

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### LEPC

Nine members attended LEPC. Highlights:

1. Weather training will be 6:30 PM Thursday (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) at the firehall;
2. EMS is having training at the EGT elevator on May 20<sup>th</sup> to experiment with the new "extrication shoot";
3. LMC is having a table top exercise for "Instant Command" on May 29<sup>th</sup>; taught by Bret Lloyd;
4. LMC is sponsoring a HAZMAT course (8-hr training) on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the firehall; taught by Bret Lloyd;
5. The new Quick Response fire truck is here;
6. DNRC rural fire grants are due next week per Jim;
7. We're presently well-stocked on pagers/radios and everything is working good!

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the "Letter of Intent" for EMPG grant. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded it, and the motion carried.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss the road issues. Projects needed to address:

- A. Seeding ditches on Tom Graff road;
- B. Replace flag poles at the new Lions Park building;
- C. Grade Jim Grammar road before broam grass gets too tall;
- D. Work on Buelah RR crossing.

The three commissioners and Marc also scrutinized the grader bids without making a decision.

#### EXTENSION

Jesse updated us on the Marias Fair.

#### TAX APPEAL BOARD

We received an official letter from Robert Mattson, offering his resignation from the Tax Appeal Board.

#### COUNCIL ON AGING

Rlynn attended the monthly meeting of the Council On Aging. The Treasurer's report reveals a current account balance of \$22,187.82. On May 28<sup>th</sup> the official announcement of "Senior of the Year" will be made. There are still no drawings/sketches of the planned portico from the CJI industrial arts group. A.T.Klemens has been called to repair the two kitchen server windows (electric garage door mechanisms); surge protectors are encouraged. While here, Klemens will give us a bid on installing a "commercial" wiring system in the dining area. The Commissioners have been asked to write a story for the Times regarding Yvonne Hunnewell and Dallas Denter volunteerism retirements.

#### CJI SENIOR CLASS

Morb Wicks brought her seniors to the courthouse for their annual educational tour. The Commissioners hosted about 15 pupils, who learned about the roles and functions of the various offices regarding County government.

**OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT**

The extension office has an old table that has no current use or demand by other departments. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel, to declare this table obsolete; the motion carried. Julie will put it on the county website for sale.

**NEW HORIZONS RECOVERY**

Alou Horinek and Wanda Bennett made their annual presentation to the public in the Commissioner’s office. New Horizons goal is to provide addiction treatment services in a rural setting to the indigent, SSI, DUI, and MIP offenders, minorities, youth, pregnant women, and women with dependent children. Accomplishments this year include evaluations of 9 adults and 2 adolescents, 3 in-patient care referrals, and 8 DUI/MIP classes. They offered their “Service Provider Designations Form” for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve the program for fiscal year 2014. The motion carried. Alou suggested that we call the Center for Mental Health in Havre for potential mental health services.

**CEMETERY**

The Commissioners received a \$55 check from the Juvenile Probation Office from one of the cemetery vandals (“J.D.”). The check was given to Rachel Ghekiere for recording and depositing.

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

The CJI School Board election was concluded on May 7, 2013. Election Administrator, Rhonda Pimley, was assisted by election judges (Pat Seidlitz, Taylor Marshall, and Denise Wanken). The three commissioners were present as election witnesses. Other public attendees were Renee Richter, Rita Chvilicek, Rachel Ghekiere, and Ann Wickum. Total ballots cast were 822. Results to follow:

Gregory Woods = 432 (winner)

Jeffrey Mattson = 491 (winner)

Loren Hawks = 261

Mary Ann Zorn = 374

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### AIRPORT

We sent a requested letter to the State Department of Administration that confirms that the Liberty County Airport Commission has no paid employees.

#### MUSEUM

We examined the updated museum "by-laws", which look good, then took these by-laws to Hugh Brown for suggestions.

#### FIRE DISTRICT

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to reappoint Jim Coffman to Joplin fire district; Fred Skierka and Alan Skari to the West Liberty County Rural Fire District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rockman, and the motion carried.

#### TRI AGENCY TASK FORCE

Richard Burrows provided the Tri-Agency Task Force (the local drug task force agreement for Fiscal Year 2013-14) for our consideration. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve the agreement. The motion carried. Jurisdictions involved in this agreement are Liberty, Hill, Blaine, & Phillips counties, the City of Havre, and Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Indian Reservations.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. We discussed the grader bids and several confusing discrepancies in the bid packages. Because there were changes in interest rates / etc. after the bids were opened, we decided to reject the two bids at this time. We will re-open bidding with a few new specs, and additional trade-in, and 3-year / 4-year lease terms. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to re-open the bids. The motion carried. Both RDO and T-&E were notified of our decision.

#### CLAIMS

The current county claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to pay these claims. The motion carried.

#### JOPLIN ROAD ISSUE

We wrote a letter to Karen Hadford regarding our conclusions on the road issue in Joplin. A copy of this letter and a photo of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is on file at the Commissioner's office.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss the Weed Department. Two young guys have been hired as summer help: Mike Hamel and Erik Kelly. The current crew has been sterilizing various projects and getting equipment ready for road shoulder spraying.

Jim offered the Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant from the Montana Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$31,915 to us for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve this grant, which encompasses noxious weed control in Toole, Liberty, and Hill counties. In addition, Jim gave us a letter for additions / corrections / approval [that will be sent by our fire chief to one of our volunteers to document several incidents of bad judgement].

**MENTAL HEALTH**

We received \$608.34 as the annual contribution to the Liberty County Mental Health that was dispersed from the Liberty County Combined Fund Drive. The check was deposited by Commissioner Rockman into the special bank account at Bear Paw Credit Union.

**CEMETERY**

The cemetery board met on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ted Zorn is getting pre-season work done. He will be utilizing the public service hours of several JD's. Ted got his new mower, a 2013 John Deere 1445 Series II with 63" deck (Serial #1TC1445DHDT130533; Deck serial #1TC1462XLDT130203) = value \$18,500.

**CEMETERY MAPPING**

Mike Henke (CJI senior) dropped out his final map of the Chester Catholic Cemetery for the Info Building on the cemetery grounds.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

Mike LaFrenz and Mike Hilliard stopped in to discuss the construction of the final shelter by Greg May and to visit about FEMA regulations. We have \$22,000 in our "shelter" accounts for this project.

#### **ROAD ISSUES**

The Commissioners received several calls from concerned citizens on May 8<sup>th</sup> regarding several roads that were recently graded – 2000 / 2100 / Bison – but, left in "poor" condition. Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Rockman, and Marc Holmes examined these roads on May 9<sup>th</sup> and concluded that the grading job was definitely subpar, especially on Road 2000. The maintenance operator will be "written up" and sent back to re-do these roads!

#### **HRD**

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRD meeting in Havre on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Nothing significant to report.

#### **GRADER BIDS**

We signed the bid package / specs for the new grader bids. The Times will run the two required ads on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **LMC BOARD**

The LMC finance committee met on Monday evening (May 13<sup>th</sup>) to contemplate revenue issues. Committee includes Larry Hendrickson, Shari Dolan, Brad Kammerzell, Dana Lalum, and Brittany Tempel.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. The employee who did the sub-standard grading on Road 2000 & 2100 last week was reprimanded per written documentation. The paperwork on the tractor lease via Case is being done; we're looking to get two tractors again this year.

#### **PAYROLL**

County payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel, to pay these wages and salaries. The motion carried.

#### **BIDS ON WHEAT COUNTRY ESTATES**

Two bids were submitted to LMC for roof repairs at the Wheat Country Estates. The bid called for removing existing shingles and replacing with a metal roof. The bids were \$49,000 vs. \$89,000! A secondary bid for roof work on the LMC house (CEO quarters) was submitted for \$6,000. Research to be done...

**CHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Letter we "tweaked" for the Fire Department was reviewed and approved by County Attorney Hugh Brown. This letter will be given to a volunteer fireman who continues to use poor judgment and make decisions without advice of his superiors (fire chief and assistant fire chief). Jim Ghekiere will make the corrections to the letter on his computer. We may offer it to MACo legal before sending it to the volunteer.

**MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST**

We made a call to Lea Anne Lewis to check on her status / interest in Liberty County. Per usual a message was left.

**PERMISSION TO BE OUT OF STATE**

Commissioner Tempel would like to be out-of-state from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to grant this permission. The motion carried.

**SUBDIVISION SEMINAR**

Hugh Brown will attend a "Subdivision Seminar" sponsored by MACo in Lewistown on June 19<sup>th</sup>. OK per Commissioners.

**COUNTY AUTO POLICY**

On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Public Health Nurse was driving the county van to Sage Creek Colony and ran out of gas. Bob / Jeff Mattson provided about 5 gallons plus road assistance. A letter was written to Extension Agent Fulbright about due diligence per county policy in keeping used vehicles full of gas after each use. We also visited with Karla Kulpas about the incident. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to reimburse Robert Mattson for \$25 (charge to the Extension Office).

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Penny Walston stopped in to show us the updated tax evaluations for Gaviion Grain, LLC. Market value has increased from \$8,753,343 to \$18,195,187 and the taxes have increased from \$115,608 to \$230,993 (respectively).

While here, we visited with Penny about the Pre Disaster Mitigation plan as it relates to both Public Health and DES.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT LETTER

The letter was corrected, and then forwarded to MACo legal for approval. Mike Sehestedt emailed his approval on the letter.

#### COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve all minutes (with noted corrections and changes) through April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

#### MDOT

We sent official notification to Steve Prinzing (P.E.) of our desire to return to the original scope of work on the Whitlash Road (MT 409) reconstruction project (specifically, paving from MPO to 5.998).

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes stopped in to report that a farmer on Powerline Road requested that our grading crew please not grade this road until we get some moisture. Marc moved the crew to the Green and Mattson roads.

#### ROAD CREW INTERVIEWS

The Commissioners and Marc Holmes conducted three interviews on potential road crew employees: Delbert Hall, Justin Blunt, and Robert Pulst.

Marc Holmes made a recommendation to offer the job to Robert Pulst. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept this recommendation, and Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

Therapist, Lea Anne Lewis (LCPC), sent us a proposal for mental health services to Liberty County. We reviewed it and took a copy to LMC for their approval. Decision to follow.

#### ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. We approved the lease contract with Torgerson's for one Case tractor 225 hours usage: a motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried. A second tractor will be available at a later date.

Marc will contact May Construction to coordinate a date for Dale to do the prep work on the new shelter near the Tiber Marina.

Our new employee (Robert Pulst) is presently working with Charlie on road training.

The Town of Chester bought a used grader. We have an old 12' blade they may be interested in.

#### SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss center issues. Maintenance man, Vern Holmes, successfully repaired the water-line leak to the hot water heater; interesting construction revealed galvanized and brass fittings (made in China) on a copper line. Glenda showed us updates that reveal significant increases in numbers on meals and riders at the center / transit programs.

#### LMC BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly LMC Board meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The main subject of the meeting was the economic status of LMC.

#### MACO / JPIA

We received a certificate of insurance for the eight shelters at Lake Elwell. The structures are valued at \$14,000 each.

#### ROAD REQUEST

Steve Backen stopped in to request that we widen the crossing on the south side of the RR tracks to the Spring Road (about ½ mile east of Hemmer's). He was told by the State Highway Department that the culvert is off their right-of-way. The north side is plenty wide for equipment movement, but the south side needs widening.

#### EXTENSION AGENT

Jesse Fulbright was in to report that there are sightings of pea leaf weevils in Hill County, so they'll probably be showing up here, too.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman



May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 ♦ 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.

#### GRADER BIDS

As advertised, the Liberty County Commissioners received sealed bids for up to four motorgraders from RDO and T&E. Bids were accepted until 9 am and officially opened at 10 am. Those present at opening included Russ Tempel, Rhonda Pimley, Josh Evans (T&E), Kraig Pester (T&E), Jerry Ridgeway (RDO), and Marc Holmes. Comparison figures and decision to follow.

#### JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

We received a \$40 check ("R.D.") from the Hill County Juvenile office as partial restitution for previous damage to cemetery property. The check was given to Rachel Ghekiere.

#### COUNTY PAYROLL

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

#### ROAD INQUIRY / COMPLAINT

Dennis Kenfield stopped in to discuss a road located on the south section line of Section 21, Range 6E, Township 34N. This road is not on the county road map, but has been a common one-lane flat "utility" road for local farmers for 50+ years. Dennis took a farm implement over the road, part of which is on Chet Wolery property (AKA: Lenz Farm). Mr. Wolery called the Liberty County Sheriff's Office to report Dennis was "trespassing" on his property; the complaint stems from previous disagreements between the two men. Is it or is it not a county road and what's the best solution to this dilemma? This information was referred to Hugh Brown.

#### MACO REPRESENTATIVE

Greg Jackson from MACo was here to discuss our JPIA / JPA 2013-2014 renewals. Also present were Marty and Tina Woods and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley assisted with the minutes.

Greg explained that the actual renewal rates have not yet been finalized, although preliminary rates have been established. The Trustees have a meeting scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize the Loss Control Credits. In addition, the rates are pending decisions yet to be made regarding coverage for Cyber Liability. The new rates, for both the Property / Liability Program and the Workers Compensation will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Greg gave a run down on how the Loss Control Credits work. He explained that counties can earn points by attending various different meetings. He mentioned that there are two meetings coming up:

1. June 19<sup>th</sup> – a meeting with Attorneys Tara DePuy and Susan Swimley regarding land use and subdivisions. The purpose is to update counties on changes by the Legislature.
2. The MT Sheriff an Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) Conference is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at the Butte Copper Inn.

Because these meetings are still to happen – the Loss Control Credits have not yet been finalized. The Counties will receive a loss control credit / refund check after July 30<sup>th</sup>. JPIA recommends that the check is used to fund things for the Safety Committee.

Greg also reiterated that the other thing holding up the finalization of the premiums is the Cyber Liability. They would like to be able to provide coverage at least as an option, but, they are having trouble getting quotes from underwriters. Greg further added that the rates are fairly reasonable at this time for Cyber Liability – but, in 5 years they project that these rates will be high. At present, most of the “hacking” is tracing back to Russia. It is typically discovered by the IT people finding a breach in the firewalls. The State currently estimates that it has two million fraudulent hits per day! The Counties will receive notice in the form of a letter regarding the decisions made on providing Cyber coverage.

#### Renewal – Property & Liability Program

Liability Loss Fund – (LLF): They look at a 5 year loss history and adjust the premium up –or- give a credit depending on the ratio. Liberty County currently has a loss ratio of 0% - can't get better than that so, with credits etc. we received a reduction – Liberty and Prairie are the only two counties with a 0% ratio.

Property Loss Fund (PLF) – Most of the claims seen in this category are primarily physical damage to vehicles and some equipment. The Trustees have voted to up these premiums for everyone. Only 5 counties, which include Liberty, had no change. Primarily, the small increase is due to the voted rate increase but, is minimal to us because of our credits.

Liability Premium (Bond) – (LP)- The Trustees have the option after 10 years to pay down the Bond. Starting after October, the Trustees will have this option. If they pay down the Bond, potentially our rates should go down.

Property Excess Premium (PP) – The Boiler and Machinery premium went up for everyone. This is the most under-utilized coverage – and is sort of “Cadillac” coverage. Be sure and file these types of claims (i.e. power surges, etc), because they just may be covered under Boiler & Machinery.

There is a big push this year to concentrate on the Law Enforcement exposure. On June 10<sup>th</sup> the newly formed Jail Advisory Group will be looking to hire someone to come out and complete inspections of the jails. Also hoping to emphasize and implement:

1. Detention Officer training
2. Implement Voluntary Jail Standards – want to keep them “voluntary” – the trend is to adopt the standards but, then no follow through, to implement those standards.

Another thing that will be emphasized this year will be training for the County Attorneys regarding “contractual agreements”.

#### Work Comp

The rates are based on a 3 year look back – basically the rates stayed the same – however, our Mod factor is going from .92 up to 1.23.

Volunteer Fire fighters also discussed. It may get to the point that counties will be mandated to provide work comp coverage for volunteer fire fighters.

DNRC is going to begin requiring the coverage based on their co-op agreement to use their trucks. This agreement is not between the District and DNRC but, instead the agreement is between the County and the DNRC – so the County is liable if a volunteer gets hurt while on a DNRC truck.

This topic should be further discussed with Harold at the District meetings. The rates would probably be around \$140 per volunteer per year.

#### Shelters – County's liability?

Greg asked “who is responsible for maintaining the shelters?” Russ answered “the BOR is.” Greg's response – If Liberty County was basically just a “pass through” for the funding then we probably don't have any liability, but, if Liberty County should happen to get named in a suit – JPIA will defend us.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road updates. They've recently completed work on beaver dam issue near Eide's and cattle guard repairs. Crew to get blading due to recent moisture. One employee (S.R.) is on temporary "limited" exertion (50 pounds only) per recommendation by his chiropractor.

**STONE GARDEN PROGRAM**

Blaine County recently procured two sheriff's vehicles via the Stone Garden grant (which is available to counties which border Canada). These two outfits came from back east (Illinois?): a Ford crew cab and a Chevy Tahoe equipped with radios, lights, etc. Frank DePriest will do some follow-up on paperwork / etc for us.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss senior center business. A bill from A.T. Klemens for \$1,204.07 for repair to the two kitchen "garage door" openers was examined. A follow-up call will be made. There is also a bid for additional electrical work in the dining area.

**SHELTER AT MARINA**

Greg May has the cement pad poured and plans to erect the building this week.

**MLIA GRANT**

Gail Shatkus was in with the numbers on the awarded grant for \$45,000 to establish a GIS/GPS coding system for the school, Liberty County, and the Town of Chester.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman