April 3rd, 2012 ♦ 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.

LEPC

Due to scheduling conflicts, LEPC was cancelled.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the unemployment insurance. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CICON AND ASSOCIATES

The Commissioners telephoned John about the elevations at the shelter pods. They will get back to us on a price.

CROSSING PERMIT

NorthWestern Energy on 31N, 4E, section 9 is asking permission to bore. Commissioner Rockman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to approve this request. The motion carried.

ROAD UPDATE

Shawn Norick, Scott Ross, Rlynn Rockman, and Russ Tempel attended the MACR's safety meetings on March 28th, 2012 in Great Falls. MDOT would like to stock pile some chips by the county shop for proposed chip seal on US Hwy 2.

AG COVENANT

A request for an Ag covenant was submitted for approval on a parcel of land owned by Roger Shepherd. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to approve the covenant. The paperwork was given to Hugh Brown.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Commissioners telephoned the school to find out if they have had any contact with Gateway. They were told very little contact.

US BANCORP

The Commissioners completed and delivered an equipment finance form to the local US Bank for financing our two new 2012 GMC pickups for the Road Department. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to sign the financing agreement. Total amount financed is $47,810 for a 3 year term. The motion carried.

MACO TRAINING

Commissioner Rockman attended a 5-hour training course sponsored by MACo in Great Falls on March 29th, 2012 dealing with employee medical issues (specifically, FMLA, ADA, USERRA, Work Comp, GINA, and the MT pregnancy statute) and Effective Employee Discipline (documenting the 7-steps of "just cause" and policy procedures). The course was taught by Michelle Puiggari, who recommends the "Holstrom Rule" when in doubt – "CALL JACK"!!

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

April 4th, 2012 ♦ 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.

PAYROLL

County payroll was submitted for approval, including the current pay period dated 3-18-12 through 3-31-12 and approved employees' wages retroactive to the payroll date of 10-21-11. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to approve these payments. The motion carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick, Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman drove out to examine the Buelah railroad crossing. The middle crossing (DOT #059784 West) is probably the logical one to update. A contact call to BN was made.

COUNTY CLAIMS

The current county claims were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to approve the payment of these claims. The motion carried.

JOEL FENGER

Joel stopped in to discuss the current regulations regarding CRP (i.e., the pros/cons of burning, discing, re-seeding required mixture (that probably won't grow), weed accumulation, erosion, disruption of habitat, etc). There is frustration with the State and the Feds, so we agreed to make some calls.

LIBRARY

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Library Board meeting (Peg D., Linda B., Gail M., Penny W., and Teresa F. were present). We proposed that they consider "joining" the county on annual raises, which we will build into their budgets like the other departments. We also discussed the recent audit with the paperwork "dings" that the library received. Teresa reports that she has since been keeping more thorough receipts (shipping invoices, shipping labels, highlighted receipts, and credit card bills) to document everything. The Library board is very supportive of their entire staff and would like to see the Librarian's salary to be at least equivalent with our elected official's deputies salaries. They reported that Liberty County's librarian is paid considerably less than other statewide librarians; we made it clear that Liberty County's elected officials' salaries are also considerably less than most other counties. Because of our recent anticipated revenues from the two train-loading facilities, we feel it's time to do something with our stagnated salaries. We also visited about county employees potentially transferring jobs from one department to another and the ramifications of taking your salary level with you. The Library Board will consider our "good faith" offer and get back to us. We will compose a formal contractual letter after their decision.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Elizabeth Best, a candidate for Montana Supreme Court Justice, stopped in to introduce herself and her platform.

CTEP PROJECT

We received the "bid review certification form" on the CTEP project, namely, the Visitor Info Center at the Lion's Park in Chester [project #STPE 26(20), control #7040]. On opening date of 3-27-2012, the one and only bidder was Greg May Construction, Inc. We reviewed and signed the form and mailed it to BPDC (motion by Commissioner Rockman, seconded by Commissioner Tempel). Motion carried.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting on Thursday (April 5th). Highlights:

1. Liberty County Senior Center will have a booth at the Health Fair on May 30th;
2. There will be an Investment Fraud Workshop at the center on May 3rd at 12:30pm;
3. Glenda Hanson, Tom Ludwig, and Rod Keith will be attending PASS training next week;
4. The center is looking for a heavy duty cart on rollers to accommodate the big TV;
5. Treasurer's report showed a new balance of $81,487;
6. Sage Creek Colony cannot do the cement work in the parking lat as anticipated (due to several major projects scheduled at the colony).

April 10th, 2012 ♦ 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.

LIBERTY COUNTY WEBSITE

Julie Gagnon at the Extension Office is presently updating our website. We will be contracting through Hostgator.com (36 months at $178.20 less discount of $35.64 = $142.76).

NORTHWEST INSURANCE GROUP

We received the annual airport owners and operators liability insurance policy for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman that we accept the $1 million limit without war / terrorist coverage (premium of $1,770 / year). The motion carried.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on Friday, April 6th. Highlights:

1. Hill County Water District is considering an increase in water rates: $5.00 base rate + $2.50 / 1,000 gallons per month. This will affect the Joplin Cemetery expense.
2. The local LDS church would like to serve a complimentary breakfast on Memorial Day. We will call Sean Knighton regarding details.
3.

MOUNT ROYAL TV DISTRICT

Hill County Commissioners sent us notification that Russ Twedt has been re-appointed to the MT Royal TV Board for a 3-year term to March 28, 2015.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. Scot Kuyper will be attending LTAP grader school in Kalispell this week. Jerry Ghekiere and Mark Holmes have taken time off for spousal medical issues. The loader engine is being installed. Grading has been done in the Flat Coulee / Lybeck areas. Shawn and Larry Hendrickson drove to Skierka's on Hwy 223 to watch the installation of a special culvert insert.

ZONING COMPLIANCE

Craig Henke stopped in for approval to opencut mine a sandpit at Section 29, Twn. 30N, Range 7E, which is not zoned. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve the permit. The motion carried.

RSVP

Pat Ludwig stopped in to discuss the RSVP program in Liberty County. Because of funding issues at the Great Falls office, Liberty and Hill Counties no longer receive any monetary benefits (especially, liability insurance for our volunteers) from RSVP. We will do some research on this.

TAXABLE VALUES FROM DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

"Rough" figures for our two new elevators were provided by our Department of Revenue office:

1. EGT = Market Value: $9,150,000; Taxable Value: $7,411,500; Tax rate = 2.63%; Approx. taxes=$194,922;
2. Gavilon = Market Value: $8,600,000; Taxable Value: $6,966,000; Tax rate = 2.63%; Approx. taxes=$183,205.

PAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

As agreed on 2-28-2012 (see Commissioner's minutes), we authorized a payment of $3,333 towards the additional expense on the kitchen furnace / air conditioner at the center; a claim was processed for WAG. Also, we agreed to transfer $1,200 from the Public Health Nurse's funds to the Transit Department for office rental for F/Y 2011-2012.

AUDIT REPORT

We received a copy of the "Audit Report" for F/Y ending 6-30-2011. There are also commissioner responses to the audit findings.

JPT

Gary Hablutzel stopped in with the updated options for our JPT medical insurance for FY 2012-2013. We liked renewal option #4, but will discuss and confirm this with our insurance committee. Renewal option #4 allows for a 3% credit (1% for an extension from our present 2-year commitment to a 3-year commitment and 2% for 70 percent employee participation in educational training), resulting in a new single premium of $594.24 / month. Our current single premium is $577.43.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a letter from R.Henke & Sons, Inc, who are proposing an open-cut mining operation to process 25,000 yards of sand (note: we signed the zoning ordinance permit earlier today). Attached to this letter is a DEQ request for a public meeting.

MAYOR

Noel Walston, Chester Mayor, stopped in to discuss the city/county contract regarding public safety. The monetary amount will remain unchanged.

April 11th, 2012 ♦ 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.

CASCADE COUNTY YOUTH DETENTION

We completed paperwork to apply for reimbursement for a portion of $2,732 that we paid to the CCYD Center for incarceration and care of a Liberty County juvenile.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

The three commissioners met with department heads Rhonda P., Anne M., Rachel G., Jim G., Shawn N., and Dick B. and medical insurance committeeman Scott Ross to discuss the changes and proposals offered by JPT for FY 2012-2013. Changes of note = 1. Free generic drugs; 2. $500 wellness (increased from $400) allowance; and 3. $1,500 towards any colonoscopy (no matter the code). The 2% credit for training will require 70% employee participation. The 1% credit for 3-year commitment will not "lock us in" for 3 years, as we can change insurances if we make up the difference between "paid premiums" vs. "paid benefits". This 3% total credit applies to Renewal Option #4. We asked for a show-of-hands for Option #4, and it was unanimous (except for Dick Burrows, who didn't vote). All present expressed satisfaction with JPT as our insurance carrier.

We also discussed the purchase of a new Canon C5035 printer/copier/scanner for the courthouse. None of the departments present need a printer, so we'll probably offer the old one to the Senior Center.

Department heads present had nothing significant to report.

CLAIMS

County claims were presented for approval. A motion by Commissioner Rockman, seconded by Commissioner Tempel was made to pay these current claims. The motion carried.

JPT INSURANCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman that we accept JPT as our continued insurance carrier for our employee medical insurance for FY 2012-2013. We have selected Renewal Option #4, which offers a 3% credit for educational training and a 3-year commitment. The motion carried. Paperwork forwarded to JPT. The Commissioners will discuss the county's dollar-share contribution to employee insurance at time of salary negotiations in July.

INVESTMENT FRAUD

Cindy Palmer from the Comission on Securities & Insurance sent an invitation for free lunch and an educational movie on securities fraud: open to the public on May 3rd, 2012 at 11:30 AM at the Liberty County Senior Center.

LETTER TO LIBRARY

We typed an official proposal to the Library Board (regarding our meeting on April 4th) and delivered it to Peg Duffin for consideration.

GAVILON

Vigen Construction called to report that their crane is now gone and "out of our airspace".

JON TESTER REPRESENTATIVE

Maia Aageson, Jon Tester's Ag Liason, stopped in to discuss ag issues. We hit her hard with CRP controversy.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

April 17th, 2012 ♦ 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.

LOAN

We submitted a loan application to US Bank for the Road Department pickups.

BEAR PAW CTEP

We signed a letter of award for the CTEP Project and sent it to Bear Paw Development.

MY TWO-MED

We will send an e-mail for bullet point to our personnel for participation in training meeting on April 24th.

HILL COUNTY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION

Russ Tempel attended a communications committee meeting in Havre on April 12th, attended by about 25 people from surrounding communities. The biggest concerns were the high cost of radios, licensing requirements, and consistency.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRD meeting in Havre on April 12th. Nothing remarkable to report.

AMBULANCE / EMS

Noel and Penny Walston (and later, James Dahlen) came in to discuss a few items:

1. Possible reimbursement to active ambulance personnel for re-certification fees, which range from $20-$50 / year;
2. Establish a fund for replacement of damaged / destroyed clothing garments of ambulance personnel during service;
3. If there is no current ambulance mill levy, should we establish one to “be ahead of any future mill levy freeze”? We’ve been fortunate that the ambulance department has been self-sufficient;
4. They may have to recruit / solicit some new EMS trainers, as the current staff is getting near retirement ages.

TOWN OF CHESTER

1. Noel Walston reported that the city council is NOT interested in the Lion’s shelter that was purposed to be moved to the swimming pool this summer, so we can make other arrangements for it;
2. We discussed the Inter-local Agreement for the city’s financing of law enforcement from our Sheriff’s office. The contract specifies a 3-year term (July 1, 2012 through 2015) at $60,000 / year. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve and sign the agreement. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the Board of Health meeting on April 13th. We discussed trailer courts, auto graveyards, and decay ordinances. Glacier and Toole Counties are consolidating their rules and regulations regarding trailer courts in anticipation of potential growth due to future oil exploration, so Karen Salo thinks we should be updating our rules, too. Karen does about 24 inspections per year in Liberty County. Karla Kulpas will have a booth at the May health fair and will do blood pressure checks. Hugh Brown (and Sheriff Burrows) will be attending a “law enforcement” forum in Glasgow on April 23-24 that deals with impacts in oil counties.

PAYROLL

The current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve the payment of payroll. The motion carried.

MENTAL HEALTH

Rochelle Beley, MS/LCPC, came in to offer an official letter of resignation, effective May 31st, 2012. She has served as our mental health provider for the past 17 years. She suggested two names as possible replacements: Wanda Diekhans and Kila Wright.

JERRY FENGER

Jerry Fenger stopped in to discuss gravel pits and gave us a copy of his permit application.

SUPERIOR BUSINESS EQUIPMENT

Barry Eastley of Superior Business Equipment had previously showed us their equipment products. Because the main printer in the Courthouse break room (first floor) is getting old, the staff requested a new printer. They are satisfied with a Canon IRC5035 System for $6,407. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to purchase this unit. The motion carried. We called SBE to confirm. Cost of toners and etcetera is $656. Total cost will be $7,063.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

April 24th, 2012 ♦ 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.

JPT / EBMS / TWO MEDICINE

Two representatives (Cyndy Maxwell and Rachel Soulek) from our medical insurance providers were in town today to provide health education to county employees and explain our benefits and assessments, etcetera. Approximately 25 employees attended at least one of the three sessions.

EMS

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly meeting of our local ambulance service Monday evening (April 23) to discuss issues regarding trainers, equipment purchases, reimbursements on education certifications, etc.

SENIOR CENTER

1. The CJI shop class has finished the "memorial wall" at the Senior Center;
2. We received a bid from Electric City Concrete for the parking lot concrete work. It specifies 16,000 square feet at 4.85 / sq.ft. = $13,600.

NEW HORIZONS

Paperwork arrived to designate "New Horizons Recovery" as our state-approved chemical dependency provider. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel for approval. The motion carried. The signed papers were given to Alou Horinek.

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He is scheduling MSHA training on May 2nd and 3rd; he will notify Jeremiah Johnson and Craig Henke for possible participation. The loader is now up and running. The crew is blading throughout the county; some "minor" roads are even being done. They planned to get going on the BOR project soon. The Case tractor lease deal is apparently being offered for another year.

FRITZ AUCTION

Fritz's called to ask if they could have their annual consignment auction on June 23rd. OK with us with proper insurance, etcetera.

NCAAA

Commissioner Rockman chaired an hour conference call for the quarterly governing board meeting of the NCAAA. Highlights:

1. Review and approval of FY 2011 Tax Form 990 and FY 2011 Auditor's Financial Statement. Auditor's findings ("dings") were discussed;
2. Ratified Allen Underdahl's approval of the FY 2012 CSFP Contract;
3. Discussed use of reserve funds, which we can legally have up to 33% of budget in reserves. Last year we distributed about $62,000 to area centers. Our current reserves are at about $160,000, so we decided to distribute no more than $40,000 / year during the next 4 years to our area centers;
4. A recent e-mail from Charlie Rehbine implied future funding issues and possible consolidation / absorption of area agencies by other funded groups (i.e., disabled).

OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE

We received the official "Option to Purchase Real Property" from John Kammerzell, president of John Kammerzell Farms, Inc., for our approval. The description is Township 32N, Range 6 E, M.P.M., Section 19, etc., which is a piece of land near the west end of the airport runway. The $500 option fee will be paid via airport funds. At the future option date, the land will be sold at "going prices" for similar ag land. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to accept and sign the option as written. The motion carried. Original recorded and copies sent to John Kammerzell and the Airport Commission.

CRP CONFERENCE CALL

The three Commissioners had a 45-minute conference call with Bruce Nelson (USDA), Juan Garcia (Dept of Admin for Farm Programs), and Dick Dayshaw, Amy Weblink and Val of MT State NRCS; to discuss the ramifications of CRP renewal and withdrawal programs.

BOB DENNING

Bob Denning called to address the information we sent him from the library's current record-keeping system. His conclusion is that a credit card receipt, a matching invoice from Amazon books, and an adding machine slip showing the purchases and total is enough proof of purchase. He's sending everything back at no charge!

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman