

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Tempel is in Helena at the MACo Executive Committee meetings.

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended the MDOT quarterly meeting in Cut Bank. Current construction projects were discussed, as were planned projects through 2015. One of note is the Pugsley Bridge scour project, which will be let in February / March 2011. We were also informed that there will be some "monster loads" coming through Liberty County on Highway 223 to Highway 2 to north Galata Road approximately December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Liberty County Commissioners agreed to e-mail contact names and information on the two future loading elevators to MDOT District Administrator, Michael P. Johnson. He anticipates they will need right-of-way pull outs and/or turning lanes to accommodate big trucks.

**DES**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman met with Toole County Commissioners, Ed Gierke and Darrel Stafford to discuss current progress by our DES coordinator in this year's schedule. Annexes, appendices, and training exercises are being worked on and scheduled as planned.

**AMBULANCE BIDS**

The Commissioners received one bid for a new ambulance from MED-TEC. The bid was for a Model #PD-168, 2010 Ford E-450 Chassis as follows:

Ambulance as specified .....	\$125,150
Option 1: Paint job with metallic paint and striping.....	\$131,404
Option 2: Alternative reflective striping system.....	\$128,150

After discussion with Yvonne Hunnewell, she informed us that the EMS grant for a new cot (approximately \$12,900) was rejected (mainly because our service area is located too close to a hospital!). Yvonne will do further research on a possible grant from Triangle Telephone.

The Commissioners looked over the ambulance "cash report" to confirm our funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman that they accept the bid from Med-Tec (option 2) for \$128,150. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, and the motion carried. The Commissioners telephoned Mark Balch to confirm the purchase.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues:

1. The turbo issue has been repaired on the John Deere;
2. Dave Williams called about the culvert installation. He will complete the permit form and guarantee the restoration to the original project.

**CDBG**

Rod submitted a request for funds from the CDBG for \$100,401.63. Larry and Rlynn signed the form.

**TRANSIT PROGRAM**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to authorize Rod to make application for a transit grant for operating and capital assistance from Montana Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2012. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the Transportation Coordination Plan for Liberty County Transit for fiscal year 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, and the motion carried.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekierre was in to discuss purchasing a newer weed "land tamer". The subject was tabled for now.

**CUSTODIAN**

Ruthann Norick was in to show us literature on vacuum cleaners at the Hi-Line Hardware store. The Commissioners approved the purchase of a medium-priced model.

Ruthann requested time-off for her daughter’s wedding (January 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011). The Commissioners contacted Jacob Knapton, who will call Ruthann regarding covering for her in her absence.

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING**

The monthly Cemetery Board meeting was held on 11-03-2010. The bills were paid. Terry Thielman reported that the local cemeteries are winterized.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Tempel is in Helena at the MACo Executive Committee meetings.

**LEASE OF COUNTY FARM GROUND**

Liberty County presently has a 5 year lease ending 01-18-2011 with Martin K. Lyders (of Lyders,Inc) for county-owned farm ground located west of the airport. Mr. Lyders sent a letter requesting continuation of this lease, and offered an increase from \$15 / acre to \$20 /acre on the 210.9 cultivated acres (totaling \$4,281 / year). The Commissioners sent copies of the lease / letter to the County Attorney for advisement.

**ELEVATOR LOADING FACILITIES**

The Commissioners contacted Michael Johnson at MDOT and gave him the contact information regarding Gavilon and EGT.

**MONTANA GRAIN GROWERS**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Montana Grain Growers meetings in Great Falls on 12-3-2010 to offer community support to agents of Gavilon and EGT in their proposed projects in Chester.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

A conference call to Commissioner Tempel was placed, with considerable discussion on the purchase of a 2008 Land Tamer II, Amphibious 8X8 RAV, Turbo diesel, 100-hours on Deutz engine, with aluminum hull, and warranty through 8/30/2011 for \$18,500 plus our “trade-in”. Our “trade-in” is a 2005 Land Tamer with approximately 450 hours. We paid \$35,000 and it was a demo with 75 hours when purchased; current estimated value is \$20,000. Quick calculations show a depreciated value of \$15,000 (Purchase 35,000 less trade-in 20,000) divided by 375 hours production = cost of \$40/hour. We currently charge \$50/hour plus operator’s salary; therefore, it’s essentially been a break-even operation for us on the Land Tamer. We decided to upgrade to the 2008 model. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2008 Land Tamer as described. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman reviewed the annual packet and current minutes of the Liberty Medical Center. A current issue is the purchase of a new Olympus colonoscope for \$147,000 plus (through funded depreciation), less trade-in allowance of \$5,000 for old equipment. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to authorize LMC to trade-in the old scope. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Hendrickson will attend the monthly LMC meeting tonight.

**TIBER WATER PROJECT**

Tom Montgomery stopped in to update the Commissioners on the Tiber to Rocky Boy Water Project. They have completed approximately 12 ½ miles and should be done in Liberty County in July of 2011. They are presently looking to screen/acquire approximately 60,000 yards of sand for the next phase, which has been approved for next summer in western Hill County.

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for approval. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the current claims for payment. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**LEDGER WATER LINE**

The Commissioners telephoned Kadmas Lee Jackson Engineers to discuss a snow removal issue on their water-line work on Dug Out Road. They're piling snow from one ditch to the other as they're excavating the cleaned-out ditch, which will present a problem for us in future snow removal. They agreed to solve the problem.

**ROAD APPROACH**

The Commissioners received the permit for permission to construct a road approach and culvert on the South Tiber Road from David Williams (see minutes dated 11-30-2010). Commissioner Rockman made the motion to authorize the approach and modification. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**4-H CAMPGROUND**

The Commissioners received a copy of a letter to the Montana 4-H Center at MSU regarding liability issues at the Liberty County 4-H Campgrounds new Whitlash. The letter is from Attorney Brian Lee, who represents 3U Cattle Company (AKA, the Bob Thompson family), who own the land where the campground exists. The question set forth: Who is liable for potential injuries at the campground: 1) 3U (the owner), 2) Sweetgrass Hills 4-H Club (the lessee), or 3) Liberty County?

Research revealed the following:

- A. Liberty County does not own or have any interest in the land or site;
- B. Our insurance agent (Wood Insurance) and/or MACo does not want any ownership or responsibility, if at all possible.

**CONSTRUCTION SITE**

The Commissioners made a weekly walk through at the Senior Citizen's construction site. Things are progressing.

**COUNTY SHOP**

The Commissioners made a visit to the county shop to check on activities there. They also examined three old Kawasaki generators for possible sale (obsolete declaration).

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ♦ Thursday**

Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman and Shawn Norick met with three representatives of the Gavilon Grain LLC (which included project manager, Brian Carleton) at the proposed construction site (west of Marty Lyder's and east of the Whitlash Road and north of Highway 2). They gave us a simple drawing (sketch) of the proposed plans and a photo of the proposed elevators. We provided names and phone numbers of area gravel resources. We also advised that they contact MDOT regarding turn-off's, the FAA regarding approval on local flight paths, and the Town of Chester regarding water lines, etc.

The Commissioners authorized and signed three approach permits off the Whitlash Road with appropriate culverts/etc. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. Motion carried.

Gavilon is going to start moving dirt as soon as possible. It was a very positive meeting!

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

Present for the monthly department head meeting were the three Commissioners and six department heads. Items discussed:

1. Unresolved issues at 4-H Campground;
2. Progress on "Angel tree" Christmas program;
3. New District Judge Boucher will be her January 19<sup>th</sup>;
4. There will be a DES exercise involving the Courthouse staff on January 11<sup>th</sup>;
5. The Gavilon public meeting will be held January 5<sup>th</sup>;
6. A new ambulance has been purchased.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Commissioners received a letter from Jennifer Hass of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection that reports that potential future border security activities are best met by evaluating the results of their PEIS (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements).

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CERTIFICATION**

The Supreme Court requested a certification of J.P. election be signed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to certify the form. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The form was given to Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley for disposition.

**COUNTY LAND LEASE**

After researching our options on our county land lease, the Commissioners decided to re-negotiate the lease with Marty Lyders. The Commissioners agreed to \$20/acre X 210.9 acres = \$4,218 per year. This lease is the land near the airport south of Highway 2. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to offer this lease to Mr. Lyders. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Hugh Brown is to draw up the necessary paperwork.

**MDOT**

Tom Stuber of Montana Department of Transportation stopped to inspect the Transit Facility, so the three Commissioners accompanied him on a quick tour.

**4-H CAMPGROUND**

Jesse Fulbright came in to report on the 4-H Campground:

1. The State will not insure any property that they do not own;
2. If the owner decides to private insurance, the local 4-H group may decide to reimburse him;
3. Owner may seek out "recreational" insurance (rider policy) which may be more expensive;
4. Current electricity bills at the Campground are being paid by the local 4-H'ers;
5. The donation box at the campground varies from \$800 - \$1,500 per year.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll was submitted for approval. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the payroll for payment as it has been presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**AIRPORT PROJECT**

The project is complete. Three claims were submitted for approval: Robert Peccia & Assoc = \$62,808.95, Knife River of Kalispell = \$858,583.69, and the Department of Revenue = \$8,672.56. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve these claims, which will be forwarded to the FAA for processing. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekierre was in to have Commissioner Hendrickson sign the title for the trade-in Land Tamer.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The annual Public Health contract between Liberty County and Penny Walston was submitted for review (contract was submitted late and dated 9-1-2010). After review and clarification by Penny, Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve this contract through 9-1-2011. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**STATE SENATOR AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

State Senator Llew Jones and State Representative Rob Cook stopped by to discuss Legislative issues for the upcoming Legislative Session. They stated that the State will have to make cuts in all departments due to budget outlook.

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

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

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Chairman

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Holly Frederickson was in to discuss a few items:

1. She joined the MT Magistrate’s Association at a yearly fee of \$200 (her budget will reimburse);
2. She would like to purchase a judge’s robe (recommended at her training);
3. She would like the clerk kept on staff for at least 3 months, then make a decision regarding need;
4. She has to name / designate “substitute” judges;
5. Her training was fabulous!;
6. She would like to spend December 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in the office to familiarize herself with computers, files, etc.

**OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to declare two of the Kawasaki generators (1200 watts) obsolete. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The best one of the three generators will be kept on hand. Shawn Norick was notified of the decision.

**SPECIAL BOARDS AND DISTRICTS**

The Commissioners composed a letter to our special boards and districts requesting vital information regarding by-laws, etc. to update our courthouse files.

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

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

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Chairman

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.

**EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright brought in a copy of the Liberty County Extension's Annual Report.

**LIBRARY**

Teresa Fenger was in to discuss several issues:

1. They will be getting six new computers (1 Mac and 5 PC's) and a new powerful router this coming year via the Bill Gates Grant. Savings to the County is approximately \$10,000;
2. The new Library lights and suspended ceiling project is planned for early 2011. The cost will be approximately \$10,000, which will be paid by profits from their espresso coffee sales;
3. We discussed the pros and cons of the Testing Center and issues with Pearson's. The center will stay operational through the legislative session.

**LAND LEASE**

Martin Lyders stopped in to sign the updated lease on the county land west of the airport. Copies were given / filed. Marty also visited with the Commissioners about the Gavilon elevator project.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues.

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Commissioner Tempel announced his appointment to the MACo Information Technology / Telecomm / Interoperability Committee for this coming year (via official letter from John Ostlund).

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT**

Annmarie Robinson and Paul Tuss from the Bear Paw Development Corporation came in to visit about potential loans / grants / programs to accommodate any special water improvements at the two proposed elevator / grain loading systems. Two CDBG (grants), one named ED is based on job creations and one named EDA is based on public works, are available; however, the two companies must provide financial statements, employee and performance histories, etc. to qualify. There might be a few small dollar, low interest loans to cover survey costs, engineering fees, etc. by the city. The Commissioners aren't requesting anything at this time other than helpful information. Others present at this meeting were Jim Ghekiere, Rachel Ghekiere, Noel Walston, and John Kleinsasser.

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION**

At the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Board of Directors meeting of the Bear Paw Development Corporation, a resolution was passed unanimously that strongly opposes the executive budget recommendation by Governor Schweitzer to transfer funding from the TSEP to the state's general fund. These endowment monies totaling approximately \$17 million were used for important infrastructure priorities in Bear Paw's service area.

**MDOT**

Mick Johnson of the Great Falls MDOT returned the Commissioners call. The two grain-loading facilities will have to work with MDOT to establish turning lanes and pull-off's (depending on traffic count surveys, etc). The expense on this highway work will be the responsibility of the two facilities.

**SENIOR CITIZEN'S PROJECT**

The three Commissioners made an on-site visit to check on progress at the project.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**December 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**EXTENSION SERVICE**

Jesse Fulbright came in to discuss a few items:

1. Dave Phillips will be here January 25<sup>th</sup> to do his annual performance evaluation with the Commissioners on the extension agent;
2. Jesse is planning a public Salsify Meeting at the firehall on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners telephoned Yvonne Hunnewell to reserve the firehall;
3. Jesse is organizing a County Extension Advisory Council to help ID county program priorities. He's looking at approximately 10 different organizations for potential representatives.

**COURTHOUSE BOILER**

A valve on the courthouse boiler is leaking. The Commissioners contacted Holt Plumbing, who presently is working at the Senior Center project. They will bring a new valve on 12-29-2010 and make the necessary repairs.

**CDBG FUNDS**

A request for funds through the CDBG program was submitted for approval (totaling \$79,353.33) via Annmarie Robinson. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to authorize this request. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. There was also an e-mail that reports we will need an additional \$18,762.06 from our local funds.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues:

1. The oil sample from the grader was OK;
2. Of interest is the fact that there are water valves in the ditches in the County right-of-way off Road 366; these valves are barely out of reach of our plow blades. Was there ever an easement for this? The Commissioners telephoned Tom Montgomery, who will have the engineer call next Tuesday. Shawn will provide photos;
3. In addition, several signs (including a yield sign and road ID signs) were never replaced by the NCMRWA during their excavations.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll was submitted for approval. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the payroll for payment as it has been presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**LIBRARY**

A concerned citizen was in to discuss the one-hour limit rule on library computers. She doesn't know the exact reason for the ruling; but feels there should be exceptions. The Commissioners visited with Teresa Fenger at the Library.

**AIRPORT PROJECT**

Federal funds were finally received, so all monies were disbursed to the creditors of the airport projects as follows: 95% paid by the Federal Aviation Administration (\$885,207); 5% paid by Liberty County (\$46,590); Total paid comes to \$931,797.

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

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

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Chairman