

November 3rd, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, and Commissioner Rockman, 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 stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

ROADS

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The group discussed the road to the Joplin sewer and requirements for North Western Energy. Shawn updated the Commissioners on the new lighting in the County Shop. He reported that there is a rebate available from North Western Energy.

INQUIRY BY MARK LAKEY

Mr. Lakey telephoned to ask if the road ½ mile north and ½ mile west of his place is listed as a county road. He plans to gravel it at his expense and he was wondering if we could blade and spread the gravel for him. He has Jerry Fenger excavating gravel at a knoll near the Eagle Creek pit north of Barker's. Mr. Lakey is willing to trade some gravel for services rendered. If there is substantial gravel in the knoll, we may be looking to by some later. Shawn was asked to contact Mr. Lakey.

PAYROLL

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

BIDS OPENED / WEED DEPT – TRAILER

The Commissioners opened the bids that had been submitted for a surplus trailer belonging to the Weed Department. Two bids had been presented (Jim Ghekiere and Charley Frey). Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the highest bid of \$1,428.78 presented by Jim Ghekiere. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

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

WATER DISTRICTS

In that no nominating petitions were filed from either of the water districts, the District elections were cancelled, and the positions were filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. Appointments to the 4 year terms were made as follows:

South Chester County Water District: Tom Osterman, Ken Gagnon, and Ken Osterman

Sage Creek County Water District: Elvin Sundgren, John Cicon, and Bryon Wolery

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the (re)appointments. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JOPLIN SEWER EASEMENT

An official easement for sewer access in Joplin was submitted to the Commissioner's by Hugh Brown and sent to Brad Anderson for signature(s).

EXTENSION

The Commissioner's visited with Tom Allen regarding office hours and comp time.

MINUTES

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the minutes of October 6, 7, 13, 14 as amended and the minutes of October 20th and 27th as written. 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

November 4th, 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.

MSU EXTENSION

The Commissioners met with Dave Phillips from MSU Extension regarding the advertisement of the soon to be open position of the Liberty County agent. The group agreed on when to begin the process.

SENIOR CITIZENS BLDG PROJECT / ARCHITECT INTERVIEWS

Interviews took place on the above stated date for an architect for the Senior Citizen’s building project. In addition to the three Commissioners, present for the interviews were: Rod Keith, Sheila Duncan, Harry Heimbigner, Gary Jensen, Dallas Denter, Betty Marshall, Pat Ludwig and Annmarie Robinson from Bear Paw Development Corp. The group interviewed the following architectural firms: Architects Design Group, Studio 360 Architecture, Dowling and Associates, and WAG.

CLAIMS

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.

ELECTION CANVASS

The Commissioners, along with the County Election Administrator, canvassed the votes for the Town of Chester mail ballot election.

LYDER’S LEASE

The annual lease revenue from Marty Lyders was discussed. The following decision was made:

- Funds from land south of Hwy 2: 70% to the Airport & 30% to the General Fund
- Funds from land north of Hwy 2: 70% to the Cemetery District & 30% to the General Fund

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to adopt the above stated decision. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INTERVIEWS / BUS BARN

Following four interviews, the committee ranked the four architectural firms as follows:

- #1 – WAG, #2 – Studio 360, #3 – Dowling & Associates, and #4 – ADG

The committee as a whole made the following recommendation to the Commissioners:

Acceptance of WAG as the preferred architect for the job. If future negotiations with WAG are not satisfactory, the Studio 360 will be the second choice.

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept this recommendation as presented. Commissioner Rockman 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

November 6th, 2009 ♦ Friday

MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the 5-County Mental Health Conference held on the above stated date in Shelby. Toole, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, and Liberty had about 30 attending. Issues discussed included:

1. \$48,000 grant available (HB130) for 5 counties; must be spent by 6-30-2010;
2. CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) is available;
3. By hospital approval, non-secure bids for adult voluntary care can be allowed for a 72-hour "hold" and the state will pay about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the care costs;
4. Discussion about money-saving options for those who are frequently in need.

The next organizational meeting is scheduled for 11-17-2009

EQUIPMENT TRAILER & TRUCK

While in the office on the above stated date Commissioner Rockman visited briefly with Shawn Norick and Jerry Ghekiere. They stopped by the office with some photos and information regarding an equipment trailer and truck for sale in Malta where they traveled to inspect the equipment. The Road department was to put in a bid for about \$8,500 on the truck and trailer. (NOTE: We didn't get either.)

November 10th, 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

Present for the monthly department head meeting were: Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman, Shawn Norick, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Rachel Ghekiere, Jacob Knapton, Gayle Dahlen, Rhonda Pimley, and Jim Ghekiere.

Jim Ghekiere reported that he is busy this month with his grant reporting. Jim also updated the group on the 9-1-1 workstation project underway at the Sheriff's Office. The equipment and flooring will be removed on the 30th and the 1st; the tile flooring is scheduled for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th; and the new furniture scheduled for the 7th and 8th. The cost of the project is estimated to be around \$3,500.

Shawn Norick reported on road conditions. Some of the roads are in rough shape because of hunting season. He also reported on the new road into the Joplin sewer. They are currently looking into purchasing a new equipment trailer.

Rhonda Pimley reported on the recent Town of Chester mail ballot election and other current matters in her office.

Anne Seidlitz-Melton reported that the trial scheduled for this month has been vacated due to a plea agreement. There will be a pre-sentence investigation and then a sentencing hearing will be scheduled for probably the 3rd Wednesday in December. She also reported on the following matters: she is scheduled to attend schooling in Billings next week; she really likes the new camera positioned at the doorway, with the monitor in her office; and she is currently seeing an upswing in credit card judgments.

Rachel Ghekiere reported that she received a call from OPI on their form for Retirement and Transportation. Their spreadsheet contained a glitch causing her to over levy by a small amount.

Gayle Dahlen reported that her office was able to get the taxes out on time in spite of the reappraisal. She reported that some of the tax statements are up and some are down, and that there continues to be much discussion regarding the reappraisal. There is some talk of protesting taxes. She also reported that it has been her offices worst year for making changes created by the State DOR office. The new Motor Vehicle system continues to cause issues for the office, and there will be new license plates coming out in January which will also create more turmoil.

Jake Knapton reported that he is currently trying to learn the job and iron out the schedule. He requested that the group help him by letting him know when we see things that require his attention.

Commissioner Rockman reported that he has now been with the County for 10 months and that he enjoys these meetings a lot. He continued that he feels he has seen some abuse and misuse that he would like to discuss with the department heads. Elected officials are elected to do their job as best they can and are responsible only to themselves. Only if the elected officials are doing something illegal or unethical are they answerable to the Commissioners. Other department heads are answerable totally to the Commissioners.

Employees are responsible to work the hours that they are assessed to work. A “good job” cannot be rewarded by some “extra” time off. Sick, Vacation, Comp time or time off without pay are the options for being absent from work during normally scheduled hours. Commissioner Rockman also discussed the option of time clocks with the group. Commissioner Hendrickson continued that from now on comp time is not comp time unless it is on record on the payroll timecards. Normal hours are from 8 to 5, with a 15 minute break in the morning and a 15 minute break in the afternoon. In addition, the employees are granted a one hour lunch break – and that is it for absences – no exceptions. Commissioner Rockman added that technically the only comp time recorded on the timecard should be time that the employee is required to be here for purposes of the job.

The Commissioners also discussed closing time with the group. They requested that everyone be responsible to lock the door behind them as they leave at 5:00 pm. Gayle Dahlen expressed concern that securing the building each evening was too important to leave so vague and with no one being directly responsible. Rhonda Pimley agreed with this sentiment.

Other topics of discussion included the Library and Library Board, the Senior Center building project and its progression, and the County Agent hiring process. Tom Allen’s last day is scheduled for the end of November and the Commissioners hope to have the new agent in place by the first of the new year.

CHERYL ULMER – SENATOR TESTER’S FIELD AGENT

Cheryl Ulmer was in the area to field questions in this area. She stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

AIRPORT BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Airport Board meeting held on this day.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Cemetery Board meeting held on November 5th. They reviewed their budget. He also reported that the Cemetery water systems have been winterized.

CDBG RESOLUTION

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the following resolution, certifying Russ Tempel as the Environmental Certifying Officer for the CDBG project. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-18

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR THE CDBG PROJECT FOR THE LIBERTY COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS PROJECT

WHEREAS, in 2009 Liberty County applied for federal funding to construct a new Senior Citizens Center in Chester, Montana;

WHEREAS, an Environmental Certifying Official may be designated by formal resolution.

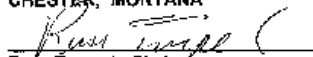
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

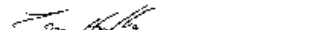
1. Russ Tempel, Chair of the Commission, is designated as the Environmental Certifying Official to produce an Environmental Review Record;
2. The Liberty County will ensure that it and all of its contractors or agents shall conduct all program matters in a non-discriminatory manner such that all persons regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or other protected class shall be treated equally and further each shall comply with the policies and procedures delineated in the 2010 Project Liberty County for the Senior Citizens Project, Management Plan, approved by the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program.

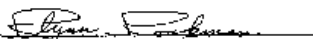
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above designation shall become effective on November 10, 2009.

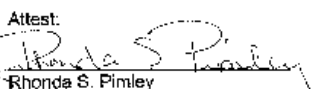
By Order of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 10th day of November, 2009 at Chester, Montana.

**BOARD OF LIBERTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHESTER, MONTANA**


Russ Tempel, Chairman


Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner


Rynia Rockman, Commissioner

Attest:

Rhonda S. Pimley
Clerk and Recorder

DAVID HUNNEWELL / AMBULANCE

David Hunnewell was in to speak with the Commissioners. He expressed his displeasure with the Commissioner's recent actions involving their decision to replace the battery and tires for the ambulance.

MCNAIR'S / FLOORING FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Commissioners visited with McNair's about the flooring for the Sheriff's office.

TRIANGLE TELEPHONE / ROAD CROSSING REQUEST

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to allow the road crossing request by Triangle Telephone. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CLAIMS

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

ABSENCE FROM THE STATE

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the absence of County Attorney Hugh Brown from the state the week of November 23rd and 24th. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROAD APPROACH

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to allow Kent Rudolph to make an approach on 2100 Road South. Commissioner Rockman 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

November 12th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting held in Havre on the above stated date.

November 17th, 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.

MCR / ROAD CROSSING REQUEST

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to allow the two road crossing requests submitted by MCR. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JUNK VEHICLE

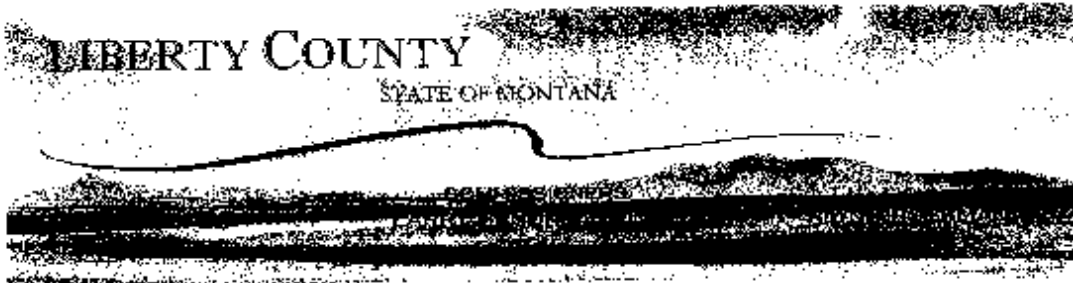
Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the annual agreement with Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the County Junk Vehicle program. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the payroll as it has been submitted, which included the sick and vacation leave payout for Barbara Boyer. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REVISED COMP TIME POLICY

The Commissioners officially approved and adopted the revised Comp time policy.



Nov. 17, 2009

Notice to all Liberty County employees:

It has been brought to the attention of the Commissioners that we have been lecting some inconsistencies slide in the payroll department relating to comp time, flex time, and time off. Effective today the new policies will be as follows:

- (1) Employees are eligible for comp time only if they work more than 40 hours in a given work week and ONLY if this comp time has been authorized by the department head. Earned comp time MUST be reported to the payroll clerk. Only recorded comp time can be used, and then at the discretion of the department head.
- (2) There will no longer be flex time allowed for any county employee.
- (3) Any time off taken by an employee must be approved by their department head. All full-time employees are obligated to work 40 hours per week. Any reported hours less than the required 40 hours MUST be reported as vacation, sick leave, accumulated comp time, or "time off without pay." Employees can take "time off without pay" if authorized by departments heads, but must realize that not working these hours will affect their total benefits (sick leave, vacation time, and PERS are based on a 40-hour work week.)
- (4) The above policies are directed specifically to all full-time county employees, including hired department heads, who receive their approvals from the commissioners.
- (5) All full-time courthouse employees are required to work the normal business hours in the courthouse, specifically from 8 a.m. to 5 a.m. These employees are entitled to an hour lunch break and two 15-minute coffee breaks 5 days a week.

Any questions about this policy or any concerns with any other county issue can be discussed directly with the commissioners.

Thank you,

Russ Tempel

Larry Hendrickson

Rlynn Rockman

P.O. BOX 459 CHESTER, MONTANA 59522
PHONE 406.759.5355 FAX 406.759.5395
COM@CO.LIBERTY.MT GOV

MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman and Deputy County Attorney Elizabeth Woods attended the 5-County Mental Health Consortium meeting held in Shelby on this day.

KENFIELD WINDPARK LLC

The Commissioners composed a letter to Bret Kenfield addressing the Kenfield Windpark LLC, and informing them that there are currently no zoning requirements in Liberty County.

WAG

The Commissioners corresponded with Wolfe Architectural Group regarding the scheduling for needed meetings.

CLAIMS

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

November 23rd, 2009 ♦ Monday

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING PROJECT

A meeting was held with the Commissioners, the Senior Citizen’s committee (Betty Marshal, Pat Ludwig, Bill Gunderson, Harry Heimbigner, Jane Allen, Rod Keith, Sheila Duncan, Dallas Denter, Gary Jensen), Annmarie Robinson of Bear Paw Development, and Russel Wolfe and Michelle Widner of WAG architects. The meeting was conducted to discuss needs for the Senior Center and design ideas. The group also discussed a licensing issue with WAG. All agreed that this issue would be resolved soon. Cicon and Associates was telephoned to discuss surveying.

USDA RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to send a letter to Triangle Telephone requesting a USDA Rural Economic Development loan for \$266,472. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

A letter was composed and mailed to JGA architectural firm regarding the group’s choice of architects.

November 24th, 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.

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING PROJECT

A meeting was held to go over the events of the meeting held the day before. Present for the meeting in addition to the three commissioners were: Pat Ludwig, Betty Marshall, Gary Jensen, Jane Allen, Bill Gunderson, Harry Heimbigner, Rod Keith, Russel Wolfe and Michelle Widner.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A young man came in from JP Court to visit with the Commissioners about 20 hours of community service. The Commissioner's visited with Shawn Norick who will put him to work at the stock yards.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in on road issues. A conference call with Linn Torgerson of Great Falls was held to discuss leasing terms on the Case IH Tractors.

Terms:

1. Contract June through October 2010
2. 125 hp X 250 hours X \$.01/hour = \$312.50 for 5 months
3. Do Not go over 250 hours!
4. Only extra fees are for major damage (i.e., broken glass, cut tires, major "dings", etc.)

Linn will order one for the County.

Shawn also reported that the gravel crushing is almost complete. The Road department will begin gravelling the two main east/west roads in Joplin.

GRAVEL STOCKPILE

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to renew the lease with Montana Department of Transportation for the gravel stockpile lease by the county shop. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AIRPORT BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept the Airport Board recommendation to apply for a grant to re-surface the runway. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Robert Peccia and Associated pre-paid the package for grant application. The signature page was signed and faxed to Robert Peccia & Associates.

HRDC

The Commissioners met with HRDC Representatives about their new program to help in job training.

REAPPRAISAL / DEPT OF REVENUE

Loren Hawks stopped in and updated the Commissioners on the Department of Revenue meeting he attended in Helena.

WHEAT COUNTRY ESTATES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to allow Liberty Medical Center to refinance Wheat Country Estates. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AIRPORT

It was reported that the Liberty County Airport Board intends to place an RFP in the paper for engineering services.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel participated in an HRDC conference telephone call regarding Board issues and policies for the Headstart program.

EXTENSION

Ann Wickum with the Extension office met with the Commissioner's regarding the policy letter. The group discussed Flex time and Courthouse hours. She questioned flex time being permitted to some employees, but not others. The County policy relates specifically to Full-time employees; a department head can utilize their part-time employees as they see fit (as long as the required work is completed). Ann also inquired if she can still use her comp-time; and was told "yes" if it is comp-time on record.

Ann also told the Commissioners that she will be gone the week of December 7th, so her office will be close for 'walk-in' customers. The Commissioners recommended that she call Tom Allen in Fort Benton to see if he will respond to all "pressing" calls in her absence. She will leave Tom's forwarding number on her answering machine.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SILENT AUCTION

The Commissioners are donating an old 1960's bomb-shelter bucket of biscuits to the Liberty County Christmas Festival silent auction. Commissioner Ben Ober from Toole County made an opening bid of \$50.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 25th, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

DES MEETING

Attendance of the meeting included Ed Gierke, Ben Ober, Darrel Stafford, Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman. Ed Gierke presented new funding by the EMPG grant to rewrite the County Plan. The group telephoned Jack Holstrom to discuss how to pay the DES Coordinator that is currently shared by two counties. He said that a contract with Darrell and Yvonne would be sufficient. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to contract with Darrell and Yvonne to rewrite the Emergency Operations Plan. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SENIOR BUILDING PROJECT

The Commissioner also met with Rod Keith regarding new correspondence regarding WAG's licensing and cover letter.