

October 5th, 2009 ♦ Monday

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the HRD Executive Committee meeting.

October 6th, 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 group discussed the new contract to rewrite the DES Plan.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Council on Aging meeting held at the Senior Citizens Center.

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 OF STATE LANDS

The Commissioners met with Eric Eneboe and Tony Nichols from the Department of State Lands and discussed Road Easements on State lands.

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.

CTEP

Krystal Steinmetz of Bear Paw Development was in with the paperwork on the CTEP project at the Lion's Park. The papers were approved, signed and returned to Krystal. The application is for about \$36,000 in CTEP funding with a \$5,000 local match (which will probably be paid by the state).

WIC PROGRAM

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the satellite contract for the Women, Infants, & Children Program between Hill County and Liberty County to have the Hill County WIC Program provide services to Liberty County. This renewing contract is for the 2010 Federal Fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

FIRE TRUCK

Jim Ghekiere has been working with Dave Hamilton from the Department of State Lands to acquire for Liberty County a 6 X 6 dump truck which can accommodate a large tank for fire fighting. The truck will be free to the County, but someone will have to travel to Colorado Springs to pick it up. This truck could replace the old Nordstrom fuel truck that Liberty County has been utilizing.

PAYROLL LIABILITY CLAIMS

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

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

October 7th, 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.

LOT PURCHASE

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to purchase the two lots (lot 11 & 12), in Block 6 of the Weldy-Taylor Addition to the Townsite of Chester from Jerry and Helen Shettel. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REGION 2A EMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the contract with Region 2A EMS. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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.

PENDING LITIGATION

Dennis Hanson and Allen Chetham were in to meet with the Commissioners. Also present for the meeting were County Attorney Hugh Brown and Undersheriff Doug Riggins. The group met to discuss a pending legal issue.

JOPLIN SEWER EASEMENT

County Attorney Hugh Brown brought in an easement to the new approach to the Joplin Sewer for the Commissioners to review.

TOOLE COUNTY

Toole County Commissioners Dave Miller and Ben Ober stopped by to visit with the Liberty County Commissioners and do some research on a county road located on the county line. The group also discussed the DES grant.

ROADS

Joe Wolery and Cliff Wickum requested that the County maintain the Bison and Haul Roads for improved truck traffic.

ADVANCED IT SERVICES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to acquire the services of Advanced IT out of Great Falls for a series of updates and upgrades to the county server and computer system. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the second set of claims as they have been 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

October 8th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the Joplin Fire meeting on the evening of October 8th.

October 13th, 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

The monthly Department Head meeting was held at 9:00 AM on this day. In addition to the Commissioners present for the meeting were Treasurer Gayle Dahlen, County Superintendent of Schools Rachel Ghekiere, Weed Director Jim Ghekiere, Extension Agent Tom Allen, and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley.

Tom reported on the activities of his office. He announced the winners of the recent Beef Raffle that was conducted by the 4-H group. He mentioned that tomorrow will be a workshop on handheld GPS devices, next week he will be attending the Annual Conference in Bozeman, and on November 17th there will be a seminar on shelter belt renovation.

Jim Ghekiere reported that Doug Riffin is currently cutting down more Russian Olives at Sanford Park.

Wayne Wardell attended training last week, and Jim will be attending a conference in Waterton next week.

Jim also reported that he will keep his summer crew on until the end of this month- spraying stumps and other miscellaneous jobs. Regarding 9-1-1; Jim reported that McNair's will be putting in new carpeting at the dispatcher's center. Jim also informed the group that Liberty County will be receiving a 6X6 dump truck donated from State Lands, that will be utilized as a fire truck.

Rachel Ghekiere reported that her budgeting work is complete, and that she is currently working on the 5 year comprehensive plan packets.

Gayle Dahlen informed the group that she attended a motor vehicle training last week with Denise Wanken. She also reported on the affect the State reappraisal process is having. There are about 75 Request for Informal Reviews (AB26's) that have been filed, of which about 25 can probably be resolved easily. At this point, Gayle has no way of knowing how much tax money this will involve, but she is still hoping that she will be able to get the tax statements mailed out on schedule.

Rhonda Pimley reported that her budget work has also been completed and the Official Budget Document has been submitted to the Montana Department of Administration. Currently the office is busy preparing for the Town of Chester municipal election. Ballots will be mailed out this week.

The Commissioners visited with the group regarding handicap accessibility and services on the second floor available to everyone on the first floor. Comp time policy was also addressed. The current policy in the handbook was reviewed. The Commissioners also mentioned to the group that a new janitor will be hired soon. They have received only a few applications so far.

The department head meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

MUSEUM

Betty Marshall was in regarding an employee issue (re: unemployment benefits for David Rugtvedt). The Commissioners telephoned Rose Campbell regarding his hours worked, wages paid, etc. This information was passed along to County Attorney Hugh Brown for processing.

BOR / GRAVEL

Mike LaFrentz was in about a special use permit for the Meissner gravel pit. The group discussed what the county will do in return.

HERD DISTRICT

Rudy Cicon, Greg Tempel, Jerry Thorson, John Cicon, Helen Wickum, Hugh Brown, Richard Burrows, and Tate Thorson were present in the Commissioner's Office for a discussion about Herd Districts in the County. They discussed the current boundaries and reviewed a map presented by the group. The group discussed adding land to eliminate the existing district. Signatures will be obtained by the group.

TRAILER SALE

The Commissioners met with Jim Ghekiere about the proposed sale of a trailer belonging to the Weed District.

REAPPRAISAL

Todd Wanken visited with the Commissioners about the property tax increase due to the reappraisal.

GRAVEL

Cal Moore inquired with the Commissioners about the possibility of obtaining 150 yards of gravel for the school parking lot.

BOR / SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for signature the Special use permit with BOR. 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

October 14th, 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.

PERSONNEL ISSUE

The Commissioners presented Jim Ghekiere with a letter to be placed in his personnel file.

PAYROLL

Next week will be payroll week again, and it is expected that there will not be a quorum. Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson are planning to go to Colorado Springs to obtain the 6X6 Dump truck that is being donated to Liberty County. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve, in advance, the payroll for payment upon Commissioner Rockman's review next week. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HERD DISTRICT / JOPLIN SEWER

The Commissioners visited with Rob Moog regarding Herd District issues and access to the Joplin Sewer.

MINUTES

The minutes of September 29th were reviewed. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve them as amended. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

COUNTY CUSTODIAN / MAINTENANCE

The job description was rewritten & updated for the County Custodian / Maintenance position by the Commissioners. John Melton's written exit interview was accepted. The Commissioner's added a few comments and mailed a copy to Mr. Melton.

VALTRA TRACTOR

Shawn Norick and Jerry Ghekiere came in to discuss options on repair to the Valtra tractor. They were instructed to test the fuel and oil for possible vandalism / sabotage. The repairs may run from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

COUNTY ROAD & STATE LAND MAP

The Commissioners spent some time updating the County Road & State Land interface map.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

October 15th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

Commissioner Russ Tempel attended the annual HRDC meeting in Havre on the above stated date.

October 20th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

The only Commissioner present for the regular session of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners scheduled on the above stated date was Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson were on the road to Colorado Springs to pick-up a 6X6 dump truck for the fire department.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to report the following:

- All mowing north of Highway 2 will be done today.
- They completed the GPS on the road project to the Joplin Sewer system. Shawn and Dale Carlstad will meet tomorrow with Rob Moog, Brad Anderson and the Fossen's to discuss and finalize the plans to this project.
- Snow fence is being installed at Kolstad's
- Tom Graff was in to see Shawn about a few roads that need grading.
- The Valtra is still in Havre. The air-filter is thought to be an issue. The diesel mechanic / inspector from Northern Montana College plans to look at it for educational and research benefit.
- Roads are being graded now (Whitlash and Laird)
- They graded about 4 inches of topsoil into a large pile on the north-east corner of our lots at the building site of the future Senior Center.

CUSTODIAN

Payroll Clerk Cyndee Fraser and Commissioner Rockman discussed the few additional hours that the fill-in custodian Ruth Ann Norick has worked recently, that were beyond her contractual agreement. Commissioner Rockman approved paying her \$11.20/extra hour which will result in a net of about \$10/hour after withholdings.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Rod Keith, Rlynn Rockman, and Betty Marshall opened the RFP's that have been submitted on the building project. Ten have been submitted for consideration for the Senior Center, and nine have been submitted for the Bus Barn. There is a public meeting scheduled for Friday at 1:30 to meet and select the top applicants.

LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT

Rod Keith was in to report that the Glacier Park Buses ("Sprinters") are available for lease during the winter months. The lease is \$150/month plus 7¢ /mile with a one month minimum. Rod would like to lease one for a while to road test it for future reference. He will check on the necessary paperwork. Rod also has requested a computer check by our new computer IT person.

LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DISPATCH OFFICE UPDATE

Karen Knorr called to report that the office will be re-done on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. McNair's are doing tile and may extend into the entry and hallway. Other items of discussion included security windows, smaller windows, minimal painting in the office, and possible security screen at the counter. It was noted that the Commissioners will have to work with Sheriff Richard Burrows concerning these issues.

COMPENSATORY TIME

Clarification on Compensatory Time:

Information via telecom between Rlynn Rockman and Jack Holstrom, MACo Personnel Services Administrator, on October 15, 2009:

- 1) All "non-exempt" employees are eligible for comp time as specified in our handbook policy #6.11 on page 37 (i.e., 1 ½ hours of comp time awarded for each hour worked).
- 2) "Exempt" employees must be treated differently. The 3 classifications of exempt employees designated in the FLSA are EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, and PROFESSIONAL. Each classification is defined by specific terms. Most county department heads fall under EXECUTIVE, which generally states that their primary duty is to manage their department, direct the work of at least two employees, authorize or recommend hiring/firing, exercise discretionary powers, meet a minimum salary rate specified by FLSA, and work no more than 20% of their weekly hours on non-managerial duties (i.e., doing similar tasks like their subordinates). Being "exempt" has nothing to do with the employee's contracted payment (whether they're salaried or paid by the hour). So an employee can easily shift from exempt to non-exempt on a weekly basis, depending on the job tasks during that period. "Exempt" employees are generally given comp time at the rate of 1 hour off for each hour worked.

Jack went on to say that there are very few truly EXEMPT employees in county government. He recommends that we set our county policy accordingly and keep good records & control of this comp time. Otherwise, there can be serious unfunded liability issues on documented hours dating back three years by mistreated/disgruntled employees.

Summary: The Commissioners will update our policy handbook to reflect these changes regarding comp time.

PAYROLL

Payroll was pre-approved at the October 14th Commissioner’s meeting. The payroll warrants were signed by Commissioner Rockman. The warrants included John Melton’s termination paycheck, as well as all of the withholding warrants.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley discussed a minor change in the 2010 Library Budget with Commissioner Rockman. This issue will be tabled until next week’s meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

UPCOMING GWINN TRIAL

Diane from the Teton County Attorney’s Office (Joe Cobell) telephoned to report that a counter-plea was approved by Liberty County Attorney Hugh Brown and Undersheriff Doug Riggan and offered to the Defendant, who has until 10-22-2009 to accept or decline. If he rejects this plea, the trial is scheduled for November 2nd through the 6th, so the jury and witnesses will be called soon. The County will be responsible for the costs necessary to get Olivia Skari back here (\$650-\$900 Airfare vs. \$200 Amtrak).

MAINTENANCE / CUSTODIAL POSITION

This day (October 20th) is the closing date for receiving applications for the Maintenance/Custodial position. Four have been received for consideration.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

October 27th, 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.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. These claims included the payroll liability claims as well as a claim for postage stamps for the Treasurer to mail out the tax statements.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept the proposed budget resolution to adjust the Library Fund budget back to the 08-09 budget figures as requested by Librarian Teresa Fenger. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-17

WHEREAS, the budgets for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 have been established and formally set at the Budget Hearing held September 29th, 2009;

WHEREAS, the Library Department Head has requested that some of the line items in the 2010 Library Fund Budget be adjusted;

WHEREAS, the requested adjustments will not require additional appropriations to the 2010 Library Fund Budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the line item adjustments to the 2010 Library Fund Budget be allowed as requested by the Library Department Head.

DATED THIS 20th day of October, 2009

ATTEST:
Ronda S. Rowley
Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Russ Tempel
Chairman
Larry Hendrickson
Commissioner
Rlynn Rockman
Commissioner

BOR / GRAVEL

Mike LaFrentz and Rick Malta were in to visit with the Commissioners about gravel. Shawn has their permit for gravel.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WATERLINE

Nate Weisenburger, representative of the North Central Regional Waterline, was in to visit with the Commissioners about the project. The group discussed the road crossings and decided that the crossings should be bored. The Commissioners were given an updated map of the proposed water line.

SPRINTER VAN

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to rent the Dodge Sprinter van from Flathead County. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE POSITION

The Commissioners conducted interviews for the vacated Custodial / Maintenance position. Ruth Ann Norick and Jacob Knapton were interviewed.

Following the interviews on a vote of two to one the Commissioners decided to offer the custodial position to Jacob Knapton. Letters were sent to all applicants informing them of the decision.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The three Commissioners met with Anna Marie Robinson, Rod Keith, members of the Liberty County Council on Aging (Betty Marshall, Pat Ludwig, Harry Heimbigner, Jane Allen, and Sheila Duncan), and one public observer on October 23rd to review the ten request for proposals for the Senior Center and Bus Barn building projects. Four firms were selected for interviewing. The interviews are planned for November 4th, 2009.

EXTENSION AGENT

Tom Allen informed the Commissioners that he has accepted the agent position in Chouteau County. The group discussed the process that will be utilized for hiring the replacement agent for Liberty County.

FIRST RESPONDER TESTING

The Commissioners telephoned the Montana Department of Health to discuss the testing for the First Responders.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman