

October 7th, 2014 ♦ 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 Rockman, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel and around 8 others attended the monthly LEPC meeting at the firehall. Commissioner Tempel signed the quarterly reports for DES for reimbursement. Next spring there will be a "scenario" in Chester by Liberty/Toole counties. The emergency siren was dismissed.

HRDC

District 4 HRDC sent us their "Emergency Solutions Grant" work plan for fiscal year 2014-15. After reviewing the plan, Commissioner Tempel made a motion, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman, to approve the document. The motion carried and the document was signed and returned to HRDC.

WIC

Hill County Commissioners sent us the WIC Satellite Agreement for fiscal year 2014-15. The only changes from last year's agreement were to update the dates and rename a new WIC coordinator(s). The Hill County liaison is Nicole Hungerford and the Liberty County liaison is Angel Colbry. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to approve the agreement, which was signed and returned to Hill County.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to discuss Senior Center issues. Rhonda Emerson (head cook) will be leaving us in March. Also, Taylor Melton (kitchen helper) has expressed interest in pursuing a CNA Certification, so she will probably be resigning soon. She will advertise for help. Glenda also reported that she has an issue with the 2010 Van: bad battery vs. alternator. Jerry Ghekiere is available to check it out.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. He is frustrated with the 2 shulte mowers, which are 6-7 years old. He's spent over \$11,000 on parts the past 1 ½ months. They're behind in mowing and its going slow due to moisture/weed toughness. In good conditions they can mow around 15 miles/ day, but this isn't happening. They're working hard on the roads, but it's a constant battle due to keep up on it due to heavy traffic plus conditions. They've got a couple of cattle guards to clean out and repair. The Rocky Boy water project truckers are tearing up the Pugsley Road to Jerry Fenger's gravel pit; Marc is dealing with them regarding overloaded trucks, sand spillage, etc. Marc and Justin spent 2 days at the Wickum pit and managed to "scrap up" 3,200 yards of pretty nice gravel, so we will owe some royalty fees on this. Marc will be on vacation during hunting season from October 27th - November 11th.

MUSEUM

Betty Marshall stopped in to discuss the recent \$2500 grant from the Montana Community Foundation. Museum bills will be submitted to us for payment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Penny Walston shared the volunteer registry with us.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended an HRDC executive meeting in Havre on September 29th.

CEMETERY BOARD

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on October 2nd. Our new board secretary, Betty Ann Wolery, attended. Rlynn and Betty Ann spent the evening of October 1st with outgoing secretary, Rachel Ghekiere, learning the ropes on claims/warrants, deeds, grave sales, record books, etc.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Mayor Noel Walston came in to discuss the new pit and water line to the cemetery. The general consensus is that the pit should be northwest of the county shop near the existing fire hydrant. We need to purchase a 5 foot culvert (7 feet long), then the city will dig in the pit. The cemetery board has already purchased the 2" meter. We are probably limited to a 2" line from the pit to the cemetery due to the projected EDU fees (i.e., \$30 monthly base fees for a 2" meter vs. around \$900 monthly fee for a 4" meter). We may have to buy a pump for support to the system.

COUNTY CLAIMS

The current county claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to pay these bills.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Correspondence was received from MDT regarding the current status and recommended repairs to the Pugsley Bridge. The information was given to the road supervisor.

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 8th, 2014 ♦ 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.

BUCK AND SUE DAHLIN

This couple stopped in to make a belated "thank you" for the road department's good work on their road. They also visited a little about weeds on a nearby organic farm and potential issues these weeds may cause; they have visited with our weed supervisor.

WOOD ENTERPRISES

Our local insurance representative, Tina Wood, met with us to discuss Workers Comp regarding county volunteers. We need to establish a written policy (recommendations) for all pertinent agencies that provide volunteers to county service. In addition, Tina reviewed the highlights of her recent training conference regarding safety in the workplace. Suggestions were made in identifying "risky job tasks" and analyzing these tasks by the employees. The premise is to get the employees involved and to confirm our concern for their safety on the job.

WEED SUPERVISOR

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss several issues:

1. County policy regarding donating sick-leave hours to a fellow-employee who is away from work to care for an ill family member.
2. Purchase of two 5 amp 2 way radios for emergencies to contact staff in areas that have no cell service (i.e., the river bottoms).
3. The annual maintenance contract for our 9-1-1 system (around \$1100/month).
4. Obtaining a consulting surveyor to "sign-off" on all subdivision changes that are made in our county (around 4 of them per year).

ROAD TRIP

The 3 Commissioners made a road trip for the following reasons:

1. To meet with Jerry Fenger at the Seidlitz gravel pit near Pugsley's Bridge to look at his screened gravel, pit run and sand products. Cost of 1-1 ½ minus screened is \$10.40/yard (royalties included) and pit run is \$4.50/ yard.
2. To meet with Fred Skierka to examine the road going into his mother's place. He claims our road crew continues to cut the crown off the road. We will discuss this with the road supervisor.
3. To examine the "sunken" (problem area) at the Joplin Post office. We visited with Marty Wood about the potential solution(s). We've had several complaints about this issue this past week.
4. To examine several roads that needs gravel.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Mayor Noel Walston stopped back in to say that the city foreman recommends a 2" meter with a 3' line from the meter to the cemetery. The city has 1 1/2" line at the city park with about 40 pounds of pressure at the meter.

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 14th, 2014 ♦ 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.

MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Commissioner Tempel attended the Petroleum Association meeting in Havre on the evening of October 8th. About 20 people attended the informational meeting put on by David Galt.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes in to discuss road issues. We visited about possible solutions on the road at the Joplin Post Office. We also discussed the 5 miles of Road 366 that needs gravel. Marc and crew replaced a culvert near Stubbie Fritz's and also repaired/ welded a cattle guard near John Fritz's. Still no word on the fence issue at Demarest's. Marc just bought 4 loader tires at Fraser's for \$5500.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting. Treasurer's report = \$20,747.39 balance. The appreciation dinner on October 2nd for our county volunteers was very successful; they had an 80% turn out on invitations sent. The center is now providing simple frozen meals (take-out and delivered) for \$2.00/each to accommodate seniors on holidays/ weekends. The Christmas stroll will be December 3rd and the Council on Aging will again provide a soup feed.

RSVP / VOLUNTEERS

Pat Ludwig and Glenda Hanson came in to see us about the issue regarding volunteers and workers comp. Pat will continue to record the volunteer "hours" as she's done. We will establish a policy concerning which volunteers will qualify for workers comp.

DUFFIN CPA OFFICE

Ranier Malan stopped in to discuss the 2' space between Duffin's office and the County Library. He is doing some repair work to Duffin's due to water damage from rain and snow runoff and accumulation. He would like to "enclose" this space to avoid leaves, weeds, and dirt build-up. Do we have any ideas or thoughts about this?

PAYROLL

County salaries were presented for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to pay current salaries.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in with the "MASTS" summary reports for the center; we're done on total numbers from same period last year. Glenda also reported that there is a parking lot security light "burned out" at the north east corner of the center; it will need a bucket extension/forklift to fix it.

SAGE CREEK COLONY

John Wurz from Sage Creek Colony stopped in to discuss the Laird Road, especially the northern section near the colony; it needs gravel! We discussed the lack of gravel (pits), the cost of gravel and our budget, and additional factors. He thinks the state should upgrade all these roads after all; we're living in the 21st century! The present condition of these roads are causing undue damage to their equipment/ vehicles. On a side note: John will let Leonard know that their missing "Sage Creek Colony" sign is at the Commissioner's office.

LIBERTY COUNTY EXTENSION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The three Commissioner's attended the Extension Advisory meeting with 5 other council members. We discussed current projects (i.e. Orange Wheat Blossom Midge, insect trapping and monitoring, "Golden Prairie" Community Foundation, canning workshop, and GPS/GIS project). Upcoming projects include a cropping seminar in January, a master gardener class, pesticide applicator training, solid finances webinars, and traffic flagging/safety instruction.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

The Commissioner's examined a leaky roof at the Liberty Medical Center (above and north of the physical therapy wing). The issue will be discussed at the next Liberty Medical Center board meeting.

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 15th, 2014 ♦ 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.

CJI

Superintendent Thadd Kaiser, stopped in to discuss the GPS/GIS project. A local farmer called to see if the students- in – training would be interested locating a planned water-line. After some discussion, we decided that the farmer could come to the school, meet with the GIS student(s) who would assist with the Rover and mapping, then “sign-out” the machine for his use... or the farmer could deal with one of the GIS students on their own time to help locate the lines. The training should be recorded. No fees will be charged, but donations will be accepted. Thadd also shared additional school updates.

WHITLASH ROAD

Doug Demarest claims there is no easement on the north Whitlash Road, so he will not remove/move his fence line. We made several calls to the state, to learn that they have documentation on the Whitlash Road from Highway 2 to Whitlash, but the records on the road north of Whitlash show “County construction”. We called Hugh Brown (Liberty County Attorney), who researched the subject for us. We discovered a “Petition for Change of Established Road” dated 6-7-1918. On a “Viewer’s Report for County Road”, which was extracted from commissioner’s proceedings dated 2-7-1919, there is documentation that landowner Harry Demarest donated the right-of-way on this road change.

COUNTY CLAIMS

A few late claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Tempel, The motion passed to approve these claims.

SURPLUS OFFICE EQUIPMENT

These 5 items of surplus office equipment will be placed on the Liberty County Website for sale:

1. Tall storage cabinet (metal with 2 doors).
2. Computer desk with storage shelves (wooden).
3. Metal file cabinet.
4. Small book shelf.
5. TV stand (metal).

These came from the County Superintendents office. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to declare these items obsolete.

ROAD TRIP TO WHITLASH

The 3 Commissioner’s made a road trip to Whitlash to examine/discuss the “controversial” section of road near Demarest’s farmstead. We showed Doug the “Right-of-way” paperwork (alluded to earlier in the minutes). This paperwork dates back to 1918 and Doug claims that the road was moved on 3 separate occasions. The latest road change was in about 1963 and there is No easement on it. After considerable discussion, we came to a mutual understanding as follows:

1. Doug will remove approximately 10 fence posts on the east side of the Whitlash Road at the basin of the slope in question.
2. The 100’ area will be bladed so that the existing berm is pushed over the steep ditch to the east- then Doug can re-fence ASAP.
3. We will also grade this stretch of road to the south (going up the hill towards Whitlash). There is a berm with accompanying “wash-out” area on the east hill side of this road that doesn’t drain properly to the culvert near the bottom, so we will fix this.
4. The above groundwork will be done on Monday (October 20th).
5. We’ll come back later to crown and gravel the entire section.

When we returned to Chester, we stopped at the shop and explained to Marc Holmes and the road crew exactly what they needed to do to complete this project as agreed!

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 21st, 2014 ♦ 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.

ROAD

We visited with Marc Holmes about the Pugsley Bridge. They will be pouring cement this week. We also discussed the road issue at Doug Demarest's.

CLAIMS

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

SAFETY PLAN

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the Written Hazard Communication Plan. Commissioner Henderickson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

Jessica Durham begins employment with the county today. She has been hired as a dishwasher for the Senior Center.

EXPANSION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to adopt Resolution 14-11 Opposing the Expansion of the Clean Water Act. Commissioner Rockman seconded it, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 14-11

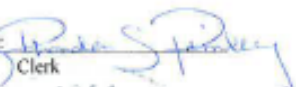

(Opposing Expansion of Federal Control under the Clean Water Act)

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are seeking to extend control over additional Waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the agencies have expanded their authority under the Clean Water Act to implement an onerous permit system that has forced delays as well as caused unnecessary additional expense to projects on the local level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Liberty County Board of Commissioners opposes additional regulations that have been proposed by EPA to re-define the current definition, as well as implement additional enforcement, with respect to the Clean Water Act and the Waters of the United States.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.

ATTEST: 
Clerk


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

SURPLUS TIRES

The Commissioner's looked at four of our loader tires (20.5 X 25). We declared them obsolete / surplus, and them posted on website for sale.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

Patrick and Dave Wicks came to see the Commissioners about their hanger project. Their plans and updates were discussed. Patrick was told to get this project engineered (including the sewer and water system due to predicted changes with the Town of Chester), then get everything OK'ed with Bill Burkland of Pecchia and Associates and/or Rudy Cicon. Patrick will produce "sample" lease agreements from other airports to possibly change the verbiage on our present leases.

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 28th, 2014 ♦ 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 Rockman, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

CALL FROM ROB LAAS

Rob Laas (State Representative Elect) called to report that Governor Bullock, Jon Tester, and others will be in Havre on October 30th for an informational meeting. Call Elizabeth Richardson for details.

PAYROLL

The current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to pay the current payroll as it has been presented.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss Senior Center issues. Employee, Taylor Melton, has resigned effective 10-20-14. Glenda ordered a new bulb for one of the parking lot lights (cost=\$68); it was installed as a courtesy by Jim Vinson.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

No report; Marc Holmes is on vacation.

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Karen Hadford was in to discuss further problems regarding the streets/lots in Joplin. She feels that Cliff Nelson is continuing to park equipment on the streets, which results in unsafe traffic flow. In addition, Nelson has a "crusher" (?) on a lot northwest of the Cenex building and is presently doing some "work" there. We agreed to follow-up on this.

Additional information: We called Sheila Duncan, who lives north of this "crusher"; she confirms that this machine has been operated recently and is very noisy. Commissioner Tempel will look it over later today, and then report back.

AIRPORT

Patrick and Dave Wicks were back to further discuss their hanger project:

1. Confirmed relocation of the wind-sock plus required installation.
2. Electrical work must be done by a licensed electrician. They can tie into the closest runway light and can install the lines through the farm field west of their building.
3. They realize that our leases are 5-years and the FAA recommends 5-Year terms, but Wicks would like a 10-year lease (20 years better!), if possible, to satisfy their 1031 agreement.
4. They need a "legal address" for the contract; which we will get from planner, Jim Ghekiere. They also need a "legal description" of the property, which they will get from surveyor Rudy Cicon.
5. Their building will have 14' sidewalls with a roof pitch that will reduce the overall height of the structure (so that it will be 4' below the maximum height regulation).
6. The water/sewer system will be engineered by Jeff Cicon, trenched by Cliff Nelson, and plumbed by Neal Eveland.
7. The buildings floor is being poured at about 5" above the tarmac elevation.
8. Could we adjust our terminology on the lease to state that the lease will be renewed every 5 years if the lessor is in good standing (and/or FAA recommendations are unchanged)? Should there also be a clause in the lease about revisiting/negotiating the rates every year/every 2 years/ 3 years?

We called Bill Burkland at PECCIA and Associates, who is satisfied with the plan and Rudy Cicon's numbers. We also called the FAA, who discourages 10 year or 20 year leases due to the potential changes/updates in airport rules/regulations.

NORTH WHITLASH ROAD

On Monday (October 20th) the road crew went to the Demarest hill to complete the shoulder work as requested by the Commissioner's. The maintainer inadvertently damaged several fence posts that were not part of the agreed equation, resulting in additional consternation by Doug Demarest. Consequently, Larry Hendrickson and Russ Tempel acquisitioned a portable post driver and assisted in repairing the damaged fence on Thursday (October 23rd). Mr. Demarest was very appreciative and will now be inclined to give us an easement on this stretch of road. It had been determined by the Commissioners and Demarest that the fence could remain on the shoulder of the road.

HI-LINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Hi-Line Health Foundation meeting. Good news is that the foundation now has assets totaling \$2.5 million! We continue to support the medical community by offering student loans / scholarships and monetary gifts to Women Against Breast Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, and Relay for Life. Equipment purchases this past year include a "hi-low" table, medicine cart, aspirator/suction canister, ER video laryngoscope, ER gurney, patient care mannequin for CAN training, 2 remodeled rooms, Mary's music service, blanket warmer, microwave and toaster for nurse's station, adult/infant CPR mannequins, hydro-collator for physical therapy department, entertainment stand for Wheat Country Estates, dish dispenser/warmer for the kitchen, and trauma training / education for nursing staff. The hard work of this Board continues to build Liberty County's solid medical system!

LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER

Commissioner Rockman attended the Liberty County Chamber meeting on October 23rd with 10 members present. They discussed the success of the recent Harvest Festival and are planning the upcoming Christmas Stroll, the annual meeting, and the Hanger Dance. They remain an active community organization.

NCAAA

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly meeting of the North Central Area on Aging via conference call on October 23rd. We had a full quorum of all seven county committee board members and director, Karin Roehm. Old business included continued discussion on group health insurance for NCAAA staff; we presently offer \$550/month/employee for insurance. We also reviewed / approved the final financial report for fiscal year 2014. New business includes approval of Anderson-ZurMuehlen to complete our fiscal year 2014 audit for \$7,100. Karin also provided paperwork to show that the fiscal year 2014 LIEAP Funds were expended as required.

NCAAA's present copier was purchased used from Malstrom for \$3,800 six years ago. Karin is researching a new copier (estimated cost for black/white = \$5,400 and color = \$7,500). We have a \$34,000 surplus in administrative funds for this equipment expense.

Liberty County Commissioner Rockman and Glacier County Commissioner Sitzmann will be leaving the board on January 1st.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Commissioner Larry Hendrickson attended the Liberty Medical Center monthly board meeting on October 22nd. An evaluation of the CEO was completed. The Sanford group will be meeting with the board this month (7th month into contract). Local candidates, Rob Laas and Greg Jergenson attended this meeting.

COURTHOUSE FURNACE

The furnace that heats the north first floor of the courthouse was not working on the morning of October 27th. We called "All Seasons" of Shelby, who came to repair the unit.

LIBRARY STORAGE TRAILER

The Library purchased a used storage trailer (1996 Haulmark, measuring 8'x24') for \$4,500 from a private party in Florence MT. Commissioner Russ Tempel went to Florence on October 23-24th to transport the unit to Liberty County. It is presently at the county shop for cleaning and a few repairs. It will eventually be moved to the back parking lot west of the library.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped in with the "legal address" (796 Airport Road) of the Wicks hanger. Stan Huhtala is still on staff, working on the Russian Olive project at the river bottoms. Michael Nelson asked Jim about concrete disposal at our county stockpile; he also told Jim about the poor condition of the 3000 Road (specifically, the stretch 1 mile east of the north Joplin Road).

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman