

OCTOBER 4th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, updated the Commissioners on where his crew will be working this week in the County.

LEPC

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting at the fire hall.

HELIUM PLANT

Pete Woods came in to meet with the Commissioners and discuss the growing interest for building a helium plant in Liberty County. He gave the Commissioners a business card for Samuel Frydenlund from WWMT Consulting, LLC.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 2

A motion to approve having the Teamsters Local 2 provide the negotiations and collective bargaining agreement for Road Department wages was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

JOPLIN SEWER

A meeting was held in the Commissioners office with the Commissioners, Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington, Ivan Vandessel and Dereck Fraser. The topic of the meeting was why Joplin sewer rates need to increase and by how much. Mr. Vandessel shared that the rate increase is due to an increase in wages for the sewer operator and regular maintenance. Mr. Fraser noted that the new rates are still less than the costs for the Chester sewer. A motion to approve resolution 22-15, raising the Joplin sewer rates from \$60/year/parcel to \$120/year/parcel was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Resolution 22-15
A RESOLUTION INCREASING SEWER RATES FOR JOPLIN SEWER DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, in pursuant of 7-13-2280 in lieu of imposing rates and charges to pay the capital cost of any improvement provided for in this part, a district may levy special assessments to defray the cost against property within the district and benefited by the improvement.

Fund 2500
Whereas, there is a need for a reserve in the fund that corresponds to the Joplin Maintenance Fund;

Whereas Fund 2500 does not have the anticipated reserves; the Commissioners have approved a increase to \$240.00 per sewer hookup, per year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners to approve the increase of the sewer rates for the Joplin Sewer District.
DATED THIS 4th day of October, 2022


Attest: 
Davin Buffington
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

Commissioners Board of Liberty County

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Commissioners held a meeting with the County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong, the CJI Superintendent Mike Ehinger, County Attorney Robert Padmos, Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington, and two school board members. The topic was budgets. The Commissioners asked CJI to resubmit their school budget after removing teacher retirement off the mill value for out of district counties. They have agreed to do so, understanding that next school year the County will not be able to sign off on out of district schools without an interlocal agreement being in place.

COUNTY SANITARIAN

County Sanitarian Sarah Robbin came to update the Commissioners on her work throughout the county and state-wide.

PAYROLL

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

COURTHOUSE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The CDT meeting was held at 4PM. In attendance were: Chad Hedges, Damon Lalum, Jesse Fulbright, Kristi Olson, and the three 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

OCTOBER 5th, 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 Larry Hendrickson (via phone), Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROAD

Road Foreman Justin Wickum informed the Commissioners that he is talking with First Bank of Montana about financing grader purchases. The current lease for the graders is up in December.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commissioners met with Brownsfield/Bear Paw Development at the Senior Center with other local businesses to discuss community needs and growth.

AIRPORT

Commissioner Gagnon made a motion to approve the Airport CIP improvement plan. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

AUDIT DISCREPANCY

The Commissioners drafted a petition to the state auditors over a reported discrepancy of \$455.00.

MSU EXTENSION

Jess Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, updated the Commissioners on the work happening within his department. As Cemetery Board Chair, he also shared that the Cemetery Board has discussed ideas on raising plot prices in order to increase revenue.

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 11th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

The Commissioners joined counties all across the nation in adopting Operation Green Light to visually show support for military veterans and active servicemembers by displaying a green light from this date through Veteran's Day, November 11th. The green light will be on the exterior of the courthouse, shining on the flagpole.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, stopped by to let the Commissioners know that a freezer at the Senior Center stopped working and as a result, all the food contained within was no good. She is trying to find someone to fix it quickly. She continues to be short staffed for drivers and staff to deliver meals.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND

The Commissioners applied for funds available through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. The money should be received this week.

COUNTY WEBSITE

A note was added to the job application link on the county website to note that submission of an application does not guarantee an interview.

BEARPAW RECOVERY

Bearpaw Recovery came in to visit with the Commissioners about the possibility of switching where the county distributes alcohol tax dollars that are earmarked for post-sentencing treatment to Bearpaw Recovery.

ELECTION UPDATES

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington updated the Commissioners on preparations for the November election. The first ballots are scheduled to be mailed out on Friday, the 14th.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

A phone meeting with Hill County was had to discuss an interlocal agreement for the Liberty County Superintendent of Schools to sign to complete the out of district's school budgets. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve this interlocal agreement, and Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

TREE REMOVAL

The Commissioners will be having some large trees in Joplin removed due to them being so large and a potential hazard to some houses.

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 12th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROAD

Road Foreman Justin Wickum came in to share updates on his road crew. They also discussed the option of a buyout loan with First Bank of Montana for the two John Deere and two CAT graders. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to send a letter to CAT exercising the option to purchase the currently leased graders. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This letter will provide the option to purchase before the deadline, no purchase has been made at this time.

HIGHWAY PATROL

Montana Highway Patrol Officer Jason Wickum stopped by to ask the Commissioners if they are interested in armed intruder training for county employees. The training was scheduled for some time in December.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson came to discuss changing his deputy's schedule to try having 5 days on and 4 days off. They are going to try it for a couple of months and see how that schedule works. The department is also in need of a new vehicle. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Sheriff Department from the Sheriff CIP fund. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

JOPLIN

The Commissioners put together a letter to be sent to Joplin residents reminding them to move any vehicles off the streets and alleyways to allow for the road department to have room for the snow plows to clear the roads. The letter informed residents that if the roads are not clear of vehicles, then no winter maintenance will take place on those streets.

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 18th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum updated the Commissioners on his crew's plan for the week. They will finish mowing up this week before the weather changes.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Game Warden Willie Miller came in to update the Commissioners on block management and to update them on a poaching situation. His company, Miller Brothers, have been hired by the county to remove some of the trees in Joplin that pose a hazard to some houses.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Eric Ennebow from the DNRC was in to have the Commissioners sign a release on an old gravel pit by Shafer's. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the signing of the release. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PAYROLL

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

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review Commissioner Gagnon made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner

Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

WEED DEPARTMENT/911

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department Head, came in to discuss the lighting in the county shop that needs improvement. He also updated the Commissioners on both the weed department and 911 operations.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to let the Commissioners know that she has new freezers installed at the Senior Center.

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 25th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

CASCADE COUNTY PHONE METING

The Commissioners met by phone with Commissioner Briggs from Cascade County to learn about some tools to gain a potential helium plant in Liberty County. Commissioner Briggs had some ideas including Trust Fund Grants, Infrastructure Loan Program, and Industrial Bonds. He will help the Commissioners go through the process if needed.

LIFTING FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to lift all fire restrictions and open closed roads. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum updated the Commissioners on conditions in the aftermath of the weekend storm that knocked out power in parts of the county. Power was out for a couple of days south of Chester, and the roads are a mess due to the Northwestern Energy crews fixing power lines to restore power. He has been getting a lot of calls about that. The blades have been in the northern part of the county to clear the foot of snow that was dumped there.

MACO PHONE CALL

The Commissioners spoke with MACO via phone for approval of bylaws, adopted as amended. This is so the chair of the insurance pool could have an opportunity to be a voting member.

CYBERSECURITY

The Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder completed a Cybersecurity Risk Assessment via Zoom with Art Penbroke and DIS.

BOARD MEETINGS

Commissioner Woods attended the Mental Health Board Meeting. Commissioners Woods and Gagnon both attended the Board of Health meeting on Monday the 24th. Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Council on Aging meeting in Conrad last Thursday the 20th.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, informed the Commissioners that the Director of the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Susan Bender, had been to the Senior Center to facilitate a focus group. They are waiting on the new transit busses; there is still no firm delivery date set.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, came in to update the Commissioners on shooting sports with 4-H. More people seem to be interested in this program this year. Jesse will be applying for a new NRA grant.

JOPLIN

Rob Moog called the Commissioners to let them know that an engineer from Robert Peccia & Associates is going to need to dig some test holes in Joplin next week. The Commissioners called Road Foreman Justin Wickum to see if a member of the road crew would be available to do the digging.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman