

April 1st, 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. Commissioner Rockman was available by telephone.

CONRAD

Thad Kaiser, Jesse Fulbright, Mary Ann Zorn, Stan Huhtala, and Commissioner Hendrickson met with Pondera Shooting Sports Club board. The group discussed how they were able to build more building. We will be having a meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss this issue.

ROAD REPORT

Marc Holmes told us of concerns about people not obeying the 35 MPH in construction zones. He has visited with Sheriff Burrows. We also talked about finding some gravel.

EXTENSION

Jessie Fulbright updated us on 4H planning for Demonstration Day.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting in Havre.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel to pay the current payroll. The motion carried.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Yvonne Hunnewell's, Liberty County DES deputy coordinator, funeral services held on this day.

DES

Darrell Stafford requested signatures on the EMPG (grant) for quarterly reports and quarterly reimbursements. OK'ed by Commissioner Rockman.

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

DNRC

We received two right-of-way easements from DNRC that were officially approved. The documents were given to the Clerk & Recorder for filing.

MDOT

We received correspondence from MDOT regarding five bridges in Liberty County, four of which need some minor maintenance repairs. The information was given to Marc Holmes.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Eight Department heads met with commissioners for a mutual update on current activities in their respective offices.

SAFETY MEETING

The following county employee attended a planned safety meeting- Jim Ghekiere, Julie Gagnon, Rachel Ghekiere, Anne Melton, Marc Holmes, Rhonda Pimley, Glenda Hanson, Gayle Dahlen, Jesse Fulbright, and the three Commissioners. We discussed the new safety manual and the suggested use of "Safety tool bit" forms.

CTEP

We called BearPaw Development Corporation to inquire about scheduling another meeting on the CTEP project at the Senior Center. Michelle Turville will keep in contact with Glenda Hanson.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to discuss Senior Center issues. The Council on Aging would like to update their by-laws, so Glenda addressed a few of their proposed changes. Rod Keith has agreed to provide input on this.

DEQ

We received a letter from DEQ requesting reports for 2011, 2012, 2013 that summarize the total yards of gravel mined in each of the Liberty County's certified pits. We did the research, completed the reports, and forwarded them to DEQ.

FINAL PAYCHECK

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, The motion passed to calculate the final payroll check for Yvonne Hunnewell, including salary and entitled benefits. Yvonne died on March 26 2014 and was our current Deputy DES Coordinator.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to show us several models of Data Loggers that register weed spray jobs with GPS, type of weeds sprayed, type of chemical used, etc. Jim had purchased 3 used Loggers from Glacier County at \$300 each, and then traded one of them for \$500 on a new Logger at \$3,100.

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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was to discuss road issues. They graded the Whitlash Road to the 4-H campground; then it got too muddy. Doug Demarest needs to move his fence as promised, so we can start shaping the road to the border. They recently did some work on the Kurt Kammerzell Road per request. A culvert piece is needed at the Streit turnoff. Jim Muskovich from MACO was here last week to do safety training on "Slip/Trip/falls" and fire extinguishers. Muskovich also stopped at the Liberty County Sheriff's Office when he was here. MSHA was also here last week.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Trileaf Corp. sent notification that they were making improvements to the Sage Brush Nemont Tower to make it in compliance with FCC rules and regulations. No action taken at this time.

#### CEMETERY BOARD

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The meter put on the dyke in NW Chester was the main topic. There's a constant flow of ground water into this pit and the city refuses to install the new meter until the pit is dry. There was discussion about abandoning this line and installing a new line from the county shop to the Catholic Cemetery pump house. We also received 2 bids for automating the water system at the Joplin Cemetery (\$5560) and Chester Catholic Cemetery (\$6015) bids are from Dusty's Sprinklers. Other bids will be pursued.

#### SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss Senior Center issues. HRD stopped in yesterday to qualify a new part time employee for wage assistance through their program. Glenda also inquired about our stance on occasional skate boarders using the Senior Center parking lot. No action taken at this time.

#### WOOD ENTERPRISES

Tina Wood stopped in to inquire about our new safety manual and forms. We will have unannounced building inspections on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, we spoke with Tina about the skate boarding issue; she will call MACO for recommendations.

#### LIBERTY COUNTY UNDERSHERIFF

Doug Riggin stopped in to discuss the skate- boarding issue; we'll keep him informed. In addition, Doug did hire Jim Hofer as a Deputy Trainee.

#### SAFETY MANUALS

Julie Gagnon will make 3 more Safety Handbooks (for library, county shop, and senior center). She will also identify the policy manual on the Liberty County website and provide an access link to its PDF file.

#### CLAIMS

County claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to pay these claims.

AG COVENANT

Hugh Brown offered an Agricultural covenant for 40 acres on the Doug Demarest Ranch to be used exclusively for Ag purposes and is exempt from review as subdivision. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to accept the covenant.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE STATE

Commissioner Tempel asked permission to be out of state from April 16-21. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to approve.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss weed issues. 1. He offered a detailed explanation on the expenses incurred in the weed data loggers. 2. He indicated that he would transfer \$1000 from the weed budget and \$1000 from the fire department to help pay for the new hoist at the county shop. 3. The rear axle on the newer fire truck is bent (white crew cab, F-350, License #109).

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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 TRIP

Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson checked out the Freight Road, which reportedly is experiencing heavy traffic due to Canadian grain trucks. The north end definitely needs maintenance work.

#### LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a LMC board meeting on Tuesday night, April 8<sup>th</sup>. An expert addressed the board and the providers on their respective roles to encourage future success of LMC.

#### CEMETERY WATER ISSUE

After examining the dyke water pit with Ted Zorn, the Commissioners sent two water samples to the city for chlorine check to try to identify the water source in the pit. Solution- It's ground water!

#### ENDORSEMENT LETTER

We sent an endorsement letter for Glenda Hanson to be accepted into the Certified Safety and Security officer program at the Community Transportation Association of America. A motion was made by Commissioner Henderickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

#### LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER CEO

The new CEO at Liberty Medical Center, Derek Daily, met with the Commissioners and was introduced to many of the courthouse personnel.

#### ROAD TRIP

The three Commissioners travelled to Joplin to examine the county owned pivot, the Joplin streets for maintenance, the Joplin streets for accessibility, the cemetery road, and the two railroad crossings at Buelow and Wilmes'.

#### PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson asked permission to leave the state for a few days during Easter weekend (April 17-21). A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed.

#### LIBERTY COUNTY MUSEUM

The three Commissioners attended the spring museum board meeting. A list of repairs was submitted to Commissioners.

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. Various crew members are to attend MSHA classes in Fort Benton on April 29<sup>th</sup> and grader school in Conrad on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Road crew are presently grading throughout the county. The Commissioners have received two compliments on the Laird Road this week (and 0 complaints). We will get our "loaner" tractor this week from Torgersons. The road crew is presently discing various trouble shoulders around the county. We reminded Marc to remove the two wind towers when time permits. We also discussed the railroad crossing north of Wilmes'.

#### HI LINE EVENT CENTER

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the committee meeting to further discuss the proposal to build an "event center" in Liberty County/ Chester. The proposal site is county property near the airport.

#### TRIANGLE TELEPHONE

Triangle Telephone wants to put up a wireless antenna near the airport water tower to improve cell service locally. They have a lease with the Town of Chester and an existing easement with Liberty County, but are requesting our approval. Commissioner Hendrickson called Ryan at Triangle Telephone to okay the project.

#### ROY WICKUM GRAVEL PIT

We received a certified letter dated 4-10-14 from Maxine Wickum asking that we release our permit on their gravel pit (identified as Wickum Site Permit #1066).

#### SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson in with Senior Center updates. She brought Northwestern Energy receipts so we can determine the size of a potential generator. Glenda has not heard from HRD about our new kitchen helper. Supper Club will probably be cancelled in May because the cook has

#### EMERGENCY GENERATORS

Darrel Stafford was contacted regarding sizes of generators. Senior Center = 40KW and CJI school = 1000KW. Darrel and a Billings electrical contractor will be in Chester on 4-16-14 to look at both buildings. Grants will be pursued regarding Homeland Security.

#### TRI-COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

C.J. Reickelt from the TCDF came in to request our approval of the annual mutual aid contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to sign the contract.

#### CATTLE GUARD ISSUE

Kent Matkin was in to discuss a sunken cattle-guard at the Pugsley and Broadhurst roads. He has a 16 footer available to replace the bad one. We called Marc Holmes, who will do this job next week when they're in that area doing culvert work.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Marty Wood (our insurance agent) and the three commissioners did annual inspections on five county buildings: courthouse, sheriff’s office, library, county shop/weed shop, and senior center. Appropriate reports were filed in our safety manual.

DPHHS

DPHHS sent us a letter requesting our “choice of provider” to receive designated earmarked alcohol tax money. We visited with Alou Horinek, who confirmed her relationship with New Horizons Recovery, and requested continued support. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to designate New Horizons as our provider. The form was signed and mailed.

JPT

Gary Hablutzel met with us about the medical insurance premiums for our new fiscal year. The good news is we paid \$826,000 in premiums the past three years and JPT paid out \$320,000 in claims during that same period. Therefore, our new premiums are up 7% but we can reduce them to 4% with a 70% participation in the EBMS programs and agreement not to withdraw from JPT if we’re in the red. There will be an additional 1% increase to the State of Montana and a 3% increase to the Federal Government due to Obamacare requirements. Our current policy has a \$1500 “wellness” limit; the new renewal policy will have Unlimited Wellness. We have until May 15<sup>th</sup> to make a decision on the renewal. Gary will provide an additional option for HSA’s.

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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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. Commissioner Rockman was available by telephone.

ROAD REPORT

The road crew is currently blading in the northeast corner of the county. Jerry is helping Vern at the Museum. Electrical issues discussed on John Deere graders.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to pay the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

HOSPITAL BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Hospital board meeting on 4-16-14. The hospital has been having issues with its servers. A new agreement with Sanford Medical is working out very good.

NATIONWIDE

Margaret Volpe- Rodgers, representative of Nationwide, presented their program.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER LINE

Tom Montgomery and David Carlson updated us on the water line.

ROAD GRAVEL

Jerry Fenger stopped by to talk about gravel.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The 1999 Ford F-350 Super Duty Crew Cab was declared obsolete. It will be up for sealed bid.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in about spraying road edges. We talked about chemical rates.

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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### HRD

Commissioner Tempel attended an executive board meeting of HRD in Havre 4-28-14.

#### MAINTENANCE MAN

Vern Holmes was in to discuss a few issues: 1- the courthouse furnace problem is being solved; it's presently running and a new part is on order. 2- Vern updated us on a few maintenance details at the museum.

#### EMS

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly EMS meeting on 4-28-14. The fire department decided to order a new truck to replace the one with the bent frame.

#### JUVENILE PROBATION

We received a check for \$1090 from the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Youth Court for additional reimbursement for damage to the cemetery shop. Payments included \$1000 ("XD"), \$50 ("JD") , and \$40 ("RD"). The check was transferred to the cemetery district.

#### SENIOR CENTER

Glenda updated us on her employees. She also gave us a copy of the Masts service summary report.

#### COUNTY SALARIES

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Henderickson. The motion passed to pay current salaries as submitted.

#### LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Commissioner's sent a "letter of support" to the Town of Chester for their planned upgrades to the city sewer system.

#### TOWN MAYOR

Noel Walston came in to discuss a few issues: 1. Annual swimming pool revenues/expenses= \$9000/ \$45'000; resulting in a \$36,000 deficit. Does the county have any funding sources to help with this? We had a general discussion regarding the matter. 2. The fire hydrant at the airport can no longer be used to fill county trucks due to possible cross contamination of the water system.

#### INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The three Commissioners met with members of the Insurance committee including: Jim Ghekier, Rhonda Pimley, Bev Jochim, Anne Melton, and Julie Gagnon to discuss the new rates, benefits, and HSA's offered by JPT (our medical insurance company) for this next fiscal year. The committee is satisfied with JPT and recommends that we renew for fiscal year 2014-2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed that we renew with Option 4.

We also discussed an optional Dental/Vision program offered by the MACO Health Care Trust, a retirement program offered by Nationwide, and an e-waste disposal program offered by Pacific Recycling.

**STOCKYARDS**

We received a call from Steve Blinko, who would like to meet with us about refurbishing the fencing at the stockyards. The work and reclaiming is negotiable. He will meet with us at 3pm Wednesday (5-7-14).

**PACIFIC RECYCLING**

A collection site for e-waste is scheduled for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**COURTHOUSE JANITOR**

Ruth Ann Norick will be opening the Marina so her last official day as janitor at the courthouse will be May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**WICKUM GRAVEL PIT**

We visited with County Attorney Hugh Brown about our concerns with transferring our permit to the Wickum's per their request. We discussed our "terms of transfer," which Mr. Brown will compose in a written response to the Wickum letter dated 4-10-2014.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman