

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**GIS**

The State Library has granted Liberty County an extension to the grant for the repeater for the CORS station. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to sign the contract and it was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. The motion carried with all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Brenda Wickum met with the Commissioners to discuss the new Public Health plan. The Commissioners reviewed the plan and Commissioner Wicks signed as the Board Health Chair.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere met with the Commissioners and reported that the Weed Crew has been spraying weeds in the Sweet Grass Hills.

**SENIOR CENTER**

The Commissioners reviewed the revised Liberty County Transit Substance Abuse Policy. After reviewing the policy, Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve it. This was seconded by Commissioner Wicks and passed with all in favor.

**MONTANA STOCK GROWERS**

The Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Predator Control Tax. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve it and Commissioner Tempel seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

**EXTENSION AGENT CONTRACT**

The Commissioners reviewed the 2017 Extension Services Agreement between MSU and Liberty County. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to sign the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Wicks and passed with all in favor.

**LIBRARY**

The Commissioners had a request for the Library to roll money left over from last year's budget into their CIP fund. After discussing the issue with the Clerk and Recorder, the request was denied.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 ♦ 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: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**BUDGET MEETING**

The Commissioners invited all department heads and elected officials to a meeting to discuss this year's budget. The mills have increased to \$9151. Oil and gas revenues have drastically declined this year and have impacted Liberty County's budget.

**TRIANGLE TELEPHONE**

Triangle Telephone requested a road crossing. The line will be bored under the Bison Road. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Tempel seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

The Commissioners reviewed a contract between Liberty 10 and Liberty County for services of the County Superintendent of Schools. After discussing the contract, changes will have to be made to it and then resubmitted.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere met with the Commissioners to discuss setting up a spray pickup to use on the road ditches. This pickup would be an addition to the existing Weed Department units.

**PAYROLL**

Employee payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Wicks. The motion passed to approve all current wages.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Clerk**

**Chairman**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum reported that the roads have been heavily used due to harvest. At this time he will not put any graders on the road to interfere with traffic. The Road Crew was going to Joplin to work on some drainage issues. The leases on the four graders are coming up next spring. Justin will start putting a list together of items that would be nice to have on the next graders. The Road Crew will be looking at an option to fix the beaver issue on Bear Gulch crossing Black Jack Road.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson reported to the Commissioners that things are good at the Senior Center. The number of meals has been down this summer, but is expected to increase this fall.

**ALCOHOL COUNSELING**

Commissioner Tempel contacted Alou Hornick to discuss services for Liberty County. At this time services are being offered by New Horizons. New Horizons will no longer be offering services. Liberty County has been in contact with Curtis D. Weiler, CD Program Officer Addictive and Mental Disorders Division. Curtis is working with the County to help navigate through these issues.

**CJI SCHOOLS**

Clerk Renae Richter presented the school budgets for review by the Commissioners. After reviewing the budgets, Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve them. Commissioner Wicks seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

The Commissioners met with Robert Padmos to discuss the future needs of the County Attorney's Office. He had researched purchasing a MAC computer to use the program Trial One. The Commissioners recommended that he proceed.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Holly Frederickson will be ordering a phone system that allows multiple callers to be able to call into and converse with each other. The Justice Court continues to be very busy.

Jesse Fulbright met with the Commissioners to discuss his upcoming presentations. The funding for the trip to Kona is being funded by a travel grant from Western SAR. The presentation in Louisiana will be funded by a travel grant from the State of Montana MAE4HA. Jesse will be on annual leave this coming week.

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Wicks. The motion passed with all in favor.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ♦ 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: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**TAX ABATEMENT**

The Commissioners met with a representative, D. Wiley Barker, from Crowley Fleck Attorneys. They are representing Chester Solar LLC, a solar energy project that is asking for tax abatement.

Commissioner Tempel opened the meeting by introducing the members of the Commission and members of the public to all. Approximately 20 community members were in attendance. Wiley Barker thanked the Commissioners for letting him appear by phone. Wiley stated that the project met all of the qualifications for the State of Montana for tax abatement; Investments of 5.4 million dollars, 1mw of generation and Chester Solar LLC is current on its property taxes.

The current land is classified as Ag land and after construction it would be reclassified as commercial land. The project would be completed in 2017, with the tax abatement to begin in 2018. Employment would include 15-25 people during construction and one person for maintenance after completion that may or may not live in the community. The use of the electricity was discussed and the attorney did not know the answer. The life of the project was also discussed and it was stated to be 30-40 years. The Northwestern Energy Interconnect was for 25 years. Site security was also questioned, but no firm answers were given. The location of Chester was chosen because of the power substation. Site impacts were discussed. Wiley stated that the company was considered a good neighbor, produces little noise, and continued revenues. The meeting was concluded by the Wiley Barker thanking the Commission for the opportunity to present his case. He reminded them of the large investment in Liberty County this would be with very little County investment in return as well as the cost benefit to the County also being favorable. Some of the questions brought forward by the community members included the Department of Revenue tax base, property ownership, clean up responsibility, and equipment tax as personal property. Other questions included what other tax abatements have been granted in Liberty County, and the availability of tax abatements for longtime and or current property owners. Bonding for the site was also a question stated. The Commissioners ended the meeting stating that written comment would be taken until 8/30/2016.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Holly Frederickson met with the Commissioner to update them on the Justice Court. The court continues to be very busy.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum reported that the last grading of the Laird Road did not hold up well. The truck traffic is still overwhelming. The Road Crew is working on roads in the northern and southern parts of the County. One mower is in use while the other is waiting for parts. They will be starting work on culverts and beaver dams next.

**PAYROLL**

Employee payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Wicks and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed to approve all current wages.

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Wicks, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion passed with all in favor.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Hugh Brown and Robert Padmos met with the Commissioners to update them on the transition in the County Attorney's Office. It is progressing well. The Attorney's Office has been very busy.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere met with the Commissioners to update them on the trip that the Weed Department hosted to Glacier County and Alberta. The trip was well attended and showcased the problem of noxious weeds. Some budget items were also discussed.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Holly Frederickson updated the Commissioners on the Justice Court.

**CUSTODIAN**

Ruthann Norick is resigning from her position as custodian. Rachel Ghekiere will finish out this week. The Commissioners have advertised for the open positions.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 ♦ Monday**

Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel attended a MACO District 4 meeting in Fort Benton.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum reported to the Commissioners that the Road Department encountered a few problems last week. The mowers have been not been used due to the high winds. Grading has come to a stop due to it being dry. The Road Crew will be working on signs and cleaning out beaver dams.

**EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright met with the Commissioners to update them on the happening in the Extension Office.

**SAFETY**

Julie Gagnon will schedule a safety meeting on 9/7/2016. There will be a County Building inspection done by Wood Insurance on 8/30/2016.

**BOR**

Mike Hillard brought some Hospital signs to be installed around the Tiber Dam. The Road Department will install them. Mike explained some of the projects that he has in progress at this time.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson has advertised the cook and custodian positions open at the Senior Center. The Senior Center is having a computer issue. The Library gave two older computers to the Senior Center. Glenda will be installing them.

**LIBRARY**

Teresa Fenger updated the Commissioners on what was happening in the Library.

**CLAIMS**

The current claims were submitted for payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Wicks. The motion passed with all in favor.

**CUSTODIAN INTERVIEW**

The Commissioners, Angel Colbry, Robert Padmos, and Glenda Hanson interviewed an applicant for the custodian position. The ad will continue to run in the paper, and the Commissioners will wait to make a decision.

**ACT COURSE**

Alou Hornick is being certified by the State of Montana DPHS to provide Liberty County counseling services. The County Attorney will be reviewing the contract and state code. The Commissioners will wait for a letter stating it is ok to proceed. The County Attorney reviewed the contract with the state and found that Alou will need to recertify to be current with the state.

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

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Clerk**

**Chairman**

**August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum met with the Commissioners to report that the Road Crew has been working on the roads where moisture permits. Sign work has been progressing. Mowing is about done in the southern part of the county and the mowers will be moving across the highway. The Commissioners discussed the lease agreements that we have on our graders. The agreements will be expiring in 2017.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson is still looking to fill the cook position. There has been some interest, but no applications as of yet. The bus garage was inspected by the MDOT and it was noted that we need to install a GFI plugin for the washing machine.

**CUSTODIAN INTERVIEW**

The Commissioners scheduled an interview with an applicant for the custodian position available. It was attended by the Commissioners, Angel Colbry and Glenda Hanson. No action was taken at this time, and more interviews will be scheduled.

**PAYROLL**

Employee payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Wicks. The motion passed to approve all current wages.

**ELECTED OFFICIAL OUT OF STATE**

County Attorney Hugh Brown requested to be out of state in September. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

**TAX ABATEMENT**

The Commissioners held a meeting dealing with the tax abatement request by Chester Solar, LLC. In attendance were the Commissioners, Wiley Barker, and three members of the Department of Revenue. The Commissioners outlined information they gathered from discussions with local residents, Travis Kavella (PSC), Northwestern Energy, MT Department of Revenue, and several other statewide county commissioners. Following the questions and answers, Commissioner Hendrickson motioned to deny the tax abatement. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion and it carried with all in favor.

**WIC SATELLITE PROGRAM**

The Commissioners reviewed the inter-local WIC contract with Hill County to provide this service in Liberty County. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried with all in favor.

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

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

**Clerk**

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**Chairman**