 million per year. There is presently a bill (LC 1932) at the legislature in attempts to privatize this service. Eric asks for our support in keeping the system as is.

**APPLICATION**

The Commissioners received an application for permission to cross the Liberty County Roads from the South Chester County Water District. The request to bore 4" across County Road #366 at GPS location 48° 19' 15.4"N, 111° 00' 560" W. Pat Harmon had previously called Shawn about this line. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve this application. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**NACE**

Shawn Norick asked permission to attend the National Convention for NACE in Minneapolis on April 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. MACRS will pay all of his expenses; the County will still pay his wages. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve of the trip. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CTEP**

Bob Mattson stopped by with a letter he composed to the MDOT requesting additional funds to help with the Chamber's "match" on the CTEP project at the Lion's Park. The Commissioners acknowledged the letter. He took it to the City for approval and signatures.

**PAYROLL / CLAIMS**

The current County payroll and several additional claims were presented for approval. Commissioner Rockman made a motion to approve these items for payment. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**EXTENSION AGENT**

Jesse Fulbright stopped in to have the Commissioners review a letter that he composed to prospective members of the new Liberty County Extension Advisory Council. It was a thorough and well written letter. The Commissioners also spoke with Jesse about the lease paperwork for the 4-H Riding arena. The group will discuss further with Hugh Brown for a few changes and recommendations.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

The Commissioners received a call from Shari Meissner, CFO at Liberty Medical Center, regarding disposition of 5 old file cabinets. These cabinets are damaged, old, and hazardous, and LMC would like them declared obsolete. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to declare these 5 cabinets obsolete. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners recommended she post or e-mail them for quick sale to the highest bidder, so they don't have to store them any further.

**9-1-1**

Jim Ghekierre was in to talk about radios, repeater, Northern Tier, etc. He will be meeting with Cal Moore and Sheriff Richard Burrows.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman