

November 2nd, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

ELECTION DAY

General Election Day being an observed state holiday, the Board of Liberty County Commissioners did not hold their regular session day.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting. New business:

1. The official (voted) name for our new center is Liberty Community & Senior Center;
2. Two recent donations were received for \$1,000 each: the Red Hat Society and Maxine Ward;
3. A committee will be organized to look at new furnishings;
4. The memorial bricks / plaques are definitely a fund-raising project for the near future;
5. Treasurer's report shows current balance of \$69,206.

LIBRARY PAVING

Brett Patrick of Patrick Construction telephoned to report that they are paving the 5300 square feet at the Transit facility on 11-4-2010, and asked if the County needs any other paving completed. Commissioner Rockman telephoned the Town of Chester to learn from John Kleinsasser that they have no paving needs at this time. Brett looked at the parking lot behind the library (to replace the paving that was destroyed when the sewer lines were replaced this spring), and he estimated 1300 square feet X 3" deep at \$3.00 / sq.ft. = total project of approximately \$4,000. The quote was refused at this time.

ELECTION NIGHT

The three Commissioners assisted with the "tear-down" process of the voting machines at Chester and Joplin and were present at the Courthouse for the final vote tabulations.

November 3rd, 2010 ♦ 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.

CDBG

A request for CDBG funds was presented for approval. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve and sign the request forms. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the payment of the county payroll for the current pay period. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROAD DEPT

Shawn Norick was in to sell the Commissioners:

1. Our potential gravel crusher (O'Brien) will subtract \$.75/yard if the County pays for the fuel;
2. Engineers talked to Shawn about the details at the Whitlash Port-of-Entry project;
3. The Commissioners located the title on the grader that was recently "traded-in" to RDO; they need proof that the lien is clear (via US Bank);
4. Shawn and Larry had met with Dave of Eagle Creek concerning a gravel agreement at the Hofer pit;
5. Wally Meissner has approved the County checking his old pit for potential gravel. Lance McDowell is also willing to see us gravel;
6. There is a "switch" malfunction on the new grader that is being rectified.

INSURANCE ON SCREENER

The Commissioners sent information to Wood Insurance regarding the recently purchased screener/conveyor. Marty Wood will investigate the costs regarding liability versus full coverage and get back to us. Full-coverage would be about \$86/year quoted and approved.

SENIOR CITIZENS PROJECT

The Commissioners visited the construction site to visit with the crew and engineer (Siemens), who had been there yesterday. The Commissioners telephoned Siemens, who will send us Declarations of Compaction & Elevation to satisfy FEMA issues.

BID OPENING

One bid was offered on the obsolete property. Henry Hatch offered \$650 for the red dodge pick-up [1991 ¾ ton D-250, 360-V8, 2WD, 4 speed transmission, 140,000+ miles]. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the bid. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

TRAIN LOADING FACILITY

Carl Mattson was in to visit about the potential grain-loading facility. He reports that this outfit is a conglomerate, that is, it specializes in grain-buying, shipping, and purchasing. Carl suggests that we investigate if there are any development funds available to assist in road updates, etc. He says this project has great potential for Liberty County.

ADDITIONAL OBSOLETE PROPERTY

The red Ford Taurus has been declared obsolete by motion from Commissioner Tempel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rockman, and the motion carried. Shawn Norick and staff will pick up this car in Great Falls on 11-04-2010.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

The monthly cemetery board meeting was held on this day; Commissioner Rockman was in attendance. Maintenance season is winding down. Terry Thielman utilized the services of a young man with community service hours (to blow out water lines and do some painting). Nothing else new to report.

The Commissioners have received an e-mail from Siemens Engineering. The e-mail was forwarded to Bear Paw. Russ Wolfe was telephoned to discuss the information that Bear Paw needs. The Commissioners will send Triangle Telephone information regarding the hook-up of the phone lines.

Tim Snyder came in and updated the Commissioners on Stone Garden. The Sheriff's Office will use the funding to get new radios.

Jim Ghekiere came and discussed a request for a letter to Neighborhood Works Montana. The letter should address information on houses in Chester. Jim will sign the letter and send it back.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the claims for payment. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MUSEUM

The Commissioners went to the Museum to inspect the new siding job.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 9th, 2010 ♦ 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

Eleven members attended the monthly LEPC meeting. Highlights:

1. Exercise designs are being planned for Choteau and Shelby;
2. Dr. Kozakiewicz is officially leaving Liberty Medical Center on 01-07-2011; he may be available as a Locum Tenum for emergency coverage only. LMC is presently seeking a replacement;
3. February is being reserved for the Phase II exercise;
4. Yvonne Hunnewell discussed the natural gas leak on Chester's north side that occurred on 10-16-2010 and the "learning experience" it provided regarding evacuation issues and potential ramifications.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Present for the monthly department head meeting were: Rod Keith, Rhonda Pimley, Gayle Dahlen, Shawn Norick, Jim Ghekiere, Rachel Ghekiere, and Russ Tempel and Larry Hendrickson.

Rhonda- Post Election Audit will be conducted tomorrow;

Gayle- Tax Statements went out. Briefly discussed delinquent taxes from years prior, Investments in STIP and Raymond James; the interest in STIP is not good right now but better with Raymond James. Omimex has received their final payment for protested taxes.

Rachel- Has a fly infestation in her office upstairs--- All is now quiet in her office until January and the school elections.

Jim- Working on grants and planning issues with the potential new industrial project in the County.

Shawn- Purchased a gravel screener; crushing gravel this month at the Hofer pit. He had to set some beaver traps up at the 4-H Campsite. Also busy helping with the Senior Center project and beginning preparations for winter. The mowing is all finished.

Rod- Transit is very busy at this time; they are making more and more different types of trips like to Shelby etc. The meal attendance is holding steady – they are operating at full capacity which may discourage some from coming (overcrowded). The State is going to give us a new van because the other one has not really worked well for our needs. They have started "Supper Club" again.

Larry- EGT (Bungy and Korean PanOcean) and Gavilon (Peavy) are two separate companies looking to begin projects in Liberty County. Grain Loading docks are their interest. One on the east side of town and one on the west side. EGT (east side of town) is further along in the process and has all their state permits etc. The proposal of Gavilon (west side of town) is actually a larger facility. There will be a public meeting next Tuesday at 2:00 regarding these projects.

There are a couple more wind monitoring towers going in up north. Still need the powerline; if we could get that then the wind companies would definitely come in here too.

ROAD

Shawn Norick updated the Commissioners on Road issues. They called RDO and worked on financing the new grader. The crew has about got the gravel screener ready to go. O'Brien will be up and crushing the next two weeks.

AIRPORT

Dale Pimley stopped by to talk about the Airport electricity.

WAG

Russ Wolfe telephoned regarding Senior Center issues.

WIND POWER

Bret Kenfield telephoned regarding wind power. He inquired about the proposed elevators- could they use wind power?

JOB SERVICE / HRDC

Representatives from Job Service and HRDC updated the Commissioners on programs available to Liberty County.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

The Commissioners sent an invitation for bids on a new ambulance and on the Ford Taurus County car to the Liberty County Times for publication.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson came in to discuss schooling and questions about the JP position. The Commissioners gave her an official letter which confirms her election win. The Commissioners spoke with Neal Eveland, who will not be going to the upcoming JP school.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 10th, 2010 ♦ 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

Assorted claims were submitted for payment. A major claim of note is for Omimex Canada LTD (for protested taxes on years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009) in the amount of \$356,389.35! Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept all claims for payment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

POST ELECTION AUDIT

Garth Good, John Cicon, Maureen Wicks, and Mike LaFrenz served as an audit committee (as required per state law), to tabulate three specific ballot races from our recent General Election. The specific precinct and races are chose at random by the state. This years post election audit consisted of the US Representative race, the Supreme Court Justice #4 race, and Constitutional Initiative #105, all from Precinct #3. Results: All three counts were identical to the official machine results on 11-02-2010. The audit was supervised by Election Administrator Rhonda Pimley, and witnessed by the three Commissioners.

MAYOR WARDELL

The Chester Mayor stopped in to discuss the potential shuttle loader grain elevator systems. A public meeting with EGT will be held at 2:30 PM on 11-16-2010.

ELECTION AUDIT CLAIMS

The claims were quickly completed for the payment of the post election audit committee. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept these claims for payment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

All newly elected officials (Russ Tempel, Gayle Dahlen, Rhonda Pimley, Rachel Ghekiere, Richard Burrows, Holly Frederickson and Hugh Brown) were officially "sworn-in" by District Court Judge David Rice in the courtroom at 2:00 PM on 11-10-2010.

DON MARBLE MEMORIAL

An official memorial by the 12th Judicial Court to recognize decedent Donald R. Marble, for his years of service in the Montana State Bar was held at 3:00 PM on the above stated date. Judge David Rice presided at this ceremony in the Liberty County courtroom. Assisting were attorneys Hugh Brown, Elizabeth Woods, and Stephen Brown.

VEBA

A letter was sent to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Association to confirm our position on our updated VEBA plan.

TOBACCO PREVENTION

The Commissioner's provided three pairs of "gently-used" shoes for Lynda VandeSandt for the Great American Smokeout Event.

HRDC MEETING

Commissioner Tempel was in attendance at the executive HRDC meeting held on 11-18-2010 in Havre. The director's report dated October 2009-2010 showed total ARRA monies and grants in this service area at \$1.7 million.

COUNTY SANITARIAN

Ron Gleason, CEO of Liberty Medical Center, sent a letter to Karen Salo dated 11-01-2010 confirming that the resident restroom on the 400 wing was remodeled to satisfy health codes: the tub/shower was replaced with a handicapped accessible sink.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Commissioners gave Jacob Knapton a list of maintenance projects for him to complete pre-winter.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 16th, 2010 ♦ 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.

ELECTION CANVASS

County Clerk of Court Ann Seidlitz-Melton, Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson canvassed the votes for the General Election held on November 2nd. All went well.

LIONS PARK

Rod Keith updated the County Commissioners on issues at the Lions Park.

ROAD

Shawn Norick updated the Commissioners on issues with the roads.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept for payment the payroll as it has been submitted. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

Triangle Telephone needs a two year contract for services at the new Senior Center. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the contract. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC MEETING – EGT

Larry Clark, CEO of EGT and Rob Crestwell made a presentation regarding their proposed export terminal to a crowd of approximately 50 to 60 community members.

Highlights:

- ❖ EGT has been working on this project for approximately one year now;
- ❖ Hope to have the project up and running by around August, September or October;
- ❖ Ran out of export capacity on the West Coast;
- ❖ They handle many products (wheat, corn, soybeans, soybean meal, etc)
- ❖ The primary markets are Asia (the majority of the exports are going to Asia), Central America, Japan and Korea;
- ❖ Who is EGT? 51% = Bungy, 29% = Itochu, and 20% = STX/Pan Ocean;
- ❖ Proposed sites for Chester (hard red winter wheat) and Frazier (dark spring wheat), (and will also pull some out of the Kansas area);
- ❖ Montana is known for its top quality, which is in high demand – especially in Japan;
- ❖ Food security is becoming a big deal – how will they feed their people if export/import is shut off;
- ❖ Two high speed, state of the art, shuttle train loaders with 800,000 bushel storage capacity;
- ❖ 110 car train will load in under 10 hours;
- ❖ Clean, safe conditions;
- ❖ 4-6 employees per location, with more during harvest time;
- ❖ As of yesterday their Board has approved the project, the design bid contracts are out; permitting process is underway, approximately a 9 month estimated building time;
- ❖ Ground work laid for further expansions (build more facilities);
- ❖ Probably won't be ready in August to take delivery, but maybe in November / December;
- ❖ They will not be building a lot of storage;
- ❖ Steel structure – not concrete;
- ❖ Site location- north of tracks, on the very east side of Chester;
- ❖ Parking line-up of trucks to accommodate about 25 trucks. This may not be enough but, remember the hope is this facility will be unloading much faster so perhaps the lines will not need to be so long;
- ❖ They are working with the State to try and anticipate and deal with various issues – such as traffic congestion.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 18th, 2010 ♦ Thursday

RDO was telephoned (Eric Bechtold) to discuss \$540 issue on the contract. All agreed to have RDO wave the fee. The contract will be signed and sent to them.

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Hospital Board meeting. A new member was appointed, Kirsten Kammerzell. The Board is still looking for a doctor to replace Doctor Kozakiewicz. They did interview a Physician's Assistant.

SENIOR CITIZENS PROJECT MEETING WITH THE DEPT OF COMMERCE

In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Rod Keith, Rhonda Pimley, Annmarie Robinson, and Kathy Brenden (Department of Commerce).

1. Completed survey on CDBG funding process required by the Department of Commerce;
2. Completed a "walk through" at the project site;
3. Annmarie Robinson has spoken with Rudy Cicon, who says our elevations are good per Jeremy Siemens. Rudy will proceed with the final FEMA paperwork (which includes an \$800 FEMA fee and approximately and \$800 Cicon fee); the ultimate results are that our project will be totally out of the flood plain. Annmarie will communicate with Rudy per our OK.

November 23rd, 2010 ♦ 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.

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to pay the end of the month claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

BID ACCEPTANCE

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the bid of \$5,800 from May Construction for the 1983 Trail King TK 40-2400. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROAD

Shawn Norick updated the Commissioners on the roads. Plowing has begun.

Jim Sargent telephoned the Commissioners for an update on the grain terminals.

The Commissioners responded to telephone calls about gravel for the grain terminals.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 29th, 2010 ♦ Monday

CONSTRUCTION MEETING WITH WAG

A construction meeting was held on the above stated date at 11:00 AM with WAG and the contractors.

Highlights:

1. Change order on three additional remote controls for the overhead doors; signed by the Commissioners and WAG;
2. Suggestion to frame-in a few access "doors" to the ceiling joist areas to check for any potential issues (i.e. mildew, etc.). Tracy from Clausen's will handle this;
3. An ADA operator will be needed on the 110 door between the center and the garage, but will not be necessary on the patio door;
4. Paving was done by a Great Falls company. Bret Patrick left the grade on the remaining lot 3" below the paved area. He told Russ Wolfe that it will cost approximately \$20,000 to pave the rest of the main lot (L-shaped area). We will probably use gravel or the paved millings from the airport project;
5. The "schedule" is fairly close to plan per Dave Clausen. Electricians and plumbers will be inside the building this week;
6. Insulation is a "blown-in" fiberglass material;
7. Presently approximately two weeks behind on metal sheeting. Some of the product and trim is still not here;
8. The concrete floors have not yet been sealed;
9. The building inspector has been here twice per Tracy;
10. The framing is approximately 98% done per Tracy. All truss-clips are installed and some of the "tie-downs" are done.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 27th, at 9:00 AM.

The Commissioners, Russ Wolfe, Betty Marshall, Harry Heimbigner, Rod Keith, and Julie Gagnon discussed tables, chairs, and furniture options. Russ Wolfe brought a sample chair that is being used by the VA Hospitals because of size/arms/sturdiness/comfort at approximately \$130 to \$200 each.

November 30th, 2010 ♦ 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.

BUILDING PROJECT

The Commissioners made a "walk through" at the construction site to check on progress.

GRADER ISSUES

1. On 11-29-2010 one of the county's graders ended up in a steep ditch near Meissner's in the Sweetgrass Hills. Fortunately, the grader did not roll, the operator was not injured, and there was only minor damage to the equipment. However, we had to contract with Irvin Trucking (Shelby) to provide crane service to safely remove the grader from the ditch. An incident form was requested by the Commissioners.
2. Our older JD grader developed an oil seal leak on the exhaust (with oil blowing on the turbo) on 11-29-2010. Good news: this is under warranty and JD is sending a serviceman on 12-01-2010.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in regarding the roads, weather, and other issues. We have an issue with an unauthorized/unapproved culvert that was quickly installed near Tiber View Estates this past week-end by a land-owner. The Commissioners composed some thoughts and recommendations to solve this culvert issue. This information was sent to County Attorney Hugh Brown for his consideration and an official letter from his office to the landowner, David M. Williams. Attorney Brown completed and sent the letter per the Commissioner's specifications on this date.

PAYROLL

The County payroll and withholdings were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman to approve the payroll for payment. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WEED BOARD

The Commissioners presented Marvin Krook with a plaque in acknowledgement of his 15 years of volunteer service on the Liberty County Weed Board.

EGT, LLC

The Commissioners received paperwork from EGT for permission to cross Liberty County roads regarding water service to their grain elevator and hauling plant. Proposed location of the 2" line at 6 1/2 ' depth is approximately 3,000 feet north of Highway 2 on the Laird Road. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the application. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The paperwork was mailed to TD&H.

REPORT FROM ATTORNEY BROWN

A recent decision was made by the Judge on the Cal Kenfield case that he did, indeed, have adequate legal council at the time of his initial trial.

AIRPORT ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioners filed the Annual Report for the Liberty County Airport with 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