

**FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Jesse Fulbright, Cemetery Board President came in to provide updates to the Commissioners on pending Cemetery Board issues. The Commissioners had a phone meeting with the legal representative for the Cemetery Board for a pending lawsuit.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, informed the Commissioners that the "4-H Fun Fridays" activities have been successful.

**LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, stopped in and let the Commissioners know that the weather and road conditions (fog and ice) are impacting the ability for Transit to travel very far, so they will be keeping close to Chester for safety reasons.

**BUDGET REVIEW**

The Commissioners reviewed the current budget-to actual for all departments.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on relevant county issues.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Liberty County Sexton Ted Zorn was in to update the Commissioners on what he is working on this week. Commissioner Woods made a motion to present Charlotte Kelly to the Honorable Katie Snipes Ruiz for the opportunity to serve on the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case provided updates to the Commissioners on issues in his department.

**PAYROLL**

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

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner stopped in to provide updates to the Commissioners from his department.

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

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

**FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**COMMISSIONER MINUTES APPROVAL**

After review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the Commissioner meeting minutes from January 2024. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The minutes will be posted online and in the courthouse.

**WEED/911 DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed Department, was in to inform the Commissioners about a trailer that is up for auction; he will watch it and let the Commissioners know if it will be sold at a decent price.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Randi Violett, Justice of the Peace Clerk, was in to ask the Commissioners about another counter in her office to keep people out from behind her desk. The Commissioners will look for another counter for her.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND GAME**

Willie Miller, Game Warden, was in to update the Commissioners on local issues pertaining to his office.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson, Public Health, were in to review their budget to actual report and see where the Public Health budget is currently sitting. Commissioner Woods made a motion to sign the Public Health Task Order for Immunization Services. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to discuss radios with the Commissioners.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATE**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to change policy in the employee handbook on Department Head and Employee probationary period from 6 to 12 months. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This change shall be effective immediately.

**CLAIMS**

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

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Commissioners extended an offer of employment to Dave Ghekiere as Road Foreman.

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

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

**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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 Justin Wickum. Commissioners Hendrickson (chair) and Woods are in Washington DC attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference.

**LEPC**

Commissioner Wickum, attended the LEPC meeting at the firehall.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to discuss visiting with a reporter, Carly Graf, about the District 10 school district information. It was decided that Kathy and Robert Padmos (CA) would do the interview.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, CA, was in to discuss discrimination cases in the county for the SCBA Grant process.

Kayla Johnson, and Melissa Kantorowicz, were in to talk about the Pipeline Training in Havre. They were wondering is anyone from this area was planning on attending, as Jerry Ghekerie will not be attending.

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

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

**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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 Justin Wickum. Commissioners Hendrickson (chair) and Woods are in Washington DC attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, CA, finished the letter for the SCBA Grant and discuss the interview that him and Kathy participated in. Robert also requested to add a Prosecution Resolution to the agenda. There is a conflict with a local case.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, stopped in to the Commissioner’s office to let them know that the refrigerator at the library quit. A new one will cost around \$2200.00. The library has enough money in their capital improvement fund to cover the cost.

**SENATOR TEMPEL VISIT**

Senator Russ Tempel, was in to visit about State Bill 442 being left on the desk at legislature. He has been invited to the District 10 School Board Meeting on March 13th at 1 pm.

**TREASURER**

The Treasurer’s Office brought in the District 10 cash report. The decision to hire a new interim treasurer has yet to be decided.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Chris Case, Justice of the Peace, was in to update the Commissioners on his proceedings and upcoming events.

**ROADS**

The Commissioners received a call from Eric Kleinssaser about the removal of drifts at the top of Tiber Dam. The commissioners gave him permission to remove them, as our road crew was in CPR training.

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

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

**FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on her employee shortage from sickness last week. Her buses have been busy in the good weather.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Jesse Fulbright, Cemetery Board President, was in to update the Commissioners on the new Cemetery Board member, Charlotte Kelly. District Judge Snipes-Ruiz approved her and she will start at the next meeting.

**MACO HEALTHCARE TRUST**

The Commissioners met with MACo Health Care Trust for yearly insurance renewals. The Commissioners will discuss the rates over the next few weeks and finalize by March 13th.

**COURTHOUSE SAFETY**

The commissioners did the monthly fire extinguisher and smoke detectors.

**PAYROLL**

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

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on the meetings he has been in throughout the day.

**ANNUAL INVENTORY**

The Commissioners completed the itemized courthouse inventory sheets for Wood Enterprise Insurance.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Hendrickson opened the Public Meeting for Resolution 2024-06 for Liberty County to call for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so. In attendance were Commissioner Hendrickson, Woods, and Wickum. The Commissioners discussed setting a cost budget for \$82,500.00 or for \$85,000.00, which would include travel, legal fees, election/ballot fees, employee fees, consultant fees, training fees, and insurance coverage.

Commissioner Hendrickson asked for public comment. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve a 3-person commission and an \$85,000.00 budget made by Justin Wickum. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024- 06

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF LIBERTY COUNTY MONTANA, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF CONDUCTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION TO DO SO.

**WHEREAS**, Article XI, Section 9, of the Constitution of the State of Montana requires that each unit of local government shall conduct an election once every ten years to determine whether the local government will undertake a local government review procedure; and

**WHEREAS**, 7-3-173(2) M.C.A. requires that the governing body shall call for an election, to be held on the primary election date, on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Liberty County Commission is the governing body of the County of Liberty.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The County of Liberty hereby calls for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and electing a study commission to be held at the primary election on June 4, 2024.
2. If the voters decide in favor of conducting a local government review, a study commission comprised of 3 members shall be elected at the general election of November 5, 2024.
3. Pursuant to 7-3-175, M.C.A. the question of conducting a local government review shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

*Vote for one:*

FOR the review of the government of Liberty County and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$85,000, of a local government study commission consisting of 3 members to examine the government of Liberty County and submit recommendations on the government.

AGAINST the review of the government of Liberty County and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$85,000, of a local government study commission consisting of 3 members to examine the government of Liberty County and submit recommendations on the government.

Passed and adopted by the County Commissioners of the County of Liberty, meeting at regular session held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk and Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney



Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Resolution 24-07 for outstanding warrants that are older than one year to be cancelled or reissued. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 24-07

WHEREAS, MCA 7-6-2607 states that the board of county commissioners shall cause to be canceled all county warrants that have remained uncalled for 1 year or more in the county clerk's office. The board shall cause to be entered on the record of warrants, opposite to the entry of each warrant issued, the date when the warrant was canceled and shall make a list of the canceled warrants, specifying the number, date, amount, and the person to whom the warrant was payable. The board shall cause the list to be entered on the minutes of the board; and

WHEREAS, MCA 27-2-202 states that Actions based on contract or other obligation. (1) The period prescribed for the commencement of an action on any contract, covenant, obligation, or liability founded on an instrument in writing is within 8 years; and

WHEREAS, MCA 70-9-802 The provisions of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act are not applicable to property held by a local government entity. Accordingly, cancelled warrants are not considered to be abandoned property for this purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners order the following checks to be cancelled:

LIBERTY COUNTY

Outstanding Check Report  
For the Accounting Period 1/24  
Claim Checks

Check #	Type	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount	Date Issued	Date Noted	Period Noted
31124	E	804	HORNER, MARGUERITE J.	170.40	06/13/04	/	/
37187	E	1247	WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH	130.00	06/20/08	/	/
37510	E	1048	WESTON FARMER-PRODUCER	36.70	04/20/04	/	/
37621	E	853	GREEN, VIRGINIA L.	97.50	11/14/04	/	/
38324	E	1320	HC-LINE PET SHOPPING	10.00	03/12/08	/	/
40098	E	1389	SCWALC, BRIAN	42.43	03/23/08	/	/
40813	E	1333	MONTANA COUNTY FARMERS ASSOC.	40.00	02/28/09	/	/
41518	E	319	BAKO, BARBARA	87.50	11/30/04	/	/
41847	E	1332	COOPERSON'S	874.40	05/31/11	/	/
43804	E	1236	CHRYSLER LEASE	204.91	10/21/11	/	/
44422	E	784	PHOTO SAFETY CENTER INC	57.04	04/28/10	/	/
45223	E	1708	BANDON, CRYSTAL	12.00	01/28/10	/	/
46317	E	1818	WICKUM, STEVE	6.00	01/31/14	/	/
46794	E	1843	WILMORING, NANCY	12.00	04/30/14	/	/
46838	E	1832	WATSON, JONICE	13.00	04/30/16	/	/
47141	E	1872	CIDWELL, CHARLIE	6.00	07/31/16	/	/
47765	E	151	ARMSTRONG, GLENDA	34.14	01/31/15	/	/
48428	E	1283	ARMSTRONG, LARRY	130.00	06/31/19	/	/

49438	E	2023	HORNER, WILLIAM	26.04	06/28/16	/	/
49528	E	79	LIBERTY COUNTY TIMES	113.00	04/28/16	/	/
75046	E	2091	FRASER, DORY	20.40	12/07/16	/	/
75318	E	2075	SEWELL BROS/HEWING	200.00	12/06/17	/	/
75891	E	1768	GRIFFIN, DONNA	180.42	01/02/18	/	/
74333	E	333	MARSH CHEMICAL CO	437.51	01/13/23	/	/

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners order the following checks to be reissued.

LIBERTY COUNTY

Outstanding Check Report  
For the Accounting Period 1/24  
Claim Checks

Check #	Type	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount	Date Issued	Date Noted	Period Noted
71108	E	1495	WOODS, JOEYEE	48.46	10/04/17	/	/
71647	E	1283	ARMSTRONG, LARRY	50.00	02/08/18	/	/
76323	E	2237	KRFFNER, EVLA	34.91	04/19/22	/	/
76926	E	2474	KIDZE, HELE	15.71	10/31/22	/	/
77221	E	2486	Teepel, Bruce	120.00	01/31/23	/	/

DATED THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



*[Signature]*  
Chairman

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

COUNTY PROCUREMENT POLICY

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to add the Civil Rights Amendment Addendum to the Liberty County Procurement Policy. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Wickum then made a motion to authorize the authority to all the Liberty County Fire Districts to use the Liberty County Procurement Policy. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to add the Limited English Proficiency Policy to Liberty County Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**RESOLUTION 24-08**

Motion to approve Resolution 24-08 the Authorization for Prosecutorial Assistance in Justice Court Cases, made by Joette Woods. Second by Justin Wickum. Hearing no public comment, motion carries.

**LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA  
RESOLUTION 24-08**

**AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE  
IN JUSTICE COURT CASES**

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance in a certain cause in Liberty County Justice Court and the Twelfth Judicial District Court, Liberty County, and as deemed necessary; and  
WHEREAS, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a special deputy county attorney be appointed to assist in the prosecution of the aforementioned case; and  
WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated §7-4-2705 authorizes the board of county commissioners to employ special counsel to assist in the prosecution of any such criminal case pending in the county on request of the county attorney; and  
WHEREAS, the Liberty County Attorney has requested that a special deputy county attorney be appointed to prosecute the cause pending in the Liberty County Justice Court  
WHEREAS, the Cascade County Attorney's Office has agreed to act as a Special Deputy Liberty County Attorney in a pending cause, TK-2023-201;  
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:  
That John Christiana and Julie Clements of the Cascade County Attorney's Office shall be appointed special deputy county attorneys for Liberty County for the purpose of assisting in the prosecution of a pending cause and that they can fulfill the functions set out in Montana Code Annotated §44-4-103.  
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:  
That under the terms of this agreement, no fee will be charged for attorney time provided by the special prosecutor of this case. Mileage will be paid at the current state-approved rate. Witness fees and expense, jury costs and other normal costs associated with the trial will be the county's responsibility as with all other prosecutions.  
Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024 as moved by Commissioner  
Woods, seconded by Commissioner Wickum, and passed on a  
14 vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

LIBERTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Liberty County, Montana

[Signature] Chairman  
[Signature] Vice-Chairman  
[Signature] Member  
[Signature] Attest  
Davin Padmos  
Davin Padmos, Clerk & Recorder

**CLAIMS**

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

**4-H**

Matt Fenger, 4-H, was in to discuss some ideas about an event center.

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

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

**FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 FRIDAY**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in special session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Larry Hendrickson (chair) and Justin Wickum.

**SPECIAL MEETING- TREASURER**

The Commissioners held a special meeting to discuss the Treasurer position at 8:00 am. In attendance were Davin Padmos and Robert Padmos (by video), and Denise Wanken, Monica Serrato, Jesse Fulbright, Justin Wickum, Larry Hendrickson in person. Commissioner Hendrickson spoke with retired Treasurer Gayle Dahlen to see if she would be willing to serve as interim Treasurer for the month of March. Gayle did say that she would be willing to do so. The group discussed other options but none are viable options for the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline as Denise Wanken's last day will be February 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to appoint Gayle Dahlen as Interim Treasurer for the month of March 2024. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion passed with all in favor.

There being no further business, this special meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 9:00 AM

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