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January 3rd, 2013 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Rlynn Rockman is available by telephone.

ROAD

Road Foreman, Shawn Norick, and representatives of Sage Creek Colony were in to visit with the Commissioners. Sage Creek offered a bid at $15,500.00 for a belly dump trailer. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept this bid. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Karla Kulpas was in to have the State of Montana Immunization Grant signed. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the grant. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SWEARING IN

Judge Boucher was in Chester to officially swear in Clerk of District Court Anne Seidlitz-Melton and Commissioner Hendrickson for their new term of office.

WOOD INSURANCE

The renewal contract for Liberty County's liability insurance was signed for the new year. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the renewal contract. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in and updated the Commissioners on the weed contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioners received apology letters from the two juveniles who vandalized the cemetery property. The information came from the Juvenile Probation office in Havre. Also enclosed was a $50 restitution check from "J.D."

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 8th, 2013 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel, and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

LEPC

Twelve members attended LEPC today. Darryl Stafford reported that our DES grant award letter arrived. Ed Gerke will be retiring in November, 2013. Upcoming meetings:

1. January 16th = District 2 meeting 10:00am in Chester.
2. January 22nd = Chester planning meeting 10:00am for upcoming exercise scheduled for February 5th.
3. January 28th = Emergency prep meeting at Liberty Medical Center at noon to revamp their emergency plan.
4. February 5th = In lieu of LEPC meeting there will be a "Standard Operations Course" (4 hours) at 10:00am in Chester.
5. February 12th = Pipeline meeting at noon in Cut Bank.
6. March 5th = next LEPC meeting
7. April or May = Coop Cog Phase 3.5 exercise in Chester.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. Recent expenses include $8,000 to T-&-E for rebuilt engine on "Golden Goose" caterpillar and $900 to RDO to adjust the valves on Dale's John Deere grader.

BONNIE JOHNSON

Bonnie Johnson stopped in to discuss the possibility of selling her "massage house" to the Liberty County Museum. It is one of the oldest homes in Chester, still has the original working water well in the front yard, and was owned by the Spangler family (historical value), so the location and historical value works for the museum. She presently has it listed through June with Bootlegger Realty for $42,000. She is willing to discuss reasonable options with us. She is leaving for Arizona on January 28th.

RDO

Jerry Ridgeway of RDO stopped in to discuss motor graders – purchase vs. lease programs.

BOR

Mike LaFrentz stopped in with a listing of some BOR equipment that will be coming up for sale soon. We told Mike that we recently sent photos of the recreational shelters to FEMA.

RESOLUTIONS

13-01: Establishes meeting dates and office hours for Liberty County Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried.

13-02: Establishes office hours for county offices as 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday with exceptions for the Superintendent of Schools and the Justice of the Peace offices. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried.

13-03: Establishes mileage, lodging, and per diem for county business travel. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 13-01

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 8th DAY OF January, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk

RESOLUTION 13-02

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 8th DAY OF January, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk

RESOLUTION 13-03

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 8th DAY OF January, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to appoint Commissioner Rockman as the Chairman of the Board for the business year effective January 8th, 2013 to 12-31-2013.

COUNTY PAYROLL

County payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to pay the current salaries. The motion carried.

DPHHS

The Liberty County Attorney received a bill on 12-31-2012 from DPHHS for medical services at Warm Springs State Hospital for Paul J. Kleinsasser of Sage Creek Colony for $2,722.92. Because he was committed by Liberty County, we were billed. The Commissioner's sent the bill plus a letter to Sage Creek on 1-2-2013 requesting that they take care of this debt. Hugh Brown received a call from John Wurtz stating that there are no funds in the Kleinsasser estate to pay this!

T-&-E

Caterpillar representatives, Kraig Pester and Josh Evans, came to visit with us about their equipment leasing programs. They will produce a hypothetical print-out for our consideration. Other counties with lease contracts include McCone, Fergus, and Pondera.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson was in to discuss frustrations regarding recent events in an on-going case dealing with uncontrolled cattle. The Commissioners agreed to follow-up with our concerns to County Attorney Hugh Brown.

COUNCIL ON AGING

A. The three Commissioners attended the annual meeting for the Liberty County Council on Aging. Some accomplishments for the past year include paved parking lot; new, additional cabinets in the card room; completion of memorial wall (plaques); "Supper Club" for 7 months; soup fund-raiser for the Christmas Stroll; cards/BINGO/BUNCO/pool table at center; and continued bus service and "meals on wheels". Board member, Carol Aitken's term is up. Two other board members, Jane Allen and Priscilla Pimley, have resigned due to present personal obligations. Five members were nominated for three positions: Carol Aitkin, Rod Keith, Shirley Rudolph, Bob Mattson, and Dennis Snyder (the first three were elected by popular vote).

B. The monthly meeting of the Council on Aging followed. Treasurer's report revealed a balance of $18,471. Glenda received a report from Karin Roehm from the area office in Conrad that reveals our payments may be reduced about 8% (due to cut backs). After some discussion, the board voted to increase the meal charges from $3 to $4 (seniors) and from $5 to $6 (under age 60). Delivered meals to seniors will remain at $4. Election of officers for 2013 will remain the same as last year: Harry Heimbigner (President), Betty Marshall (Vice President), Pat Ludwig (Secretary). Our representatives to the area council board are Harry Heimbigner and Betty Marshall.

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 9th, 2013 ♦ 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 Rlynn Rockman, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick came in to discuss road issues. Work week: 1. Grading planned for adobes and the road from Lakey's to Hawks. 2. Mark is helping Vern pull wires in the new building. 3. Maintenance work being done in the shop. 4. Rebuild several cattle-guards. We updated Shawn on our meeting with T-&-E yesterday.

CLAIMS

County claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to pay these claims. The motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rachel Ghekiere stopped in to get approval for an internet waiver, as she cannot presently view OPI videos (which are pertinent to her job). She will follow-up on several options. She also updated us on the Whitlash School, which must apply for "non-operating" status by January 20th.

Rachel came back with an approval form for "streaming" option on her internet service. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve the option. The motion carried.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to discuss updates in his department. At the Marias Watershed meeting in Shelby yesterday, the Pugsley Bridge project was discussed. It is planned for completion in April (after bull trout migration); Shumacher Construction has the contract. Project staff / planners will meet at Pugsley Bridge at 11:00 am Monday (January 14th). The Annual Weed Convention is next week in Great Falls. Weed grants are presently coming in. Jim's pick-up presently has 90,000 miles on it, so will be converted to a spray rig. Therefore, he is looking to update his supervisor's pick-up. A government bid for a Ford F-350 from Bison Ford = $33,500. We asked him to get a second bid from GMC. He assured us that he has grant funds for this. A government bid from Bennett Motors for a 1-ton GMC Sierra 3500 HD = $32,900.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

On 12-29-2012 we finally received official notice from M.Steven Gliko of Great Falls, stating that he cannot provide mental health services here due to his wife's continued poor health.

Then on 1-3-2013, we learned that Mr.Gliko (age 62) died unexpectedly in Great Falls.

RDO

Jerry Ridgeway e-mailed us a print out on a hypothetical lease contract.

HRD

Commissioner Tempel attended the HRD executive and finance meeting on Tuesday evening, 1-8-2013.

CLAIMS

Additional claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve payment of the claims. The motion carried.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

The Commissioners met with Hugh Brown to express our concerns about rancher neglect in letting cattle run loose, cross fence lines, misuse of neighboring forage / water, and general cruelty to cattle due to improper feeding and watering. Investigative time and expense by our local sheriff's office and justice court and disrespect to our community and county should not be tolerated. Please prosecute all chronic abusers.

We also expressed concerns about using good judgment on which mental patients should be committed under our financial liability.

NEWSPAPER AD

We submitted a 2-week ad in the Liberty County Times for a job opening for a part-time co-coordinator of our EMS. The application deadline is January 28th.

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 15th, 2013 ♦ 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 Rlynn Rockman, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

CEMETERY GRANT

Commissioner Tempel made several calls regarding a grant that may be available to GIS grave plots at cemeteries in Montana. The grant is available through the State Library.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Board of Health meeting on January 11th. Others present were Hugh Brown, Karla Kulpas, and Dr. Young; no quorum was present. We discussed the flu and Norwalk issues in Liberty County and Montana. The Liberty Medical Center and Wheat Country Estates are presently "locked down" due to continued illness.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

We contacted LeaAnne Lewis, LCPC, of Great Falls about the possibility of providing services for Liberty County. She will give it some thought and get back to us.

MACO LEGAL COUNSEL

We e-mailed Mike Sehestedt, MACo legal, to get advice and suggestions regarding the recent Pulst case handled by our police and justice system.

STATE ROAD EASEMENTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to purchase the State Road Easements in Liberty County that we have identified as crucial to control. The motion carried. We will contact Eric Eneboe.

LMC CEO

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the second round of interviews for a new CEO for Liberty Medical Center on 01/14/2013. The decision will be forthcoming soon.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to pay the claims related to the Jury Trial in Havre. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JPT MEETING

Commissioner Rockman and Mandy Backen (Payroll Clerk) attended a JPT Regional Meeting in Shelby today. The meeting was hosted by representatives from JPT, EBMS, and Two Medicine (our health insurance providers). Highlights:

1. Importance of "wellness" initiatives for preventative medicine. Our wellness benefits will go up from $400 to $500 per year.
2. Encourage use of generic drugs whenever possible, as all generics are free.
3. Encourage office visits whenever possible, as E.R. visits cost 3-5 times more than office calls.
4. Manage chronic conditions to control health costs [20% of patients utilize 80% of health care costs!].
5. A new EAP [Employee Assistance Program] will entitle insured workers to 4 "free" therapeutic sessions per year via telephone communications with Sapphire Systems. These sessions are for depression, family strife, etc.

SENIOR CENTER

Director, Glenda Hanson, stopped in to discuss Senior Center issues. Holt Heating from Havre came today to fix / fire-up the furnace in the data room; continued problems with this furnace.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He met with the Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, and contractor at the Pugsley Bridge this morning to discuss the final plans on this project scheduled for late March. He just sent Charlie Thielman out to the Wickum stretch on the Whitlash Road to help a stuck school bus and plow the road.

CROPPING SEMINAR

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Tempel attended part of the cropping seminar sponsored by MSU Extension Service today in Chester.

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 22nd, 2013 ♦ 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 Rlynn Rockman and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss a new pick-up. He looked at the 2012 on Bison's lot; after including "add-on's" to this Ford F250 super cab, the difference in price between the 2012 & 2013 is about $1,400.

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the purchase of a 1-ton Ford F350 crew-cab fleet order equipped as needed. Monies to come from the weed grant fund. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Jim and staff attended the annual weed conference in Great Falls last week. Many good meetings.

DES

Ed Gerke stopped in to express his disappointment with Darrell Stafford, who has missed seven recent meetings (some, because of conflicts with his weed job).

COUNCIL ON AGING

Eight board members on the Liberty County Council on Aging came to visit with us about their role as an advisory board. They would like a little more control, especially when it comes to the monthly "Supper Club". They feel it's important never to turn anyone away, so sign-up / reservations\ sheets shouldn't be so rigid. In addition, they would like to control the menu for these special events. There was also some general discussion about the pros-&-cons of the convexion oven at the center.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick stopped in to discuss road issues. The crew is presently finishing the door installations on the new storage building.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss Senior Center issues. We discussed the concerns of the Council on Aging. Glenda will advertise a cook and kitchen helper for "Supper Club" (which may result in some "fill-in" help for us during normal business hours at the center). We also discussed getting a part-time bus driver (no guaranteed hours) to fill-in for vacations/illnesses/etc.

DES

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a DES planning meeting at the firehall for 10:00am to noon today.

DPHHS

On 12/31/2012, Liberty County Attorney received a bill from DPHHS for medical services rendered to resident, Paul J. Kleinsasser (of Sage Creek Colony), at the Montana State Hospital totaling $2,722.92. The total bill was $2,940, of which Sage Creek Colony paid about $218 (based on ability to pay). After several unsuccessful calls, Commissioner Rockman finally spoke with Rita Frankfurter at DPHHS. She claims Liberty County is liable for this bill because this man was admitted to Warm Springs on an emergency court order for detention. He was admitted on 9/14/2012; four days later he accepted a voluntary commitment, so we're obligated for those four days.

COUNTY PAYROLL

The current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Rockman to pay the current salaries. The motion carried.

WOOD ENTERPRISE

Our insurance agent, Tina Wood, stopped in to discuss possible insurance policy expansions and review our property inventory list. The three new policies include Ethical Violation Liability, Subdivision Liability, and Flood Plain Liability (all three would increase our premiums between $2,500 to $3,000 / year). After some discussion, we decided to accept the Ethical Violation Liability only (which will cost about $600 per year premium and has a $5,000 deductible clause). A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve this additional policy. The motion carried. We reviewed the property list, which appeared to be in good order. The value of the new Senior Center was reduced and several other county buildings were increased in value, so the total evaluation of Liberty County properties was similar to last year (about 6 million). We examined Wood's renewal application with MACo. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to approve the application. The motion carried.

MDOT

Commissioner Hendrickson and Shawn Norick attended the MDOT quarterly meeting in Chinook on 01/16/2013. Of interest is that the Whitlash Road reconstruction project has been pushed back to 2017.

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 29th, 2013 ♦ 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 Rlynn Rockman and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

EMS

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly EMS training meeting on Monday evening (January 28th).

CEMETERY

We received correspondence from the 12th Judicial District Youth Court and an $80 check (from R.D.) for previous vandalism to our cemetery property.

EMS CO-DIRECTOR POSITION

We received several applications for the open EMS Co-Director position (formerly held by Yvonne Hunnewell). We will deal with this soon. As requested, Yvonne put together a "list of responsibilities" of the position.

CICON & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Rudy Cicon provided the final elevation certificates for our eight recreation shelters at Lake Elwell. A copy of each was forwarded to Wood Enterprises (our insurance agent).

TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Glenda Hanson brought in the new transportation grant for Fiscal Year 2013-14 totaling $86,762.31. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve and sign the grant. The motion carried.

LIBRARY PROJECT

Teresa Fenger was in to discuss her planned remodeling project to the restrooms, kitchen, and rear entry, Pimley Electric has recommended updating some of the building's electrical. Estimates on the total project are about $27,000, most of which Teresa has earmarked in her building fund. We agreed to contribute some funds for electrical improvements and labor by Vern Holmes.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He is still looking for a gravel trailer to replace the one we recently sold. The crew is cutting pipe / steel for future cattle-guard rebuild and repairs. They are contemplating pouring their own cement girders for these cattle-guard projects. Three guards are in serious need for repairs: one near Morrison's and two near Engstrom's.

SAGE CREEK COLONY

John Wurtz brought in a check for $2,722.92 to reimburse Liberty County for Paul Kleinsasser patient care at Warm Springs (see minutes dated 1-22-2013 for clarification).

GRAVEL REQUEST

Hugh Brown made a request for Parcell's: the road to a public access fishing reservoir on the Hicks place needs some gravel.

PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR

The Liberty County Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Penny Walston, brought in her revised contract for the current year (beginning 1-1-2013). After reviewing, a motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve this current contract. The motion carried.

GPS / GIS EQUIPMENT

Gail Shatkus of CJI Schools met with the Commissioners and Chester Mayor, Noel Walston, about a grant she's seeking that will provide a community base station, an RTK Rover, hand held GPS receivers, and ArcPad mapping capabilities; all to be used as educational and community development tools. More to follow later.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

Upon recommendation of RPA, we developed a 6-year capital improvement plan for the Liberty County Airport in Chester. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to approve this plan. The motion carried.

JUNK VEHICLE GRANT

Rhonda Pimley stopped in with the current junk vehicle contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve and sign the agreement. The motion carried.

JOPLIN WATER

Per Rhonda Pimley, Rob Moog called to report that there are a few maintenance issues at the lagoon reservoir in Joplin (stretched truss rods and/or pipe replacements). He's contacted Frontier Ag, who will do the work for approximately $7,500.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____
Clerk Chairman