

January 3rd, 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 and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson 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. There was not much new to report.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners. The road crew will be attending an air brake training in Havre. Shawn reported that the trucks are being brought up to current standards. Other topics Shawn reported on included, their plans to continue graveling the Whitlash Road, and the group discussed used loaders.

DES

Ed Gierke was in to discuss with the Commissioners the plans for the training to be held on Thursday at the Firehall.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel made a motion to pay the current payroll claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

TOOLE COUNTY

Toole County Commissioners Ben Ober, Dave Miller, and Allen Underdahl met with the Liberty County Commissioners to discuss a contract with Toole County for shared services of the Weed Supervisor. After further consideration the Liberty County Commissioners chose not to pursue the issue.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Travis Kavulla, Jason Brown and Doug Sylling (Gaelectric) were in to meet with the Commissioners. Travis Kavulla discussed some of the issues dealing with wind generators. The Kenfield wind park issues were also discussed. Doug Sylling talked about some of the challenges that Gaelectric is experiencing.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended the annual HRDC Executive Session.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 4th, 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: Chairman Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Russ Tempel.

LIBRARY

Librarian Teresa Fenger updated the Commissioners on the Library. The Library has developed a new web page.

EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright updated the Commissioners on how things are going in his office. New employee Julie Gagnon is getting the system figured out. Jesse also visited with the Commissioners about new programs that are starting up, such as the Master Gardner program – Levels 1 and 2.

AIRPORT ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioners sent the third revision of the Airport annual report in to the State.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment the monthly claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and 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

January 10th, 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.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mike LaFrentz stopped in to update the Commissioners on a few Bureau of Reclamation projects. He will get the Commissioners a MOU (Memo of Understanding) regarding the recreation shelter rebuild project. When the project gets going, can the shelters be made movable? The 2nd project is the Tiber Marina boat ramp; there are some funds to widen it.

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. The crew is hauling gravel today. Commissioner Tempel suggested some more fill in a "blow out" on Sylvia Jensen's road; in addition, there's some shoulder work that needs to be completed on the hill near Jensen's. A new turbo was recently put on Justin's machine. The postless wing is on its way! Shawn needs to order some new bits for plow blades. The Valtra repairs are near completion; there was an additional part ordered for about \$800. A recent caller reported that the Black Jack Flat is very rough and needs blading.

CTEP

A meeting was held with Jeremy Siemens, Lynda VandeSandt, Bob Mattson, Krystal Steinmetz, and Jim Vinson. The new plans were scrutinized for the Lion's Park CTEP project. The group agreed on a few simple changes regarding door placements, added concrete sidewalk to the north side of the building, and a 4" step at the front part of the concrete pad. Estimated costs are \$15,000 - \$16,000 in material and \$19,000 in labor is approximately \$35,000 total (electric not included). Bid ads to go out on February 29th and March 14th with bid opening on March 20th.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Commissioners attended the annual meeting of the Council-on-Aging with eleven other people (board members and other community members). Harry Heimbigner shared highlights and achievements during the past year. There were 111 donation plaques sold, and the "wall of honor" is being finalized. Continuing projects include the fireplace, canopy, and the parking lot. Officers for the next year will be Harry Heimbigner (President), Betty Marshall (Vice President), Pat Ludwig (Secretary), and an additional term for board member, Dallas Denter.

The Commissioners also stayed for the monthly board meeting. Current balance in the Council-on-Aging account is \$81,899.81. This past month they paid for the parking lot rebar to Western Furniture (\$3,410).

GOVERNOR'S RACE

Jim O'Hara, Chouteau County Commissioner, who is running for Montana Governor in 2012, stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

PAYROLL

The County payroll was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Tempel to pay the current payroll. The motion carried.

MACO UPDATES

The County's insurance representative, Tina Wood, came in to update the Commissioners on MACo liability and safety issues. Good news: there's been a decrease in worker's compensation claims this past year. In fact, Property Casualty and Workman's Comp pools are both doing well, so liability rates will not change this year. MACo's biggest liability claims are coming from auto incidents. They've built up a nice reserve pool of funds, so they can now pay up to \$500,000 on a large claim before submitting to the supplemental policy for excess funds. Safe working environment and practices are the key factors; so education is paramount. Decreased loss ratios lead to decreased premiums. A "safety fest" is scheduled in Billings on February 27th to March 2nd. MACo is presently working on "return to work" policy and standardized job descriptions.

ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS

The following three resolutions were presented for consideration:

Resolution #12-01 : Commissioner's meeting dates and hours;

Resolution #12-02 : All elected offices' business hours and dates specified;

Resolution #12-03 : Establish mileage, lodging, and per diem for county business travel.

Commissioner Rockman made a motion to adopt all three resolutions as presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 12-01

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-5-2122, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that they shall meet every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved, that the hours that they shall meet will be from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signature]
Chairman

[Signature]
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk

RESOLUTION 12-02

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-4-102, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution regular office hours;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, excepting the following offices, which are as follows:

County Superintendent of Schools: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

Justice of the Peace Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signature]
Chairman

[Signature]
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk

RESOLUTION 12-03

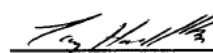
WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, establish mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners, that Liberty County Employees, when traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals, lodging and per diem within the rates established pursuant to MCA 2-18-501, 2-18-502, and 2-18-503 and in accordance with the following provisions:

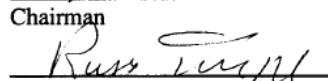
- 1) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed standard state rate per day. All claims for lodging reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 2) Meal reimbursement may not exceed the prescribed standard state rate per meal per day.
- 3) The mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed standard state rate.
 - a. Except that if the county vehicle is available for use and the choice is made not to use it, the mileage reimbursement for use of your personal vehicle for county business, will be at 60% of the state rate.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



 Chairman

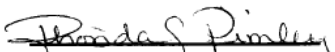


 Commissioner



 Commissioner

ATTEST:



 Clerk

CLAIMS

Several claims were submitted for payment. The motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to pay these claims. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Larry Hendrickson agreed to serve as the chairman of the board for 2012. The motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman. 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

January 11th, 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.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Shawn – Training for crew on truck safety all done;

Jesse – New clerk is Julie Gagnon, crop seminar will be January 17th, Master Gardener class starting February 8th;

Glenda – Furnace project is now done! Serving approximately 100 meals on many days;

Teresa – Presently short-of-help, Christmas kindles were hot, so more demand for these books;

Holly – New clerk is Laurie Czech, 2011 was a busy year in the Justice of the Peace Court-collections have tripled;

Rachel – Office is presently quiet;

Rhonda – New part-time employee is Amanda Petrick, presently upgrading their computer equipment;

Commissioners – Updated those present on JPT and MACo insurance issues and changes.

AIRPORT BUSINESS

The Commissioners mailed statements to all leases of airport property to collect on their rental agreements for 2012.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson provided a written report of her first year (2010) as Justice of the Peace: 6 criminal cases, 9 civil orders of protection, 16 civil cases, 5 small claims cases, and 220 tickets. In addition, she “closed” or “disposed” of several cases dating back to 2008.

AUDITORS

Denning, Downey and Associates sent a statement for services rendered on 50% of the work in progress for the annual audit totaling approximately \$8,500. Of this amount \$1,047 is for the airport audit.

MINUTES

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the minutes (Page 809 and 810) as amended. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

The Commissioners met with the C-J-I shop teacher to discuss the design of the wall frame for the Senior Citizens memorial plaques.

VEBA

The Commissioners reviewed the VEBA pool. Letters will be sent out asking for a vote for calendar year 2012.

JPT PRESCRIPTION LIMITS

The Commissioners signed and sent back the new prescription limits from JPT. All generic drugs are now at no cost to the employees.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 17th, 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.

LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the quarterly Board of Health meeting with six other board members on January 13th. Highlights:

1. The CIAA (Clean Indoor Air Act) was discussed. There have been several complaints on compliance at Roosevelt Service, Ward's Auto Parts, and BearPaw Credit Union; a letter was sent to Roosevelt Service by Dr. Gladys Young. There is an issue with the outdoor smoking structure at the Joplin Bar.
2. The Liberty County Healthy Coalition is liking for funding for "shade" protection at the local swimming pool.
3. Karen Salo discussed the terms of her new inspection contract with the state. It requires a minimum completion of 80% of her annual inspections, but she claims that she does 100% every year and is reimbursed accordingly.

The next scheduled meeting is April 13th.

VEBA

A letter was sent to the 17 county employees who qualify for VEBA, asking for a vote for calendar year 2012. The response date was set for January 24th.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Ron Gleason brought in the 4-year contract (dated 07/01/2011 through 07/01/2015) between Liberty Medical Center and Liberty County. A motion by Commissioner Tempel, seconded by Commissioner Rockman was made that the Commissioners approve and sign this contract. The motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson stopped in, at the Commissioner's request, with a few granite "memorial plaques". Her mother is presently hospitalized in Great Falls, so she may need a few days off.

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Shawn Norick came in to discuss road issues. The new turbo is being put on Justin's grader; it is the 3rd turbo this past year on various units. Other topics of discussion included changing the windshield and air-bags on the truck and implementing a safety "walk around" check list on their equipment. They are still waiting for the postless wing from John Deere.

CROPPING SEMINAR

The Extension Office sponsored an all-day "cropping seminar" on this day. The Commissioners stopped briefly to check on the progress and success of the program, which was well attended.

CLAIM

One claim was submitted for payment, severance pay for a Clerk & Recorder's trainee. Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve payment of this claim. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REHBERG REP

Mike Waite, Representative for Congressman Rehberg, stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about concerns and issues on the national level.

CITY OF CHESTER

Chester mayor, Noel Walston, stopped in to discuss the upcoming July contract for law enforcement between the City and the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. The contract is a 3-year deal for \$67,000 / year. The council would like to specify their "expectations" regarding ordinances, etc. The Commissioners will discuss these issues with Sheriff Burrows.

NORTHERN TELEPHONE

Ryan Niemyjski of Northern Telephone stopped in for permission to cross Liberty County roads at three different locations:

1. Whitlash Road north of Flat Coulee Road;
2. Flat Coulee Road east of Schaefer Road;
3. Flat Coulee Road at driveway for 595.

All crossing will be bored 6-feet in the road ditches. A motion was made by Commissioner Rockman, and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to grant permission for these three road crossings. The motion carried.

YOUTH COURT

The Commissioners received a bill for \$1,351.80 from Cascade County Regional Youth Services for detention of a local juvenile (12 days in December at \$112.65/day). The Commissioners telephoned Kevin Buerkle (the Juvenile Probation officer), who reported that there will be 11 more days for January. The Commissioners can apply to "Pam" at the Detention Center for reimbursement at 50%. Kevin will send the paperwork to Pam. Incidentally, this juvenile is now in a Helena group home for 45 days, paid for by the State.

VEBA ISSUE

Rod Keith retired 12-31-2011, so his 25% sick leave and 100% vacation time qualified for VEBA, which was processed by the Payroll deputy (Cyndee Fraser) at \$15.70 / hour (established on Rod's base salary). However, Rod came in to protest this decision because his base salary plus his transportation grant salary together came to \$22.64 / hour (which is the PERS hourly rate per records). The Commissioners telephoned Jack Holstrom at MACo, who advised that the county pay him at the \$22.64 / hour rate because there is no contract letter / agreement to specify other terms. This additional money to Rod's VEBA account will be approximately \$4,550. The two consolations of this decision is that the county didn't have to pay Rod for approximately 1300 hours of sick leave and the cash payout would have required additional withholdings by the County. Cyndee will handle the necessary paperwork.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere and Liberty County were awarded the Weed District of the Year at the annual weed convention last week in Great Falls.

HRD

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the monthly HRD meeting in Havre on 01-12-2012. There was nothing to report.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 24th, 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.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mike LaFrentz and Nick Ludwig stopped in to discuss the Title 28 funds. Mike recommends we become manageable partners in situation projects; the Commissioners agreed, so Nick will work on the needed paperwork, which has never been done. Nick will also meet with Shawn Norick regarding some cost estimates on the Marina road loop.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly Liberty Medical Center board meeting on 01/18/2012. The patient numbers and dollars are still down. The Liberty County Community Survey has been compiled. High marks for excellent care goes out to our ambulance service.

LIBRARY

Teresa Fenger stopped in to inquire if she should transfer the \$3,500 to the CIP fund. The Commissioners reported a \$5,100 net profit to date this fiscal year on the espresso sales. Teresa's plans in 2013 are to remodel the library restroom.

911

Jim Ghekier brought in the Century Link maintenance contract #11DLGEROHSW as recommended by the state 911 system (to allow for any potential changes or plans to the overall system). This one-year contract is \$15,230, of which \$8,000 is labor fees and \$7,000 is parts and supplies.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekier was in to report that his new weed grant with the BLM will probably be \$70,000.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He produced an itemized cost sheet for grant purposes for replacement of heavy-duty cattle guards at approximately \$13,000 each (forwarded a copy to Michelle at Bear Paw Development for her consideration). The skid-steer broke down due to malfunctioning selinoid fan and computer glitches; it is under warranty but could not be repaired locally, so we hauled it to Great Falls RDO for immediate attention. The postless wing is finally expected today via FedEx freight. Shawn will attend the LTAP Safety conference in Great Falls this afternoon.

MAYOR WARDELL

After 32 years of public service (29 years as mayor) with the Town of Chester, Mayor Wayne Wardell officially retired on 01/01/2012. Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman attended his farewell reception at the Liberty County Senior Center on 01/18/2012.

SENIOR CENTER

The Commissioners looked at convection ovens on-line and made several calls to distributors regarding costs, etcetera.

PAYROLL

Payroll was offered for consideration. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve payment of current county payroll. The motion carried.

CENTURY LINK CONTRACT

After a telephone call to Lisa Kelly at Century Link, for explanation of the maintenance contract, Commissioner Tempel made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rockman to approve the contract. The motion carried.

JERRY FENGER

Jerry Fenger brought in a check for \$150 to reimburse the Liberty County Road department for work at the Ben Taylor propane plant.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Commissioners met with Sheriff Burrows and discussed the new contract with the Town of Chester. He will look it over and make some recommendations.

VEBA

The VEBA ballots were counted. Ten (10) ballots were cast for the VEBA program, and two (2) against. A letter was drafted and sent out informing all involved.

OUT OF STATE

Commissioner Hendrickson had previously gotten approval to be out-of-state, but did not go. He will now go to Arizona to visit his folks on the week of 01/30/2012 to 02/05/2012.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 31st, 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 picked up the cabinets in Hingham that the Commissioners had authorized for purchase. Some will be used at the Extension office, Justice of the Peace clerk's office, and the Senior Center. A claim for \$400 submitted to be paid out of the County Building Fund.

Jesse will be at meetings in Lewistown today through Thursday (02/02/2012). Extension clerk, Julie Gagnon, is presently on vacation, too, so the office will be unattended for two days.

MT / CIAA

The Commissioners received a copy of a letter sent by Dr. Young to Ward's Repair Parts (dated 01/17/2012) regarding violations of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act.

AIRPORT

The Commissioners received a call from Rick Donaldson (of Peccia and Associates), who requested information on the capital improvement plan at the airport. He will send the Commissioners the formal paperwork.

The Commissioners visited with Jim Briden, who reviewed the plan and recommended approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman, to approve the plan. The motion carried. The plan was signed by Commissioner Tempel and faxed to Peccia's.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Commissioner Tempel attended the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner on 01/29/2012. The new Chester mayor, Noel Walston, was the guest speaker. Sixty (60) plus people attended the event.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in and visited with the Commissioners about Ray O'Brien crushing contracted gravel. He will be finishing the gravel contracted. Mark Wickum was in to visit about gravel. He asked if the county is interested in buying more gravel and what they should do on reclaiming or closing. The group will continue the conversation when they have looked at the money available.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson was in and talked about the Transportation Grant. She is putting together wording for the minutes to satisfy the grant. She also reported that Bountiful Baskets has asked to use the center for distribution.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman