

**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ♦ 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.

**MACO DUES**

The current MACo and NACo due are \$2,953 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel, and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to pay the dues. The motion carried.

**MARIAS RIVER WATERSHED**

The minutes of the Marias River Watershed meeting of July 5<sup>th</sup> in Shelby were reviewed. Nothing remarkable to document other than the Pugsley Bridge project, which is on hold due to the water levels.

**ROAD SUPERVISOR**

Shawn Norick was in to discuss road issues. He will replace new tapes and batteries in the wind-monitor towers. Hill County agreed to let the Rocky Boy Water Project dig up the road and do a "slurry" fill near Han's.

Shawn needs new tires for one of the graders; they're presently getting two cappings from each casing. The Commissioners OK'd the tire purchase.

**LOAN AGREEMENT**

The official loan agreement between Liberty County (borrower) and Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association (lender) was submitted for approval. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Tempel to approve and sign the document. The motion carried. County Attorney Hugh B. Brown will process the paperwork. The amount of this REDLG loan is \$266,472.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

Ron Gleason reported that the total expenditure on the electronic medical records program at Liberty Medical Center is \$125,441. He requested permission to fund this program through resources from the Hospital Tax Levy. A motion was made by Commissioner Tempel and seconded by Commissioner Rockman to allow Liberty Medical Center to use these special levy funds to pay for this program. The motion carried.

**COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD**

The Liberty County Compensation Board met today to discuss the salaries of elected officials for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Those present were Ron Gleason, Dana Lalum, Gail Cicon, Hugh Brown, Anne Melton, Holly Frederickson, Rachel Ghekiere, Gayle Dahlen, and the three commissioners. Each board member had been given an informational packet of past decisions, state laws, COLA, county classification, taxable valuations, and current salary schedule. The Commissioners also reported on decisions by neighboring counties and local businesses:

1. Teton = Frozen wages in 2010-2011, except the union; therefore, this Fiscal Year they gave 65¢ / hour to all employees plus \$100 / month towards health insurance premiums;
2. Blaine = 25¢ / hour plus medical insurance premium increase;
3. Toole = 24¢ / hour (1.6% COLA) plus \$75 / month for insurance premiums;
4. Glacier = The Compensation Board recommended the 1.6%, but the Commissioners granted a 2% increase plus they lifted the cap on increased insurance premiums (which jumped 18% this year);
5. NCAAA in Conrad = 50¢ / hour for three office staff and 75¢ / hour for the director;
6. U.S. Bank = 3%;
7. Liberty Medical Center = 2% COLA plus 2% evaluation raise plus medical insurance increase.

After general discussion, a motion for a 2 ½% salary increase for elected officials (based on the Clerk & Recorder's base salary) was made by Dana Lalum, and seconded by Gail Cicon. The motion carried. The Commissioners accepted the board's recommendation per motion by Commissioner Rockman, seconded by Commissioner Tempel. This motion carried unanimously. The Commissioners will do the necessary calculations and notify the union regarding salary negotiations.

Clerk & Recorder's base salary = \$32,386 X 2 ½% = \$809.65 / year increase (equal to 38.9¢ / hour). New base salary of \$33,196;

Deputy salary (new) = \$29,876 (based on 90% of \$33,196) = \$729 / year increase (equal to 35¢ / hour);

Possible recommendation = 35¢ / hour to all employees (including the union).

**NCAAA, INC**

The 2012 contract between the NCAAA, Area III and Liberty County Senior Center was offered for approval. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, and Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion to accept the contract. The motion carried. Rod Keith will process the paperwork.

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT**

Paul Tuss visited via phone regarding tax abatements. He agrees that EGT and Gavilon did not inquire prior to beginning their projects, so probably should not qualify. However, Columbia Grain did call about possible abatements before their potential expansion, so maybe should qualify.

**CTEP**

Jeremy Siemens was contacted by Russ Tempel and agreed to finish the engineering work on the CTEP project for \$2,000. He plans to stop by the project site at Lion's Park on 7-21-2011.

**USED PACKER**

The Commissioners sent Toole County a bill for the used "Walk and Roll" Packer that they purchased from Liberty County this past spring. The agreement was to extend Toole County's payment into Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Rod Keith developed two specific job descriptions for his present position: aging services director and transit coordinator. The Commissioners will scrutinize it for any changes and / or additions.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman