

September 6th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

LEPC

Commissioners Hendrickson and Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly LEPC meeting. Highlights were:

1. We need to update two repeaters and many radios
2. The Liberty Medical Center has a new Physical Therapist
3. There were eight fires in Liberty County in August
4. The Ambulance Crew was extremely busy this Labor Day weekend

COUNCIL ON AGING

The monthly meeting was held at the Liberty Community and Senior Center. The underground sprinklers and landscaping at the Liberty Community and Senior Center have been installed. The parking lot project is still "on hold". Interviews for the Directors position will be done this week.

LIBRARY

Librarian, Theresa Fenger, stopped in to check on the disposition of the \$3,500 that was transferred from "The Friends of the Library" account at Bear Paw Credit Union to the Library Capital Improvement account several months ago. Inquiry at the time confirmed these funds could not be spent in fiscal year 2010-2011, but could go into the Capital Improvement fund for the fiscal year of 2011-2012. Her records show the monies were not put into this fund. Where are they?

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR ROD

A retirement party was held at the Liberty Community and Senior Center on Wednesday (8-31-11) for Rod Keith. Following lunch, the program included speeches by the three Commissioners, a presentation of a plaque and gifts, accolades from the Council on Aging, family, and public friends, a special musical program, and cake and ice cream. The party was well attended and appreciated by Rod.

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. Mowing ditches has been slow, but sure. Shawn will get the GPS at Taylor's Propane Center and the Moffat Road for Riverview's crossing. Dan Frederickson had complimented the road crew on their recent grading on the Whitlash Road (per Rlynn). Shawn will check with Ray O'Brien and Randy Thompson about gravel they have committed to the County. They discussed the co-op issue with Toole County and Shawn is not interested at this time.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Cemetery Board meeting on 9-1-11. Ted plans to do some re-seeding of graves this fall. The new equipment trailer is ready for use. The Commissioners looked at the budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012; the total anticipated revenues are \$59,807.

FEMA

Commissioner Rockman met with the FEMA Representative, Bob Frederickson, on 9-1-11 to sign the project worksheet regarding the recreation shelters at Lake Elwell. The total request for repairs is \$62,664.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from Columbia Grain, Inc. confirming the tax abatement meeting scheduled for October 4th. The letter also updated their remodel project from \$2.2 million to \$4,000,000 for the Tiber Pulse Processing Plant.
2. A statement from Alert Security Professional (Great Falls) for \$610.50 for security camera repair and maintenance on Courthouse equipment. They were called by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office (per Ellen) to make these repairs. The Commissioners called as soon as possible to confirm the services.
- 3.

EXTENSION AGENT

Jesse Fulbright was in to discuss a few personnel issues.

TRANSIT DIRECTOR

Rod Keith was in to have the Commissioners approve the annual Federal Transit Administration "Zero Tolerance" policy for drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse for the bus drivers at the center. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve and sign the policy.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE STATE

Commissioner Tempel asked permission to leave the state from 9-12-11 to 9-18-11. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried.

WEED SUPERVISOR

Jim Ghekiere came in to report on his weed department. The Commissioners visited with Jim about the co-op proposition with Toole County. Jim seems interested in trying it for a year. The Commissioners told Jim to make his proposal in writing and the Commissioners would scrutinize it before making an official decision.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Nurse, Karla Kulpus, came in for approval of the annual MCH Block Grant, which pays approximately \$1,600 per year for previous services rendered to low income mothers, etc. Karla does not plan to pursue this grant next year. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve this request.

PAYROLL

Payroll was submitted for approval. Time sheets were examined and approved. Of special note was additional pay to the road crew, which is the 35 cents an hour retroactive to July 1st. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to approve the current county payroll.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson came in to discuss a half time clerk. Denise Wanken is ready to "move on" to full time Treasurer' responsibilities. The Justice of the Peace Office is generating a lot more money than previous years and the work load is increasing too. The Commissioners gave Holly permission to pursue additional help and equipment (computer, phone, etc.)

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

September 7th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

The Commissioners met with the Airport Board to confirm location maps for proposed hangars for Minnehan (60x60) and Wolery/Dailey (48x50).

TOOLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The three Toole County Commissioners called to discuss any additional ideas or decisions about the possible co-oping issue; nothing concrete, but it will be decided soon.

BEN TAYLOR LEASE

Shawn Norick dropped off the GPS map for the Ben Taylor propane facility, so the group finished the contractual paperwork. In addition, the Commissioners took Ben Taylor's lease payment of \$1,449.24 and deposited it into the cemetery account.

CTEP

The Commissioners met with Linda VandeSandt and Greg May at the Lion's Park to measure and re-plan the proposed shelter and storage facility. Greg will get back to the Commissioners at his earliest convenience. The group concluded this CTEP project will now be an early spring build. Project total is approximately \$45,000.

ROCKY BOY WATER PROJECT

The Rocky Boy pipe line crew finally replaced the gravel on the trenching areas to the Osterman Road. Shawn Norick brought the Commissioners photos of this gravel, which is essentially reject sand and rocks. The Commissioners called Tom Montgomery with their dissatisfaction on their product.

SCS

The Commissioners picked up two county map booklets, one for the Treasurer and one for the Commissioners, at \$25 each. The Commissioners negotiated with Marlene Moon, who agreed to charge their cost at \$20 each.

CLAIMS

The current Liberty County claims were submitted for examination and approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. The motion carried to pay these current bills.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere dropped by his proposal for co-oping the Weed Divisions of Liberty and Toole Counties.

INTERVIEWS

The three Commissioners and Rod Keith conducted interviews with four applicants for the Senior Center and Transit Director position: Julie Gagnon, Sheila Duncan, Glenda Hanson, and Gail Cicon. They all interviewed well and each had their own strong and weak points. The Commissioners will make a decision in the next seven to ten days.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

September 13th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson in the morning and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman joined in the afternoon. Commissioner Russ Tempel was out of town but available by phone.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MEETING

Mick Johnson, James Combs, Matt Lodenberg, William Cloyde (Bunge), Monte Faulk (Gavilon), Mike Van Buren (EGT). All the parties agreed turn lanes are needed. After much discussion, EGT will pay \$7,800 and Gavilon \$9,500. The County will supply pit run gravel and a grader. MDT will cover the rest. Work will start right away.

WHITLASH SCHOOL

Karen Salo was doing school inspections and found out the school had replaced a septic system without a permit. They will fill out a permit and remit the payment.

SENIOR DIRECTOR

There was continuing discussion about the applicants' interviews. They had a consensus decision. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Tempel via phone. The motion carried unanimously to offer the job to Glenda Hanson. The proposed starting salary is \$32,725 and medical insurance benefit along with the traditional county benefits.

Glenda was delighted to be chosen for the job, but rejected our offer due to the salary (she claimed she would be take a pay cut from her 18+ years at Liberty Medical Center). She was hoping for an offer of around \$40,000!

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

September 14th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

CERTIFICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

Clausen's did warranty cement work at the new center this week. At the request of Autumn Lineweaver (Clausen's), the Commissioners agreed to sign the "certificate of substantial completion." A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to sign the form. It was mailed to Clausens.

AUDIT CONTRACT

Denning, Downey, and Associates (CPA's) sent their standard audit contract for the next three years as follows:

1. 7-1-2010 to 6-30-2011 for \$16,045
2. 7-1- 2011 to 6-30-2012 for \$13,360
3. 7-1-2012 to 6-30-2012 for \$13,890

The Commissioners discussed this with Rhonda (Clerk and Recorder) and Gayle (Treasurer) for their input. Because there will be a federal audit in the next year; they think we should stick with Denning and Downey. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to sign the contract as submitted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Eight department heads met for the monthly meeting to update work issues in their respective offices. In addition to Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson also present for the meeting were Rhonda Pimley, Shawn Norick, Jim Ghekiere, Jesse Fulbright, Gayle Dahlen, Teresa Fenger and Rod Keith. Teresa shared that she has been handing out the information regarding the upcoming Tax Abatement Hearing.

Rachel reported that she has finalized the School Budgets. She is currently working on the annual data collection for each school district, as well as the Effectiveness Reports (setting goals for CRT testing for grades 8 through 10).

Gayle has received the mill levies and is finalizing things for taxes. She will be attending her annual convention next week, with Motor Vehicle training for the girls in her office the following week.

Jesse is wrapping up his cutworm surveys and other reports. He recently assisted with a wheat stem sawfly publication as well as a water milfoil survey. He and Grover Briggs conducted a Winter Gardening program, and he is currently working on a Tobacco Prevention Grant with Lynda VandeSandt.

Jim also visited about the water milfoil and zebra mussels. He commented that the hot weather has slowed down spraying. He is also working with the BOR on another Russian Olive project that they are gearing up for. The 9-1-1 program is nearing the end of a 5 year contract, so it is time to renew it. This means the replacement of 5 year old computers at about \$80,000.

Shawn reported on the fall mowing – the grass is heavy this year so it is going slow. He also reported on the recent meeting with MDOT and the grain elevators. It was an incredible meeting, so hopefully the first of next week MDOT will get started on the promised turn lanes. The crew is still waiting on some rain to work the roads. The gravel / cement trucks are beginning to take a toll.

Rhonda reported that the budgets for the county are completed and the mill levies have been established and forwarded to the Department of Revenue, Department of Administration, and the Treasurer's Office. The group visited briefly about the recent visit from Montana Secretary of State Linda McCullough and her staff.

Rod visited with the group about the landscaping, sod, vegetation and underground sprinkler system that was recently completed at the new center. Clausen has re-worked the damaged cement pads now. He also reported that the radio frequencies are changing. Rod has received word that he has been awarded another new bus through his grant work. The bus is not scheduled to arrive until the spring of next year. Rod also shared with the group that he is postponing his retirement until December 31st. The interviews for his replacement have been completed and the job has been offered to someone but, it is not yet clear if the person offered the position will be accepting it. Rod also reported that the numbers are up at the Center for lunch attendance.

The Commissioners reported that today they signed the Certificate of Substantial Completion for Clausen. Commissioner Rockman also visited about the upcoming Tax Abatement Hearing that is scheduled for October 4th at 10:00 in the Courtroom. They also reported that FEMA money may be coming our way from the flooding damage to roads and to the shelters.

LIBERTY COUNTY MUSEUM

The Commissioners received notification from Teresa Fenger, the museum apparently failed to complete the annual e-file postcard for "non-profit" states. This may require a new application.

COUNTY BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE MAN

There is a current list of maintenance projects that need to be done in several county offices and buildings. Our "on-call" maintenance man (Jacob Knapton) has not been readily available, so we may consider pursuing another source. We put another call into Jacob. Jacob called the Commissioners back on 9-15-11. He's been extremely busy at CHS and will be through in September. He is still willing to do a few things for us, but will not be offended if we look for another maintenance man.

CORRESPONDENCE TO GOVERNING BOARDS

The Commissioners wrote an official letter to our agency governing boards (Airport, Cemetery, Fire District, Library, and Museum) requesting no funds be spent on CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS without our approval.

WEED DISTRICT

Jim Ghekiere presented the Commissioners with a contract and scope of work for the 2011 Russian Olive Removal Project between the Maria River Watershed, the Liberty County Weed Department, and the contractor, Doug Riggan. There was discussion about our expectations from Doug and his weed crew. The chemicals to spray the stumps would be \$9,600. The contract to cut the trees would be \$20,000. Jim's crew is also spraying "sage brush" below the dam. They have a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for \$2,200.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

September 20th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Russ Tempel. Commissioner Rlynn Rockman was available by phone.

LIBRARIAN

Teresa Fenger stopped by to notify the Commissioners about Jake stopping by and saying he will do work.

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick came in and updated the Commissioners on the road issue dealing with the state turning lanes and the three graders on the Whitlash Road.

CLIFF WICKUM

Cliff Wickum came in to voice his concerns about the Laird Road.

CLAIMS

A few claims were submitted for examination and approval. A motion to pay the claims was made by Commissioner Tempel and was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to pay these bills.

PAYROLL

Payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve the current payroll.

COUNTY SANITARIAN

The Commissioners talked to Karen Salo about the permits for EGT. Karen has already issued them a septic permit.

ROAD TOUR

The Commissioners went and inspected the highway turning lanes.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson informed the Commissioners she will be at conference the last week in September and also October 25th.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Nurse has scheduled two flu shot clinics. They will be charging \$25 per shot.

SENIOR CITIZENS DIRECTOR

The Commissioners re-visited Glenda Hanson as the potential director. They offered her a \$35,500 yearly salary plus benefits. She was looking for a new challenge and work environment, so accepted the offer. The Commissioners also made it clear that she would have a 1-year probationary period. Commissioner Tempel made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Rockman (via telephone), to hire Glenda under the terms as aforementioned. 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

September 27th, 2011 ♦ 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 Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Russ Tempel was attending MACo in Bozeman.

SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

Rod Keith was in to visit with the Commissioners. He confirmed employee, Julie Gagnon, was given two weeks notice per agreement at the time of her employment (she was hired through grant monies to assist Rod during the building project). She was given an option to stay on as a flexible worker (bus driver, kitchen helper, etc.), but she chose not to. Julie's last day will be October 6th.

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to approve payment of current payroll deductions.

EMS APPRECIATION

The LMC sponsored an evening of appreciation to our local EMS volunteers. The hospital board, administrative staff, and medical staff attended. CEO, Ron Gleason, gave a sincere thank you speech to those present. Finger foods, cake, and ice cream followed. This was a "surprise event". Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended.

EMPG

Yvonne Hunnewell brought the current grant for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion carried to sign the EMPG.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE MAN

Ted Zorn, cemetery sexton, called to report that local residents (Warren & Matt Hill) approached him at the cemetery today; and allegedly made threatening and profane accusations about the care of a special tree on cemetery grounds, that apparently died this summer. Ted was obviously upset. The Commissioners called Sheriff Burrows to follow up on the incident.

MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Four elected officials (Rhonda Pimley, Gayle Dahlen, Ann Seidlitz-Melton, and Rachel Ghekiere) met with the Commissioners to express their concerns about the recent hiring and salary of the new Senior Center Director; and inequities in our salary system related to elected officials and other department heads. Discussion: The current base salary for the Liberty County Clerk and Recorder is \$33,196 (the Clerk & Recorder does receive an additional \$2,000 for the Election Administrator responsibilities, however, this is not considered to be part of the base salary). There have been no major wage increases for many years. Liberty County's base salaries are very low as compared to similar counties. Our elected officials are conscientious, dedicated, and qualified people, so it behooves us to get the salaries up to continue to entice good people for these jobs. They would like some immediate action (based on our upcoming anticipated revenues from the new train-loading facilities). Recommendation: \$2,000 raise to elected officials with a letter of commitment for additional raises next fiscal year. The Commissioners will meet with elected officials on October 5th. Meanwhile, we will check with MACo and/or our compensation board.

TAX ABATEMENT MEETING

The Tax Abatement public hearing is scheduled for October 4th. Unfortunately, the Times publication had the wrong date, so we e-mailed a "public service" announcement to KSEN Radio for this week's listeners.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk Chairman