April 2nd, 2009 ♦ Thursday

On the above stated date, Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting in Havre.

April 7th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, as well as many other community members, were in attendance at the regular monthly LEPC meeting held at the Liberty County Emergency Services Building at 8:30 AM.

At the conclusion of the monthly LEPC meeting, Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Rockman attended the Council on Aging meeting held at the Senior Citizen's Center. Topics of discussion included the upcoming Governor's Council meeting, presentation of a Centurian award to Howard Eveland, the collection of letters of support for the senior citizens building project and the income survey.

Commissioner Hendrickson met with Dr.Gladys Young about the County Public Health Officer position. It was decided that a meeting between the Commissioners, Dr.Young, Penny Walston and Yvonne Hunnewell was needed to further coordinate everyone's efforts.

Ed Gierke stopped by to visit with Commissioner Hendrickson about the County DES program, and the application for the EMPG grant funding.

Upon the return of Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Rockman; the Board of Liberty County Commissioners began their regular session scheduled for this day, in their room at the Courthouse. All Commissioners were present.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. Shawn has received five Road Crossing Applications from Three Rivers for the Commissioners to consider. After review, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to grant these applications. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The group discussed the existing problems with the sewer line to the Bio-Diesel Plant. The Town of Chester has visited with Shawn about getting a clean-out put in on the line to relieve the issue of constant plugging. John Kleinsasser has also suggested that a septic tank should be put in. The Commissioners will visit with Brett Earl and Logan Fisher regarding this issue.

Shawn is looking into new mower prices. Shawn has found a demo mower that is in good shape, that he is currently trying to negotiate a better price on.

The WISPUS program for tires had been discussed at the recently attended road supervisor's convention. Commissioner Rockman recommended that Shawn telephone Gallatin County to learn more about this program.

Union negotiations were briefly discussed. The Commissioner's have received a letter from the Union outlining the road crew's requests. Their raise request was discussed. The issue of changing to a 5-day week during the winter months was also discussed.

TOWN OF CHESTER / SEWER LINE ISSUE

John Kleinsasser was in to update the Commissioner's on the sewer line to the Bio-Diesel Plant. The group visited about how to fix the pipe. It is believed that the cost to fix the issue will be approximately $500 to $600 for parts, plus the cost of the digging.

DES

Yvonne Hunnewell stopped by to briefly discuss DES wages.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Present for the meeting in addition to the Commissioners were Harry Heimbigner, Betty Marshall, Rod Keith, Gary Jensen, and Craig Erickson. Craig presented some spreadsheets for the group to review. The spreadsheets outlined the estimated numbers for the construction costs, plus ideas for where the money might come from to fund the project. These projected numbers only included the senior center and did not include the cost of an added bus garage. The group briefly explored some of their options concerning this project. Craig Erickson inquired of the Commissioners, whether they were interested in proceeding with the PAR and the grant application if it means taking out a rural development loan. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to pursue this process by continuing on with the PAR process and proceeding with the grant application. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MUSEUM

Commissioner Tempel attended the Spring Board meeting of the Museum. The Board requested that Commissioner Tempel submit a "Request for Proposal" notice to the Liberty County Times, for the Museum roofing project.

MAY CONSTRUCTION

Greg May was in to visit with the Commissioners about the Senior Center building project. The Commissioners also briefly visited with Greg about the shelter project at Tiber Dam, and the foundation issues with the Courthouse basement.

CTEP / COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

In addition to the Commissioners, present for the CTEP meeting were Lynda VandeSandt, Krystal Steinmetz, Greg May, and Curtis May. Krystal presented the Commissioners with the application packet for the CTEP funding. They have decided on the 3-sided cedar structure with enclosures for storage. The project will require some concrete work and some benches are also being planned. In addition to the structure, the funding will also cover the cost of some additional Christmas decorations. The group discussed the electrical wiring. Krystal does not believe that any electrical work has been included in the plans at this time, but said that it could easily be added to the plans at a later time.

After further discussion it was decided that at this time the plans and the application needed some re-working. Krystal will work on that, and get back with the Commissioners at a later time.

ROCKY BOY WATER LINE

Ann Marie Robinson and Nate Weisenburger were in to visit with the Commissioners regarding the Rocky Boy water line and the North Central Water Authority. The group talked about hooking up the rural water lines. The Authority will be willing to bore all the roads that the county wants. Low traffic roads could be trenched. The lines will not be run in the county right of ways.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Suzie David and Judy Lucas stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about Rural Development and funding for community programs. They offer grant money and direct loan programs for things like community facilities. Eligibility is based upon average income. Based upon the previous census numbers, Liberty County is not eligible, but the Town of Chester is eligible for some of their funding. Suzie told the Commissioners that she thought it might be possible that their agency might be able to help with our Senior Center building project, but that Craig Erickson is aware of their programs and will undoubtedly lead the county in the right direction concerning the options available.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

Clerk & Recorder Pimley presented the Commissioners with two requests for budget resolutions. After reviewing Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the Extension request for a budget resolution. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the Alcohol Rehabilitation budget resolution. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-05

WHEREAS, in the current Fiscal Year the Liberty County Extension Office has received to date $1,338.60 in reimbursement from the State of Montana – Montana State University;

WHEREAS, at the time of setting budgets only $900.00 in reimbursement was anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of $438.60 in revenues received from reimbursements in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Liberty County Extension Office Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 7th day of April, 2009

ATTEST:
Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

RESOLUTION 09-06

WHEREAS, in the current Fiscal Year the Alcohol Rehabilitation Fund has received to date $5,527.00 in earmarked alcohol tax money from the State of Montana.

WHEREAS, at the time of setting budgets only $5,169.00 in earmarked alcohol tax money was anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of $358.00 in revenues received from the State of Montana in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Alcohol Rehabilitation Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 7th day of April, 2009

ATTEST:
Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

April 8th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russell Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In addition to the Commissioners, present for the meeting were: Dr. Gladys Young, Yvonne Hunnewell, and Penny Walston. Dr. Young has agreed to take over as the Public Health Officer. The group discussed the various trainings available to assist her in becoming familiar with her position. The group also discussed coordination between Penny Walston's responsibilities as Public Health Coordinator and Dr. Young's responsibilities as Public Health Officer. Penny shared with Dr. Young some resources that were helpful to her. They also discussed what some of the other counties are doing. They may wish to have another meeting in the future, and include Public Health Nurse Karla Kulpas.

Yvonne Hunnewell visited about the exercise that they will be running in June (possibly the week of the 16th through the 19th). NIMS requirements were also discussed. Yvonne said she is hoping to hold a 300 level class sometime after the first of July, and then a 400 level class sometime soon after that.

Yvonne also talked about the plans for the health fair scheduled for May 27th. They are planning on holding a drawing for a "NOAH" weather radio.

BIO DIESEL PLANT / SEWER LINE ISSUE

Brett Earl and Logan Fisher were in to visit with the Commissioners regarding the plug in the sewer line. They believe that the line is not frozen but that the issue is more likely to be a plug. They told the Commissioners that they have already invested some money into remedying the issue, but they so far have not been able to resolve it. The group discussed the possible options for fixing the issue. Brett said that the City Council is meeting tonight, and he plans on discussing this issue there as well.

Using bio-diesel to run the county equipment was briefly explored. They thought this summer after the school bus program ends, may be a good time to try it out. They reminded the Commissioners that there are credits and incentives available from the State for these programs.

The group also explored the possibility of using the glycerin on the gravel roads for dust control.

CLAIMS APPROVAL

After reviewing the claims approval list as presented, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve all claims for payment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NEW HORIZONS

It is time to renew the contract with Chouteau County for services from New Horizons for our Alcohol Rehabilitation program. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the renewal contract. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CASCADE COUNTY REGIONAL JUVENILE YOUTH SERVICES

Commissioner Hendrickson completed and faxed the quarterly report for Liberty County in to the Cascade County Regional Juvenile Youth Services.

UNION PROPOSALS

Commissioner Hendrickson faxed to Jeff Minkler, a copy of the letter they have received from the Union.

ROAD

Shawn Norick stopped by to discuss with the Commissioners the possibility of taking advantage of an employment placement program from HRDC. The program would place and pay an employee for the road department for a 3 month period. The program pays all benefits as well. The Commissioners will visit with HRDC to let them know we are interested.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

April 14th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

On the above stated date at 8:00 AM, a meeting was held in the Commissioner's room of the Courthouse, to discuss the Senior Citizens building project. Present for the meeting were Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Rod Keith, Greg May, Harry Heimbigner, Pat Ludwig, Betty Marshall and Priscilla Pimley. Commissioner Rockman joined the meeting mid-way through.
The group discussed the current status of HB645, which is the legislative bill designed to distribute the stimulus funding money. Liberty County's stimulus money has been designated to go towards the Senior Citizens building project.
The Transit grant money was also discussed. If received, the Transit grant money will go towards the building of a bus garage. Some of the original building plans were reviewed, and the possibility of incorporating some bathrooms and extra office space into the garage was explored. The group expressed their desire to begin moving forward with the garage. Decisions about the garage plans need to be made, as well as finding an engineer for the project.
The building site was discussed. There may be a need to remove the slope from the lots and do some leveling.
Greg May shared some of his ideas for the garage floor plans. The group also discussed heated concrete flooring for the building. Greg believes this floor heating will help the building to stay consistently warm. The group visited about a vaulted ceiling. Greg pointed out that a vaulted ceiling would result in exposed duct work for the air conditioning, but said that he has ideas for how this can be made to look quite attractive. Greg estimates that by the time all the plan details have been worked out and the permits have been applied for and received, it will be about Fall before he could possibly get started.

SHELTER PROJECT / TIBER DAM

Greg May and Shawn Norick briefly discussed the additional shelter project at Tiber Dam. There may be a need to visit with the Bureau of Reclamation about one of the proposed sites.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING / SAFETY MEETING

Present for the monthly department head meeting were Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Sheriff Richard Burrows, Treasurer Gayle Dahlen, Senior Citizens Director Rod Keith, Librarian Teresa Fenger, Weed Director Jim Ghekiere, County Superintendant of Schools Rachel Ghekiere, Clerk of District Court Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Road Foreman Shawn Norick, Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, and Insurance Agent Tina Wood.
Tina was present to further discuss safety matters with the department heads. She informed the group that there has been a high frequency of workman's compensation claims lately, and that it is in everyone's best interest to make sure that the cause of these accidents are thoroughly examined and steps taken to prevent accidents like them in the future.
Tina also informed the group that Emelia, who is with the MACo Safety Program, will be coming to Liberty County in May. The purpose of Emelia's visit will be to help Liberty County develop more structure to their Safety Program.
Tina also discussed with the group how a lack of detailed job descriptions occasionally poses some problems for workman's compensation. Tina requested that each department head do some work on the different job descriptions in each of their offices.
Tina said that the County needs to be working on an early return to work program, and then she also inquired about the interest level of a CPR class for Liberty County employees. The class usually runs about 4 hours, and she would like to encourage Liberty County to seriously consider it.

At the conclusion of the safety portion of the monthly department head meeting, each department head present gave a brief report about the current work in their respective offices.

BOARD OF HEALTH

A County Board of Health meeting was conducted on Friday, April 10th. Commissioner Rockman was in attendance at the meeting. He reported that he was elected Chairman to the Board. He also reported that Penny Walston, Karla Kulpas, and Dr. Gladys Young updated those present on the Communicable Disease Protocols for the County. They said that there is a need for a secure confidential system, and they are in the process of developing a program to ensure confidentiality.

SHELTER PROJECT / TIBER DAM

Charley Frey stopped by to briefly discuss with the Commissioners the status of the shelter project at Tiber Dam. He is also concerned about the proposed sites. Charley and Commissioner Hendrickson walked over to the BOR office to visit with Mike LaFrentz about this matter. While there, they were told that an archaeologist has determined that artifacts exist in the areas that are considered to be the prime locations for shelters. Mike cautioned that it will be extremely difficult to change the locations that are currently being proposed.

CEMETERY

Commissioner Rockman, who also serves on the Cemetery Board, updated the other Commissioners on Cemetery matters. The board has officially appointed Rachel Ghekiere as the new secretary to the Cemetery Board. The group also discussed the possibility of sharing the "summer help" that is being brought on board with the county through the HRDC tanif program. Sexton Terry Thielman could use some help in preparing the cemeteries for Memorial Day.

TREASURER / CREDIT CARDS

Treasurer Gayle Dahlen dropped in to visit with the Commissioners about trying to get her office set up to accept credit cards. She has visited with the Treasurer from Cascade County and believes her office could benefit from the ability to accept credit cards. She has had several requests in the past from taxpayers to pay by credit card. The Commissioners inquired about the set up costs and the fees that will be incurred to the county. The group also discussed the possibility of some of the other offices in the courthouse sharing the system with her. Treasurer Dahlen will further investigate the matter, and get back to the Commissioners at a later time.

RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS

In that there were no nominating petitions filed for the scheduled rural fire districts elections; the elections were cancelled and the respective boards were requested to submit recommendations for appointments. Recommendations have been received from both the Joplin Rural Fire District and the West Liberty County Rural Fire District. After reviewing Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the recommendations from the district boards as presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Appointments for this year included: Micheal Alley and Douglas Moore as trustees to the Joplin Rural Fire District, and Mark Engstrom and Steve Backen as trustees to the West Liberty County Rural Fire District.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

After reviewing and a brief discussion, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve and adopt the following budget resolution. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-07

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 the Liberty County Immunizations Grant Fund anticipated $15,000 in non-tax revenues;

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Immunization Grant Fund actually has received $30,457.22 in non-tax revenues for charges for services in Fiscal Year 2008-2009;

WHEREAS, $15,457.22 of this revenue was not anticipated at the time of setting budgets;

WHEREAS, $5,857.49 was previously added to the budget in Budget Resolution 09-04;

WHEREAS, the Liberty Medical Center is requesting they be allowed to expend the additional $9,599.73;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of $9,599.73 in revenues received from charges for services, in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Liberty County Immunizations Grant Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 14th day of April, 2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Russ Tempel
Chairman

Commissioner

Lynn Rockman
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda S Pinkey
Clerk

ROADS

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to discuss current road matters with the Commissioners. He informed them that he is still negotiating with Tilleman's on the price of a new mower.
The group also briefly discussed the shelter project at Tiber Dam. Greg May has expressed a desire to get this project started.
Shawn reminded the Commissioners that he will be in Peoria all of next week for the Caterpillar Convention. In his absence, he is leaving Jerry Ghekiere in charge.

RACHEL GHEKIERE / CITY COUNCIL

A project to complete a Spray Park for the small children at the new swimming pool is being considered as part of the stimulus funding money that the Town of Chester may be receiving. Rachel is requesting that the Commissioners consider submitting a letter of support to Senator Black and Representative Hollandsworth for this project. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign and submit a letter of support of this proposed project. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The group also discussed the funding for the new swimming pool. Rachel told the Commissioners that the board is discussing the possibility of making it a "free pool" to all or possibly a "scholarship" program of some kind to provide ability to the less able families. She added that the new pool is not eligible to be included on the combined fund drive because it is owned by the Town of Chester. Some funding will be provided from the fees charged to participants in the swim meets scheduled for this summer. Also, Rachel requested that the County Commissioner's consider giving $5,000 to help support the "free pool".
The Commissioner's consensus was that the county could not give the $5,000 and their recommendation was for "scholarships" for needy families.

HOSPITAL SURPLUS

The following list of equipment has been received from Shari Meissner at Liberty Medical Center. She is requesting that the Commissioners review the listed equipment and declare the items obsolete do that they can be disposed of.

Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, Inc.
Surplus Equipment
Liberty Medical Center
Surplus Equipment
April 10, 2009

Quantity	Description of Item
1	2003 Chevrolet Van – Customized to carry portable mammography machine
1	2001 PlanMed Sophie Classic Mammography Machine
2	Fiberglass All in One Shower/Tub Unit – 60"
2	Wardrobe Cabinet – 7'x4'x2'
1	Floor vase with flowers
1	Large autumn wreath
4	Medium Sunflower wreaths
1	Table lamp
1	Large outdoor blow up Santa
1	Glass vase with flowers
1	Wicker basket with flowers
1	Small box Halloween decorations
1	Christmas centerpiece
2	Christmas canisters
Several	Holiday baskets
1	Scotch Brite Quick Clean Griddle System
3	Plastic Serving Trays
2	Cases mismatched and sets of glasses
1	Toaster
Misc	Dressing cups and holders
5	Twin bed bed spreads – peach color
	Fitted twin sheet sets – peach color
	Pillow cases – peach color
1	Thanksgiving cornucopia
1	Small Deep Fat Fryer
1	Life size Santa
1	20" Quasar TV with built in VCR
1	48" CONN Organ
3	Chandeliers
Misc Dishes	Fruit bowls, coffee cups, monkey dishes, coffee plates, Dessert plates – All White
6	Glass table tops
2	Crock pots
1	Blender
Misc Books	
Misc Magazines	National Geographic
1	HPLJ 4000 Printer- barely works
1	HPLJ 5L Printer - 20 years old but still prints
1	Microline 320 Okidate 9 pin printer
1	Epson LJ300 9 pin printer
1	Okidate Microline 320 9 pin printer
2	Dot matrix printers
1	IBM 4226 dot matrix printer
5	Switches 12-48 port
3	Push button phones
1	Blue electric typewriter
7	Keyboards
1	Sharp BX 700 Fax machine
13	Lexmark printer ribbons
1	Small Desk
7	17" monitors
4	15 " monitors
6	CPU's, some with missing parts
1	Address-O-Graph & 9 manual printers
1	Home made desk
1	PVC pipe shower chair
1	Electric kitchen stove – household model
1	Amana washing machine – household model
1	Stainless steel double sink
1	6 shelf stainless steel cart on wheels
1	Birthing bed
2	Gurneys
2	Geri chairs
1	Anderson window double crank out
1	Portable PA loud speaker system
1	5 seat yellow bench
1	2 seat yellow bench
2	Wooden benches 8' (mount in ground)
6	Milk house heaters
1	Pool table 56'' X 28'' small scale
1	Physical Therapy treatment table 27 ''H x 24''W x 6'' L
1	Old metal desk
1	Inside window louvers 31'' High X 40''
3	Wood cabinets no doors 8' X 3'

HRDC / TANF PROGRAM

Geraldine Laux from HRDC was in to visit with the Commissioners and Shawn Norick about the state funded TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work program. She explained that the program is a short term transitional program for unemployed and income qualified people that have applied for TANF assistance. HRDC looks to the family's community to find workplace placement, to employ a qualified individual for 32 hours to 40 hours per week of work. The employer provides supervision and is asked to complete an assessment at the end of the program. TANF pays the individuals wages and benefits. There is an individual who has qualified for this program in Liberty County, and Geraldine would like to get the proper paperwork taken care of to start this individual to work for Liberty County. He will primarily work under Shawn's supervision at the Road department, but may also work for the Cemetery District as well as other County entities.
Questions about the labor union were raised and discussed, as well as questions about liability insurance on county equipment and property. Tina Wood was telephoned regarding some of these concerns. Tina said that as long as the individual is covered by workman's compensation, all equipment and property would also be covered.
The paperwork/contract was reviewed, completed and signed by the Commissioners.

ROAD / MACO LOSS CONTROL SPECIALIST

The Commissioners spent the remainder of this day at the road department. Jack Knorr, a MACo/JPT Loss Control Specialist was here to visit with the road crew regarding road blading practices. All road crew members were in attendance at the meeting, with the exception of Scott Ross.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____
Clerk Chairman

April 15th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russell Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

BOR / SHELTER PROJECT

Mike LaFrentz stopped by to visit about the proposed locations of the two new shelters. They visited about possibly moving the shelter site located by the boat ramp, further to the west. Mike will visit with the archaeologist about this new location. They visited briefly about the good work of the road crew on the county roads recently. Mike also wanted the Commissioners to be aware that there is a new BOR recreation supervisor for this area.

BIO-DIESEL PLANT SEWER LINE

On April 8th the road crew assisted with the repairs to the Earl-Fisher Bio-diesel plant sewer line. Earl-Fisher, the Town of Chester, and Liberty County will split the costs of these repairs at 1/3 each.

MINUTES

After reviewing, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the minutes of March 18th through April 8th as amended. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROADS

Shawn Norick was in to discuss the meeting yesterday with Jack Knorr. The group felt it was a very good meeting that was well received by all. Shawn said that the crewmen continued to ask Jack very good questions, even after the Commissioners had left. They discussed developing a pre-check list similar to the example Jack Knorr shared with them.
Shawn informed the Commissioners of the upcoming grader school. A two day workshop in Lewistown is currently scheduled. Shawn has one crewman that needs to be certified, and a second crewman that he believes could benefit from attending the school a second time to build his skills further.
The group briefly discussed spraying the road edges with round-up. The Commissioners would like to try a small amount of this and see how it works. The Weed Department should be able to do this work for us.

FIREHALL FURNACE

Quannah Bailey was in to visit with the Commissioners about the bid received from Cut Bank for the supplemental furnace at the firehall. The group reviewed the bid and listened to Quannah's suggestions. The Commissioners will make some telephone calls later today.

OMNIBUS HEARING

Joe Cobel was telephoned regarding the status of a Liberty County prisoner being held in the Fort Benton prison. Mr. Cobel was questioned regarding the prisoner's medical bills, and who is responsible for their payment. Mr.Cobel believes that these bills are the responsibility of the Public Defender. Mr. Cobel will telephone the Public Defender's office and visit with him regarding this matter. The Commissioners faxed a copy of the bill in question to Mr.Cobel's office. Mr.Cobel also apologized for the delays to this case, and explained that the delays were unavoidable and that these types of cases typically do not progress fast.

FIREHALL FURNACE

The Commissioners telephoned Highline Sheet Metal in Cut Bank regarding their furnace bid for the firehall. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept the bid. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners confirmed with Highline Sheet Metal that they are accepting the bid of $3,950 for a furnace. A payment from West Chester Fire District for half the amount will be sent directly.

Jim Ghekiere was in to visit with the Commissioners. Jim wrote a $2,500 check for the furnace out of the West Chester Fire District account as a down payment. The group then discussed spraying the edges of a few miles of road. Jim also presented the Commissioners with two weed grant applications for their review and signatures. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the Marias River grant and the Sweetgrass Hills grant. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOSPITAL SURPLUS

The Commissioners went up to the hospital to view the items on the list of equipment that the hospital has requested that the Commissioners declare obsolete. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to declare the items obsolete as requested. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S OFFICE / CREDIT CARD

Liberty County Treasurer Gayle Dahlen was in to visit with the Commissioners. She has visited more with the Treasurer from Cascade County about the credit card system. She explained that government entities are allowed to charge the customer a fee for the use of a credit card; so therefore the costs are carried by the customer and not the County. The County would be out the monthly fee only. The Treasurer from Cascade County told Gayle that the ability to take credit cards has cut down on the non-sufficient funds checks and their unpaid taxes. Gayle thought that perhaps her office could try this on a trial basis at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____

Clerk Chairman

April 21st, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

Jim Ghekiere dropped by to further discuss spraying the edges of the roads. Jim will calculate how much spray he thinks will be needed and let the Commissioners know. Jim will also purchase enough extra sterilant to cover the county yards.
Jim also visited with the Commissioners about summer help. Jim has placed an advertisement in this weeks paper. The HRDC – TANF program was briefly discussed.

SHELTER PROJECT

The Commissioners briefly discussed the shelter project. Each shelter is estimated to cost at around $12,000 with a 50% match from the County. Much of the 50% match will be satisfied with in-kind work. The Commissioners agreed to pay the bill submitted by Greg May Construction for the materials he has already purchased for the project.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the claims as they have been submitted, which includes the Greg May Construction bill. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

EMT'S / IMMUNIZATIONS

Commissioner Tempel telephoned Public Health Nurse Karla Kulpus to discuss the hepatitis A immunizations for the EMT's. Some EMT's have already received their immunizations, but there are about 6 to 8 EMT's left to vaccinate. The state donated about 10 doses, but the County needed about 16 doses. The cost is running about $35/dose, and because it is the Bio-terrorism Program that is requiring the EMT's to receive these vaccinations, Karla felt it should be the Bio-terrorism grant money that pays this additional cost. These additional vaccinations will probably not be needed until about September.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve payment of the payroll as it has been presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

EMT'S / IMMUNIZATIONS

Penny stopped by to visit with the Commissioners about the payment of the hepatitis A immunizations out of the Bio-terrorism Grant. The Commissioners have looked into the matter and confirmed that this arrangement will be agreeable. The Commissioners also told Penny that their understanding is that there may be another allocation of immunizations from the State of Montana, and they would like Penny to keep on the look out for that possibility.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was conducted on April 21st at 12:30 PM at the Senior Citizens Center for the purpose of hearing the Preliminary Architect's Report and to take public comment on the proposed new building project. In addition to the presence of all three of the Liberty County Commissioners, there was a large attendance of about 63 people at the meeting. John Eisen from JGA Architect Firm spoke about the available properties, and the pros and cons of each site. He visited about the site that has been chosen, and why it was chosen. John then laid out for the group the basic building plans that have been developed, that detailed the layout of the rooms and the parking lot location. He showed how the flow of the drop off area for the bus would work. This layout would provide at least twice as much room than the current facility provides. The current plans are left without details and specifics but made so that many different ideas are possible.

John also visited with the group about the cost of the project and the plans to cover the costs with grant money. The CDBG grant will cover 75% of the $1 million estimated cost of the project; and in addition, another grant is being sought.

The floor was then opened to questions from the public. A question was raised about why the proposal of joining the new senior center with the Wheat Country Estates building was decided against. It was stated that concerns about the difference in lifestyles, and a disruption to the daily routine of the elders living at the Estate had been raised. It was also felt that there would be restrictions to the uses of the building by the non-resident seniors, and conflicts about who is using the space and at what times. There were also some potential building limitations – citing no place for the parking of the buses as one example.

Craig Erickson spoke to the group. His goal is to have the CDBG grant application ready for the Commissioner's signatures by Monday, May 18th. Craig also commented that this is the largest public hearing that he has ever been a part of; stating that this is a very important factor to the Department of Commerce.

Craig reinforced that the purpose of this meeting was to inform the public and to give all an opportunity to comment on the proposed project. He handed out information about the Bear Paw District gathered from the latest census. The information included estimated population of the County and the estimated number of people 65 and older. Craig commented that Liberty County, by far, has the largest percentage of seniors in the Bear Paw District. This information helps reinforce the need for services for our aging population in Liberty County.

Craig visited with the group about what the CDBG program is, stating that it is a federally funded grant program designed to help communities with their greatest community development needs. All projects must be designed to principally benefit low and moderate-income families and meet at least one of the national and state objectives of the CDBG Program. This information was further outlined on the informational handout given to those in attendance.

Craig directed the group to refer to the chart on page 3 of his handout. The chart helps illustrate where the funding for the project is anticipated to come from, and was further explained by Craig. He pointed out that the chart indicates a $266,000 gap that could be picked up by a 30 year USDA Rural Development loan at 4.5% interest. Because of this anticipated debt, there is a financial impact to the County that should be analyzed. Craig believes that there is enough revenue to cover this debt, ***if*** the voted mill levy continues. The mill levy will need to be voted on again in another 4 years, and it will be very important for it to pass.

Craig encouraged the people to let the Commissioners know their thoughts on or before May 18th, and to seriously consider writing a letter of support for the project. He also reminded them of the need for the completed income surveys and what they will be used for; emphasizing their importance.

Craig conducted a simple straw poll of the people there, which seemed to indicate overwhelming support and very little opposition to this proposed project.

Craig said that Liberty County should know by September on whether we have been awarded the CDBG grant. The project design could begin by winter, go to bid by spring, and begin construction by early 2011.

The public PAR meeting for the proposed Liberty County Senior Citizens Center project adjourned at 1:10 PM.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Liberty County Commissioners reconvened in their room at the Courthouse for the afternoon session of their regularly scheduled day. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

Greg May dropped by to visit with the Commissioners about the shelter project at Tiber Dam and about the Senior Center Building project.

The Commissioners also briefly discussed the possibility of purchasing the two Shettel lots located just east of the county owned lots at the proposed building site for the new Senior Center.

NEW HORIZONS

Carol Richards informed the Commissioners that she has accepted a full-time position with the Veteran's Administration in Great Falls. She introduced her replacement, Alou Horinek to the Commissioners. Carol assured the Commissioners that she will help her current clients through this transitioning period.

CTEP

Present for the meeting to discuss the CTEP funding were Krystal Steinmetz, Bob Mattson, Lynda VandeSandt, Barb Wolfe, and Jim Vinson. Krystal informed the group that due to a new interpretation of the CTEP funding guidelines, the banners no longer qualify for CTEP funding. However, it has been determined that the banner enhancers are eligible, so therefore Krystal has revised the grant application to reflect this new determination. Krystal reported that all of the other requests for this proposed project seem to be eligible for CTEP funding. She reminded the group that CTEP no longer allows the use of in-kind work to help satisfy the Liberty County match.
The group discussed some of the details of the proposed project. The 4 yard lights that currently exist on the property may have to be removed and replaced. The group also discussed the possibility of moving the existing structure to the City Park rather than demolishing it.
Krystal said that it is usually OK to make some changes to the proposed plans if the changes do not change the scope of work, but all changes would still have to be run by the Department of Transportation.

The project will require a qualified engineer. Krystal has visited with Jeremy Simmons about this project, and he is available to assist us.
Commissioner Rockman made the motion to sign the CTEP application for the project at the Lion's Park. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the payment of payroll as it has been presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS

The Commissioners briefly discussed how they want to handle the health insurance companies that submit bids to the County Health Insurance Policy.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____
Clerk Chairman

April 28th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the payroll claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NRCS GRANTS

Soil Conservation Director Marlene Moon was in to visit with the Commissioners. She had two grant applications for their review. She stated that the full amount

KENFIELD EASEMENT

County Attorney Hugh Brown was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding the Kenfield Easement. The Kenfield's attorney Jim Kaze had some concerns with the original document draft. Hugh believes this new draft addresses Mr. Kaze's concerns as well as looking out for the best interests of the County. After some discussion Commissioner Rockman made the motion to sign the "Overhead Power Line Right of Way Use Permit". Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The document was signed and attested to by Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. He attended the Caterpillar Convention in Peoria last week, and Shawn shared the events of the convention with the Commissioners. He commented that there were seminars on dealing with people, and dealing with the media. There was an equipment show, and a tour of the facilities including a tour of the shipping / parts department.

Other road issues and crew issues were also discussed. Shawn has moved the men around to different locations now. He outlined for the Commissioners where he has placed each of the crewmen, and his reasoning. The group further explored the best approach for dealing in the long range with the road conditions. Overtime for the crewmen, and taking advantage of the current moisture and conditions was emphasized. They also discussed the spraying of the edges of the roads. Jim will probably start on this next week.

SHELTERS / TIBER DAM

Mike LaFrentz was in to visit again with the Commissioners about the shelter sites at Tiber Dam. One site already has the cement poured, and the other site is still on hold pending the decision from the State Historic Preservation Office. The Commissioners would like to get moving on the second site, and are hoping the decision to allow them to move it away from the boat ramp will not take too long. Mike is insisting that a different site location must be cleared through all the proper channels. He reinforced that everyone understands the push to accomplish this prior to Memorial Day and Mike will do everything he can to help move it along, but he doesn't have much control.
Mike also told the Commissioners that he has received two applications for the Tiber Marina Concessions. They will be looking at them tomorrow.

EMS / AMBULANCE LIABILITY

The County has received an invoice from the insurance company for the EMS / Ambulance liability insurance. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment this insurance claim as submitted. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MUSEUM SIDING BIDS

The construction bids for the Museum siding project were due in by today. Only one bid has been received. It was opened and reviewed by the Commissioners. A Museum Board meeting is scheduled for next week. The matter will be further discussed at that board meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Commissioners took some time to review the health insurance bids that have been received so far today. They discussed briefly how to proceed with the insurance committee and future meetings with the agents.

A health insurance committee meeting was held on the afternoon of this day. In addition to the three Commissioners, present for the meeting were Ann Wickum, Teresa Fenger, Steve Cameron, Scott Ross, Trina Thielman, and Rhonda Pimley.

Some of the important information from the different bids were photocopied and passed around for the committee members to review. Our current insurance rates have gone up 15.9%.

The Commissioners have requested that the committee members take some time to come up with a list of questions to pose to each of the insurance agents. The dental and vision options were discussed.

The group made the decision to invite each of the agent's in come and present their plans next Thursday.

The Commissioners made telephone calls to make the arrangements for the meetings all day Thursday.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION FREEZER

The Commissioners telephoned Shari Meissner at Liberty Medical Center to discuss the need for a new freezer for the Public Health Nurse.

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

ATTEST:_____ _____
Clerk Chairman

April 30th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

HEALTH INSURANCE MEETINGS

The meeting to hear the proposal from Blue Cross/Blue Shield was scheduled for this day at 9:00 AM. Present for this meeting were Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Roger Olson, Judd Wagner, Ann Wickum, Teresa Fenger, Scott Ross, Sheila Duncan, Trina Thielman, Steve Cameron, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, and Rhonda Pimley.

Roger and Judd presented a power point presentation and explained the details of what they could offer.

The meeting to hear the proposal from Cindy Anderson of Great Falls was scheduled for 11:00 AM. Present for this meeting were Cindy Anderson, Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Ann Wickum, Teresa Fenger, Scott Ross, Trina Thielman, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, and Rhonda Pimley.

Cindy presented details of insurance from Assurant Insurance and from Star Mark Insurance.

The meeting to hear the proposal for a renewal from EBMS / JPT was scheduled for 2:00 PM. Present for this meeting were Gary Hablutzel, Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Steve Cameron, Ann Wickum, Teresa Fenger, Scott Ross, Sheila Duncan, Trina Thielman, Steve Cameron, and Rhonda Pimley.

Gary explained why it was necessary to raise the premiums for Liberty County 15.9%. He said that they received $151,000 in premiums last year, but paid out $320,000 in claims.

The meeting to hear the proposal from MACo / HealthCare Trust was scheduled for 3:30 PM. Present for this meeting were Owen Voigt, Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Ann Wickum, Steve Cameron, Trina Thielman, Scott Ross, Sheila Duncan, Teresa Fenger and Rhonda Pimley.

Owen outlined all of the details of what the MACo plan could offer.