June 4th, 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.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended an executive HRDC meeting in Havre on June 3rd, regarding a wrongful discharge situation.

TAC

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) meeting today. The current grant paperwork is done for Fiscal Year 2014 to MDOT for around $86,000 for transit funds. Glenda recently attended a Transit Boot Camp for new updates / rules regarding transit. Current ridership is averaging around 1300 rides per month; 91% are 60 years old or older; 2.3% are disabled; and 6.4% are under 60 years old.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting today. We looked at preliminary sketches on the proposed canopy. County Seniors of the Year were awarded to Hugh and Marilyn Brown on May 28th. Glenda is working on an updated Compliance Report. Council on Aging received $780 from the Liberty County Combined Fund Drive. Current account balance is $22,480.

SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

Glenda Hanson stopped in with updates. Commissioner Rockman signed the MDOT contractual agreement for the $86,000 transit funds.

STATE LIBRARY GRANT

Gail Shatkus stopped in to discuss the grant for GPS/GIS equipment and set-up training. This consulting and brainstorming time can be assessed towards in-kind as follows: Russ = 1 hour and Rlynn = ½ hour.

LEPC

Thirteen members attended the monthly LEPC meeting. DES reports that the “after action report” will be done by the end of June. LMC reports that the local “health fair” is tomorrow, June 5th. The new LMC CEO was introduced (Dustin Ahrens). Joplin Fire Department has a DNRC truck down for repairs. Chester Fire Department recently has a grain extrication training exercise; the new piece of equipment was purchased by EGT. The National Weather Service provided a program last week. The new fire truck is now in service. Bret Lloyd’s training programs have been post-poned.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a letter from DES Department of Military Affairs that confirms documentation of our flood insurance on the shelters; therefore, FEMA is authorizing our final payment of $14,901.88. A funding spreadsheet is enclosed.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. They have a lot of work to do and are shorthanded. Scott Ross is out on temporary medical injury leave. Dale Carlstad had several days of medical issues. The new man, Robert Pulst, is working out OK. We gave Marc permission to hire a temporary employee. Advertising does not have to be done. We have a serious problem with a beaver dam at Meissner’s reservoir and the culvert / road on Blackjack is washed-out; the road is declared closed (from Eide’s to Dafoe’s). Marc’s computer had a “bug”, which took over 2 days by IT to resolve.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

EBMS/JPT submitted the new medical insurance rates for our consideration. Currently, under option #3 for a single worker, we pay $592.00 of the monthly premium of $594.24. The new premium (under the same plan) is $629.44. A motion by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Tempel, to approve the new county share to $627.00 / month, which equates to a 5.9% increase, up $35 from last year. The motion carried. This new payment results in the employee share to be $2.44 / month.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

June 5th, 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.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Vern Holmes was in to see us about a maintenance issue, i.e., a leak in the courthouse roof. He is finishing the remodeling project at the library.

MACO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We completed the on-line yearly evaluation of the MACo Executive Director, Harold Blattie.

ROAD INQUIRY

The Commissioner's and Hugh Brown followed up on the Dennis Kenfield inquiry about the road that passes through adjoining property of the Lenz/Kenfield farms (located between sections 29 and 32). There were questions about prescriptive use, whether or not this is a county versus private road, and personal conflicts. Hugh will send a letter to Dennis Kenfield and Chet Wolery regarding our decision. Although a petition dating back to 1913 was found, this road is not an active county road!

CLAIMS

Claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve payment of all current claims.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to inquire about first aide / CPR training for her staff because she is working on her compliance paperwork. We called Tara Hendrickson, who will schedule a time for them. Glenda Hanson is required to establish a building maintenance plan to fulfill this compliance report, which is required every three years. We discussed this maintenance plan. Simply, we notify our maintenance man to fix and repair all developing issues. Glenda will document all repairs. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Tempel, and the motion carried to establish this maintenance plan.

BLM

We received the Interagency Radio Frequency Use Agreements between Liberty County and the Department of Interior (BLM), which allows us to utilize BLM's frequencies during wildland firefighting. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve and sign these agreements. The originals were mailed to Lewistown BLM and copies given to the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and the fire chief.

FRUSTRATED TAXPAYER

A frustrated taxpayer, ("D.H."), stopped in to voice his disapproval of the local MHP. He's an area farmer whose pick-up is muddy due to recent rainfall. He was pulled over by the HP because of unreadable (muddy) license plates, which lead to a ticket for "No Seat Belt"! We recommended that he discuss the issue with our Justice of the Peace.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioner's received a copy of a letter written to Sheriff Burrows by the medical staff at the Liberty Medical Center regarding the training and performance of the sheriff dispatchers.

GRADER DECISION

A motion made by Commissioner Hendrickson, was seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to purchase two Caterpillar and two John Deere motorgraders per 4-year lease agreements. T&E and RDO were notified of this decision.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

June 11th, 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.

STATE FUEL TAX ALLOCATIONS

MDT sent notification of our State Fuel Tax Allocations:

Fiscal Year 2014 = $58,836.77

Fiscal Year 2013 = $58,720.29

RESPONSE TO 2012 AUDIT

The county is required to offer a response to any questionable conditions on our 2012 audit. Two conditions were noted: 1) The County need operating transfers to reimburse other funds. We will commit to use transfers between funds that are only allowed per statutory limitations. 2) Bookkeeping issues were a condition at the Library Espresso shop. The response will be generated by the Librarian.

BUDGETS

Clerk and Recorder, Rhonda Pimley, offered current revenue reports to all department heads as a request to begin preparing for their new fiscal year 2013-2014 budgets.

MACO SAFETY PROGRAM

Emelia McEwen and Tina Wood met with the Commissioners for the annual evaluation profile on safety practices. Our mod factor increased from .92 to 1.23 due to a major workman's comp claim (for "J.W." totaling $98,134); this person is no longer our employee and present status is MMI (Max. Medical Improvement). Our premiums last year were $51,236; we're looking at about a 30% increase this year. We completed the profile and established a few goals for the coming year. Emelia provided several forms for a safety planning manual.

COUNTY PAYROLL

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

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAUMA COMMITTEE

The MDTC and disaster preparedness group met in the courtroom today to discuss several dispatch issues with the Commissioner and the Liberty County Sheriff's Office (represented by Ellen Gage). Open communication resulted in positive information to all attendees. Recent inadequacies by a 911 dispatcher were solved by termination of the employee. The two groups would like participation by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office at their meetings to promote a "total team effort" in emergency preparedness. A log will be kept to document any and all miscues on a 911 call, then there will be immediate follow-up on the negative issue.

PERMISSION TO CROSS COUNTY ROADS

Triangle Telephone Cooperative sent a packet of crossing permits for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to approve 137 separate crossings in Liberty County. Two "general" nondescript forms were signed as approval of this project.

RDO

Jerry Ridgeway from RDO was in to finalize our lease agreement for two new 2013 John Deere 872G-P motor graders at a combined value of $615,500. They are offering $192,000 for our trade-in (a 2009 JD 872D; #DW872DX624018: 3300 hours). In addition, we will be paying $33,000 cash down payment for a total $225,000 applied to the deal. Our total indebtedness will be $390,500; payments of $50,000 per year for 4 years; and a final balloon payment. Because these two units are 100 days out, Ridgeway will find us a loaner grader at no charge. Final note: these two units will be equipped with 16-foot moldboards.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. Scott Ross is still out on medical leave. Other crew is staying busy. Marc is still working on hiring a temporary employee.

GPS GRANT

Gail Shatkus stopped in to say that her grant is being signed soon. She will need the $3,500 cash obligation very soon, which we will provide before July 1st. Additional details were discussed: ½ hour X 3 commissioners = 1 ½ hours in kind.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

June 12th, 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.

NORTHERN TELEPHONE COOP

Per request of the Northern Telephone Coop of Sunburst, we e-mailed Ryan Niemyjoki with permission to bore /cross several of our Liberty County roads.

CJI SCHOOL BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson and Liberty Medical Center's CEO Arens attended the CJE School Board meeting on Tuesday, June 11th to meet the new CJI Superintendent Thad Kaiser. Those present discussed the possibility of the three organizations hiring a mutual onsite IT person. The idea will be considered further.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc updated us on availability of packers. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to buy a packer from Lycox Enterprises. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. We called Moe Strong at Lycox to discuss her bid of $19,840 less county discount of $1,450 = $18,390. After discussion they agreed to include JD spacers at no cost (reg. $595), to purchase on the fiscal year 2012-13 budget!

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in to discuss senior center issues. Bus driver, Rhonda Rocks, was cited by the MHP for "failure to yield right-of-way" as a consequence of her accident last week. The Justice of the Peace is considering a deferred imposition. The commissioners wrote a letter of reprimand regarding the accident. Three copies: Rhonda, Glenda, and Commissioners file. Estimate of damages to the bus via Snyder's Dent Shop = $4,200, which does not include the damage to the other vehicle's trailer. A copy of the estimate was sent to Wood Enterprises.

CLAIMS

Claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve payment of these claims.

Of note, in these claims were the Justice of the Peace court costs for the Dennis Barker trial totaling $2,404.04.

GPS GRANT

Gail Shatkus provided two charts – Relationships and Organizational – that define the perimeters of the grant.

MDOT SURVEY

The University of Montana in Missoula called to complete a 15-minute survey on "roads & traffic" issues in Montana.

CORRESPONDENCE TO KING AG

The Commissioners wrote a letter to King Ag in Joplin requesting that they discontinue the practice of washing their sprayers on the county right of way in front of their building.

BENEVOLENCE

Lori Ramberg stopped in to discuss a substantial gift to the Liberty County Ambulance fund that was willed by the estate of Les & Etta Mlinar.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Karla Kulpas, RN stopped in to ask us to approve and sign the "Maternal and Child Health Block Grant" for about $2,100. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to sign the grant. Karla reported that she has officially resigned as the Wheat Country Estates Director effective June 30th, but she will continue on as the Public Health Nurse.

STONE GARDEN GRANT

The Commissioners completed extensive paperwork on a grant application to operation Stone Garden (OPSG) in hopes of securing around $83,000 for two sheriff's pick-ups, around $52,000 in overtime wages, and around $49,000 in mileage reimbursement for the Liberty County Sheriff's Office to offer assistance to the area Border Patrol. This grant is available only to counties that border Canada and is administered through Homeland Security. The total two-year grant was for $184,000.

COUNTY ATTORNEY CORRESPONDENCE

On behalf of the Liberty County Commissioners, the County Attorney's office sent a letter to Dennis Kenfield and Chet Wolery addressing their issues on a road conflict. (copy on file at the Commissioner's 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

June 18th, 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.

RESOLUTION 13-05

The Commissioners signed a resolution affirming active support in the Bear Paw Economic Development District. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-05

A RESOULUTION AFFIRMING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BEAR PAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, The County of Liberty is in need of a professional planning staff to assist in the orderly planning for the development of a new industry to provide job opportunities to the unemployed, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration has in the past provided funds for said staff,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support the continuation of said staff and will actively participate in the District Program. We pledge $5000.00 as our share of the Local Matching Funds.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of June, 2013.

Rlynn Rockman
Chairman

Russ
Commissioner

Larry Hendrickson
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. Pinley
Clerk & Recorder

MAINTENANCE VACATION

John Melton requested 6 days of vacation from June 28th through July 8th. Reportedly, Vern Holmes has agreed to "cover" this time slot.

RDO

Jerry Ridgeway stopped in with the initial contract / warranty for the purchase of two 2013 John Deere 872 G's with Henke Manufacturing 12-wings as follows:

1) 2 motor graders X $307,750.....$615,500
2) Less trade-in (2009 JD 872D).....($192,000)
3) Balance after trade-in.....$423,500
4) Cash down payment with order.....($33,000)
5) Balance due on 4-year lease.....$390,500

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to sign the contract. Loaner grader will come soon.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to discuss center and transit issues. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to accept and sign the capital contract #107179. This contract is for the new 6-passenger minivan valued at $27,300 (of which $3,200 is local match from Liberty County). Also, Glenda will write a policy statement regarding Sunday transit rules (for the ministerial association and public knowledge).

COURTHOUSE ROOF JOB

George McMillan & Son finished the courthouse roofing project; so the Commissioners did a physical inspection of the job. Upon our approval, he submitted a claim for the agreed price of $14,000.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to discuss road issues. Steve Dahinden disc'ed a 3-mile service road on his own volition. Steve came in to see us about his motivation / reasoning for doing so. Scott Ross is on Worker's Comp leave with planned MRI. Other crew is keeping busy. The roads are all in poor shape due to recent rains / travel.

RESOLUTION #13-04

A budget adjustment resolution was offered to expand six specific funds to reconcile end-of-year adjustments / expenditures. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION 13-04

WHEREAS, it is fiscal year end and it is recognized that some budgets are in need of adjustment and expansion;

WHEREAS, the Road Fund (2110) received over $90,000 in the Sale of Equipment, and whereas this revenue was not anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of $90,000;

WHEREAS, the Alcohol Rehab Fund (2800) received more revenues from the State Program than was originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of $539;

WHEREAS, the State Noxious Weed Grant Fund (2840) has a large cash reserve of over $50,000; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of $18,000;

WHEREAS, the CTEP Fund (2956) project was finalized and Liberty County was the acting "pass through" agent for these funds; and upon the deposit of the additional contribution from the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce; the Commissioners have approved the budget expansion of $4,269.86;

WHEREAS, the Immunization Fund (2976) received more in charge for services, than was originally anticipated; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of $5,000;

WHEREAS, the Library-CIP Fund (4030) received more revenues than anticipated into their CIP Fund, and whereas they are in the process of the remodel project; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of $9,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the expansion of the above stated five funds have been duly approved for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

DATED THIS 18th day of June, 2013

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. Pimley
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

CLAIMS

Several claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to pay these claims.

TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT

Kraig Pester stopped in with the initial contracts / warranties for the two new 2012 Catepillar 160MZ's AWD as follows:

1) 2 motorgraders X $315,781.....$631,562
2) Less trade-in's (2002 Cat 140H).....($101,000)
   (1999 Cat 140H.....($ 85,000)
3) Balance after trade-in's.....$445,562
4) Cash down-payment with order.....($36,500)
5) Balance due on 4-year lease.....$409,062

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to sign the contract(s). The two cats will be delivered on 6-20-13.

FIRE CHIEF

Jason Wanken stopped in to discuss the meeting he and James Dahlen had with one of their fellow volunteers regarding questionable decision making by this volunteer ("K.P."). Unfortunately, this volunteer was not receptive to the recommendations / advise, so he turned in his resignation from the department.

COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING

The Compensation Board consisted of the three Commissioners, 5 additional elected officials: Rhonda Pimley, Gayle Dahlen, Rachel Ghekiere, Hugh Brown, Holly Frederickson; and 3 residential taxpayers: Dustin Ahrens, Dana Lalum, and Noel Walston. After considerable discussion regarding current salaries of local and statewide elected officials; MACo's reported CPI of 2.1% versus actual cost of goods/services of 3.74% for 2012; Liberty County's projected taxable valuations for fiscal year 2013-14; comparison salary increases by neighboring counties / cities; our history of recent years' decisions; and the positive nature of our current reserves and moderate growth – the following recommendation was made by the Compensation Board:

A motion was made by Gayle Dahlen, and seconded by Dana Lalum. The motion carried to offer a 2.5% increase to all Liberty County elected officials for fiscal year 2013-14.

Additional action taken:

1) A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion carried to approve this 2.5% salary increase for all county employees and to adjust the elected officials' deputies to the 90% level per county policy.
2) Also note that the Commissioners previously approved a $35/month increase in medical insurance premiums to those employees who utilize this program. This $35 computes to a 1.25% increase in employee benefits.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____
Clerk Chairman

June 25th, 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 and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Hendrickson is attending the MACo board meetings in Helena.

CORRESPONDENCE

1) We received a $3,695.65 check from MACo for reimbursement for the damages to the 2013 Ford F50 bus (total damages were $4,195.65 less our $500 deductible).
2) Cemetery board received a $50 check from the District 12 Juvenile Probation Office for reimbursement for vandalism damages to cemetery shop (payer = "J.D.").
3) We received a "certificate of insurance" (liability) from Payne West Insurance for the Ben Taylor propane storage tank project (Liberty County lease).
4) MDOT sent us a report of our gas tax allocation for fiscal year 2014, which is around $58,000.

RODNEY SWENSON

Rodney stopped in to discuss a serious weed issue ("bind weed") on a 5-mile stretch of road from his post office box going east. He's worried it might move to the nearby fields. Jim Ghekiere was notified.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in with the "Sunday Bus" policy, a "Building Maintenance Plan", and a summary report for May's services at the center. The two food service doors are malfunctioning again.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

1) Marc was in on roads. Bob Thompson came in and asked about ditch haying contract.
2) A credit application was sent to T & E Billings.
3) Received a telephone call on the Lothair Road east on Rd 2800 = impossible roads.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to pay the payroll. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

We informed Holly Frederickson that we are increasing her position from 42% to 50% (a half-time job).

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEETING

The hospital agreed on a 1% increase in salaries for fiscal year 2013-14. Commissioner Hendrickson attended the meeting held on June 19th.

ROAD EMPLOYEE

Scott Ross was in and reported that he didn't want his sick and vacation and comp time paid to him at this time. He is presently on Workman's Compensation.

AG COVENANT

Attorney Hugh Brown asked for a written exemption on an agricultural covenant in Township 36 North, Range 4 East, M.P.M., Section 15: NW4NW4 (Doug Demarest). A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve this exemption.

SUBDIVISION TRAINING

County Attorney Hugh Brown attended a MACo seminar on subdivision updates in Lewistown on June 20th. Hugh reported back to us and feels confident that he can re-write our subdivision plan at no expense to Liberty County.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

After much discussion by the Commissioners, Commissioner Tempel made the motion that effective July 1st, 2013 the Liberty County Justice of the Peace will advance from a 42% position to a 50% position (1040 hours / year) and be paid accordingly. 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