

May 4th, 2009 ♦ Monday

An Executive HRDC / Headstart meeting was conducted on the evening of the above stated date in Havre, Montana. Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the meeting.

May 5th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, 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.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging Board met on the morning of this day. Commissioner Rlynn Rockman attended the meeting held at the Senior Center. He reported that Howard Eveland has been named Centenarian of the Year, and will be recognized at the Governor’s Conference on Aging in Browning on Thursday of this week. In addition, the seniors have selected their 2009 Liberty County Senior of the Year, name to be announced soon.

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.

ROADS

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. He reported that the crew will begin preparation of the site for the shelter at Tiber Dam tomorrow morning. He also reported that the crew that is currently in town to put up the new cell tower has requested to purchase some gravel from the county yards. The agreed upon price is \$8.50/yard for pit run and \$10.50/yard for crushed gravel.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

Rod Keith stopped by to touch base with the Commissioners regarding the Senior Citizens building project. Rod inquired as to whether the Commissioners have given any more thought to purchasing the additional Shettel lots next to the proposed building site. The status of the stimulus funding was briefly discussed.

PAYROLL

The Commissioners inquired about the status of an employee from the Sheriff’s department, whom they believed was out on a workman’s compensation related injury. The situation was explained by Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley. 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.

UNION NEGOTIATOR

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment an invoice submitted by Jeff Minckler for his bi-annual service agreement installment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MUSEUM

All three of the Commissioners attended the Museum Board meeting to discuss the Museum siding project, as well as other issues. The bid from Evan’s Construction for approximately \$23,000 for the re-siding was accepted by the Museum Board and the project was approved.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the payroll benefit claims as they were presented. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners also added that they have made the decision that effective with the beginning of the new fiscal year, all paychecks will be direct deposit, and the employees will no longer be given the option. The Commissioners will inform all of the department heads of their decision at the next department head meeting.

BORDER PATROL

Border Patrol Agent Jerry Bengé stopped in to visit with the Commissioners. He just wanted to take the opportunity to introduce himself to the County Commissioners.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

May 6th, 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: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

Liberty County Attorney Hugh Brown visited briefly with the County Commissioners about various personnel issues.

LIBERTY LLC / RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ted Sorenson telephoned and requested that the Commissioners complete the annual report for him that details how the money given to the Recreation Enhancement Fund by Liberty LLC was spent last year. Ted explained that he must forward this report on to his supervisor, and that until the money is all spent the report must continue to be completed annually. The Commissioners completed the requested report and e-mailed the report to Ted Sorenson.

ROAD

Shawn Norick reported to the Commissioners that the work has begun to the new site at Willow Creek Arm. Permission has been received from the Bureau of Reclamation to change the second site to this new location.

Teresa Fenger was in to discuss health insurance issues with the County Commissioners. She reminded the Commissioners that Gary Hablutzel had promised last week to call her back regarding some of her questions and concerns. She has never received that telephone call from Gary.

BORDER PATROL

The County Commissioners composed a letter to our congressional delegation requesting them to support the placement of a local border patrol in our immediate area.

CLAIMS

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

The Commissioners left the office for a short time to go out to the new shelter sites at Tiber Dam and check on the progression and take some photographs. They also drove over and checked out the progression of the installation of the new cell tower north of town.

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Present for the health insurance committee meeting held at 4:00 PM on the afternoon of this day were Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Steve Cameron, Shawn Norick, Trina Thielman, Ann Wickum, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Sheila Duncan, and Rhonda Pimley.

The Commissioners opened the floor to comments and opinions from the committee members regarding the information that has been received. Some of the items of discussion included the required three year commitment with HealthCare Trust, the advantage and generally good idea of staying local, life insurance benefits, concerns that not many other counties currently are with BC/BS, and concerns about the additional paperwork that BC/BS will require before they give us true premium amounts.

MACo has been consulted regarding questions raised regarding health savings accounts and the permissive levy. MACo has instructed the Commissioners that they believe these ideas are all doable.

A quick poll was taken that indicated the committee was interested in moving forward with BC/BS to get true premium amounts. A final decision will be held off until after those amounts have been received.

The Commissioners will telephone Roger Olson to begin the process of getting the required information from the employees.

LIBRARY

Teresa Fenger visited briefly with the Commissioners about the possibility of purchasing a coffee machine for the Library. Teresa believes it could become an opportunity for supplemental income for the Library.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

May 12th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated 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, Teresa Fenger, and Rhonda Pimley.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools Rachel Ghekiere visited with the Commissioners. She presented them with an Application for Classification as an Isolated School for their review. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the application. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROADS

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The group discussed the spraying of the ditches and the sides of the roads. The Schaeffer gravel pit was also briefly discussed. Shawn reported that the crew has been busy blading. The bad spot on the Tiber road has been fixed. The need to find or build a screen was briefly discussed, as well as the need for more gravel. Shawn inquired about the chance of any new funding for gravel, but the Commissioners do not anticipate any new revenues that can be used for gravel at this time.

The Commissioners told Shawn that there is a 5th wheel equipment moving trailer that is going up for auction at the Jensen's sale on the 30th. They recommended that he go take a look at it.

Shawn reported that the crew will be hooking up the road groom this week. They will be doing Shettel's road with it.

The culvert on Harmon's road was discussed. The crew is to use some of the rocks from the Schaeffer pit for fill.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere informed the Commissioners that he has hired Ted Zorn as a seasonal full-time employee to the Weed Department. He is rethinking the current wage base which is at \$7.00/hour. He feels that since minimum wage is going up, he may need to raise the base for his summer-time help. He would like to raise the base to \$8.50. Jim will be assembling the Weed Board next week to further discuss the matter.

Jim also informed the Commissioners that he is in the process of fixing up the silver pick-up, and that he would also like to update one of the 4-wheelers with power steering this year.

The group also briefly discussed the HRDC hiring program. Jim would like to take advantage of this program and is currently looking for someone who might qualify. HRDC was telephoned and the commissioners were told that they currently have enough funding to put about 4 or 5 people to work.

MACO ON TRACK SAFETY PROGRAM

Emelia McEwen and Tina Wood were in to visit with the Commissioners about the County's progress on our safety program. Emelia went through an Evaluation Profile form to determine the County's current standing and track the progress made since the last evaluation. Emelia recommended that the Commissioners request that the department heads report to the Safety Coordinator on a regular basis, so that the Commissioners can keep track of what everyone is doing in regards to safety issues. She reminded everyone that communication is key to the Safety Program.

Emelia suggested that in addition to asking contractors about their liability and workman's comp insurance, it is also a good idea to be asking all contractors what their workman's comp current mod factor is.

She reminded the group that they should be continually evaluating measures that can be taken to eliminate potentials for injuries, and that the department heads should be continually working with their employees and going through and evaluating specific repetitive tasks. She recommended we check out their website for job safety analysis forms that we can use. Emelia also feels that each month a new task evaluation should be performed.

Written Mandatory programs were briefly discussed. The county hasn't begun this process yet. Emelia will e-mail to us examples of what they should look like.

The Early Return to Work program forms are on the website, and should be reviewed. She reminded everyone that when an employee is on the Early Return to Work program, they do not necessarily have to work in the same department they were hired.

Practical Goal Setting for Liberty County should probably include: getting the Written Mandatory programs in place (or at least one completed within the next couple of months), implement the 7-minute trainings, and begin completing the Job Safety evaluations.

AUDITOR

Bob Denning is currently in the County completing our 2008 Annual Audit. He stopped by to briefly visit with the Commissioners. The group visited in depth about the past issues the county has been having with the Justice of the Peace Office. Bob reported that things are somewhat better in that office, but there are still some serious issues. He made recommendations to the Commissioners of steps that can and probably should be taken.

The Commissioners composed a letter to be sent to Senator Max Baucus, Senator Jon Tester, and Representative Dennis Rehberg regarding obtaining a resident border patrol agent for our area. The Commissioners also composed a letter regarding this matter, to be sent to the Border Patrol offices in Havre and Washington, D.C.

The Commissioners visited with Dale Osborn MHP about the radios in the Homeland Security Building that cover Mount Royal. They informed him that Liberty County will not be moving radios into the building at this time.

Boiler Inspector Dan Land stopped by to check the boiler. He informed the Commissioners that is still needs one more change. The Inspector will telephone Rude's Sheet Metal to tell them what he expects.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

May 13th, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

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

The Commissioners composed a letter regarding the mandatory direct deposit of all employees' paychecks, effective July 1st. The payroll clerk was instructed to attach these letters to all pay stubs next pay period. The Commissioners later learned that State statute does not allow us to mandate this request, so it is now documented as a "preference" by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners contacted Mark Evan's Construction to request a statement of contractor's license, liability insurance, and workman's comp for their files. Mark Evan's Construction was hired to complete work on the Liberty County Museum recently.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Penny Walston stopped by to report on the Public Health exercise dates: June 15th in Chester and June 17th in Shelby. She also reported to the Commissioners that the cost of the Hepatitis A vaccine is \$385.90.

4 (LANES) FOR HWY 2

Bob Sivertson stopped by to visit with the Commissioners and update them on the 4 for 2 campaign.

HERD DISTRICTS

County resident, Rob Laas, called to request information on the formation of a Montana Herd District. The Commissioners discussed with him the basic rules and requirements, and in addition mailed him a packet containing the laws and procedures.

ROADS

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to discuss a few road and sign issues. The group also discussed experimental spraying of road shoulders, and the summer use of diesel / bio-fuel.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere stopped by and informed the Commissioners that the Weed Board will have a meeting on May 19th at 7:00 PM.

TRIANGLE TELEPHONE

Triangle Telephone stopped by to fix some problems the Commissioners were experiencing with their telephones. They were unable to solve the issues.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

May 19th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

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

ROADS

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. He told the Commissioners that the road counter demo's should be here soon. The group also discussed the safety trainings for the road crew and Shawn's protocol regarding safety training. The pre-trip inspection pads that Stillwater County uses are a tool that the Commissioners believe Shawn should use. Stillwater has theirs printed at Kinko's. The crew has been filling and fixing some of the bad holes on the roads. The proposed wind project in the northern part of the County was briefly discussed. The County still has 3 towers – the tower at Kenfield's is in need of some repairs. The Cable, cards and batteries should be checked in all three of the towers. GEC has probably collected all of the wind data that they need, and Shawn is wondering if we should consider disassembling the towers. Other general road conditions were discussed.

CONGRESSMAN REHBERG

Mike Waite from Congressman Rehberg's office was in to visit with the Commissioners briefly. He is setting up at the Library this afternoon to visit with the public. The group visited about the Stimulus money and the Senior Citizen's project. Mike reported that \$902 million is supposed to be coming into the state, and that this money must be spent by September 30, 2010. There may end up being some funds hanging in limbo. The Commissioners discussed with Mike their interest in having one or two resident border patrol agents.

CDBG

Craig Erickson was here to go over the CDBG grant application with the Commissioners. Present for the meeting in addition to the Craig and the three commissioners were Rod Keith, and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley.

Craig laid out the statements of the application for the group. 71% of the users surveyed fall into that low to moderate income level. The funding source break down was also gone through. Craig reviewed the Community Planning and Participation portion of the grant. He discussed with the Commissioners that he felt the non-adopted Growth Policy does pose a small problem. He suggested that a Capital Improvement Plan should be added to the Growth Policy before its adoption. This plan would demonstrate a commitment to the infrastructure of the County. He also pointed out that there is no mention of the unique demographic issue in the Growth Policy, and that there should be.

The grant application will be completely finished tomorrow and Craig will deliver it to the Department of Commerce on Friday. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign Resolution 09-08, the CDBG grant application, the certification, and the letter of commitment. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-08

WHEREAS, Liberty County is applying to the Montana Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund, in part, the construction of a new senior citizens center for the residents of Liberty County;

WHEREAS, Liberty County had conducted one or more public hearings in conformance with CDBG requirements to obtain the views of citizens on community development and housing needs, and on the proposed activities;

WHEREAS, Liberty County has the legal jurisdiction and authority to construct, finance, operate, and maintain the new senior citizens center;

That Liberty County agrees to conform with the regulations, statutes, terms and conditions described in the CDBG Certifications for Application, and

That Liberty County commits to provide the matching funds as proposed in the CDBG application; and

That Russ Tempel, Chairman, is authorized to submit this application to the Montana Department of Commerce, on behalf of Liberty County to act on behalf of Liberty County and to provide such additional information as may be required.

DATED THIS 19th day of May, 2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

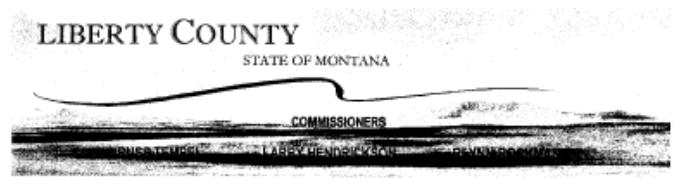
Russ Tempel
Chairman

Larry Hendrickson
Commissioner

Rlynn Rockman
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. Pimley
Clerk



May 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Liberty County Commissioner's continued commitment to building a new senior citizens center for the residents of Liberty County is evidenced by the Commissioner's motion on May 19th, 2009 to approve the contribution of \$202,824.00 available from the Senior Citizens' Capital Improvement Fund and other cash reserves and \$137,658.00 allocated to the County in HB 645. These funds are immediately available for the development of the project, once the commitment of the CDBG Public Facilities grant funding and our Rural Development Direct Loan package have been confirmed.

Respectfully,

Russ Tempel
Liberty County Commissioner

Larry Hendrickson
Liberty County Commissioner

Rlynn Rockman
Liberty County Commissioner

PAYROLL

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

HEALTH INSURANCE

Roger Olson was in to visit with the Commissioners further about the health insurance bid. He has a quote prepared for the Blue Solutions plan, and he presented the Commissioners with those prices. Roger explained that he also is in the process of putting some prices together for an option from the EAWM group, but he has not yet finalized those prices. Roger expressed that he was very thankful for this opportunity to bid the County Insurance.

Roger visited briefly with the Commissioners about how the process of gathering health statement information from the employees went. He felt that most all of the employees were more than willing to cooperate and provide the needed information, but that many expressed a feeling of it being a waste of time for everyone. Roger explained that he believed that much of the information gathered in the original one page health statement was very inaccurate, and that in fact he believed at least 8 of those statements had been "clean sheeted". The companies who bid their products based on that false information have probably misquoted by a fairly large amount. Also, Roger pointed out, those companies have the right to rescind coverage and deny claims if they feel they were not given the honest information they asked for up front. Based on the new information gathered, Roger explained that the Blue Solutions quote is about 30% higher than the original index quote. He believes that the EAWM quote will be much more competitive, and may be much closer to the original quote because the EAWM has the ability to leverage.

Roger also impressed upon the Commissioners their need for a "buffer" between themselves and the employees and that he is willing to provide that service for the County if they choose Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Roger plans to take the time to really educate the employees about the different insurance options. He recommended that if they choose to not go with Blue Cross/Blue Shield they should seriously consider hiring a human resource agent.

Roger went through the prices that he is quoting on the Blue Solutions plan, but he reiterated that he believes the EAWM option to be the better option for Liberty County employees. He is not sure when he will have that bid completed, but is confident that those prices will be better than the Blue Solutions bid.

MINUTES

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the minutes of April 14th through May 6th, as amended. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Commissioner Hendrickson has requested a leave of absence from the state until Monday, May 25th, and Commissioner Tempel has requested a leave of absence from the state from May 27th through June 1st. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to grant permission for both of these requests. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

JP Court Clerk Denise Wanken was in to update the Commissioners on how the new full court computer system is working.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Deputy Doug Riggin was in to visit with the Commissioners about his overtime concerns.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to not purchase the Terrorism Risk Insurance at the price of \$217 per year. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WEED BOARD MEETING

Jim Ghekiere dropped by to remind the Commissioners about the Weed Board meeting scheduled for this evening at 7:00 pm. (It was attended by all 3 Commissioners).

The Commissioners spent some time going over the Sheriff's department budget. Overtime hours and on-call hours were looked at. The possibility of Homeland Security Grant money was briefly discussed as well.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

May 26th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

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

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the payroll liability claims as presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Burrows was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding the need to add an additional full-time deputy to the staff. This should help to alleviate the need for so much overtime.

The auditor's recent visit was also briefly discussed by the group. Potential remedies to the issues in the Justice of the Peace office were explored.

The Commissioners updated Sheriff Burrows on their recent request for a locally stationed Border Patrol Agent here. The Sheriff has a desire to visit with the border patrol about improving communications and how they might be available to assist us in the event of emergency situations.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on road matters. Shawn reported on where and what each of the crewmen are currently working on. The group discussed the shelter project at Tiber Dam. They examined the costs of the past shelter projects and the costs incurred so far on the current shelter project. Shawn reminded the Commissioners that he will be attending a Montana Association of County Road's planning meeting in Bozeman tomorrow and the next day.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Richard Buker was in to visit with the Commissioners. He reported on the problems that the Public Health Department has been having with their refrigerator/freezer where the vaccines are stored. He reported that he recently completely defrosted it, and since this the problems that they were experiencing have ceased. There should be no need at this time, to purchase a new one as was requested in the past. The Doctor also expressed to the Commissioners, his feeling about how hard the Public Health Nurse works. He believes that she could benefit from some clerical help. The Doctor also believes that the Health department probably could and should be charging more for the immunizations that they are giving.

HELIPAD

The Liberty Medical Center has requested that the Commissioners set up a public hearing to discuss the potential helipad issue. The Commissioners will advertise and set the public hearing for June 23rd at 1:00 pm in the Commissioner's room.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding the Special County Noxious Weed Grant application. The funds from this grant are to be utilized for the purchase of a new 4-wheeler. Jim explained that the Weed Board has already approved this proposition, at their recent meeting. After reviewing, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the weed grant application. Commissioner Tempel 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