

June 3rd, 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. Commissioner Russ Tempel was available.

LEPC

Seven members attended the monthly LEPC meeting. The "Blue Channel" frequency was discussed regarding 911 services. Butch Tempel reports that they put over 200,000 gallons of water on the Greg May home fire; the fire was due to an old pulse furnace. Border Patrol Duff reported that he has been working with Doug Riggan on implementing the Stone Garden Grant.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes updated us on current road projects and plans.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting. The Treasurers report showed a current balance in all accounts of \$29,500.00. A recent donation from the Liberty County Combined Fund Drive was \$700.00. The council recently invested \$10,000.00 on two moderately aggressive stocks: PSpV and PSEC. The electronic ADA doors are all now working properly secondary to a 4 1/2 – service call by Liberty Electric. The selected "Senior of the Year" is Millie Kantorowicz. There is concern about the cracked sidewalks on the north end of the center.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. The Title VI Transit Grant for fiscal year 2015 is estimated at \$82,000.00. Glenda Hanson is presently researching the possibility of providing public transit to West Hill County residents to physician's appointments in Havre. The bus is taking LCNH patients to Lake Elwell and Tiber Marina on June 12th.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Shari Dolan came in to discuss an insurance claim. The hospital administrator's house had roof damage due to hail last fall. This roof was extremely old and had been depreciated out, so no insurance claim was submitted at the time of damage. The bids on the roof project came in at \$9300. A late claim was eventually submitted and the amount paid after deductibles/ depreciation came to \$6300. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rockman, and the motion passed that authorized this check for \$6300 to be applied towards the expense on the new roof.

ELECTION

Today is Primary Election Day. We have selected a post-election audit committee which includes Dana Lalum, Mike Walstad, and Gail Shatkus, who will appear on June 11th to complete the audit.

CLAIMS

The current county claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to pay the claims as submitted.

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 4th, 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 Larry Hendrickson. Commissioner Russ Tempel is available by telephone.

GRAVEL

Jerry Fenger stopped in to discuss costs for gravel. He's planning to contract with a screener and a crusher to mine sand for the Tiber water project and to have gravel/rock materials for sale to the county and/or private users. The crushing quotes are not firm, but we may be looking at about \$8.00/yard. We discussed all options. He will keep us apprised.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Wayne Wardell has been a seasonal (summertime) employee at the weed department for several years. The past few years he has had some serious medical issues, which have been a concern to the county regarding potential liability issues. A season end (fall of 2013) he accidentally turned over a four-wheeler due to inattentiveness/ fatigue; fortunately he suffered only minor injuries. This spring (2014) he was taken by ambulance to the local hospital because of heart palpitations, etc. and was recommended to consult his cardiologist. Wayne admitted to Jim Ghekiere (weed supervisor) that his health was tenuous and he may need some medical advice before returning to work. Jim relayed this information to the Commissioners, who requested that Wayne provide a "medical release" before returning to work. On 5-13-14 Jim gave us a release from Heidi Fritz (FNP), which stated "OK for Wayne to work in the weed control district with no limitations". Because this release form was not from a cardiologist or local physician, and because it declared "no limitations", we made a call to Heidi Fritz for clarification. Commissioner Rockman spoke with her nurse, as Heidi was very busy, and the nurse said Heidi would return our call when convenient. We finally visited with Heidi on 6-3-14, who reported that Wayne told her he didn't do much physical work for the county - mainly driving weed pickups/ four-wheeler and mixing chemicals. We had Jim Ghekiere visit with Heidi to describe Wayne's required job activities; then she planned to visit with Wayne and decide if his "release form" was still valid. We discussed this with Wayne, explaining this clarification was being done in concern for his personal health as it relates job exertion/stress and the potential liability to the county in case of medical incident. We are awaiting further advice from Heidi Fritz.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Commissioner Hendrickson asked to be gone July 2-8th to Colorado to a family function. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rachel Ghekiere stopped in to report that she has been offered a teaching position at Sage Creek Colony by CJI Schools. She has not yet signed a contract, but probably will soon. School begins approximately August 15th. She is willing to complete her present term through December 31st as Liberty County Superintendent of Schools, by working nights and weekends, etc. She just won the Primary Election as a Republican candidate and was unopposed throughout party lines. She will probably resign her county positions, specifically; Superintendent of Schools, Cemetery board secretary, and TV district secretary, prior to the end of August. We will call MACO for advice on how to handle this.

PRIMARY ELECTION

Liberty County had 60% voter turnout for the primary election on 6-3-14. This was the 3rd highest percent in our 56 counties. On the local level, the Republican race for Liberty County Clerk and Recorder was won by Angel Colbry over Rachelle Fenger-Gage. Several other county officials were unopposed.

COURTHOUSE JANITOR

We received only one application for the janitor position and felt that more interest is necessary to make a good decision, so the position was re-advertised on our web page. We have an updated "job description" on file.

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 10th, 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. Justin Wickum recently rebuilt the spray booms on the road sprayer. The shoulder spraying is progressing. Graveling on the south Whitlash Road is also progressing. Jerry Ghekiere will weld the metal sign at the "outdoor lab" at the CJI School.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

We received the second half of the County's Share Funding to BPDC for \$2500. A resolution was also enclosed.

Resolution #14-06: A resolution affirming active participation in the Bear Paw Economic Development District to provide professional planning staff to Liberty County. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to sign the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-06

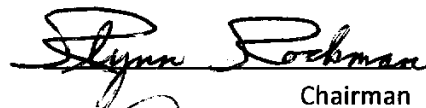
A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BEAR PAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

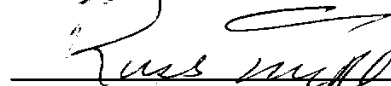
WHEREAS, The County of Liberty is in need of a professional planning staff to assist in the orderly planning for the development of a new industry to provide job opportunities to the unemployed, and

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.

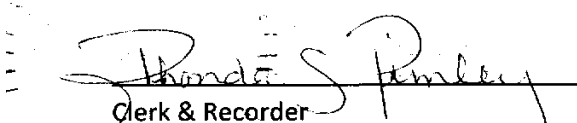
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of June, 2014.


Chairman


Commissioner


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Clerk & Recorder

CEMETERY BOARD

On 6-5-14 Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting. Frontier Lawn and Landscaping will be installing new sprinkler heads, etc. in the Joplin Cemetery next week (bid=\$5480). The board agreed to put the 1989 John Deere mower in the Fritz Consignment auction. An additional mower deck (antiquated) will also be sold. There were two major breaks in the Chester Cemetery water system this spring.

COUNTY SALARIES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to approve payment of all county wages as submitted.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to update us on center issues. She just received about \$6300.00 in Trans-Aide monies from the State. Ridership is down due to patients moving to assisted-living and Nursing home.

EMS

Tara Hendrickson updated us on EMS. St. Vincent awarded the school an AED. We discussed how to maintain and secure. Tara updated us on other EMS issues.

WEED

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to sign the grant for Marias River in the amount of \$24,926.00. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. We gave the crew an update.

NEW HORIZONS

Thad Kaiser, Elizabeth Woods, the three Commissioners, John Fauerbach, Jeannie Fauerbach, Holly Frederickson, Alou Horinek. Alou gave a run down on how dependency works. One-third of the population will have issues regarding dependency.

MIKE'S THRIFTWAY

Mike Novak requested a favor from the Commissioners regarding potential right of way infringement at his store. In 1993 they built a freezer shed on the east end of the store. This shed is apparently partially on the right of way to 1500 Rd. E. (the road south of Highway 2 to the Chester landfill). Mike is trying to sell the store and doesn't want any encumbrances to "kill the sale." Therefore, will we grant him an easement on this right of way issue? He will pay for all paperwork necessary. Ok by us, but no future construction/expansion on this easement.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT

We sent a letter to BPDC per request of Paul Tuss that endorses/encourages BPDC to search for grant monies and or other resources to assist the Hi-Line Event Center committee in their endeavors.

LIBERTY COUNTY WEB PAGE

Julie Gagnon produced a stat counter sheet that shows the number of hits to our website for the week of June 2-8th (which was election week), which totaled 613 on an average of 88/ day.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Heidi Fritz called Commissioner Rockman on 6-5-2014 to report that she visited with Wayne Wardell's cardiologist and Patrick Armstrong; they came to a mutual decision that Wayne could continue to work at the level requested by his supervisor. Jim Ghekiere was notified.

CJISCHOOLS

Per invitation by CJI Superintendent, Thad Kaiser, and the three Commissioners toured the new construction project at the school.

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, 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.

RECREATION SHELTERS

The Lake Elwell Recreation Shelters are to be inspected by DES on 6-12-14. The Commissioners completed a "monitoring checklist" per DES request and have a copy on file. Official completion date was 12-15-2012 for a total of \$110,418.00.

MUSEUM

Rose Campbell stopped in to visit about insurance for the museum; present premium is \$700/year. Gary Seubert has expressed concern about reviewing the buildings for "replacement" values. We will follow up on this with Betty Marshall and the agent.

STOCKYARDS

Hugh Brown produced a contract for the wood reclamation project at the stock yards. We tweaked it one final time.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed for Russ to leave the state from July 4-9th for a family wedding.

SCHOOLS

Thad Kaiser was in to get a letter of recommendation to open Cool Springs Colony School by the CJI School District as an "attendance center". A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to approve the letter of support. Copies were given to Thad Kaiser and Rachel Ghekiere, Cool Springs is a new school with 13 kids in grades k-8 (except 2nd grade) and will have a full time teacher and an aide.

CASCADE COUNTY REGIONAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

We received correspondence from Cascade County Commissioners regarding their detention center that houses juveniles in the 12- county North Central Region. Due to decrease in MBCC funds and increase in upkeep at their facilities, the new fee schedule effective 7-1-2014 will be \$117.50/day until the grant allotment from MBCC is expanded; then it will jump to \$235.00/day! Present allotment from MBCC is \$213,489.00 (fiscal year 2014-2015).

TEAMSTERS – LOCAL 2

We received a letter from Teamsters Local 2, regarding proposed contract changes for employees on the Road/Bridge Department for this coming fiscal year.

POST ELECTION AUDIT

Three local citizens (Mike Walstad, Dana Lalum, and Gail Shatkus), the 3 Commissioners, and election administrator (Rhonda Pimley) completed a "post-election" audit as mandated by the State. The audit went well.

MDOT

Montana Department of Transportation sent us a letter that confirms our State Fuel Tax Allocation for fiscal year 2015 to be \$58,735.55 which is down \$100.00 from fiscal 2014 (\$58,836.77).

CLAIMS

The current claims (including payments to all election judges) were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to pay these claims.

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 17th, 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.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

Liberty Medical Center would like the old brown van declared obsolete so they can put it in the Fritz Consignment Auction. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed. Liberty Medical Center also is replacing an old operating table with bad hydraulics and no available parts. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to declare it obsolete. Shari Dolan was notified.

HI-LINE EVENTS CENTER

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a committee meeting for the Hi-Line Event Center on 6-17-14. Two proposed designs were submitted for discussion. Things are progressing.

4-H CAMPGROUNDS

Ted Zorn, cemetery sexton, volunteered to mow the 4-H Campgrounds a few times each year (when he travels to the Whitlash Cemetery).

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Marc Holmes was in to update us on road issues. They put some rocky product on the Parcell Road to the reservoir. The north Whitlash Road project is essentially done; they have just enough gravel left at the Richard Wickum pit to hit a few bad spots on the lower Whitlash Road. The "reject" material at the Richard Wickum pit is priced at \$3.50/yard by Ray O'Brien. Marc would like to sell the belt driven screener and possibly buy a new box screener to avoid MSHA issues.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a Liberty Medical Center financial board meeting on 6-16-14 to continue to discuss budget issues.

HRD

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRD meeting on 6-12-14. Nothing remarkable to report.

EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD

Fritz Consignment Auction on 6-19-14:

1. 1984 Ford Van (from Liberty Medical Center)
2. 1956 GMC Truck (from rural Fire District)
3. 1999 Ford F-350 pickup truck (from West Liberty County Fire District)
4. 1991 Dodge 2500 Ram Pickup (from Road Department)
5. 1991 Chevrolet Lumina Van (old county car)
6. 1989 John Deere mower with 1700 hours (from Cemetery District)

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to update us on Senior Center issues. Numbers are still down a little. Everything else is going okay. The Center was rented on Saturday (6-14-14). Update on "Bountiful Baskets" - 22 baskets sold this weekend.

BEN TAYLOR LEASE

We received a certificate of liability insurance from Ben Taylor Inc. for the rental property they lease from Liberty County. Liability insurance totals \$1,000,000.00.

DAMAGE TO TOOLE COUNTY EQUIPMENT

Several juveniles broke out windows and lock's to the Toole County Weed Shop on 6-14-14, stole the pickup and a spray unit ("side-by-side") and damaged both vehicles. This is another vandalism incident that adds credence to our discussion about security camera's at the county yards.

JANITORIAL POSITION

We had four applicants inquire for the part time Courthouse/Library janitorial position. One was Taylor Melton who presently works part time at the Senior Center. Thus far, she has a good work record with the county and is eager to work more hours. Therefore, we gave her an interview and offered her the job with the typical probationary period. Starting date= 6-22-14. Starting salary= \$11.41/hour.

ELECTION CANVAS

Russ Tempel, Rlynn Rockman, and Richard Burrows completed the Primary Election Canvas provided by Election Administrator, Rhonda Pimley. All numbers jive with the official voting machine tally sheets. Of the 1187 registered voters, 725 people voted in the Primary.

COOL SPRINGS SCHOOL

Liberty County Superintendent of Schools, Rachel Ghekiere, sent us a letter requesting the official petition paperwork (i.e. Letters from parents/etc.) for her records. We called Thad Kaiser, who will e-mail this information to us.

LIBERTY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

We received Rachel Ghekiere's official letter of resignation as the Liberty County Superintendent of Schools effective 8-13-14. She offered her services if need be, regarding any budget issues/etc. through December 31, 2014.

HELENA MEETING REGARDING SB96

Larry Hendrickson, Gayle Dahlen, and Denise Wanken attended a special meeting in Helena on 6-1-14 to discuss SB 96. Reportedly 34 counties were represented by commissioners, treasurers, clerks, and finance directors. The general discussion was about the DOR's request to have no liability with being involved in the County's computer system. Ronda Wiggers sent out a summary of the meeting to all attendees.

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 24th, 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. Reportedly Ray O'Brien (crusher) plans to move to the Mark Wickum pit this fall to crush gravel for Toole County, local oil companies, and or Liberty County. The GPS tower anchor is presently being installed at the courthouse. Marc visited with a company in Great Falls who will sell and install a service deck on the new truck for \$2000, which we approved for this fiscal year's funds. He also ordered around \$550 in culverts for this year's budget. Marc will research a new compressor and a few tools (i.e. plasma cutter) for purchase this month. They just got the second mower tractor, which will be available until October.

CLAIMS

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

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in for a quick update. Two "safety" certificates were submitted; one for Glenda and one for Delbert Anderson. Glenda is attending a "Vibrant Futures" meeting in Fort Benton today which deals with transit issues. Three of her staff (Delbert Anderson, Rhonda Rocks, and Rhonda Emerson) will be attending the bus rodeo event in Lewistown this week.

MUSEUM

Betty Marshall stopped in to update us on the museum.

1. The Gau building has a leak in the roof.
2. The new carpet is now on the front steps (done by Marc and Vern Holmes)
3. There is a large cottonwood tree in the equipment lot that is partially dead.
4. Three prints have been framed and will be offered for sale.

MIKE'S THRIFTWAY

Mike Novak stopped in to update us on the "right-of-way" issue at the store. Rudy Cicon recently surveyed the project, so a written report will soon follow. Mike, again thanked us for our cooperation in solving this encroachment.

COUNTY PAYROLL

Employee payroll will be submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion passed to approve all current wages.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Hugh Brown will be attending a family reunion from 6-25-14 to 6-30-14; Holly Fredrickson to attend to her mother's illness from 6-30-14 to 7-7-14; a motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to approve both to leave the state.

MCH GRANT

Karla Kulpas produced the annual Maternal and Child Health grant for our approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Tempel. The motion passed to sign the grant.

LIBERTY COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING

The annual Compensation board met to discuss potential salary raises for our elected officials for fiscal year 2014-2015. Those present were community representative's (Dana Lalum, Mary Ann Zorn, and Morb Wicks); elected officials (Ann Seidlitz-Melton, Hugh Brown, and Holly Fredrickson); and the 3 Commissioners. The following items were discussed:

1. Review of the informational packet provided by C-&-R Pimley that reveals CPI stats, market and taxable valuations, history of base salaries, current Liberty County salaries (including longevity payments), and comparable salary surveys.
2. Increase in health insurance premiums to JPT (net increase for fiscal year 2014-2015= 3%; additional increase to State of Montana = 1 %; additional increase to Federal Government ("Obamacare") = 3%; which is a total increase of 7%). We presently pay \$627/month/employee (optional). We've already approved a \$48/month increase so the new premiums are \$675/month/employee, which computes to a 1.54% increase in benefit wages.
3. COLA reported to be 1.3% increase for fiscal year 2014-2015.
4. County reserves and budgets were discussed. The committee inquired if the budgets can handle a 2% increase and we replied in the affirmative.

A motion was made by MaryAnn Zorn, and seconded by Dana Lalum. The motion passed unanimously that recommends a 2% salary increase for all elected officials. The Commissioners accepted the board recommendation as moved by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed. After further discussion Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel and the motion passed that this 2% raise be given to all county employees (with the exception of the road crew, who are under collective bargaining and the county agencies, who can make their own recommendations).

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commissioners sent three courtesy letters to the applicants who were not hired for the Courthouse/library janitorial position.

MACO EXECUTIVE MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson went to Helena on 6-24-14 thru 6-25-14 to attend the MACO Executive board meetings. Report to follow.

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Fred Skierka called to report that he leases land from Stanley Thisselle down on the river. To access this land via 1700 Road East, he has to travel through a 40 acre parcel owned by Jon Thiselle, who claims this is a private road and Fred is therefore trespassing. In fact, Jon recently parked a truck in the road to prevent Fred's access. Fred wants us to provide documentation that this is, indeed a county/ public road. We called County Attorney Hugh Brown, who investigated the prescriptive/historical/legal use of the road in question. Hugh wrote an opinion letter (sent to Stan, Jon, Fred and the Commissioners), which says this is a public road.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman