

August 7th, 2012 ♦ 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

Seven members attended the monthly LEPC meeting. Highlights:

1. Liberty Medical Center is considering a training session with Bret Lloyd on DECON in October.
2. LMC has 60 "heavy duty" body bags for DES use.
3. Training equipment has been ordered by EMS.
4. Commissioners are actively pursuing a mental health therapist to serve Liberty County.
5. New computers have been installed at the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and the employees have been trained in the 911 mapping. All new cell phones have GPS capabilities, but we are still at the mercy of our AT&T tower. Land phone calls come in to the Liberty County Sheriff's Office with current information regarding name and location of emergency.
6. The DNRC grant has been approved for \$7,000 total. Use of funds for wildland fire training and new tank on rural fire truck.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly meeting of the Council on Aging. Current balance in the account = \$86,044. New cupboards were discussed. The parking lot is to be done this fall by Greg May. Red Cross will do a presentation on "senior evacuation" today at lunchtime. Ten more memorial tiles have been ordered. Glenda has put together an informal survey regarding transit / senior center services.

CTEP

We met Greg May, Lynda VandeSandt, Jim Vinson, and Shawn Norick at the CTEP project. It's now complete, except Greg still needs to plug the two conduit holes and install a threshold under one door. The Chamber of Commerce is satisfied with the final product. The contractor's application for payment of \$44,500 (less 1% GRT) was submitted. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to approve payment. The motion carried.

PAYROLL

Payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to pay current salaries and termination pay for Justin Maki. The motion carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues:

1. We discussed the continued issue at Tootsie Creek road near Frank Oswood's regarding the wash-outs and poor repair to this stretch of road; two local farmers are upset, made suggestions as to how to fix it; reported that a large truck got "high-centered" there recently; and they suggested that this is a potential liability issue for Liberty County.
2. The Whitlash and Laird Roads were in great shape before harvest, but are now taking the brunt from trucks. Shawn will follow-up.
3. The roads in southern Liberty County are excellent, especially Dugout Road.
4. Justin Maki resigned from the road crew.
5. Shawn just spent \$8,000 on grader tires, mainly because they were available (currently, there is a 6-month delay in delivery). These tires run \$2,000 each. Recaps are now \$1,000 each. Pick-up tires are now \$200 each.
6. The crew is screening gravel at present.

WOOD ENTERPRISES

Marty Wood from Wood Insurance stopped in to renew their insurance contract with us as MACo's local representative. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to sign the contract. The motion carried, and Commissioner Hendrickson signed the contract.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received correspondence from Vern Peterson at JPT, including a copy of a letter to him from former Liberty County employee, Ann Wickum, and his response to Ann.
2. We sent a letter of support to Bear Paw Developments' MICRO BUSINESS RECERTIFICATION process.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

An old box hanger and an old tank stand were considered for obsolescence. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to declare these items obsolete. Ads in the Liberty County Times will be run August 15th and 22nd to sell these items.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT

Michelle Turvell requested a copy of our ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for the Senior Center and Transit Garage, which we completed in March of 2012. A copy was mailed this date.

LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Ellen Gage, head dispatcher, came in per our request to discuss a few informed complaints related to a recent emergency and the dispatcher's response to this incident. She will follow-up with suggestions and training.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Kevin Muirszewski from the American Red Cross made a presentation at the Senior Center entitled "Be Ready for Red Cross". It was an informative talk about Red Cross services, tips to seniors during emergency evacuations, notifying authorities about potential hazards on your property (i.e., propane tanks, etc.), and he supplied pamphlets.

EMPG "in-kind" attendants included Larry Hendrickson, Russ Tempel, Rlynn Rockman, Yvonne Hunnewell, and Glenda Hanson.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 8th, 2012 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Chairman Larry Hendrickson was available by phone.

CLAIMS

The current county claims were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to pay these claims. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Karla Kulpas is presently spending about 25 hours per week as the Public Health Nurse. She can get all of her visits, charting, and pre-insurance reporting done throughout 10 months of "business as usual". However, during the two months of immunization work (October 15th to December 15th), she is unable to get all of the paperwork and insurance filing completed in this 25-hour time slot. Therefore, her request is to hire or utilize an existing employee for 8 hours / week X 8 weeks = 64 hours / year. She mentioned Bonnie Anderson, who works as a receptionist at the LMC Clinic, as a possibility. We will visit with Ron Gleason about sharing Bonnie's hours and / or wages to accomplish this goal.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Hugh Brown attended the "Road Law" seminar sponsored by MACo in Helena on August 7th. Hugh reports that the new deadline for obtaining easements on "county roads crossing State lands" is 2015, but we should deal with the issue sooner than that. Quick calculations reveal potential maximum costs of about \$3,400 / mile to accomplish this.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Major Frank Jasper from the State Selective Service System stopped in to visit with us about their program. They are looking for a local volunteer to serve on the board. The present volunteer, Elayne Wickum, has served for twenty years and cannot serve any longer (in fact, he has a certificate and pin for her services). The new volunteer would complete 4 hours of initial online training, then two additional hours each year. If the draft were to be reinstated, this volunteer would serve on the board to review any administrative or judgment classification requests. The volunteer must meet certain requirements (i.e., cannot be a felon, etc.). We gave him a few names of potential applicants.

GRAVEL

One of our claims to RMR Aggregate in Conrad (O'Brien) is for 5081 yards of crushed gravel at \$25,913.10, which computes to \$5.10 / yard. This is for gravel that we have on hand for present use, so we are square with O'Brien to date.

911 & WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to report that the recent installation of computers / mapping system / training at the Liberty County Sheriff's Office came to about \$12,000. Of this amount we are expecting \$6,100 additional reimbursement from the state grant.

Also, the Havre BLM office has been providing a boat and driver this week to complete the shoreline aquatic weed studies at Lake Elwell and surrounding lakes. Jim's weed crew have fulfilled the labor, testing, and GPS requirements to satisfy this particular grant.

NCAAA

Commissioner Rockman spoke with Karin Roehm, director of NCAAA office in Conrad. She did hire a new fiscal clerk, who seems to be working out. Karin appreciated that Glenda Hanson came to their "Free Legal Documents" clinic and volunteered her services as a notary. The clinic was not as well attended as they hoped, but was still very successful. Our quarterly meeting will probably be a conference call, as most board members are busy farming.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST SEARCH

Commissioner Rockman continued to make calls and follow-up on leads to find a Mental Health Therapist for the County. All are cooperative and sympathetic to our plight / needs, but have busy practices and are not interested in the travelling time involved.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 14th, 2012 ♦ 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 and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Russ Tempel was available by phone.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly cemetery board meeting on August 9th. Erik Kelly (and his mother, Charlotte) came in to discuss his Eagle Scout project, which was well-received by the board. Ted & Erik will calculate the square footage of the Info building and price concrete and forming materials. Erik will organize a work-force and serve as "team-leader".

Ted Zorn reports that the 1984 diesel pick-up has continued transmission "slips" and leaky seals. A rebuild job will probably run about \$2,000, so we will consider updating this pick-up.

Our cash balance in the cemetery account as of June 30th is approximately \$44,000. Do we want to open a "special" CIP-type fund for equipment?

We looked at the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and will leave everything as is except for salaries. Ted and Rachel were not awarded any raises at the time of our prior mid-year decision.

Decisions regarding Cemetery issues:

1. After general discussion, we will not pursue a special "CIP-type fund".
2. Our current budget should handle the expenses on this cement / repair project. If not, we can find a few dollars in "county buildings" and /or "gas & oil" revenues.
3. Raises to our two employees will be effective July 1, 2012 as follows:
 - Rachel Ghekiere = 86¢ / hour based on 9 ½ hours / month
 - Ted Zorn = 86¢ / hour based on 80 hours / month

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss weed issues. He is losing most of his seasonal staff soon. He inquired about putting dual tires on one of the weed pick-ups (to the tune of about \$3,000); after some discussion this idea was rejected by the Commissioners.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. Staff is presently screening gravel, mowing shoulders and ditches, and repairing selected roads. There were two applicants for the road crew position, but neither were considered "exceptional", so the job will be re-advertised. The tandem-seal on Mark's machine is "going out". Last month they put \$1,700 into Dale's machine. The crew did some maintenance work on the Tootsie Creek Road near Frank Oswood's.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman and Shawn Norick met with representatives of MDOT & BNRR (specifically, John Althof, John Stillely, Chad Klintworth, & Dennis Ghekiere) at the two railroad crossings at Whitlash and Laird Roads. Both sites were evaluated for railroad crossing arms, new LED warning lights, and current updates. The paperwork will be processed, then the work will be started in about 1 ½ years. Funding will be by state / federal monies. Upon completion, the county assumes financial responsibility for undetermined damage to the crossing arms (at approximately \$400 each).

On a related issue, one of the railroad cement foundations has become unlevel and "kitty-wampus" at the Laird crossing, causing a rough ride for vehicles and contact friction for train rails. We called the area road master (Quinn Ligon), who will address this issue immediately. Ligon will also visit with us later this fall to organize a work project to repair the damaged roadway (where it joins the railroad crossing on the Laird Road).

TREASURER

Gayle Dahlen was in with the annual "Request for records disposal" form from the State. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to approve this request. The motion carried. Gayle is to forward the report to the State.

CLAIMS

Some late claims were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to pay these claims. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Health met on August 10th. Only members present were Rlynn Rockman, Hugh Brown, Karen Salo, and Nancy Kleinsasser, so there was no quorum. We discussed the recent questionable "food contamination" illness that Karen was called to investigate (which proved negative) and her recent ad in the Trader Dispatch regarding rules governing the repair and construction to wastewater treatment systems (the ad was \$123). Rlynn will get this "ad" in the local Liberty County Times as a news item, if possible. It was e-mailed to the Liberty County Times on 8-14-2012. Next meeting = October 12th.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Steven Gliko, a mental health therapist from Great Falls, has agreed to visit with us about our opening. He is coming to Chester on August 21st.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 15th, 2012 ♦ 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 and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Fredrickson, Justice of the Peace, reported that she has postponed her plans to purchase the SCRAMx alcoholic monitoring devices due to lack of support from neighboring countries.

SIGNAGE

Karla Kulpas, the Public Health Nurse, inquired again about street signage for her office. We called Val Moench at Toole County Weed Department, who makes signs. She will get back to us.

MACO DISTRICT 4 & 5 MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended the MACo Districts 4 & 5 meeting in Cut Bank on 8-15-2012. The 9 counties were represented by 16 commissioners; Blaine & Chouteau Counties were not present. Highlights:

1. MACo is presently interviewing for a personnel services officer; Jack Holstrom is retiring on 8-31-2012; they cannot find a loss control specialist; and they will soon be advertising for a paralegal position.
2. Harold Blattie says the 457 Plan through Nationwide is a "no-brainer" for employees.
3. Most county compensation boards have met (recommended date is August 1st), but few raises have been "officially" approved due to late valuations. We obtained the "recommended" raises from neighboring counties.
4. Speed Zones were discussed. Commissioners can expedite a speed zone change by making a request directly to the State Highway commission.
5. Worker's Comp for volunteer firefighters was again discussed. Harold says there will probably be an upcoming resolution for a statewide permissive mill levy to fund this.
6. The hot topic was the \$3 billion "hole" in the pension fund. To keep it going, the counties share is estimated at \$3.9 million / year. A new plan and organization is needed. Consider the following idea:
 - a. Counties should support up to a 1% increase per year in PERS withholdings with a permissive levy option:
 - b. The PERS board should be re-organized to 3 active PERS members, 3 "at-large" members, 1 PERS retiree member, and 1 member who has proven investment skills; and
 - c. It should be statutory that the PERS board's investment guidelines are similar to those mandated by the state to the counties.
7. There are already 287 bill draft requests for the upcoming legislature!

BOARD OF HEALTH

The "call before you dig" article was published in the 8-15-2012, Liberty County Times as a news item (at no charge). It was run at request of the Liberty County Sanitarian, Karen Salo.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 21st, 2012 ♦ 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.

EXTENSION AGENT

Jesse Fulbright was in to discuss extension issues. There was continued conversation about the 4-H campground and the bridge damage. We are working with local contractor, Cliff Nelson, to possibly repair the bridge for trade-for-services. We also discussed our up-coming meeting with Jesse & Joe Broesder regarding Jesse’s evaluation.

BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

A well-known commissioner from Chinook, Vic Miller, passed away on August 17th. Vic attended many Liberty County Democratic meetings and luncheons, so is known locally. He was also a past president of MACo.

GAIL SHATKUS

CJI shop teacher, Gail Shatkus, was in to discuss our project on the INFO building at the local cemetery. She has spoken with Erik Kelly and would like to assist as much as possible with her equipment and construction students.

PAYROLL

Current county payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to pay the current salaries. The motion carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. They’re “plugging away” as usual; mainly mowing and screening gravel.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Steven Gliko, LCPC, MS of Great Falls, came in to visit with us. Shari Dolan represented LMC at the meeting. We discussed past history of our Mental Health office, i.e., number and types of patients (16-18 / month), number of clinic days (2-3 / month), guaranteed contractual stipends (\$50/hour), mileage fee (\$0), office rent (\$0), and other aspects. Steven is interested in this position and will send us a proposal.

ROCKY BOY’S WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The water authority made a public presentation to update us on the Rocky Boy Water project. About 30 people attended including Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman. The project has grown from predictions of 20 million gallons per day usage to 31 MGD through the year 2050. Lake Elwell water has high quality; i.e., good turbidity, few pathogens, disinfection by-products are minimal, and hardness is within acceptable limits. They plan to use chloramination (as opposed to chlorimation) in this treatment system because of the great distances the water must go.

Predicted usage by the Town of Chester is 1.3 MGD.

MACO BY-LAW UPDATES

The JPIA By-laws were amended by approval of the MACo membership in February of 2012 and were sent to us for county acceptance. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to approve the revised by-laws. The motion carried and the form was signed and forwarded to MACo.

MDOT

We received the preliminary field review report from MDOT regarding our July 24th meeting on the Whitlash Road proposed project. We filed this report for future reference.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 28th, 2012 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Larry Hendrickson was available by phone.

EXTENSION SERVICE

Jesse Fulbright was in to discuss a grant that he's applied for that deals with blood pressure monitoring and healthy snacks, beverages, and eating habits for participants at all MSU Extension meetings. He will follow-up and visit with the LMC nutritionist and the Public Health Nurse.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Hendrickson discovered a boat on Craig's List that has the capabilities and extras that have been researched and suggested by Jim Ghekiere and the Weed Board. The boat is in Billings and has an asking price of about \$20,000. Jim will investigate. Wayne Wardell will travel to Billings today to look at the boat. The owner will take him on the river for a test ride, etc. If the boat is everything it appears to be (per e-mail photos and specs), we have authorized purchase up to \$19,500. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman (and agreement by Commissioner Hendrickson). The motion carried. Weed board member, Robert Pugsley, stopped in to see the photos / specs and likes the savings cost factor (looks good!). We can't lose much on a future resale.

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Steve Gliko called to say that he's working on his proposal. He also reported that he has a "stipulated agreement" (which he explained in detail) with the State Board of Mental Health. We will wait to see his proposal before acting on this stipulated agreement.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in to show us some of the surveys. Most comments were positive. She also showed us a Senior Center brochure that she's put together; good news is that Triangle Telephone Co-op will help us with the printing expense.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. A concerned citizen, Pete Woods, is disappointed in the current condition of the Whitlash Road. He recommends that grader operators go as slow as possible to cut the washboards. He also suggests a special drag piece that can be made from a heavy 30' railroad beam; this can be pulled behind a grader in the track areas of the road. Pete is willing to assist in building this drag.

Shawn brought in an ad for a loader for sale. He will make calls to get the complete story on the machine.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

The Extension Office offered the following items to be declared obsolete:

1. HP 2000C Professional Series printer
2. HP Laserjet 5L printer
3. Holmin 300 Sound system

A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to declare these items obsolete. The motion carried.

NEW HORIZONS

Alou Horinek, New Horizon’s counselor, came in to discuss budget concerns. They have cut employee hours from 40 to 32 hours per week, and may have to make additional cuts in January 2013 (which will result in the loss of good employees). They have applied for an ATR Grant, which addresses the care of specific clientele, and will not be billable until November 2012 (and they don’t know how much the grant will be). New Horizons presently spends 1/3 of their time in Liberty County and 2/3 in Chouteau County. We presently give them about \$5,000 per year. They would like an additional \$5,000 - \$10,000 per year. Last year Liberty County had 17 clientele, of which 3 were able to privately pay.

LIBRARY

Teresa Fenger needs 3 items requested by the state:

- 1. Total number of mills to fund our library = approximately 14.1
- 2. Of the total, how many are General Fund mills = 0
- 3. Total number of voted levy mills = 0

JEANNE WINSON

Jeanne Winston, former cook at the Senior Center, stopped in to update us on her medical condition and her medical treatment through workman’s comp. She is frustrated and does not want to be eliminated from the work force.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rachel Ghekiere was in to express her frustration with the Whitlash School Board and their lack of concern to approve a resolution for OPI confirming the school has no students or teacher at this time. They need to declare this “unoperational status” or there may be substantial payback penalties. Rachel can use us to squeeze the action from the board.

BID OPENING

We received one sealed bid for the “truck rack” that was advertised twice in the local newspaper. The bid was from Brent Riggan on behalf of CHS, Inc. for \$150. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson, to accept this bid. The motion carried. Shawn Norick and Brent Riggan were notified.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Kathy Brendan called to inquire why the Department of Commerce hasn’t received our ADA plans for our county buildings. When we accepted the grant monies for the new senior center, we also accepted a federally imposed rule to bring all buildings into ADA compliance. Kathy received our self-evaluation plan for the center, but not the other buildings. She has e-mailed Michelle Turville at Bear Paw Development Coop numerous times without response, so she apparently doesn’t understand the request. Commissioner Tempel called Pam at Bear Paw Development Coop to follow-up on this.

OPPORTUNITY LINK

Erin from Opportunity Link called to inquire if we would be interested in participating in a community “round table” discussion regarding their “Vibrant Futures” program. They hope to plan it in Chester in October.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman