May 6th, 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.

CEMETERY BOARD

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on 5-5-14. The board received two bids for sprinkler updates on the Joplin and Chester Catholic Cemeteries. We approved the bid from Frontier Lawn and Landscaping for the Joplin Cemetery job for $5500. We are considering selling our old 1989 John Deere mower (1700 hours).

AIRPORT INSURANCE

We received the annual liability Insurance policy for the airport from Northwest Insurance Group for $1937. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to pay this premium, which is the same amount as last year.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Commissioner Tempel asked permission to be out of state from May 17th- June 9th 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging board meeting. The Treasurer's report revealed $28,750 in the account, which generates only $4/month in interest income. The board approved $10,000 of these funds to be invested in a mutual fund program with a $100 return. Glenda heard from BearPaw Development on the CTEP project; photos of our proposed landscaping project were sent to Frontier Landscaping in Havre for a bid consideration. Rod reported that an "official seal" is not necessary as specified in our articles of incorporation (per consultation with Hugh Brown). The Senior Center is being rented on July 18th for Dr. Buker's Birthday Party. Supper Club is "on hold" until this fall.

ROAD CROSSINGS

Two road crossing permits from Triangle Communications for the fiber optic installations in Joplin and Chester were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed.

LEPC

Thirteen members attended the monthly LEPC meeting, Topics for discussion:

1. Generators via Homeland Security for the Senior Center and CJI school; grants available next fiscal year.
2. Fire Department is purchasing a new 550 Ford truck because of damage to frame on existing truck.
3. Fire Volunteers liability insurance is presently at $50,000; increasing to $100,000 would increase premiums to $200/year, which they approved.
4. Recent fire in the Joplin district was assisted by Chester (Greg May farm home). There were concerns about the safety of onlookers. The scene was a "cluster" without an I.C. and control. There will be continued discussion about "should haves".
5. EMS finished class, 5 students made it through. May 17th is the practical test. Liberty County was awarded one AED. Thinking about putting it at the school.
6. Road talked about spring maintenance.

7. School talked about generator. Presented “school safety procedure manual”. School will offer First Aid/CPR in February and August.
8. Public Health just finished exercise - went good.
9. 911 waiting for Century Link maintenance contract.
10. Hospital did same exercise as public health. Hospital can’t X-ray with generator - looking into ideas.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Mayor, Noel Walston, provided a 25 year inter local agreement dated 4-11-2001 between the Town of Chester and Liberty County West Rural Fire Department. It defines utility/ building expenses, equipment maintenance, liability insurance, etc. but doesn’t address the potential use of the Chester Fire Truck on rural house fires. Personally, Noel sees no problem with the truck being used on a structure fire outside of Chester City limits. This will be discussed at a City Council meeting.

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Fred Skierka called to report that there is a culvert that needs to be extended about 3 feet on each end (located on 1700 Rd E). We also visited about roads and crowning.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to approve the application requesting isolation for Riverview Elementary School for upcoming school year. Riverview plans to work with Liberty Elementary (Sage Creek Colony) in operation of their school.

WICKUM GRAVEL PIT

Warren Wickum stopped in to discuss the gravel pit on their farm. He would like it to keep the pit open, but his mother wants to close it. If we would prepare a new contract that addresses:

1. Annual weed-spraying by our crew
2. Promise by county not to sell gravel to any entities/ individuals for private/ commercial use
3. Establish an agreeable royalty fee for yardage mined by/ for Liberty County use
4. We can continue to maintain the permit, and
5. Wickums can provide gravel for sale on their own terms.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Commissioners sent a “letter of support” to the Conservation District for their continued efforts to secure funding in maintaining the Marias River bank at the Pugsley Bridge.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Commissioner Rockman met with John Kleinsasser and Tonya Wickum to ask that they please install the new water meter for the Cemetery (at the dyke pit) ASAP, as we need to get watering pre-Memorial Day.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. We discussed calls from Doug Demarest, Fred Skierka, and Rob Moog regarding road concerns. Marc has new signage coming in at around $2700. Marc also ordered blades on sale at $135 vs. $195 regular cost.

CJI SCHOOL ELECTION

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Tempel served as observers at the computation of the votes cast for the CJI School Board. Election Administrator, Rhonda Pimley, and 3 election judges (Taylor Marshall, Keisha Wood and Sherry Decker), confirmed the tally. Also present was CJI business manager, Rene Richter, and CJI Administrator, Thad Kaiser. Unofficial Results are as follows:

Brad Kammerzell:	515
Kurt Kammerzell:	349
Chandra LaFrenz:	405

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 7th, 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, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Larry Hendrickson available by telephone.

CLAIMS

Monthly claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. A motion passed to approve payment of these claims.

MENTAL HEALTH

Liberty County Mental Health received $513.34 from the 2014 Combined Fund Campaign. These funds were deposited in the BearPaw Credit Union account by Commissioner Rockman.

JANITOR AD

We placed an ad in the Liberty County Times and on our website regarding the need for a Janitor for courthouse/ library.

MALTA COUNCIL ON AGING

We hosted a group of eleven Malta area residents who are Council on Aging members. They are considering building a new center and/or transit facility similar to ours. We gave them a tour and addressed all issues/questions.

STOCKYARDS

We met two gentlemen (J.L. Halverstadt and Steve Boinken) at the stockyard to discuss wood salvage and repair options. The subject was tabled until next week (5-13-14 meeting).

LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Sheriff Richard Burrows stopped to inquire whether or not we will allow local people to exercise/train their horses in the 4-H corral (located just north of the stockyards). Further discussion regarding this subject is warranted.

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 13th, 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 Larry Hendrickson is available by telephone.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. Pugsley's would like two new cattle guards (which they will pay for) installed when we replace an area culvert. The location of these two cattle guards: Broadhurst intersection and another two miles east. In addition, Marc and Charlie will work on the northern Whitlash Road (near Demarest's) as recommended by Commissioners. There's zero gravel on that hilly section and the road is just like "snot" when wet. We will visit further with Doug Demarest about the fence problem there.

Marc inquired about the possibility of hiring an additional employee. With continued improvements (i.e. cattle guards, culverts, signage, etc.) and increased traffic on the Whitlash Road by trucks from Canada, there's more demand on these projects by current staff.

WICKUM GRAVEL PIT

County Attorney Hugh Brown, completed an agreement between Liberty County and Wickum's regarding proposed use and fees of their pit. We made a few simple changes prior to approval.

HI-LINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Hi-Line Health Foundation meeting on 5-8-14. Points of interest at Liberty Medical Center:

1. New Physical Therapist- Sally Scott,
2. New Physical Therapist assistant- Kari Wicks,
3. New IT- Erma Collins,
4. Health fair scheduled for June 6th,
5. LMC/WCE annual outdoor picnic/ fair for residents/staff will be June 21st,
6. The LMC mill levy is up for vote in November 2014.

Points of interest at HHF:

1. Karen Mattson, foundation office manager, is retiring effective June 1st 2014,
2. Current assets of HHF is about $2.4 million,
3. Another LMC resident room was totally remolded due to memorial funds,
4. Several equipment purchases and special requests were approved by the board.

PAYROLL

Current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

MACO WORKERS COMP TRUST

We received correspondence from MACO that reveals for Fiscal year 2014-2015 our (Liberty County's) Modification Factor is 1.25, which will not be applied to the annual premium for Volunteer Firefighters (which is and will continue to be $130/ Year/ Volunteer). Other new rates per $100 of coverage will be $4.63 (policeman and drivers), $.71(professionals and administrative employees), $1.32 (clerical and office staff), $5.96 (non-professional employee), and $8.19 (all other employees and drivers).

BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Board of Health meeting on 5-9-14. Members present were Commissioner Rockman, Hugh Brown, Karla Kulpas, and Karen Salo. Report from Karla: Per state law, every animal bite must be reported (for rabies/infection issues); HPV immunizations are now available at $142/dose X 3 doses (+admin fees). Report from Karen: The Town of Chester has never passed "decay ordinance" to Karen's knowledge. The Snyder auto graveyard is a continual issue. Karen will compose a letter to Snyder's requesting organization/clean-up.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere produced a signed prescription from Heidi Fritz, FNP that authorizes (medically) Wayne Wardell to continue to work for the weed department. Her comment: "No limitation "is suspect?

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 14th, 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, and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Larry Hendrickson is available by telephone.

CLAIMS

Current claims were offered for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. A motion passed to approve payment of these claims.

WHITLASH SCHOOL

We met with Rachel Ghekiere to discuss all the paperwork and rules governing the "opening" of the Whitlash School. The OPI is satisfied with the completed paperwork by the Whitlash School Board.

STOCKYARDS

We discussed the stockyards with Hugh Brown and Richard Burrows. An agreement will be done by Hugh. Steve Blinko was notified of our decision.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in with the current Masts Service reports. Numbers are down.

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Employee premiums to JPT in Fiscal year 2013-2014 are $629.44/month, of which Liberty County pays $627. The new premiums for Fiscal year 2014-2015 are $678.34, of which Liberty County will pay $675. This $48/employee/month increase in premiums equates to a 1.54% increase in wages. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Henderickson. The motion passed.

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 20th, 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 Larry Hendrickson. Commissioner Russ Tempel is on vacation.

MACO DISTRICT 4 & 5 MEETING

Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Tempel attended the MACO District 4 & 5 meeting in Great Falls on May 15th. Three MACO reps + 18 commissioners from our 9 county district + 2 State Legislative candidates (Jesse O'Hara and Rob Cook) attended.

Highlights-

1. The MACO preliminary budget for fiscal year 2015 was reviewed. Anticipated revenue is $600,000. COLA is calculated at 1.5%. Liberty County's new dues will be $3219.
2. President Joe Briggs reported on MACO Succession Planning and work being done on jail standards.
3. A MACO legislative report and proposal resolutions were shared.
4. The 2 legislators gave short presentations.
5. The new PERS employee deduction will be 8.27% effective 07-01-14.
6. There will be a meeting in Helena on June 17th for Treasurers and Commissioners to discuss computer inputs by Department of Revenue into county computers.
7. Four guys from MDOT finished the day with updates on the Stip and the secondary roads program.

AIRPORT

1. We paid the Airport Commission insurance premium of $1937 to NW Insurance Group.
2. Ray Standiford stopped in to discuss the trimming expense/ procedure for the caragana wind-break on the west side of 7th Street West near the airport. Standiford and Dahinden's have been watering this shelter belt, but the airport owns it. Ray has one out-of-town bid and will call Doug Riggin for another. Can the County Road Crew/Truck haul away the branches? There are also a few "shooter" trees that have seeded in the wind break and need to be removed. Ray will visit with Jim Briden.

BOR

Mike Lafrenz and Mike Hilliard stopped to say that the BOR plans to raise the Marias to about 5000 feet (dated June 5th then 20th). There was also discussion about the toilet removal south of Allen Ray's.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes stopped in to discuss road issues. One of the trucks needs a new hub and brake job (being done this week by Jerry Ghekiere). A grader window is being replaced. The crew is presently working on the north Whitlash Road. The Laird Road is done and Flat Coulee was recently bladed. Culvert and cattle guards are in the plans.

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

Rachel Ghekiere stopped in to discuss the opening of the Riverview Elementary School for fiscal year 2014-2015 school year. We wrote a letter of support in opening the school as an "attendance center" through Liberty Elementary District 10.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to discuss Senior Center issues. She offered our Modification to Contract #2014-003-108 for Area III Agency on Aging. The contract totals $49,491.00 with matching funds of $8,568.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to approve this contract.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Noel Walston stopped in to visit about two new meter pits: one that services the cemetery (to be installed near the Wanken pit) and one at the airport (just off 7th Street West near the fire hall). The city will do the work on the cemetery pit, but ask the county to provide the 4 foot culvert. The airport project will be discussed. Work to be done later this summer.

COMMISSIONER TEMPEL

Commissioner Tempel called from Washington D.C. to "check in". He plans to visit with Senator Daines today and will discuss the increased use of the Whitlash Road.

DNRC CONTRACT

Richard Burrows brought in the current DOD (FFP) Equipment Agreement between DNRC and Liberty County, which included the standard operating procedures of the FFP (Firefighter Property Program). A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to sign the agreement.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Commissioner Hendrickson asked permission to leave the state from May 23-28th. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER

Four members of the Community Activity Center committee toured the Joplin gym (high school) with Tina Wood. MaryAnn Zorn reported the findings to the Commissioners. Potential is there with some remodeling and updates.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Karla Kulpas' computer died this week, so she requested a new one. We located one in Havre that fits her needs, a tower, Windows 7, and not a Dell. Price is around $600. The funds are to come from Penny at Public Health.

EMPLOYEE MEDICAL STATUS

Jim Ghekiere (weed supervisor) gave us an official "prescription" from Heidi Fritz (FNP) that authorizes seasonal employee, Wayne Wardell, to work in the weed department with no medical limitations (form dated 5-13-14).

LIBERTY COUNTY ANNUAL AUDIT

Kimberly Wortman from Denning, Downey, and Associates was in Chester to complete the fiscal year 2012-2013 annual audit. She was generally satisfied with everything. There are improvements in the "transferal" of monies from one fund to another. She made continued suggestions on verification of income and expenses at the Library Express Shop.

TAX APPEAL BOARD

The Commissioners visited with Carol Fulbright, who agreed to replace Bob Mattson on the Tax Appeal Board.

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 22nd, 2014 ♦ Thursday

SPECIAL MEETING AT LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGARDING JAIL

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman met with Sheriff- Elect Doug Riggin, and two Montana sheriff's personnel (Carmin Hill, Madison County Jail Administrator, and Clair Swain, Lewis and Clark County Detention Sergeant), both trained in Montana jail standards, recommended rules and regulations and suggested jail polices. This 2 hour meeting confirmed our need to update our jail polices, paperwork, and futures plans. Doug will be dealing with this in 2015.

May 27th, 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 Rockman. Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Russ Tempel were available by telephone.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes stopped in regarding road issues. The culvert / cattle guards at Pugsley's are installed. The "soft spot" at Henke's is being repaired. Last week crew hauled water to the spillway road and graded it for the Memorial Day weekend. They also repaired the culvert "dip" on the Kammerzell Road. They are presently graveling the north Whitlash Road and are approximately to the Brown farm entrance. John Deere is still working on Justin's grader - hydraulic issues. We visited about the road to Sanford Park plus the washboards at the top of that roadway.

WHITLASH SCHOOL

Per teleconference with Commissioner Hendrickson, who made the motion not to approve the request to re-open the Whitlash School; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rockman and the motion passed. Commissioner Tempel had previously abstained from this issue due to "conflict of interest" (his spouse's potential employment at the school). Note: for the record this decision to reject the request/paperwork by the Whitlash School Board was based on personal inquiries by the Commissioners and support by legal council (Mike Schestedt) at MACO. A letter was sent to the Whitlash School Board.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to report nothing new at the center.

COUNTY PAYROLL

Current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made via teleconference to Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to pay these salaries as submitted. Note: Payroll Clerk (Keisha Wood) has agreed to make the special calculations regarding benefits and salary for our HRDC employee at the Senior Center. Also, final "payout" was given to Jennifer Hawks, part time Library Employee who resigned.

SNYDERS AUTO BODY SHOP

Dennis Snyder stopped in with a letter that addresses the recent complaint he received from the County Sanitarian, Karen Salo, on 5-9-2014 regarding his accumulation of junk vehicles. Dennis claims that he has since eliminated 24 vehicles and plans to have everything in compliance by fall (2014).

ROADS

Joe (the "farm boss") at Sage Creek Colony stopped in to praise the work being done on the Laird Road and to express satisfaction with our road supervisor and crew!

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Shari Dolan sent an email to the Commissioner's stating that Liberty Medical Center finally received their reimbursement for "unnecessary" food license fees from the State and thanked us for our effort in procuring these funds.

COURTHOUSE / LIBRARY JANITOR

We received two inquiries for the janitorial position at the courthouse/ library. The hiring will be done as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Vern Holmes will do janitor work at the courthouse.

CTEP

We received the CTEP (project application) from BPDC via Pamela Lemer. This project involves the covered walkway, signage and landscaping for the Liberty Senior Center and Transit facility. The application was reviewed by Commissioner Rockman and Glenda, then signed by Commissioner Rockman and mailed to Pam.

FRITZ CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Dena Fritz from Fritz Auction came in with an agreement for approval to hold their "annual consignment auction" (6-19-14) on county property north of the stockyards. Dates of use for set up; etc. = June 15th-21st. Commissioner Rockman authorized approval and signed the agreement.

DENNING, DOWNEY & ASSOCIATES

We received a new statement for the 2013 Annual Audit from Denning, Downey and Associates for $10,818.00. Follow-up will be made before payment is authorized.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman