

October 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.

#### LEPC

The three Commissioners and six members attended the monthly LEPC meeting. There was nothing remarkable or unusual to report. Darrell Stafford was absent.

#### COUNCIL ON AGING

Rlynn attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting. The total balance in the Treasurer's Report was \$85,955.23. One big expense item last month was \$5,000 towards landscaping. Rod confirmed per spreadsheets there is no need to raise the cost of meals at this time. The Governor's Conference will be held in Havre on October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. The recognition wall is now up to 111 tiles sold; the expense on this project is \$4,749.69 to date.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

Penny Walston stopped in with the annual public health contract for signature. Nothing was changed from last year. She will get us a copy. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to sign this contract.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mike LaFrentz stopped in to report the Bureau will be awarded approximately \$40,000 for "shelter replacement materials" allowance.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to report on road issues. They are presently fixing the upper Laird Road. Russ reported the Haul Road from Margaret Thielman's to Joplin is bad. They hope to have all mowing done soon. The two "truck storage lanes" (AKA: turning lanes) to Gavilon and EGT are close to being done. Shawn spoke with Ray O'Brien, and our crushed gravel price will be \$5.50 per yard (which includes 70 cents for royalty and 60 cents for reclamation fees). The County ordered 15,000 yards. This gravel will be used on the Whitlash and Laird Roads.

#### PAYROLL

The current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve the current payroll for payment. The motion carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioners sent letters to the applicants who were unsuccessful for the position of the Senior Center and Transit Director; thanking them for their time and notifying them of the Commissioner's decision.

#### HRDC

Russ attended the monthly meeting at HRDC in Havre on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

#### REQUEST BY TINA WOOD

Certificate of Professional Liability Insurance is needed on record at Wood Enterprises for the following contracted positions:

Karen Salo (Sanitarian)  
Karla Kulpus (PH Nurse)  
Julie Erickson (Insurance Processor)  
Rochelle Beley (Therapist)  
Penny Walston (Bio-Terror)

#### 4-H CAMPGROUND

Russ spoke with Greg Jackson at MACo about the 4-H Campground liability. Greg said personal liability claims would be covered under our blanket policy and additional property insurance can be written at 16 cents per \$100 property value. These items were discussed with Extension Agent, Jesse Fulbright.

#### AIRPORT

Bill Burkland, of Peccia and Associates, has recommended to the Airport Commission, that the County should attempt to get an option on the 12 acres of land at the west end of the existing runway, for future expansion. This land is presently owned by John Kammerzell.

#### COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Jesse Fulbright is attending an Extension Conference in Richland, Washington next week. He got a grant to pay for the gas expenses and registration fee. He plans to use the County Car.

## TAX ABATEMENT HEARING

A public hearing was held from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. in the Courtroom, for public discussion regarding potential tax abatement for Gavilon, EGT, and Columbia Grain:

1. Dan Treinen, of Columbia Grain presented his case. They have good assets, good staff, and a good track record here. They cannot compete with the two new shuttle-loader elevators regarding shipping prices, etc. They want to do a remodel project to convert to *pulse crops* (peas, lentils, dry beans, richleas, etc). They have conversion plants in Chinook and Plentywood (they invested \$2 ½ million in Plentywood a few years ago.) Montana presently is the largest pulse state in the nation and will continue to be. They made application for this abatement on March 1<sup>st</sup>, as they did in Blaine and Roosevelt Counties (and have been granted a temporary tax reduction from them.) This proposed re-model project at Tiber will be a processing plant (a storage warehouse with machinery to clean, size, and sort the grains) with a value of around \$4 million. Their proposed storage will be 560 tons, which is equivalent to 8 box cars. They currently pay real estate taxes of \$6,000 per year, which will go to about \$52,000 a year after the remodel without abatement; and will go to about \$31,000 a year after the remodel with abatement. If they do the project, the anticipated capacity will be 1 to 1.2 million bushels per year. They hope to hire 2 full time and 2 part time positions with good benefit packages, which will be another plus to the community.
2. Monte Fauque of Gavilon presented his case. Their project is a "state-of-the-art" facility, totally OSHA compliant, they have quick service and unloading times, and will be very competitive. Their total investment will be \$12.1 million, so the property taxes will be high. Admittedly, they did not apply for the abatement prior to beginning the project, but would appreciate some consideration. They will be employing 10 to 12 people in good jobs with good benefits. If all goes well, there could be future projects and expansion.
3. No one was present to represent EGT, so Hugh Brown read their application stats regarding property, equipment, and projected revenues. Their total investment is estimated at \$16 million, with estimated annual real estate taxes at \$150,000 without abatement.
4. Two gentlemen from the Department of Revenue, Conrad Peterson and Arend Collen, offered general comments about the estimated taxes of these three facilities, the impact of abatements, and an explanation of the available spreadsheets. Conrad made special note of the "assumptions" listed on the paperwork.
5. Several members of the public offered opinions as follows:
  - A. FOR ABATEMENT- Dick Harmon and Arlo Skari
  - B. AGAINST ABATEMENT-Dave Mattson, Bob Thompson, Loren Hawks, Cliff Wickum, and Shawn Norick.
  - C. GENERAL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS-Adam Standiford, Ray Standiford, and Ken Gagnon
6. The meeting was adjourned; however, the public can still offer written comments to the Commissioners by 5:00 P.M. on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The decision(s) will be made by the Commissioners on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
7. Suggestion: Look at the track record of these corporations on previous "protested taxes"....

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

October 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.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on road work and issues. He also assisted Russ and Larry with a few simple repair projects at the Senior Center.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to report that the Russian Olive project was completed by B & S Tree Trimming these past two weeks. Jim's crew needs to finish spraying the cut trunks. Jim also gave the Commissioners a copy of a resolution to be considered (it affirms the creation, powers, and duties of the Weed Board.)

EGT

Nick Larson brought in the new EGT manager, Dennis Mertz, to meet us. They might be buying grain for January 2012 delivery.

RESOLUTION 11-23

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to adopt the Resolution 11-23, which re-affirms the existence, powers, and authority of the Liberty County Weed Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-23

**A resolution affirming the creation of the Liberty County Weed Board and setting forth powers, duties and responsibilities of the Board.**

WHEREAS, Section 7-22-2102, MCA, requires that a Weed Management District be formed in every county of this state, which shall include all lands within the boundaries of this county; and

WHEREAS, the commissioners' preceding records of Liberty County, including the meeting dated August 5, 1969, shows that a Weed Board had been appointed at that time; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-22-2103, MCA, requires the Liberty County Commissioners to appoint a District Weed Board, subject to the provisions of Sections 7-1-2101 through 7-1-2103, MCA, such Weed Board being an administrative board of the county and not a governing body;

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Liberty County Commissioners this 5 day of Oct, 2011, that:**

1. The Liberty County Weed Board shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners.
2. The terms of the members of the Liberty County Weed Board shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January of each year.
3. The members shall serve staggered, three-year terms on the Board. Pursuant to this resolution, members appointed in 2011 shall be appointed for one, two and three years of service in order to establish this staggered pattern. Subsequent appointments to the Board shall be for three-year terms.
4. A majority of the members of the Liberty County Weed Board constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising powers and responsibilities. Action may be taken by a majority of members present in voting.
5. Liberty County Weed Board members do not receive a salary, but are to be reimbursed for mileage and per diem at state rates for attendance at meetings and other activities requiring their attendance, including training and state meetings.
6. The members are appointed by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners shall post prospective membership vacancies at least one month prior to filling the vacancy.

7. The Liberty County Board of County Commissioners shall maintain a register of appointments to the Liberty County Weed Board and the dates of appointment.
8. The Liberty County Weed Board shall adopt by-laws for its internal operations.
9. Minutes of the meetings of the Liberty County Weed Board shall be placed on file with the Liberty County Clerk and Recorder.
10. The Liberty County Weed Board is granted all powers necessary and proper for the establishment, operation, improvement, maintenance and administration of the Liberty County Weed Board. The Liberty County Weed Board may employ personnel, who shall be county employees and subject to county personnel policy.
11. The Liberty County Weed Board shall comply with Montana's Open Meeting and Public Participation Act and the Montana Code of Ethics.
12. The Liberty County Weed Board shall submit proposed budgets to the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners.
13. All funds received from chemical sales and weed spraying contracts shall be deposited with the county treasurer to the credit of the Weed Fund or special funds set up in accordance with the Montana Single Audit Act.
14. All contracts and grants are subject to approval by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners.
15. The Liberty County Weed Board shall provide the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners with brief summaries of its actions at least quarterly.


PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5 DAY OF Oct, 2011.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
LARRY HENDRICKSON, Chairman

  
RLYNN ROCKMAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
RHONDA PIMLEY, Clerk & Recorder

  
RUSS TEMPEL, Commissioner

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to pay these bills as submitted.

**SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER**

The three Commissioners met with the new Senior Center Director, Glenda Hanson, and Rod Keith at the center to welcome Glenda to her first day of work. The Commissioners made employee introductions and answered initial questions. They also returned to the center at lunchtime to offer a public introduction.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING**

All seven Liberty County Elected Officials, Hugh Brown, Richard Burrows, Gayle Dahlen, Holly Fredrickson, Rachel Ghekiere, Rhonda Pimley, and Ann Seidlitz-Melton, met with the Commissioners regarding the follow up on the events of the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. After clarification of several issues and general discussion by the group, a vote was taken to re-convene the Compensation Board. The vote was 6 FOR and 1 ABSTAINED (Hugh Brown). The Commissioners stated they will be supportive of the Compensation Board's decision, but it will be up to the Elected Officials to present their case and proposals to the board. The Commissioners were emphatic on two points of contention:

1. This potential salary increase will apply only to Elected Officials (not Deputies or other subordinates) in order to establish some equity with similar officials and/or Department Heads.
2. The Commissioners prefer not to take any raises unless mandated.

A final item of discussion was the request to hire an independent firm to evaluate the Officials' responsibilities, duties, job descriptions, etc. at an estimated cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000. The Commissioners felt this would be a "hard pill for the public to swallow." The Compensation Board Meeting will be at 1:00 P.M. October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The three confirmed community board members are Ron Gleason, Dana Lalum, and Roger Olson.

**TRIANGLE TELEPHONE**

Anne Booth called to report our REDLG loan money will be available next week. This money will go into our "Fulton Account" to replace funds used for the new center.

**NEWS ITEM FOR TIMES**

The Commissioners put a news item in the TIMES publication on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to report on the Tax Abatement Meeting and offering additional written comments through October 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

October 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.

#### CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Rlynn attended the monthly Cemetery Board meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The main items of discussion were the recent letter to the editor about the alleged poor condition of the Chester Cemetery; a letter to the Cemetery Board requesting our water expenditure at the Chester Cemetery; and an incident involving two men who became verbally abusive to our sexton (while on duty September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011). Rlynn agreed to do a second follow-up with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office regarding the incident report. In addition, Rlynn will call the Insurance Agent regarding the liability issue if Ted ever needs a back-up helper. The Board appreciates the additional funding (\$1,449.24) from the Ben Taylor lease.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY OUT OF STATE

Hugh Brown checked with the Commissioners on the morning of October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to ask permission to be out of the state to Utah from October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve the out of state trip.

#### OPPORTUNITY LINK INC

Rebecca Farr, from Opportunity Link in Havre, called on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to speak with Rlynn. It seems their office is applying for a "Sustainable Communities Regional Planning" grant, through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the tune of \$1 million. They are requesting the support of eleven local counties (including Liberty County) and three Native American Reservations. The application deadline is today, so she asked the Commissioners to send a letter of support. Rlynn called Kathy Bessett (Hill County Commissioner) for input. After discussion with Larry, Rlynn sent the letter of support to Opportunity Link.

#### ASSURANCE STATEMENT

Triangle Telephone Corporation Association e-mailed an "assurance statement" for signature regarding the REDLG loan. The assurance statement was signed and mailed to Triangle Telephone.

#### PERMISSION TO BE OUT OF STATE

County Attorney Hugh Brown asked for permission to be out of the state (New York) from Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to give permission for Hugh to be out of the state.

#### WARRANTY DEED

Hugh Brown provided a "Warranty Deed" and Realty Transfer Certificate for the sale of the old Senior Center property by the County to Cicon & Associates. Also included was the second payment (\$10,000) and a promissory note (which deals with the final payment of \$7,500 scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012). Paperwork was signed and filed at the Clerk and Recorder's Office. The promissory note was sent to Cicon's for signature.

#### COUNTY CPA

Our contracted auditors (Denning, Downey, & Associates) sent the Commissioners information relating to GASB #34 financial statements and a listing of management functions. Additional fees by DDA will be \$4,200 - \$4,600 during the next three years. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to sign the agreement, which was given to Rhonda.

#### ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. The Commissioners reported Dennis Kenfield expressed serious concern for the poor condition of the Laird Road. The Commissioners also discussed a culvert problem and the Laird Road with Shawn.

#### COUNTY RECORDS

All records stored in the Courthouse basement will be made available for public inspection, only in the main floor vaults (due to safety and security reasons). A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to accept the new rule.

#### POST OFFICE CONCERNS

We received a call from citizen, Connie Anderson, to report there will be a public meeting at 5 P.M. Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Joplin Hall to discuss the consequences of the potential closing of the Joplin Post Office.

**PARKING LOT AT NEW CENTER**

A new measurement revealed the size of the parking lot to be about 15,000 square feet. Jeremiah Johnson will provide cement at \$1.85 per square foot without labor. The Commissioners put a call into Mike Hofer, from Sage Creek Colony, for labor.

**COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING**

As requested, the Compensation Board re-convened to discuss equity of salaries of the Liberty County Elected Officials vs. the Department Heads. Those present included Ron Gleason, Dana Lalum, Roger Olson, the three Commissioners, and the six Elected Officials (Rhonda, Gayle, Anne, Rachel, Holly, and Hugh). Sheriff Burrows was absent. The Elected Officials presented their case, including facts about the recent hire of the new Senior Center Director; the history of raises of Elected Officials and Department Heads; current salaries of Elected Officials and Department Heads; growth in salaries of assorted hired county workers; some special rules relating to Sheriff's and County Attorney's regarding mandates on their deputies; longevity pay and the \$2,000 optional pay for certain officials; and testimonial(s) about present and future qualified and responsible officials. After general discussion, questions, and clarification on a few points (if any raises are granted, they are for Elected Officials only); Compensation Board member, Dana Lalum, made a recommendation to increase our present Elected Officials' salaries to \$2,000 above the current base of \$33,196.19, and then re-evaluate these salaries at next year's compensation board conference. This recommendation / motion was seconded by Roger Olson. The motion carried by a majority vote of the Elected Officials present. The \$2,000 raise will be prorated beginning this current pay-period, based on full time vs. part time officials' salaries and not retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 (so the raise actually computes to approximately \$1,500 through the rest of the year). The Liberty County Sheriff will get the \$2,000 raise, his Undersheriff will get 95% as mandated, and the three Deputies will get 85% (which equates to no salary increase). The County Attorney's salary share from Liberty County is based on 64% of the Clerk and Records base salary; therefore, his new increase will be \$1,280 [64% x \$2,000], but then prorated for the remainder of the year. This same math system shall be applied to the County Superintendent and Justice of the Peace positions and salaries.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**October 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, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**CLAIMS**

Some late claims were submitted for examination and approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve payment of these claims.

**CONFERENCE CALL TO HRD**

Russ participated in a conference call with HRD on the evening of Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> regarding an executive evaluation of the HRD director.

**WEED SUPERVISOR**

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to update the Commissioners on weed issues. The Weed Department is finishing the boat and land tamer work today on the Russian olive project.

**AIRPORT HANGAR INQUIRY**

Tyler Streit and Patrick Wicks visited with Rlynn about hangars at the local airport. They heard the County may build an additional T-hangar on those lots east of the present T-hangars. If not, they were wondering if those lots were available for private purchase for a hangar. Tyler stopped in today to visit more about airport lots. He also asked about getting some gravel and/or road repairs to the road near his farm.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Commissioners wrote a letter to the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Joe Maurier (Director), to oppose the introduction of buffalo to the Marias River Wildlife Management Area.

SENIOR CENTER PARKING LOT

Mike Hofer and two other Sage Creek men stopped in at our request to discuss the potential cement work on the Senior Center parking lot. He estimates the 15,000 square feet at about 275 yards of cement and about 500 - 20 foot half inch rebars.

RESOLUTION 11-24

The State of Montana mandated in HB156 an increase in the county allowance for Veteran's burial in an acceptable and optional range of \$250 to \$500 and an increase in the Veterans headstone delivery and installation fee from \$70 to \$100. Rlynn called Blaine, Pondera, Toole, Hill, Glacier, Teton, and Chouteau Counties to learn they are all paying different amounts ranging from \$325 (Blaine) to \$500 (Glacier). A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to increase Liberty County's Vets burial allowance to \$350 and the headstone fee to \$100 as documented in Resolution #11-24. (Retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011).

LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA

RESOLUTION #11-24

INCREASING ALLOWANCE TO BE PAID FOR INTERMENT AND HEADSTONE EXPENSE FOR A VETERAN


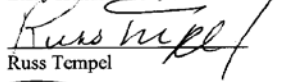

WHEREAS, Section 10-2-501, MCA, provides for an interment allowance and a reimbursement for the costs of shipping and raising of a headstone for a veteran, to be paid by the county of residence; and


WHEREAS, the 2011 Montana Legislature increased the amount allowed for interment costs from \$250.00 to an amount not to exceed \$500 and increased the amount to be reimbursed for costs incurred for shipping and placing the headstone on the veteran's grave from up to \$70.00 to up to \$100.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Liberty County Board of Commissioners that Liberty County will pay \$350.00 for interment of a veteran and \$100.00 for reimbursement for shipping and placing the headstone on the veteran's grave.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 as moved by Commissioner Tempel, seconded by Commissioner Rockman, and passed on a unanimous vote of the full board. Effective July 1, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Larry Hendrickson, Chairman  
  
Russ Tempel  
  
Rlynn Rockman

ATTEST:  
  
Rhonda S. Pimley  
Clerk and Recorder

SHELTERS AT LAKE ELWELL

Commissioners Tempel and Hendrickson went to Lake Elwell and inspected the shelters. The slabs that were found are in great shape. One roof was found in usable condition. There are other parts of walls that should be ok to use.

CTEP

Jermey Siemens and Bob Mattson were in for the CTEP meeting. The Commissioners gave Jermey ideas they had come up with. He will use the ideas and will email the plans. Jermey will then submit the plans to the state.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**October 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 Rlynn Rockman.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

Mike LaFrentz and Mike Hilliard stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about the damaged shelters and our long range plans.

**HRDC**

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the annual and regularly scheduled monthly meetings at HRDC on October 13<sup>th</sup>. He submitted an annual report for the Commissioner's review.

**CONGRESSMAN REHBERG**

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the "town hall" meeting with Congressman Rehberg and Mike Waite in Chester on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**MACO CONFERENCE**

Commissioner Larry Hendrickson attended a special MACo conference with Tina and Marty Wood. The conference was headed up by Emelia McEwen and dealt with updated information regarding JPIA/JPA losses and Worker's Comp claims. Wendy Sesselman, workman's comp supervisor, was one of the keynote speakers.

**LIBRARY**

Teresa Fenger reported a problem with the library solar panels. The Commissioners couldn't find a solution, so called a specialist for future service calls.

**EXTENSION AGENT**

Jesse Fulbright stopped in to discuss a Sweden exchange student who will be here for several weeks. He asked for permission to have this student travel with him on educational trips around the county. Permission granted.

**ROAD SUPERVISOR**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. Mowing is going good, but we almost have the maximum hours on the two lease tractors. An additional lease tractor will be available soon. A priority this winter is to get the old Valtra overhauled and running, because we've got the block and parts (Shawn says we need a spec book).

**LIBERTY COUNTY UNDERSHERIFF**

Doug Riggan stopped in to discuss the recent raises to elected officials. He realizes that he is directly tied to the Sheriff's salary, so understands why he got a raise, too (and he does appreciate it). However, he feels bad for the three deputies: the fact that they didn't get raises and the fact that the Commissioners are manipulating with their percentages (85%-90% of sheriff's salary) to control these raises. Doug stated that the deputies will probably be in to see the Commissioners.

**LIBERTY COUNTY DISPATCHERS**

Ellen Gage, dispatch supervisor, came in to see the Commissioners on behalf of her dispatch staff, who would like to see some salary increases and some longevity incentives. Ellen is satisfied with her personal salary, but feels that the other dispatchers are underpaid. A recommended salary would be \$13.25 / hour. The group also talked about shift differential pay and a particular employee who doesn't work enough hours to qualify for medical insurance.



**LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF**

Richard Burrows was in to discuss the salary situation. He is disappointed that the deputies are not getting raises, realizing that the agreement was for elected officials only. Still, Sheriff Burrows assumed that their 90% of his salary status would entitle / qualify them for a raise. The Commissioners explained that they had the flexibility on a range of 85-90%, so by calculating the sheriff's new salary / raise at 85%, the deputies are presently getting more than 85%. Therefore, the Commissioners have not decreased their salary; they're just not getting an increase. During the next fiscal year salary negotiations, the Commissioners may decide to re-calculate the percentage range.

**JERRY FENGER**

Gerald Fenger was in to pay the County for screened gravel (452 yards X \$4.25/yd).

**COUNTY PAYROLL**

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

**SENIOR CENTER**

Rod Keith stopped in to discuss a few items:

1. A required audit is planned for the transit facility because of the federal funding in the project. Rod and Glenda will get the paperwork organized;
2. Because the Public Health Nurse utilizes the "transit director's" office several days / week, there should be some rental income on the books. The Commissioners looked at Fund #2976, which is the immunizations grant, and feel that we can probably pay the center about \$1,200 / year for rent of this office. The Commissioners will consult with Karla on this.

**CICON AND ASSOCIATES**

The Commissioners received the signed "promissory note" from Cicon and Associates. The original was delivered to Hugh Brown's office for file.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Board of Health meeting. Items discussed;

1. City decay ordinance "on hold" until January after the procurement of a new mayor;
2. According to Karen Salo, HUD is only concerned if rentals are "safe" and "habitable";
3. 79 flu shots were given to the public at the Senior Center on October 5<sup>th</sup>. No high-dose shots were given at the Wheat Country Estates, but are recommended for residents of the Liberty County Nursing Home;
4. Septic systems are all approved at Whitlash Port of Entry, Whitlash School, Gavilon, and EGT;
5. Karla still would like a Public Health sign at the Senior Center on Highway 2.

**PERMISSION TO BE OUT-OF-STATE**

Commissioner Russ Tempel asked for permission to be out-of-state October 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel, to grant permission. The motion carried.

**RESIGNATION OF EMPLOYEE**

Brad Maples, part-time dispatcher, provided a letter of resignation effective two weeks from today (his last day will be 11-02-11).

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

October 25, 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 and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Rockman was available by telephone.

#### LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly Liberty Medical Center board meeting on 10-19-2011.

#### NCAAA MEETING

Five area commissioners (Rlynn Rockman, Cindy Johnson, Joe Dellwo, Stan Klimas, and Frank Priestly) and Karin Roehm (NCAAA director) participated in our quarterly meeting on 10-20-2011. Points of interest:

1. Our annual LIEAP revenue has been increased by \$4,500;
2. Of the approximately \$69,000 we receive for use for Med Waivers, we can keep 20% for administration;
3. Because we haven't received current funds from DPHHS and the State, we were obligated to make current expenditures with our reserve funds (our reserves as of 9-30-2011 are \$93,000; down from \$159,000 on 8-31-2011);
4. Per inquiry by Dolores Plumage (Blaine County Commissioner), we clarified that the office of NCAAA is a public, not-for-profit organization, and therefore, the budgets / books are open to public examination; and
5. The NCAAA office / staff will be moving to the new Pondera Senior Citizen building the end of October.
- 6.

#### AIRPORT BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman met with the Airport Board and John Kammerzell about an option on the land at the west end of the runway. Liberty County will work with County Attorney Hugh Brown to get the first draft of the Option to Purchase agreement.

Larry and Rlynn met with Jim Briden and John Kammerzell on 10-21-2011 to discuss future potential expansion of the airport, specifically related to the 12 acres of land on the west end of the runway owned by John Kammerzell. John agreed to sign papers giving the Airport Commission an option on this land at a fair market value when such time comes, and he will continue to own / farm the land until that time. The Commissioners will visit will Bill Burkland and Hugh Brown to get the process "in the works".

#### TRIANGLE TELEPHONE ANNUAL MEETING

Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Triangle Telephone Co-op annual meeting in Havre on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, as requested guests of the cooperative. There they officially received the no interest, 10 year loan (REDLG loan) as part of the presentation on economic development, in the amount of \$266,472 less \$3,294 loan fees. Many members of our Council on Aging and other Hi-Line residents attended.

#### 4H CAMPGROUND

Deena Fritz, Jesse Fulbright, and Bob and Diana Thompson met with the Commissioners regarding the 4H Campground site. The County will get Bob a copy of the Insurance for their lawyer to review.

#### RICK HILL

Candidate Rick Hill stopped in to visit with the Commissioners. Mr. Hill is running for the office of State Governor in the 2012 election.

#### AG EXEMPTION

A Quit Claim Deed claiming an agricultural exemption for John and Mary Fritz needed review and approval from the Commissioners before recording. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the ag exemption and sign the document. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HRDC**

Local representative, Phil Aaberg and Executive Director, Karen Thomas of HRDC met for lunch at the Senior Center with Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Tempel. After lunch the group returned to the Commissioner’s office for a discussion regarding HRDC programs. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the 2012 Work Plan, which allows HRDC to apply for the Community Services Block Grant. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**EMS**

Commissioner Hendrickson had attended the EMS meeting held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. EMS will be starting EMT training this month.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER ANNUAL MEETING**

Commissioner Hendrickson reported that the annual meeting for the Liberty Medical Center is slated to be held next month.

**TAX ABATEMENT**

After much discussion and public input regarding the applications for Tax Abatement, the Commissioners made their decision. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to deny the New or Expanding Industry Classification Application. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of 2 for and 1 against.

**PERMISSION TO CROSS COUNTY ROAD**

The Commissioners granted the request for Triangle Telephone / Century-Tel Link to cross the Laird Road for 9-1-1 purposes.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman