

March 1st, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

LEPC

The monthly LEPC meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson attended the quarterly TAC meeting and Council on Aging meeting. The fund-raising project is in full-swing; local business will be called by the committee.

SKID-STEER INQUIRIES

Dean Heydon from Moody Implement dropped off a bid on a new JD skid-steer. Commissioner Hendrickson made calls to Frontline Ag and RDO and Titan and Tilleman's regarding inquiries.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss current road issues. New snow and winds are presenting continued problems. They are presently testing a JDeere skid-steer provided by RDO. Shawn needs to see our Justice of the Peace about a young defendant needing to fulfill "community service" hours.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Linda VandeSandt called to request a special Board of Health meeting to discuss the State's funding cuts in the Tobacco Use project. Hugh Brown will set the meeting for 10:00 AM on Friday, March 4th.

LIBRARY

Teresa Fenger stopped in to update the Commissioners on library projects:

- 1. The new lights and suspended ceiling are being done soon by Jim Brown and Dale Pimley. We will be keeping some of the old light fixtures, ballasts and bulbs;
- 2. Six new computers (via a grant) are soon to be installed. Two of the better older ones are going to the Liberty Arts Center and the Senior Center. The others are in poor shape.

DES

Yvonne Hunnewell stopped in to talk about the potential of future flooding due to heavy snowfall. She checked with John Kleinsasser at the city, and he has approximately 2,000 sand bags on hand. Yvonne will call Ed Gherke and order 500 more. She also spoke on behalf of ambulance personnel who now get 1099's for "transfers"; can we withhold taxes in advance to avoid end-of-year tax liability for these personnel?
Answer: We will not withhold because these are volunteers and therefore, may be subject to additional withholdings.

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Hugh Brown offered his inspection / approval of the Certificate of Insurance for coverage at the Liberty County 4-H Equestrian Park. The Commissioners accepted the document and informed Jesse Fulbright.

GAS TAX MAP

The gas tax map was updated and sent to MDOT as requested. The Commissioners added 4 ½ miles to the current county road map.

EXTENSION OFFICE

The Commissioners met with the Extension Agent, Jesse Fulbright, and members of his community advisory committee. Jesse updated the Commissioners on the agency's goals and programs, then had a brainstorming session by those present. Some good suggestions and ideas will be considered by Jesse. The next meeting will be October 25th.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 2nd, 2011 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

SENIOR CENTER

The Commissioners made an on-site inspection of the project prior to an update visit from Tracy McLain (Clausen’s project manager). Tracy reports that they should be out of the building this week; they will return for a few final details (i.e., coat-rack bar, bathroom petitions, office countertop, etc.). The tilers, floor installers, plumbers, and kitchen appliances are being finalized. WAG plans to be here on March 18th for the final inspection.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss the recent snow and other road issues. The Commissioner’s have received numerous calls from concerned citizens about problem roads.

INQUIRY ON OLD SENIOR CENTER

Bruce Jeppesen stopped into ask what our plans are for the old senior citizens building.

SAND

The Commissioners telephoned Craig Henke and contracted for 10 yards of sand at \$7 per yard. They load and we will haul. The plan is to utilize the community service hours (of a young defendant through the Justice of the Peace Court) to fill sand bags for future use.

AG COVENANT

Derek Fraser stopped in to get an Ag Covenant on 60 acres of land. The Commissioners referred him to Hugh Brown for the initial paperwork.

4-H LEASE

The lease for the 4-H Equestrian Riding Arena was scrutinized. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the lease as written. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The lease was signed by Chairman Hendrickson and given to Jesse for Deena Fritz’s signature. The insurance form was also given to Jesse.

LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tyler Streit was in selling tickets for the Chamber Hangar dance. The Commissioners gave him one of the old 37-pound boxes of candy (old bomb shelter supplies) as a donation / door prize.

OLD AMBULANCE

The Commissioners have had no statewide responses regarding the sale of our old ambulance (1991 Ford F350 Wheel-coach), even though we’ve advertised in the MACo newsletter and made numerous calls from tips to various jurisdictions (i.e., Brady, Teton Co., Yellowstone Co., Ron Gleason, etc.). We did receive an offer from a local resident, but decided to advertise it locally to be fair to all concerned. The ad will run in the Liberty County Times on 3-9-2011.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 8th, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

Jim Briden plows the runway and does other chores at the airport gratis. Commissioner Hendrickson will be sending yearly rental statements for airport buildings / hangars. Briden's rental fees are \$500. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel to wave Briden's yearly rent in lieu of services rendered. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CEMETERY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Cemetery Board was held on 3-3-2011. No major issues, just payment of monthly bills.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Lynda VandeSandt requested a special meeting on 3-4-2011. Present for that meeting were Commissioner Rockman, County Attorney Hugh Brown, Ron Gleason, Dr. Young, and Lynda VandeSandt. Lynda is concerned that the State is cutting Tobacco funds (except some to Indian Reservations) through HB2. This is upsetting because this money comes directly from the Master Tobacco settlement and it was passed by 67% vote on a ballot initiative (I146).

Other interesting facts regarding Tobacco:

1. There are approximately 1400 deaths per year in Montana due to tobacco-related causes;
2. There were 39 deaths in Liberty County from 2004-2009 due to tobacco related causes;
3. There were 63 "Quit-Line" callers in Liberty County from 2004-2010; and
4. 1900 calls were made to Montana "Quit-Lines" last year.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson headed up our monthly department head meeting which included a safety training session by Tina Wood. In addition to Commissioner Hendrickson and Tina Wood present for the meeting were Jim Ghekiere, Jesse Fulbright, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Gayle Dahlen, Rachel Ghekiere, Holly Frederickson, Rhonda Pimley, and Rod Keith.

SAFETY MEETING

Tina Wood reports that she has learned that Lincoln County has a great safety committee which is very diversely staffed. They won the annual award presented at the recent MACo Loss Conference. They have sent Tina some information and suggestions for different things to do. Tina suggests that perhaps each Department can volunteer to take a month in which they will be responsible for completing a "Safety Alert" which can be attached to pay stubs at the end of each month. Tina had a list of suggested topics that the Department Heads could choose from.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE PROJECT

Commissioner Rockman and Shawn Norick attended an on-site meeting at the Pugsley Bridge with Warren Kellogg, Scott (engineer), Vicki Sullivan and Jeff Ryan (from the Army Corps of Engineers), Fred Skierka, and Kent Matkin. The project (Phase I and Phase II) was clarified to those present. The Army Corps representative, Linda, indicated they would issue a "national permit" as soon as possible. Phase I will be completed this spring; Phase II is pending additional future funds. Warren will keep the County informed after the bids are approved.

MDOT MEETING

Commissioner Tempel attended a quarterly regional meeting of the MDOT in Shelby. Commissioner Tempel discussed a priority change (paving of 7 miles of 366 versus paving of 4 miles [2 miles each on the Whitlash Road and Laird Roads] to accommodate the two anticipated grain-loading facilities). Commissioner Tempel also discussed improvements to turning lanes on Highway 2 to these two facilities.

Jim Combs of MDOT called later to report that hazards on Highway 2 to the EGT facility are minimal with the lower speeds through town. They plan a chip seal project with a 2-way left turn area in 2013 to mitigate any potential hazards.

TRIANGLE TELEPHONE

Triangle Communications sent a request for an easement for permission to extend telephone services across county property near the new senior center. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the easement. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The paperwork was mailed to Triangle Telephone.

PAYROLL

Current payroll was scrutinized for approval. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the payroll as presented for payment. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NEW HORIZONS

DPHHS sent the Commissioners a letter requesting our service provider be designated for use of the County Earmarked Alcohol Tax money. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve New Horizons Recovery as our designated provider. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The paperwork was forwarded to DPHHS.

DES

Yvonne Hunnewell was in to update the Commissioners on ambulance services, equipment, etc. There will be approximately 7 local people attending the PIO meeting next week in Fort Benton.

CEMETERY SEXTON

Trina Thielman stopped in to update the Commissioners on Terry's condition. Terry hopes to fully recover and maintain his job as sexton. They will meet with the Cemetery Board in April.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues.

SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

Annamarie Robinson stopped in to clarify the current conditions of our funding sources. We have two current bills to Clausen's totaling \$142,047.24. After examining our fund balances, Russ made the motion to transfer \$65,000 from the Oil & Gas Fund (#2899) and \$77,000 from the Commissioner's account in the General Fund into Fund #4041 (which is the Transit Capital Improvement Fund). Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Clerk and Recorder Rhonda Pimley will do a Resolution #11-04 for disbursement of these funds.

RESOLUTION 11-04

WHEREAS, the County by Resolution #10-10 and Resolution #10-11 has obligated certain funds; more specifically \$65,000 from the Oil and Gas Fund (Fund #2899) and \$266,472 from the special reserve money (Fund 1000-410100-921);

WHEREAS, a Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 4041) has already been established for the purpose of building reserves to replace the Liberty County Senior Center and Bus Garage;

WHEREAS, the Senior Center / Bus Garage project is nearing completion and the local match money is now needed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that \$65,000 be transferred from the Oil & Gas Fund and \$77,000 be transferred from the special reserve money, and the total of \$142,000 be added into the Senior Citizens Transit Capital Improvement Fund (Fund #4041) 2010-2011 budget so that the local match money may be expended towards the completion of the Senior Center / Bus Garage project

DATED THIS 9th day of March, 2011

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner



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

ATTEST: Clerk

Chairman

March 9th, 2011 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

CLAIMS

The monthly claims were submitted for approval Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept these claims for payment. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

David Boles and Brandon Frick from NorthWestern Energy stopped in to discuss an easement at the EGT site for installation of a 3-phase system. They plan to bore under Highway 2, the railroad tracks and the county road from the IGA site. Shawn Norick was present for the meeting, so paperwork was provided.

ASI INDUSTRIAL

Nick Larson from ASI Industrial of Billings, the project manager for the EGT project, stopped in to meet with the Commissioners and inquire about the following:

- 1. Permission to cross Liberty County roads (paperwork completed);
- 2. Request to purchase 24-26 feet of 24" diameter culvert (referred to Shawn Norick); and
- 3. Request for a Stop sign off their construction site onto Laird Road (referred to Shawn Norick).

ROAD CROSSING / RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENTS

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to grant two easements as previously discussed, to NorthWestern Energy and ASI Industrial. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CEMETERY TRACTOR

The Commissioners received two sealed bids for the Ford 110 diesel tractor owned by the Cemetery districts. Justin Maki bid \$100 and Scott Swank bid \$250. A bill of sale was made for Scott.

COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

The official Commissioner's minutes from July 3rd through August 31st, 2010 were read and approved with a few minor spelling / typo changes. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve these minutes. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The minutes regarding a special transportation coordination plan and transit grant (dated 12-7-2010) were approved per motion by Commissioner Tempel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rockman, and the motion carried.

STEWART CEMETERY

Butch Wurtz from RiverView Colony was in to ask why the county does not maintain the "Stewart" Cemetery in south Liberty County? The Commissioners responded that it is not officially in our Cemetery District. He has some papers that suggest otherwise and he will get copies to the Commissioners for consideration.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 15, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The three Commissioners are not in the office on this day; however, they were in Fort Benton to attend an all-day PIO (Public Information Officer) conference. Other county employees who attended this training were Holly Frederickson, Yvonne Hunnewell, Drue Ann Lybeck, and Bev Halter. Instructors were Linda Williams (Chouteau County Extension Agent) and Victor Miller (Blaine County Commissioner).

WHEAT COUNTRY ESTATES

The Commissioners met with Ron Gleason, LMC CEO, at 5:30 PM in the Commissioner's office. Ron is looking for direction on the Wheat Country Estates facility. It generates approximately \$50,000 per year in revenue; however, LMC loses approximately \$70,000 per year in Medicare reimbursements due to cost allocations from LMC to WCE. Possible solutions were discussed. Ron will provide cost sheets, employee salaries, etc. for the Commissioners to consider. The Commissioners will meet with him and Hugh Brown at a later date.

RUSSELL COUNTRY

Commissioner Tempel attended this meeting in Great Falls on March 10th, 2011.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting in Havre on March 10th, 2011.

March 22nd, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. The transmission has been replaced in Dale's pick-up. Shawn Norick is considering an extra employee this spring/summer to get the screener going.

MDT

The Commissioners received two letters from the Montana Department of Transportation (via James Combs, P.E.), regarding the two grain terminals in Chester.

1. No traffic hazard mitigation is necessary on Highway 2 at the EGT project on the Laird Road. They may consider a chip-seal job with striping changes;
2. There are definite mitigations being considered on Highway 2 at the Gavilon project on the Whitlash Road. They are proposing an eastbound left turn on Highway 2 with earth work operations, a base course, paving, chip sealing and striping. Estimated cost is around \$85,000 per turning lane (Right turn optional). Cost does not include engineering fees. Proposed work for 2013.
3. Permitting authority to come from the Liberty County Commissioners.

PAYROLL

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

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Classification application was received from the Department of Revenue regarding EGT's construction project, specifying proposed new buildings, conveying equipment, Railroad prep/installation, etc. Gross receipts were estimated. The application is a request for tax abatement.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER / WHEAT COUNTRY ESTATES

A meeting with Ron Gleason, Shari Meissner, and Hugh Brown regarding the Liberty Medical Center and the Wheat Country Estates was held on this day. Discussion items as follows:

1. LMC is losing approximately \$70,000 to \$100,000 per year due to the \$140,000 Medicare allocations and overhead costs attributed to the Wheat Country Estates.
2. Wheat Country Estates actually shows a net profit of up to approximately \$50,000 per year.
3. Would Liberty County consider operating Wheat Country Estates with the following potential terms?:
 - a.) WCE would no longer be leased by LMC, but they could "manage" it;
 - b.) LMC maintenance crew could continue to do repair projects at WCE;
 - c.) All paperwork / payroll costs handled by the Clerk and Recorder can be billed to the Wheat Country Estates.
- 4.. By getting WCE out of LMC's cost report, LMC will eliminate their \$100,000 Medicare reimbursement. In addition, WCE will still have the same profitability.

Conclusion: Shari Meissner will organize a list of the proposed duties and responsibilities of both entities (LMC and Liberty County), a breakdown of the WCE insurance costs (RE and liability), and a thorough accounting of the affected cash flow at LMC without changing the net income at WCE.

SNOW PLOWING

Pete Woods was in to discuss a few taxpayer concerns:

1. Why is the county plowing out private roads (i.e., to farmer grain bins) at taxpayer's expense? It was explained that the necessary research on this issue was completed and it was concluded that we would provide these snow-removal services because:
 - ❖ This was an exceptionally unusual year with show-fall;
 - ❖ Farmer's have wheat contracts that need to be fulfilled;
 - ❖ The 5-6 farmer's who called us for assistance did not have equipment or resources to move the snow;
 - ❖ No local contractors have advertized services for snow removal; and
 - ❖ We charged these farmers for the services rendered (so it was not done at taxpayer's expense); Because Pete stepped forward to offer his personal services, the Commissioners will now refer all inquiries to him;
2. Pete feels that the road crew should be spending more time on snow pile removal on the Whitlash Road in the Sweetgrass Hills;
3. Pete suggests that the fall ditch mowing be done better that it has been, as this will eliminate snow drift problems that we had this year.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 25th, 2011 ♦ Friday

SENIOR CENTER

The three Commissioners were in the office on the above stated date for an initial walk-thru at the new Senior Center site. In addition to the three Commissioners, others present for the walk-thru were Annmarie Robinson, Rod Keith, Gary Jensen, Betty Marshall, Bill Gunderson, Jane Allen, Dave Allen, Dallas Denter, Julie Gagnon, Harry Heimbigner and three from Clausen (Autumn Lineweaver, Tracy McLain, and Tom).

Each imperfection and / or deficiency was documented, inventoried, and identified with green painter's tape. The group returned to the office to compile all the findings. Copies were sent to Clausen's for their use to finalize the job(s)...(via e-mail from Annmarie).

The Commissioners also organized a list of concerns for Russ Wolfe at WAG.

March 29th, 2011 ♦ Tuesday

Only Commissioner Hendrickson is in the office on the above stated date. Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Rockman are in Great Falls attending the annual MACRS (Montana Association of County Road Supervisors) meeting. Monday through Wednesday (March 28-30). Also attending MACRS was Shawn Norick and Justin Maki (Monday through Thursday).

PAYROLL

Via a telephone conference, Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment the payroll benefits and withholding claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PLANNING / WEED SUPERVISOR

Jim Ghekiere dropped off the updated Growth Policy books with Commissioner Hendrickson. He also updated Larry on the Spring weed control plan.

OLD SENIOR CENTER BUILDING

Bruce Jeppesen was in to visit with Commissioner Hendrickson about the old Senior Center building. He is seeking out information regarding Catering Licenses. Commissioner Hendrickson referred him to Sanitarian Karen Salo.

NEW HORIZONS

Alou Horinek was in to visit with Commissioner Hendrickson. She asked if the Commissioners were concerned or aware of any changes that may be needed in regards to Chemical Dependency in the County. She thanked the Commissioners for already sending in the State Survey for money allocations to New Horizon's.

GRAVEL PIT

Commissioner Hendrickson replied by letter to Mark Carlstrom regarding zoning at the Marias Ridge Farms gravel pit. Liberty County currently has no zoning restrictions.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman