

**March 3, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

**LEPC**

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, and Clerk & Recorder Pimley, 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.

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**BOR**

The new Liberty County Bureau of Reclamation supervisor, Mike LaFrenz, was in to visit with the Commissioners.

**ROADS**

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. Dale Carlstad is sweeping bridges today. He has borrowed the school's tractor with the sweeper. They have also been busy completing some routine maintenance on the equipment this past week. They plan on completing the sign reflectivity testing tomorrow evening. Shawn also told the Commissioners that he is expecting the new packer to be here the end of this week. He reported that they are very pleased with the new grader and the new snow wing so far.

**BI-ANNUALBOND INSPECTION**

According to MCA 7-4-2213 at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in March and September of each year, the Board of County Commissioners shall carefully examine all official bonds of all county and township officials then in force and effect and investigate the qualifications and financial condition and liability of all sureties thereon and their sufficiency. The Commissioners reviewed the Liberty County bonds and found them to be satisfactorily covered within our insurance policies.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

The Commissioners briefly discussed a financial issue at Liberty Medical Center. The bond issue for the Assisted Living building may get called in, and the Center is considering cashing in their securities and paying the bond off. The Liberty Medical Center Board is asking the Commissioners to weigh in on the decision.

**TOOLE COUNTY / DES**

On the afternoon of this day, the Liberty County Commissioners went to Toole County to visit with them about the joint county DES program.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

March 4, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### **MONTANA MICROBIAL PRODUCTS / ETHANOL PLANT**

Present for the meeting held at 8:00 AM on this day in the Commissioner's room were: Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Bob Kearns from Montana Microbial Products, Chad Lee from the Montana Department of Agriculture, Paul Tuss from Bear Paw Development Corporation, Jim Ghekiere, Shawn Norick, Ron Gleason, John Kleinsasser, Wayne Wardell, and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley.

Montana Microbial Products is a newly developed company that will be utilizing high protein barley to develop a fish food product to be used by fish farms. They are currently in the process of finding a location for their new plant. They anticipate that they will require approximately a twenty acre site to build their plant on.

Bob Kearns with Montana Microbial Products explained to the group who their company is and what their primary plans are. They mostly have experience with high protein irrigated barley, but they believe dryland barley will also work as long as it is high protein. Bob explained that they hope to break ground this fall, and be online by July of next year. Some of the key things they will be looking at in considering their location will be availability of gas, water, electricity and barley. Other things that may factor in include sewage issues, availability of grain storage, and the workforce in the area. Bob said that the plant will require water at eleven gallons per minute to process the fish food. Bob said that their plant will be equipped with reverse osmosis to process the water on site. John Kleinsasser from the Town of Chester replied that 11 gallons/minute should not be a problem.

Bob was asked if the plant will produce an odor. Bob responded that he does not anticipate any odor from the plant.

Paul Tuss from the Bear Paw Development Corporation shared with the group a little bit about the extensive conversations that he has already had with Bob.

The group then left to go and actually view the proposed site for the project.

County Attorney Hugh Brown stopped by to visit with the Commissioners regarding language on the Kenfield Easement.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Present for the meeting conducted on this day in the Commissioner's office were: Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, Sheila Duncan, Steve Cameron, Jim Ghekiere, Trina Thielman, Ann Wickum, Scott Ross, and Anne Melton.

The Commissioners shared with the committee a little bit about how their meetings last week went with Owen Voigt of MACo Health Care Trust and Roger Olson from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Commissioners also informed the committee that they are still planning on placing a notice the Liberty County Times, that they are accepting bids for the county health insurance.

The committee members briefly discussed some of the pros and cons of each company as they see it at this time. The four page health assessment was discussed. At this time it is believed that if our current insurance (JPT) is willing to provide the necessary information, then the individual health statements may not be necessary to get a bid. The committee believes that if it becomes necessary to have the health form completed, that it should not be a problem to get the employees to do it.

The group discussed that MACo Health Care Trust is a self-funded group and some expressed concerns that because they are self funded it means they do not fall under the regulations of the state. Concerns about the newness of the Trust in these economical times were also expressed. Others expressed concerns that there may exist a potential for huge premium increases with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

**DES MEETING IN TOOLE COUNTY**

The Commissioners shared information about the meeting in Toole County they attended the day before. The majority of the discussion was regarding the planning for the upcoming expanded table top exercise. Those who participated in this planning included representatives from both counties for the following departments: Hospitals, Public Health, DES, EMS, and the Counties. Steve Osgood conducted the majority of the planning. The counties have agreed that they will share the cost of the exercise 50/50. Liberty County plans to pay for their 50% with a grant that the Liberty Medical Center has acquired and with money out of the Bio Terrorism Fund. Brett Loyd is the agreed upon contractor to conduct the exercise. They hope to conduct the exercise prior to May 10<sup>th</sup> and they estimate the cost to be about \$9,000.

After the exercise planning meeting concluded the Commissioners met with the Toole County Commissioners regarding current DES staffing and the matter of Liberty and Toole continuing to work together and share the DES director. It was agreed by both counties that this arrangement is still agreeable with everyone.

Jim Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on issues in his office.

Joe Minnehan was in to visit with the Commissioners about Airport business. It was agreed to schedule an Airport Board meeting in the Commissioner's office next Wednesday.

**CLAIMS**

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

**COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE BIDS**

The Commissioners decided to place a notice in the newspaper stating that they are currently accepting bids on the County Health Insurance, from any interested agency. The Commissioners will run the notice in the March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> editions of the Liberty County Times. They will state that all bids should be turned into their office by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

March 5, 2009 ♦ Thursday

**PRELIMINARY ARCHITECT REPORT / SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT**

On the above stated date, a community meeting was conducted for the purpose of hearing the preliminary architect report on the proposed senior citizens building project, as presented by John Eisen from JGA Architect Firm. Present for the meeting were: John Eisen from JGA, Craig Erickson from Bear Paw Development Corporation, Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Rod Keith, Harry Heimbigner, Betty Marshall, Jane Allen, Sheila Duncan, Dallas Denter, and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley.

John Eisen reviewed the outline of what he understands the community's needs for this proposed space to be. The group discussed briefly the items that they wanted to make sure were included in the plans.

John displayed the current proposal for a 7,700 square foot floor plan and went over some of the specs.

The group then looked at the cost analysis that was completed by Jan O'Brien. The estimate came to approximately \$1.2 million to complete this project as proposed. John pointed out that at this point there are still many unknowns. For this reason a 10% contingency of \$98,969 has been built into the cost estimate. John stated that he does not believe that a building this size can be built for the approximately \$650,000 that the group had hoped for.

Craig Erickson stated that a potential solution may be a joint CDBG application (both the city and the county), each applying for a \$450,000 CDBG grant. The community match for this would then be around \$250,000. Craig also pointed out that the administration fee to Bear Paw Development has not been included in this cost estimate, and will probably be about \$25,000.

John and the group discussed a few downward adjustments to the floor plan that could potentially result in cost savings without sacrificing too much. One suggestion was that the project could be planned as two different versions (plan A and plan B). Then based upon the amount of money raised locally can either do one or the other.

The 39 page drafted site evaluation was walked through. The criteria on which each site was evaluated was more specifically examined (page 5 & 6 of the draft). Eventually the actual scoring of each site was reviewed. The Skarderud property and the Lenz property scored the highest and was separated by only one point with the number of parking spaces available being the major issue separating the two sites. After some discussion the general consensus of the group seemed to be swaying towards the county owned Lenz property. The architect also felt that after listening to the group discussion that the recommendation from the firm would point towards the Lenz property.

The next meeting needs to be another public hearing. It had previously been scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>, but the group decided to change it until March 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. A press release will be placed in the local newspaper to notify the public of the intended meeting. They hope to have around 50 people attend the public meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Friday

Commissioner Larry Hendrickson attended the hospital strategic planning meeting conducted at Liberty Medical Center.

**March 10, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

In addition to the Commissioners, those present for the monthly department head meeting were: Shawn Norick, Jim Ghekiere, Rod Keith, Tom Allen, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Rachel Ghekiere, Gayle Dahlen, Sheriff Richard Burrows, and Rhonda Pimley.

The group discussed the situation with Omimex and the negative impact that this will have on our county revenue. The department heads were encouraged to contact Senator Black regarding the current legislation on this matter.

The group was then invited to go to the Sheriff's office to observe the views of the new security cameras, and see first hand how the new equipment works.

#### **TRANSPORTATION GRANT**

Rod Keith was in to visit with the Commissioners about the transportation grant. After some discussion, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the Liberty County Transit Coordination Plan. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Rod then shared with the Commissioners the application for financial assistance for FY 2010. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the Liberty County Transit Application for 5311 Financial Assistance for Fiscal Year 2010. The Commissioners also discussed the administration of the transit program. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to authorize the Liberty County Council on Aging to be the lead agency to administer the transit program and further declared that the Liberty County Council on Aging is duly authorized to make certifications and assurance, as the applicant agency, so that they will comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere was in and visited briefly with the Commissioners. He updated them on matters concerning his office. He recently had some engine work completed on his pickup. It was work that Jerry Ghekiere was not able to complete, so the work was completed in Fort Benton.

#### **ROADS**

Shawn was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The group briefly discussed the expanded shelter project at Tiber Dam. Shawn will be looking for some rejected pit run to use on this project. The Commissioners requested that the crew begin to level and prep the sites for Greg May to begin work out there soon.

The group discussed potential upcoming issues with the roads. There is some potential for water run off issues, but Shawn did not feel that frozen culverts would be a problem.

Shawn informed the Commissioners that he was recently contacted by an engineering company out of Great Falls regarding the TCEP program, and potential funding for bridges. The group discussed the fact that the state engineers were supposed to come in March to check the Pugsley Bridge. Shawn has not heard from them yet.

The sign reflectivity project has been completed. There were about 25 signs that failed the test. Many of these were already on Shawn's list to be replaced soon. They discussed the necessity of moving to the next grade of signs when replacing these. The 3M grants that are available, Liberty County will probably not qualify for.

Pick-up upgrades were briefly discussed. The Weed Department is looking into purchasing a new quad cab pick-up with grant money, and would like to sell their current pick-up to the Road Department.

Shawn told the Commissioners that the Packer has not yet been delivered.

The Commissioners have requested that Shawn telephone Mike Pallett with RDO, and visit with him about the blade on the new grader. We were supposed to get a 16 foot blade and didn't.

#### **CLAIMS**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to pay the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **PAYROLL**

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

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT / CDBG GRANT**

Rodney Keith and Craig Erickson met with the Commissioners. Craig presented some different funding ideas for the Senior Citizens building project. The building size was also discussed. The group came up with a few ideas to send back to JGA.

Rodney talked about past garage plans that could be reapplied for. These plans may qualify for some of the current federal stimulus money. It was decided that Rod should reapply, with the understanding that if the county does receive this funding, then the federal transportation program would have a lifetime lien. Tom Stuber is the contact person.

John Wurz stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about the Barley Processing Plant. He also visited with the Commissioners about the proposed wind farm that is being talked about in the Sage Creek area. There is a meeting with Gaelectric scheduled for Thursday at 7:00 pm to explore this proposal more.

**ROAD**

Shawn Norick stopped in to show the Commissioners that from the County Line Road to Zero Road to 5900 Road South are all county roads that are still open.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Russ Tempel was in Helena to testify before the Legislature regarding Senate Bill 489.

**ROAD ISSUE**

The Commissioners had received an inquiry from Doug Larson regarding a road issue in the southern part of the county. They composed a letter to be mailed to Doug and to Camrose Colony stating/confirming that the following roads are public roads: W6000S Road, Zero Road, 5900S Road, 5700S Road, and 100E Road.

**SENIOR CITIZENS**

Rod Keith dropped in with a suggestion regarding the meeting held the day before. He would like the Commissioners to consider borrowing \$50,000 in order to qualify for an additional \$50,000 grant, so that we save a few "reserves" in our \$250,000 nest egg.

The Commissioners composed a letter to Dennis DeVries in response to his recent inquiries about proposed projects in Liberty County. The Commissioners informed Dennis of both of the projects for the Senior Citizens (Senior Citizens building and the Senior Citizens bus garage).

**DES / EMPG FUNDING**

The Commissioners visited with DES about the EMPG funding. They made an appointment with Yvonne Hunnewell, Penny Walston and Jenni Chelmo for Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm to discuss this matter.

**AIRPORT BOARD MEETING**

Present for the meeting of the Airport Board were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Jim Brieden, Joe Minnehan, and Steve Layton.

All entitlement funds have been rolled to 2009. The board has a project planned for 2010.

The board discussed the plans for new hangers, and they visited about the beacon not presently working. Also discussed was installing a weather camera in conjunction with an upgrade.

The group completed the Regal Insurance questionnaire.

The Board also discussed the fee and decided that .03/sq ft for the footprint of the building only; and has to 10' around the building. Joe Minnehan made the motion, Jim Briden seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The group visited about people walking at the airport. The Commissioner agreed to compose a letter for the paper addressing this issue.

Joe Minnehan made the motion to approve new lease for all current renters at the Airport. Jim Briden seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Also discussed at the meeting was the use of ultra-light flights in the area. Concerns were voiced about this issue. The group decided that the issue warranted further investigation into the specific rules concerning the matter.

**FIREHALL FURNACE**

Yvonne Hunnewell telephoned the Commissioners regarding the furnace at the firehall. It kicked off again this morning, and she was wondering about the back-up furnace that had been requested. She told the Commissioners that Dave Hunnewell had telephoned Quannah Bailey regarding the matter, and that Quannah had said that the Chester Fire Department had discussed it at their meeting last Monday night (03/09/09), and had decided to put it "on hold."

The Commissioners told Yvonne that "approval" had already been made by the West Chester Fire District, at a meeting held in the Commissioner's office earlier this year.

Quannah Bailey stopped by to visit with the Commissioners regarding the furnace issue. The only bid that he had received was from Fort Benton for a 200,000 BTU furnace installed for \$3,600. The Commissioners offered Quannah the job, but Quannah stated that he was not interested, so the Commissioners told Quannah to get it done.

Quannah called back; actual bid was for about \$3400 for labor plus about \$1400 for the furnace, the actual total running around \$4900. The Commissioners will do further checking an additional bids.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FEES**

The County Attorney had been requested to formulate an opinion on whether or not it would be allowable for a part-time elected official to receive additional compensation for secretarial duties completed for the TV District, and the Cemetery District. The Commissioners were given a letter from the County Attorney stating that he was of the opinion that there is nothing in the law that would prohibit a part-time elected official from also being employed on other part-time jobs for the county.

**LEGISLATURE**

Commissioner Russ Tempel returned from the legislature in Helena, and updated Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman on these matters.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**March 12, 2009 ♦ Thursday**

**HRDC**

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting in Havre.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Thursday**

**WIND POWER / GAELECTRIC**

On the above stated day a public meeting was conducted for the purpose of discussing the potential for wind power in Liberty County. Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman were in attendance at this meeting. Following the meeting the two Commissioners traveled some of the county roads to observe their current condition.

**March 17, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

Jim Ghekiere was in to drop off the two lateral filing cabinets from Property Surplus that the Commissioners had requested that he pick up for them. He told the Commissioners that he would be leaving for a couple of days for his Spring Coordinators Training in Bozeman.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the meeting held last Thursday at the hutterite colony. The members of Gaelectric that were present at that meeting were: Doug Sylling, Colin McGowen, and Russ Bently. The Gaelectric people gave the audience a general overview of their company and their program. Gaelectric would like to conduct another public meeting in town in the near future.

**ROADS**

Commissioner Rockman reported that he had received a couple of telephone calls regarding water run off over roads. One telephone call was regarding barricades on a road that caused issues for a school bus. The other telephone call was regarding the poor conditions of the road from the spillway to the Pondera County Line.

Most of the roads are in pretty bad shape at this current time. Commissioner Hendrickson thinks perhaps the county crew should get out with the graders now, and see what can be done.

Shawn has received a letter from the Montana Department of Revenue regarding the filing and paying of Resource Indemnity Trust and Ground Water Assessment Tax by Cities, Counties and State Agencies. The letter states that under Montana law, all mineral extractors or producers are subject to the RIGWAT tax, and that it was recently brought to the attention of the DOR that Liberty County has conducted opencut mining operations and have not been filing the appropriate annual returns and paying the tax. The DOR requested that the requested information be provided to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality by April 30, 2009.

Shawn discussed with the Commissioners general road conditions in the county. He stated that he has closed a few roads at this time, and he has received several telephone calls on some of the other roads as well. There is a culvert on Dugout Road that is damaged and Shawn believes it needs to be replaced after it thaws. The repair work to the Moffat Road and the road east of Sandy Anderson's is going to require a considerable amount of gravel.

Shawn also reported that the crew has been busy with some routine maintenance and repair work on all of the equipment. He also reported that their plans currently include beginning some discing on the road shoulders and they plan to try some grading on the road from Cole's up to Lakey's.

There is a traffic counter machine that is available for demo for one month. Shawn thinks this could be a worthwhile opportunity. The Commissioners told Shawn to go ahead with that.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

The requested information regarding Liberty County's loss data has been received from JPT. The Commissioners would like this information to be forwarded to anyone who expresses an interest in submitting a bid for the County Health Insurance. We will see after the groups receive the information if this will be enough for them to bid from, or if they will require health statements from each employee.

**CLAIMS**

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



**MINUTES**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve as amended the minutes of the meetings up through March 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WEATHER STATION**

The Commissioners replaced the damaged anemometer on the roof of the Courthouse.

**HOSPITAL**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the signing of the confidentiality clause for our member to the Hospital Board. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**DES / EMPG FUNDING**

Present for the meeting in addition to the Commissioners were Ed Gierke, Yvonne Hunnewell, Penny Walston, and Jenni Chelmo.

Jenni inquired as to the criteria for the EMPG funding. Ed informed the group that with the EMPG grant money, the last funding priority is equipment. He stated that he believed that conducting exercises is what we should be looking to use the funding for. The group discussed the current need for the 300 and 400 level classes. The funding would help to pay for the facility as well as materials to conduct these classes. He reminded the group that the funding from this program is not available until July 1. Ed also suggested that Liberty County should plan for a table top exercise in this next year.

Ed talked briefly about the Homeland Security Grant that will be available in September. This money can be utilized to update the Emergency Services Plan and the priority annexes.

Ed also went through the EMPG spreadsheets to outline the dollar numbers for the group. Ed believes that the proposed amounts that they will be requesting from the federal government for the funding of this program are very reasonable amounts. He gave the computer disc with the grant application on it to the Commissioners for their review and completion.

Ed also briefly discussed the shared DES coordinator with the Commissioners. He made a few suggestions regarding the contract for the position. The Commissioners will take his suggestions under advisement.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

Ron Gleason was in to see the Commissioners regarding the debt on the Assisted Living Facility. He explained that they are currently looking into refinancing because of concern about a balloon payment that will be due in 2015. He reported that the value of the loan is currently \$634,000, with a current interest rate of 6.6%. He believes they can get the interest rate down to 5% and eliminate the balloon payment by refinancing. However, the refinancing will take some time and there is some concern that under the Health Facilities Authority Bond there exists a 100% liability clause, and currently the Center and the County are in technical default on the debt. Ron said that if the Commissioners would lift the restrictions on the Endowment Fund money, they would no longer be in technical default. The Commissioners will look into the matter and get back to Ron at a later time.

Ron also shared with the Commissioners information about the Frontier Project. Ron said he is on the committee for this project and he said that five states meet the criteria to be part of a demonstration group for this project. The project is set up to assist extremely small facilities in remote rural areas. Six facilities in Montana have been recommended by the committee to be part of the demonstration to be begin on October 1 and Liberty Medical Center is one of them. Ron stated that we should see some changes in how we get paid and how we will be allowed to operate (no bed limit is just one example). Ultimately there will be approximately twenty facilities in Montana that could take advantage of this program.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Wednesday**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the monthly hospital board meeting on the evening of the above stated date.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Thursday**

Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson attended the public meeting held at the Senior Citizens building on the above stated date. The purpose of the public meeting was for JGA Architecture to present their Preliminary Architectural Report and to hear public comment on the proposed Senior Citizen's building project.

**March 24, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING / STIMULUS MONEY**

Rod Keith was in to visit with the Commissioners briefly about the Senior Citizens building project and the use of the proposed stimulus money.

Also, Craig Erickson has informed the Commissioners that they must name someone to be the designated Environmental Certifying Official responsible for all activities associated with the environmental review process to be completed in conjunction with the development of the approved transportation project. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign a letter to Mr. Tom Stuber designating Rod Keith the Environmental Certifying Officer. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

Clerk & Recorder Pimley informed the Commissioners that she had received an e-mail last week from Owen Voigt of MACo Health Care Trust, stating that the information received from JPT was probably not comprehensive enough to quote a good bid from. Owen requested that the County consider providing him with health statements from the employees. Members of the health insurance committee had received information from the other companies planning on submitting bids, that stated they would be willing to use Owen's suggest health statement form. The information has been compiled and given to each department head to gather the needed health statement information.

**QUIET TITLE**

County Attorney Hugh Brown stopped in to visit with the Commissioners. He wanted them to be aware that Quiet Title is being taken on a property in Liberty County. The Commissioners also visited briefly with him about the Hospital Endowment Fund money.

**ROAD**

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. He informed the Commissioners that he had purchased some truck weights that were advertised on Tradio last week. Commissioner Rockman made a motion to approve for immediate payment the claim submitted for the truck weights. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Shawn informed the Commissioners that the crew has been doing some discing. Also, he said, some grading is being done, but that the crew has to wait until the afternoon as it is always too frozen in the mornings.

Shawn stated that the road crew held their union meeting last night.

The group also discussed the purchase of the pickup from the weed department and the current status of the Road Department equipment budget. Commissioner Tempel inquired about the other machinery purchases that are currently on Shawn's wish list. Shawn stated that the department also is in need of a screen, trailer and a mower.

Tom Osterman stopped by to briefly visit with the Commissioners about their purchase of a new John Deere road grader.

**PAYROLL**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the payroll as it has been submitted. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CTEP**

Present for the meeting in addition to the three Commissioners were Jim Vincent, Bob Mattson, Lynda VandeSandt, and Krystal Steinmetz. The group gathered on this day to discuss the status of the project being planned for the Lions Park. The Chamber of Commerce is planning on building a storage building, 3 benches, and purchasing more Christmas decorations, and are going through the steps to apply for County CTEP money to assist them with this project. Krystal passed out a report that outlines the proposed project budget based on the information she has received, and from the numbers submitted from Jim Brown's Construction. She estimated the base cost of the building to be about \$31,000, plus another 15%+ towards the cost of the engineer, plus about 14 more Christmas decorations at about \$400 apiece, for a total of about \$42,000 (before ICAP). Total project cost after ICAP is estimated at about \$47,905.20. Krystal reported that Liberty County currently has \$46,293 currently available in CTEP fund, with an additional \$10,189 expected in the Spring of 2009. She reminded the Commissioners that the CTEP program is a reimbursement program so typically the money is paid upfront by the County and then reimbursed by CTEP upon the completion of the project. The project must also be a competitive project, so bids must be solicited from at least three different construction companies. Krystal will put together bid packets for this purpose. She also reminded the group that an engineer will need to be brought on board. She recommends Jeremy Simms for the job.

Krystal inquired as to who owns the park, and she was told that the Town of Chester owns the park. Krystal also stated that the application will require some additional information that someone will have to gather for her. The information includes basic materials and square footage. Krystal already has the necessary maps put together for the application, so as soon as she receives the other needed information it won't take her long to put the application together. She set up another meeting with the Commissioners for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM, so that they can sign and submit the application.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Rockman made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**STATE FUEL TAX MAPS**

The Commissioners along with Shawn Norick examined the Fuel Tax maps that had been sent here by the state. The group decided on a classification change for a 1 ¼ mile strip of road, and an addition of another ¼ mile strip of road. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the maps as they have been amended. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**SCHOOL / LEGISLATURE**

Commissioner Hendrickson visited with Superintendent Cal Moore on the telephone regarding a couple of bills currently before the Legislature. There is a bill that Cal believes will negatively impact our school that he wanted the Commissioners to be aware of.

**COURTHOUSE**

Clerk & Recorder Pimley discussed her concerns about the deteriorating condition of the cement walls in the basement. Commissioner Hendrickson took digital photos of the walls so that their deterioration can be tracked. They also briefly discussed possible things that can be done to help remedy the situation to some degree.

The Commissioners went with Shawn Norick to view a trailer that they may be interested in purchasing for the Road Department.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

Commissioner Tempel attended the HRDC Executive board meeting in Havre on the evening of the above stated date.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

On the above stated date, present for the regularly scheduled session of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was Commissioner Larry Hendrickson. Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman were in Great Falls attending the Montana Association of County Road Supervisors annual conference.

Commissioner Hendrickson telephoned both Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Rockman so that via a conference call, some business could be conducted.

**PAYROLL MONTHLY / QUARTERLY CLAIMS**

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

**CLERK & RECORDERS SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING**

Clerk & Recorder Pimley requested that Commissioner Hendrickson assist with the scholarship judging process. Commissioner Hendrickson spent a good share of his morning judging the seven applications received from the Clerk & Recorder's Office in Teton County.

**RUSSIAN OLIVE REMOVAL**

Mike LaFrentz was in to visit with Commissioner Hendrickson about the next phase of the Russian Olive removal project. He promised to let the Commissioners know when he will begin accepting bids on the removal project. The two also discussed the sites for the new shelters at Tiber Dam. Mike reminded Commissioner Hendrickson that they will be in need of some gravel for those sites.

**SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT**

Rod Keith was in to visit with Commissioner Hendrickson. Rod has received a letter from JGA, updating us on the application process. Rod told Commissioner Hendrickson that he is expecting Craig Erickson to come over this afternoon, to further discuss the matter.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

Trina Thielman visited with Commissioner Hendrickson about the health insurance bid process. She updated him on how many of the employees have complied with turning in their health statements to assist in this process. She will put together packets of all this information and send it to the companies that have expressed an interest in bidding on the insurance, just as soon as she receives the last employee's health statement. She anticipates that she will receive that statement later this afternoon. Commissioner Hendrickson requested that she have the Health Insurance Committee compile a list of questions that should be asked of the different companies that put in a bid.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman