

**June 7, 2022 Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

Polls opened at 7 AM and will close at 8 PM. Some of the Election Judges had to remove signs that were too close to the polling place, as the law states that campaign signs must be at least 100ft from the door to the polling place. Those with the signs were fine with this.

**DUES**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve annual dues for Montana Association of Oil, Gas, & Coal Counties. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**STATE FUEL TAX**

The state fuel tax allocation to Liberty County was \$59,318.86, which is down from last year.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in and updated the Commissioners on the transit buses that are supposed to be delivered in October.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, came in to discuss the budget for his department. The cost of fuel and parts which comprise a large part of his department’s expenses has doubled in recent months.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie was in to update the Commissioners on his summer hire, who is working out very well so far.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson came in to update the Commissioners on her court proceedings. She will be in office again every Tuesday starting this month.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on her school contracts and to discuss the budget for the upcoming 22/23 fiscal year.

**SENATOR TEMPLE**

State Senator Russ Tempel came in to discuss the Office of Public Instruction with the Commissioners.

**WEATHER STATIONS**

Dennis Hull was in to discuss the weathers stations with the Commissioners.

**RESIDENT VISIT**

Norm Sedan, a new land owner from South of Chester, came in to meet with the Commissioners. He had some questions about a road easement on his property.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**June 8, 2022 Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, came in to continue discussing the budget for the road department for the coming fiscal year with the cost of fuel and parts increasing drastically. The County will be working to find the money that will meet the rising costs that impact the road department.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

Election results for the 2022 Primary in Liberty County are as follows:

Re-elected: Treasurer- Denise Wanken  
Commissioner- Joette Woods  
Clerk and Recorder- Davin Buffington  
County Attorney- Robert Padmos  
County Superintendent- Kathy Armstrong  
Sheriff: Nick Erickson (the Sheriff race was the only contested race in Liberty County)

Newly Elected : Justice of the Peace- Christopher Case

The Liberty Senior Center served as the polling place for precincts 1, 2 and 3 and will remain the permanent location for those precincts. The CJI school will no longer be a polling location due to security and ADA reasons.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to finalize the orders for new buses, which will have cameras and radios installed on them.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The Compensation Committee met at 1:30 in the Commissioners Office. In attendance via phone were Mike Walstad, Ron Gleason, and Gina Allen, and in person was Davin Buffington (Clerk and Recorder) and all three County Commissioners. The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm. Mike Walstad made a motion to table the meeting until after the taxable valuations are in sometime in September. Gina Allen seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**BUDGET MEETING**

The budget meeting was held at 2 pm, and Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to table the meeting for the same reasons as the Compensation Meeting, as the taxable valuations will not be in until September. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motions, hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**JOPLIN WATER TANKS**

Tina Wood called and asked about who owns the water tanks in Joplin and maintains them. Montana Cadastral says that Liberty County does and it should not be. Joplin is a part of the Hill County Water District. They need to be maintained and it needs to be corrected on the record to keep it tax exempt.

**CLAIMS**

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the Commissioners to review and approve. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve claims, and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Ted Zorn came in to let the Commissioners know that there are problems with flag poles in the cemetery breaking due to intense wind. He is hoping to find a solution by the end of the summer. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the addition of Toni Dafoe, Bob Dafoe, and Jesse Fulbright to the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**June 14, 2022 Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**SAFETY MEETING**

Julie Gagnon, Safety Coordinator, came to discuss a time and date for the next Safety Meeting. It was set for Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1PM.

**LEPC**

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting.

**COVID VACCINE FEES**

The Public Health Nurses were in to discuss vaccine administration fees for the COVID vaccine.

**CLERK AND RECORDER COPY FEES**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to raise the price of copies from \$0.25 to \$.1.00 for black and white copies, \$2.00 for color copies, and \$5.00 for email requests effective immediately. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This fee increase will help to cover the costs incurred by purchasing the new copy machine for the courthouse.

**MACO TRAINING**

The Commissioners were out of office for the rest of the day to attend a training in Shelby hosted by MACO on Human Resources topics.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**June 15, 2022 Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks was in Helena to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1972 Constitutional Convention and Adoption of the Constitution by the People of Montana.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll for the Commissioners to review and approve. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Justin Wickum was in to discuss the rain and that they will be bale to grade and maintain the roads with the much-needed moisture.

**POST-ELECTION AUDIT**

The post-election audit will be held on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the Commissioner’s Office.

**SENATOR DAINES**

Robert Bruskotter from Senator Daines’ office came in to visit with the Commissioners about local and state issues that are affecting the area.

**COLONY SCHOOL DISCUSSION**

Senator Tempel, County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong and County Attorney Robert Padmos met with the Commissioners to discuss some issues related to the Office of Public Instruction and private/public schools crossing county lines. There is a board meeting at Eagle Creek

Colony on June 16<sup>th</sup> that Commissioner Hendrickson and Superintendent Armstrong will be attending.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Julie Gagnon, MSU Extension, came in to update the Commissioners on preparations for the Marias Fair in July.

**MACO HEALTH CARE TRUST**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve a claim to MACo Health Care Trust in the amount of \$908.00. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Nick Erickson came in to update the Commissioners on what is happening in his 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**

**June 21, 2022 Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Julie Gagnon, MSU Extension, was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on the Extension office as well as to provide a reminder about the Safety Meeting later in the day.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on his department.

**RESOLUTION 22-09**

Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve Resolution 22-09, providing the second half of the county funding for Bear Paw Development Corporation services. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to provide the Commissioners updates on Senior Transit and the Senior Center. They discussed shopping with local meat businesses, she recommended to stay with Heritage Beed. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to continue getting beef for the Senior Center from Heritage Beef, Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. They also discussed raising the price for lunch at the Senior Center from \$6.00 to \$7.00 for those 60 or older, and from \$8.00 to \$10.00 for those under 60. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to implement these price increases effective July 1, 2022. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Finally, Glenda stated that she is still looking for staff.

**ELECTION CANVAS**

The Commissioners held the Election Canvas at 10 AM in the Commissioners office to review all election and election audit results for accuracy. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the Election Canvas results and Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**TIME CARDS**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington was in to discuss some recurring issues with time cards not being turned in on time. A letter will be going out with the next paycheck reminding employees that time cards are due by Monday at 12 noon the week payroll is being run.

**CJI SCHOOL BOARD**

The Commissioners and County Attorney will be attending the CJI School Board meeting at 7 pm to discuss information about extra basic entitlement issues for out-of-district schools.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner came in to provide updates to the Commissioners on the Sheriff Department. They were approved for the Stone Garden Grant and are awaiting that payment. The County Attorney will be drafting a letter to have delivered via certified mail to a former deputy requesting the return of some county property that has not been returned yet.

**SAFETY MEETING**

The Safety Meeting was held with 12 people in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz, Public Health and Department of Emergency Services, came in to finalize discussions about charging an administration fee for the COVID vaccine. They recommend \$30 per shot starting on July 1 with the new fiscal year. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to begin charging the fee as recommended. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Kayla and Melissa also updated the Commissioners on some grants they are researching for DES and Public Health.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

Commissioner Woods completed the application for the second tranche of ARPA funds, the application was submitted successfully.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Mary Ann Zorn, wife of Cemetery Board member Ted Zorn, came in to ask the Commissioners how Ted would need to go about retiring from the Board. The Commissioners explained that he would just need to submit a letter of resignation, with a date that is at his discretion.

**EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Commissioner Wicks attended both the Council on Aging and the Transit meeting. She reported that the meetings were informational and productive.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson was in to update the Commissioners on her office. She attended the Driver’s Education class with Highway Patrol Officer Matt Erickson where they shared with the class the do’s and don’ts of getting pulled over, how to handle a ticket, and who to call if they are in an accident.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**June 28, 2022 Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Maureen “Morb” Wicks and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair). Commissioner Larry Hendrickson was in Helena attending a MACo Conference and attended portions of the meeting by phone.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on where the road crew will be working in the county this week.

#### **COMMISSIONER WICKS**

Commissioner Wicks announced her resignation from her position as Liberty County Commissioner effective July 13<sup>th</sup>. She has been appointed by President Biden to serve as the Montana State Director for the Farm Service Agency. She provided County Human Resources with an office letter of resignation.

#### **WATER QUALITY**

The Town of Chester sent a water quality letter to the Commissioners to inform them that the town has passed the water quality test and is safe to drink. The water passed both federal and state standards.

#### **TIBER WATER DISTRICT**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Tiber Water District meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

Jerry Ghekiere will be checking all fire extinguishers, including at the Museum which will be switching from a Great Falls company to the local service.

#### **SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to discuss the Reserve Deputy positions that the department will be advertising for. These positions will be part of a program to call in extra volunteers in the event of a crisis or search and rescue mission.

#### **CYBER SECURITY INSURANCE**

Tina Wood from Wood Enterprises called to review cyber security insurance coverages and costs as MACo dropped this coverage in May. The Commissioners reviewed the quotes presented. Commissioner Hendrickson (via phone) made a motion to move forward with Hiscox Cyber-Security Insurance. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The coverage will cost the County \$10,564/year plus the cost of ransomware.

#### **AMBULANCE RATES**

The Commissioners revisited the proposed increase in Liberty County Ambulance transfer rates. The current rates for patient transfer are: \$500 base rate and \$12/loaded mile with each ambulance crew member being paid \$150 per transfer. The proposed increase rates are: \$600 base rate and \$15/loaded mile with each ambulance crew member being paid \$200 per transfer. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the new rates. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Game Warden Willie Miller was in to updated the Commissioners on a dead moose north of town. A biopsy was taken of several organs to determine its cause of death.

#### **COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on the District 10 teacher/paraprofessional contracts. The teachers are not in agreement with the new contracts, and some teachers have requested new contracts.

#### **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson was in to update the Commissioners on her court proceedings.

#### **RESOLUTIONS 22-12 AND 22-13**

A motion to approve Resolution 22-12 for authorizing the transfer of funds to corresponding CIP funds was made by Commissioner Hendrickson by phone. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-12  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO  
CORRESPONDING CIP FUNDS

WHEREAS, it is fiscal year end and it is recognized that some budgets are in need of adjustment and expansion;

**Fund 1000 General**

WHEREAS, the General Fund 1000 has received more Expresso Revenue than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$7,932.80 to the Fund 4030 CIP Fund -Library;

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Grant Fund 2991 has a negative cash balance as of 6/30/2022 of -\$942.42 and the Council on Aging Fund 2986 has a negative cash balance of -\$16,312.92; the Commissioners approve a transfer from the General Fund of \$17,255.34 to cover these fund negatives;

**Fund 2220 Library**

WHEREAS, the Library Fund 2220 had less expenditures than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$4,660.82 to the Fund 4031 Library Depreciation Reserve;

**Fund 2230 Ambulance**

WHEREAS, the Ambulance Fund 2230 had less expenditures than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$20,000 to the Fund 4035 CIP Fund Ambulance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners approve the transfer of these funds to their corresponding CIP Funds;

DATED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022



ATTEST:

*Davin Buffington*  
Davin Buffington  
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

*[Signature]*  
Chairman

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

A motion to approve Resolution 22-13 for amending budgets was made by Commissioner Hendrickson by phone. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-13  
A RESOLUTION AMENDING BUDGETS

WHEREAS, it is fiscal year end and it is recognized that some budgets are in need of adjustment and expansion;

**Fund 2150 Predatory Animal Control Fund**

WHEREAS, Fund 2150 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$410;

**Fund 2153 Predatory Animal Control Sheep Fund**

WHEREAS, Fund 2153 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$395.50

**Fund 2260 Emergency Disaster**

WHEREAS, Fund 2260 received more revenues and expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; The Commissioners have approved a budget expenditure budget expansion of \$306.28;

**Fund 2380 SRS Permissive Levy**

WHEREAS, Fund 2380 received more in revenues and expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$200.82;

**Fund 2820 Gasoline License Tax**

WHEREAS, Fund 2820 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$13,748.99;

**Fund 2850 911 Emergency**

WHEREAS, Fund 2850 received more in revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$113,698.92;

**Fund 2976 Immunization Grant Fund**

WHEREAS, Fund 2976 received more in expenditures and revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$37,717.44 Expenditures & \$27,486 Revenues;

**Fund 2991 Mental Health Grant Fund**

WHEREAS, Fund 2991 received more in revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$23,267.42 Revenues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the expansion of the above stated eleven funds have been duly approved for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

DATED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022

COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

  
Davin Buffington  
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder



BOARD OF COUNTY

  
Chairman

  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz came in to let the Commissioners know that COVID is once again ramping up. They also updated the Commissioners on the status of the grants they are applying for.



**PAYROLL**

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll for the Commissioners to review and approve. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion passed with all in favor.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman