

December 2nd, 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, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Hendrickson is attending a MACo meeting in Helena.

LEPC

Nine (including Russ and Rlynn) members present at monthly LEPC meeting. Darrell has ordered new routers at \$200.00 each for the 5-county district. Tara reports 6 transfers to Great Falls this past month and Ebola training at LMC. Marc Holmes reported the finished repairs on the Pugsley Bridge. Jason W. reports recent training at the Fire department, specifically inspecting the LMC physical plant for fire safety. Jim G. reports the e-dispatch on the cell phones is now in operation. There's also "play back" option on the cell phones re: emergency paging. Generators for Senior Center (\$60,000.00 gas) and CJI HS (\$120,000.00 diesel) are being researched by Darrell. The newest AED is now in Joplin per Tara. Kim and Glen will monitor the unit on a monthly basis.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Liberty County Council on Aging meeting with 12 other members. Treasurer's report shows total balance of \$23,065.00. We recently received \$981.00 in bus donations (2 large donations and many smaller gifts)! The Council on Aging is providing soup(s) for sale at the Christmas Stroll tomorrow. A motion was made/ passed to invest another \$10,000.00 into Scottrade accounts.

TAC

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Liberty County Transportation Advisory Committee meeting with 7 other members. Glenda reported that our new grant for fiscal year 2016 will be \$93,538.00 for MDT. In addition, she is making an application for a new bus for fiscal year 2016. The committee approved. Glenda also provided a statistical sheet that compared the 1st and 2nd quarters from 2012-present showing miles traveled, number of passengers, cost/mile, cost/passenger, etc.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss Senior Center issues. She asked for official approval on the following:

1. MDT Transit grant for fiscal year 2016 is \$93,538.00. Motion by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman, motion passed to approve acceptance/terms of this grant.
2. Permission to apply for a new bus for fiscal year 2016. Motion by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman; motion passed to authorize Glenda to follow-up on this request.
3. Approval of the 2016 Transit Co-ordination plan: motion by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

COURTHOUSE FURNACE

The furnace that heats the north side/first floor of the courthouse failed to fire again on 12-1-14, so "All Season's" (Shelby) was called for service. Commissioner Rockman met with the service man, who is "frustrated" with this furnace, which he says is a late 1990's vintage Trane that has 3 major components that control the unit. The gas pump is very "touchy", so the unit is not running properly. We asked him to send us a bid for a new furnace. Quote for new unit (95% single stage Lennox) arrived 12-2-14= \$4,350.00.

PERMISSION TO BE ABSENT FROM THE STATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to grant permission for Holly Fredrickson (JP) to leave the state for several days beginning 12-3-14.

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 3rd, 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.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. At our request, Marc prepared a letter to Kurt Kammerzell to address possible solutions on his controversial road. Pugsley Bridge repairs are now done. Two other bridges (Broadhurst's and Cheek's) will need wood repairs in the spring. The airport snowplow pickup (diesel) has apparently been run without an air-filter the past two seasons. Marc is looking to purchase a "pickup broom" for our skid-steer. He found a 72" demo in Bozeman at RDO for \$5200.00 delivered. Okay to research/order. The Senior Center sander (purchased 11-10-2014 from Pure Bliss Cycle/Conrad for \$349.95) does not do the job as required because there's no agitator. Marc/Jim made phone calls and is dealing on an exchange for a better one (for \$500.00).

CLAIMS

The current county claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, 2nd by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to pay these claims.

AIRPORT

Commissioner Hendrickson completed the required "Annual Report" for the Airport Board to the State. We also conferred with John Kleinsasser on the plumbing supplies used at the airport project for reimbursement to the city.

EXTENSION SERVICES

Jesse Fulbright spent a day manning a booth at the Grain Growers Association meetings in Great Falls. He is planning a pesticide training meeting this spring.

COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The Commissioners minutes dated 12-3-13 through 10-28-2014 were proofread; several simple corrections were made. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to approve these minutes with corrections.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere came into discuss a few items.

1. He spoke with Pure Bliss in Conrad about the Senior Center sander. They will take it back and replace it with a better one with agitator. Price difference is around \$150.00.
2. We discussed a future minor subdivision located on the Bliss Farm (in S.W. Liberty County). Jim has not yet received the survey plat from Cicon's, but will soon. He feels this paperwork should be reviewed by an independent contractor for liability reasons.
3. He offered a "contract" by independent contractor (James H. Yeagley) for our consideration. We will discuss this information with Hugh Brown (County Attorney) on 12-9-2014.

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 9th, 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. Morb Wicks was present for the afternoon session.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. They finally tore down the old wind towers last week. A few roads are "rutty" due to frost heaving and melting. After January 1st the road crew will handle plowing (snow-removal) at the airport runway.

DPHHS

We received correspondence from DPHHS regarding Montana's Aging Plan for re-designation for fiscal year's 2016-2019. It offers 4 options to maintain or re-adjust the services offered by Area III Agency. The paperwork was given to Glenda Hansen for her input.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hansen was in to discuss Senior Center issues. They have a micro-wave that is "acting up" everything else is A-ok.

CEMETERY BOARD

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on 12-4-14. We completed the annual report for the state. We also discussed the PERS paperwork; the computer program is being updated / improved after January 1st 2015.

DES / EMS / FIRE DEPARTMENT

The annual Christmas appreciation dinner was held 12-6-14 for our local volunteers. The three commissioners attended. Tara Hendrickson just received official notification of a \$45,000 grant (includes an extra \$5000 county match) for a new Rescue Truck.

COMMISSIONER MINUTES

All approved minutes were officially signed by Chairman Rockman. The current minutes dated 11-5-2014 through 11-25-2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to approve these November minutes.

WHITLASH SCHOOL

Local citizen, Marcy Fosket, requested all written correspondence regarding the Whitlash School paperwork dated back to 9-11-2012. We gave her pertinent information that we had on file.

SAGE CREEK COLONY

John Wurtz stopped in to express his concern about the north Laird Road. Sage Creek recently had a colony conference and those attendees from Canada couldn't believe the poor condition of this road. John can't understand how the State of Montana can have a surplus budget, but won't pave some of these well-traveled roads. He is willing to make calls to the Governor and other Helena "big-wigs" regarding this plight. We gave him our blessings.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Mayor Noel Waltson stopped in with a “rough draft” agreement between the Town of Chester and the Liberty County Airport regarding water/sewer/garbage services.

GIS / GPS

Gail Shatkus stopped in to visit about the current status of our GIS system. She will attend the CJI School Bond meeting tonight.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

District Judge Boucher “swore-in” the newly elected officials:

- 1. Gayle Dahlen- Treasurer
- 2. Holly Fredrickson- Justice of Peace
- 3. Angel Colbry- Clerk and Recorder
- 4. Dale D. Rigglin- Sheriff
- 5. Maureen Wicks- Commissioner
- 6. Hugh Brown- County Attorney

Not present was Kathy Armstrong- Superintendent of Schools

HI LINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Commissioner Rockman attended a finance committee meeting for the HLHF. The board has 5 major investment accounts that we plan to have an analysis done by Wells Fargo.

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 10th, 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. Maureen Wicks is present as well.

PAYROLL

The current county payroll was offered for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, 2nd by Commissioner Tempel; motion passed to pay these wages.

PUGSLEY ROAD

Jerry Fenger stopped in to report that the Rocky Boy Water Project will be done hauling gravel from his pit (Seidlitz pit) very soon. The road from the pit to South Road 366 needs some maintenance due to heavy load traffic. Marc Holmes was notified.

UNDER SHERIFF PAYROLL

Newly elected Liberty County Sheriff, Dale D. Riggin Jr., who has been a deputy and under-sheriff for Liberty County for around 37 years, has a large pay-out coming for his accumulated/unused sick-leave and vacation time. We visited with Doug regarding his thoughts about this and also called MACO to confirm our options concerning this pay-out.

Options include:

1. Nationwide 457 Plan (deferred fund at \$23,500)
2. VEBA
3. Written agreement for partial payments for tax savings to employee
4. NQDC (Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan), which is setting the money aside in trust with the promise to pay the employee when agreed upon.

CLAIMS

Additional claims were presented for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Hendrickson, and the motion passed to authorize payment of these claims.

MORRISON - MAIERLE

Jay from MM (our IT contracted service) was on site today doing computer updates/installations. He worked on our GIS computer.

SAFETY INSPECTION

Tina Wood (our insurance agent from Wood Enterprises) completed safety inspections on the exteriors of the following county buildings: Courthouse, Library, Sheriff's office, County Road shop, County Weed shop, Ambulance barn, and Senior Center.

Present at the inspection were Commissioner's Larry Hendrickson, Russ Tempel, and (soon-to-be Commissioner) Maureen Wicks.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Our Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Penny Walston, stopped in to say that she may have to resign from her position due to continued requirements/restrictions in her role as an independent contractor.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to discuss weed issues. He is presently working on the bidding process for next season's BOR weed work.

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 16th, 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, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Maureen Wicks was also in.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. Friday, December 12th, was a very warm day and there were many truckers taking advantage of the nice weather, but unfortunately, the Whitlash and Tiber Roads suffered with major ruts (now frozen!). The snow fence is now up at Thorson's and Moffet's. Marc has put in a sign replacement order to beat January 1st prices. The crew is hauling gravel to the north Whitlash Road this week. Reportedly, a gravel crusher (O'Brien) is coming to the Mark Wickum pit this spring. Trey Marshall is presently "out-of-commission" due to minor injuries from a car accident.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

Jim Briden stopped in to visit about airport issues. Bill Burkland of Peccia and Associates sent an email asking to continue as our Airport representative (in his role as professional engineer). He also asked that we address any "Task Orders" for 2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, 2nd by Commissioner Tempel, and the motion passed to accept both requests of Burkland. The paperwork was signed and forwarded to RPA.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to discuss Senior Center issues. She reports that the Senior Center fire sprinkler system is supposed to be inspected once a year and hasn't been done for 2 years; an inspection will come this spring.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Kathy Armstrong, Liberty County Superintendent of Schools, put in a request to establish a "g-mail" account to receive several links/messages from OPI. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, 2nd by Commissioner Tempel, and the motion passed to approve this.

GARNISHMENT ISSUE

The Commissioner's made a call to MACO legal counsel, Mike Sehestedt, to obtain information about our legal obligations regarding garnishment of employee wages. He referred to MCA section 25-13-614, which sets the limitations on garnishment. The first multiplying factor is 30 times the current Federal minimum wage (\$7.25) which computes to \$217.50; this is the gross weekly wage that cannot be garnished. The second factor states that 25% of "disposable earnings" can be legally garnished [hypothetical example: Employee makes \$13.00/hr. X 40hrs/week= \$520.00 gross salary/week. If withholdings total \$100.00, then the disposable earnings would be \$420.00/week. The 25% garnishment on the \$420.00 computes to \$105.00/week!]. Mike says there is no "pecking order" on these writs (i.e., district court levy's vs. justice court). If there are 3 active writs (hypothetically) that are being paid at the total 25% max, and a 4th writ is filed, this 4th writ must sit in limbo without payment until one of the original 3 is either paid-off and/or expires. At that point, this 4th writ can be processed for payment. If the expired writ is re-issued, then it sits in limbo without payment until the next opening.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a judgment writ for \$729.37 for one of our county employees. It was given to our payroll clerk for garnishment action. This writ expires on 4-9-2015.

BOILER INSPECTIONS

The boilers at the courthouse and sheriff's office were inspected on 11/3/2014 by Dennis HSB, and permits were issued.

MT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

An email revealed that 57 officers (including Liberty County Deputy Jim Hofer) recently graduated from the MLEA. The email stated that Jim Hofer received the "Paul Williams Award", given to the officers in each class who provided great inspiration to the staff and students through a display of unwavering dedication and determination. Congratulations, Jim!

TAX APPEAL BOARD

We confirmed the following new Tax Appeal Board members: Carol Fulbright to replace Bob Mattson as a board member and Kathy Armstrong to replace Myrna Gjesdal as board secretary.

CLAIMS

A few late claims were submitted for approval. The motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, 2nd by Commissioner Rockman, and the motion passed to pay these claims.

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 23rd, 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. Maureen Wicks was also present.

COUNTY SALARIES

The current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to pay these wage.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. The crew is presently hauling gravel. The sign order is in; the cost is \$1,700 for signs plus delineator posts. The steel for cattle guards has been ordered at a cost of around \$9,000. The new broom is in at Great Falls; will pick-up next trip down with a trailer.

JUVENILE PROBATION

We received an \$80 restitution check from juvenile "J.D." for previous vandalism damage to the Chester Cemetery shop. The check came from the 12th Judicial District Youth Court and was offered to the Liberty County Cemetery District for posting.

CTEP PROJECT

We received a CTEP agreement from Bear Paw Development Corporation which refers to the "Transit Shelter" at the Liberty Community Center. The CTEP account is for a total of \$45,000, of which \$6,039 is local matching funds. The breakdown of the expenditures are \$3,600 (preliminary engineering), \$1,350 (construction engineering), and \$40,050 (actual construction funds) = \$45,000 Total.

Glenda Hanson reviewed the agreement. Commissioner Tempel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, and the motion carried to approve / sign the paperwork.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss Senior Center issues. The State Fire Marshall wants the hood alarm wired into the fire department alarm system. The estimated cost for wiring and labor will be around \$700.

GIS / GPS

Gail Shatkus, Bradey Hawks, and Peyton Cole stopped in to work on the GIS computer at the courthouse. Jim Ghekiere provided a password / username for them.

DNRC

We received three "Right of Way" applications (#16721, #16722, #16723) from DNRC which confirm payments for three executed easements on various Liberty County roads (including easement #D-14921 for \$1,885, #D-14922 for \$3,500, and #D-14923 for \$255).

PUBLIC HEALTH

On 12-20-2014, Commissioner Rockman was requested by Penny Walston to sign a request for a "health officer's authorized representative", which states that the lead sanitarian for Liberty County will answer to the Health Officer (presently, Dr.Gladys Young) regarding Liberty County Public Health issues.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

The Commissioner's minutes dated 12-2-2014 through 12-16-2014 were offered for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, and the motion carried to accept these minutes with correction of one simple spelling error on page 344.

MT FISH / WILDLIFE / PARKS

Commissioner Tempel attended a landowner's meeting with Fish Wildlife and Parks at the Whitlash Hall on 12-22-2014. They discussed block management and the beaver situation near the 4-H campground.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly LMC Board meeting on 12-17-2014. LMC voted to renew their contract with Sanford (contract for three years, new terms and verbage is being revised). LMC's final audit showed a year-end loss of \$40,000.

PROPOSED ROAD EASEMENT

County Attorney Hugh Brown produced a proposed road easement between Liberty County and Doug Demarest regarding the stretch of road just north of Whitlash located on Demarest property. We would like to get this easement from Demarest's to eliminate any future issues. We've offered a few concessions to him regarding the fenceline and liability.

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Gerald Schuhmacher stopped in to ask if we would / could close a county road (the southern stretch of 1500 E. Road), because it recently has been overused / abused by hunters. We responded in the "negative" and suggested he try the "No Trespassing" scenario.

EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright stopped in to give us copies of his 2014 annual report brochure.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

Patrick Wicks stopped in to see if there are any unresolved issues on his hangar project at the airport. He reported that Cliff Nelson was doing some contract digging and hit the electrical line to the runway lights again.

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 30th, 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: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Maureen Wicks was also present.

AIRPORT CONCERNS

The runway lights are presently inoperable due to a cut electric line near the Wicks' hangar project. A helicopter "mercy flight" came to Chester on the early morning of 12-26-2014 to a dark tarmac (solved by temporary lighting provided by EMS). Calls were made to Cliff Nelson and Dale Pimley to expedite these repairs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CENTER

On 12-23-2014 Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman and Maureen Wicks met with Mary Ann Zorn, Jesse Fulbright, Mike LaFrentz (committee members), and Paul Tuss (Bear Paw Development Corp) to discuss their survey results, any grants or other funding that might be available to pursue this project, and where to go from here. Mike LaFrentz will develop a power point presentation for the annual Liberty County Chamber of Commerce dinner in January to see if they can "spark some interest" by the Chamber, and then go from there. Thanks to Paul Tuss for his time and expertise at this informative session.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

The Commissioner's minutes dated 12-23-2014 were officially approved via a motion from Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried.

DENNING, DOWNEY AND ASSOCIATES

We received our "signed" contract from DDA (auditors) for the audit period dated 7-1-2013 through 6-30-2016. They also sent information regarding the audit report publishing to the local newspaper by the Clerk & Recorder.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

We received additional correspondence from Robert Peccia and Associates (via Bill Burkland) that addresses the "Categorical Exclusion" and "Sponsor Certification" for our 2015 Liberty County Airport project. A motion by Commissioner Tempel, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson was made and the motion carried to approve this agreement.

"QUARTERS FROM HEAVEN"

On the morning of Friday, December 26th, between the hours of 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM, we discovered \$477 of quarters on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse. The Liberty County Sheriff's Office was called to investigate.

ROAD

Marc Holmes was in and updated the Commissioners on the roads. The crew has about one mile left just south of Whitlash. The crew is also currently busy working on targets for the shooting sports, and working on rebuilding the packers.

LIBERTY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

The CEO of the hospital was in to talk with the Commissioners about Public Health staffing. Also talked about was the Hospital's new contract with Stanford Health; it is a three year contract.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson updated the Commissioners on what is happening at the center. They have been experiencing some transportation issues. She has visited with the parties involved, and hopes that the issue has been resolved.

HIGHWAY 366

Craig Henke was in to visit with the Commissioners. He inquired about getting some gravel on Highway 366.

EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright visited with the Commissioners about the 4H campground. The 4H council is meeting on January 9th. Jesse shared the agenda for the meeting.

WEED

Jim Ghekiere has now received both of the weed grant funds. He updated the Commissioners on the Bear Paw Development meeting. They are changing the way that they handle their billing.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman