

August 3rd, 2021 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 and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

ROAD

Justin Wickum, Liberty County Road Supervisor, was in to let the commissioners know that he will have the guys out doing roads with the bit of rain that fell.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Supervisor, was in to have the commissioners sign off on her travel voucher, and agent contract. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to sign the voucher. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Glenda is also looking to get a washing machine, for unanticipated incidents involving, COVID, and or other issues.

SHERIFF

Kyle Heppner, Undersheriff, and Sheriff Nick Erickson, were in to discuss keeping the Fire Marshal position within the Sheriff's office. Also, separating wages between Sheriff Office and budgets.

TAXABLE

Davin Buffington, Liberty Clerk and Recorder, came to talk about this year's taxable valuations. Which were down from last year.

BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (BaRSAA)

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept resolution 21-08 in order to get the distribution funds from BARSAA in the amount of \$67,004.98. This money was used for gravel crushing. Morb second it. Hearing no public comment, motion carries.

MSU EXTENISON

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension officer, was in to discuss a new community reimaging rural program for Liberty County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, Liberty County Attorney, was in to update the commissioners on his clerk retiring. He will need to hire somebody new soon to allow time for Karen Graham, County Attorney Clerk, to train a new clerk. He is asking to have a budget item for this.

AIRPORT PROJECT

Terry Tyler, the new City Manager, was in to discuss an airport project. A hangar owner is looking to hook up water and sewer to his property at the airport. The commissioners explained that the hook-up of sewer and water is at the discretion and fees of the city. He cannot disturb the pavement.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Judge Holly Frederickson was in to update the commissioners on her court proceedings. She plans on being back next Tuesday.

SAGE CREEK COLONY

Sage Creek Colony would like the county to help a water build up problem next to their turn off at the colony. The commissioners and Justin Wickum, Road Department Head, plan on going to look at the situation, and plan on helping with providing rocks for the project.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 4th, 2021 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, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson. Commissioner Joette Woods was absent at a MACo conference in Maryland.

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

The commissioners reviewed the Infrastructure Bill that John Tester's office emailed to them. For Montana it will contain, water, sewer, bridges, roads, fire relief, border security, and surface transportation.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the commissioners on her two new buses. They have not come in yet. But are expected in early fall.

CLAIMS

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Sarah Horel. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

LAND SALE

The land sale in Lothair, from the County to Clark Diemert, Liberty County Resident, was finalized today.

RESOLUTION 21-09

Resolution 21-09 for authorizing the transfer of fund to corresponding CIP funds. The motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. This motion was second by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 21-09
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 expense;

Fund 1000 General
WHEREAS, the General Fund 1000 has received more Expresso Revenue than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$8,589.27 to the Fund 4030 CIP Fund -Library;

WHEREAS, the General Fund 1000 has received more Revenue than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$100,000 to the Fund 4011 CIP Fund -General;

Fund 2220 Library
WHEREAS, the Library Fund 2220 had less expenditures than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$15,000.22 to the Fund 4031 Library Depreciation Reserve;

Fund 2281 Senior Citizens Transport
WHEREAS, the Senior Citizen Transportation Fund 2281 had less expenditures than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$75,000 to the Fund 4041 CIP Fund Senior Citizen Transportation;

Fund 2300 Public Safety
WHEREAS, the General Fund 1000 has received more Expresso Revenue than anticipated; the Commissioners approved a transfer of \$10,000 to the Fund 4060 CIP Fund -Shortl;

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

DATED THIS 4th day of August, 2021

COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:
Dana Buffington
Dana Buffington
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY

Maureen Wicks
Chairman

Larry Hendrickson
Commissioner

Joette Woods
Commissioner



PUBLIC HEALTH

The commissioners had a conversation with Laura Merchant, CEO of LMC, about letting them out of their part of the Liberty County Public Health contract. This would mean that Liberty County would assume all pay, and responsibilities to sustain a Public Health Nurse.

TAX APPEAL BOARD

Bob Mattson was in with a tax appeal board packet. He resigned off the board last year. The Commissioners will reappoint a new member to the board.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Compensation committee, which was tabled in June, was held in the Commissioner's office today at 2:30 PM. Meeting was called to order at 2:40, all in attendance were: Mike Walstad, Laura Merchant, Dana Lalum (via phone), Larry Hendrickson, Morb Wicks, Robert Padmos, and Joette Woods. The meeting was

to determine a 2% raise for county employees. A Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) was given to the employees last year at the rate of 1.8% and the last raise given was in 2018. After reviewing the raise percentage matrix, a motion was made by Laura Merchant to go ahead with the 2% raise. Mike seconded it. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried. Larry then made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to go forward with the 2% raise. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACo)

The Commissioners are planning to ask MACo about a county-wide zoning project which would increase taxable value.

JOPLIN

Rob Moog was in to update the Commissioners on a potential candidate for taking over the Joplin Sewer Manager job. He will continue to keep the Commissioners in the know.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 10, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to let the Commissioners know where his crew will be throughout the day. The road crew will be mowing and grading roads after the rain.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

A motion to renew the WIC satellite program was made by Commissioner Wicks and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried. The Commissioners will sign the form and send it in.

RESOLUTION 21-10

A motion to adopt resolution 21-10 to collect a \$1.00/ head of sheep to go to Montana Department of Livestock and US Department of Agriculture was made by Commissioner Wicks and seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 21.10

WHEREAS, pursuant to 81-7-303 and 81-7-305, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution to collect \$1.00 per head of sheep in Liberty County. The money will be expended in cooperation with the Montana Department of Livestock and United States Department of Agriculture, Aphis, Wildlife services

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF August



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

Attest
Clerk

SAGE CREEK

Dave Hofer, Resident, came in to visit with the Commissioners and compliment the roads.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Kathy Armstrong, Superintendent of Schools, was in to update the commissioners on her budget and the school year.

ROAD HOLES

Tom Graff, Resident, was in to ask if there is any way to get the water holes out of the middle of the roads north of town. He would like to get together with road crew and Commissioners to better understand the process.

PAYROLL

Employee payroll was submitted for approval by Jordan Miller. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Woods seconded. 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

August 11, 2021 Thursday

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.

AMERICA RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

The commissioners have officially gifted \$150,000.00 of the ARPA money received to the City of Chester to help them go forward with their sewer project. The rest of the money will be used for the Joplin Sewer Project upgrades. The Commissioners will be writing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Tyler Hull, intern at Sweetgrass Law, will help to write the MOU.

A motion to appoint Logan Anderson to the Liberty County Tax Appeal Board to replace retiree Bob Mattson, was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried. A formal letter will be sent to Logan letting him know he has been selected.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss dust suppressants. The Commissioners contacted a company called BioBlend that has a product named "EPIC". This company is a bio-based company that has environmental safety as a priority in their products. The Commissioners are looking to try this soy-based dust suppressant on high-traffic road spots to see if it compares to the mag-chloride currently being used.

WEEDS

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, was in to discuss a property tour he will be giving next week. This will be to discuss county property values and will involve the courthouse, county buildings, and the pavilions at the campground and lake. He also had a map made of the herd district. The county will be posting these maps on our website for anyone who needs this information.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to discuss the fire restrictions. The Commissioners let him know Stage II will remain in effect until there is a weather changing event. Also, Liberty County has been summoned to help with wild fires around Montana.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on what he's been doing since the fair. He will be helping with the mental health awareness for youth at the school.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

August 17, 2021 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.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, called in as they will be spread out throughout the county trying to mow while it's cool and maintain vehicles in the shop, getting them ready to grade after the rain. John Laird, resident, called in to the Commissioners. He would like some post-harvest maintenance. The Commissioners also discussed a call from a rancher wanting to put up a gate on a county road. After the conversation with the Commissioners, the rancher understood why he can not do it.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on post-fair information.

RESOLUTION 21-11

A motion to adopt resolution 21-11 to join the National Moment of Remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of September 11th, was made by Commissioner Hendrickson and seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried. This will be a minute of silence and ceasing ALL work on this day to remember the 9-11 attacks.

RESOLUTION 21-01

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-5-2122, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that they shall meet every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved, that the hours that they shall meet will be from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 5th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021.



ATTEST:

Davin Buffington
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to ask about cameras in the Sheriff's Office and winter coats for his Deputies.

CLAIMS

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Sarah Horel. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACo)

The MACo appraiser was in to look at and measure county buildings for insurance purposes. He will be looking at all the county buildings in the City of Chester. He will also be looking at a few of the pavilions out at the lake, and the 4H campground out buildings.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson, Justice of the Peace, was in to let the Commissioners know that she has no items on her docket for next week, so she will not be in. She has a training in Helena next week that she will be attending.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Melissa Kantorowicz, Public Health Nurse, was in to get a signature on a grant she is working on.

SECTION 8: SCOPE OF TASK ORDER

This task order consists of nine (9) numbered pages. Attachment A expressly referenced as the 2022 MCHBG Compliance and Activities Report, Attachment B expressly referenced as the 2022 MCHBG Annual Financial and Data Report, Attachment C expressly referenced as the 2022 MCHBG Quarterly County Progress Report Template, and Attachment D, expressly referenced as the County Public Health Department Budget Form.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties through their authorized agents have executed this task order on the dates set out below:

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

By: Jamie Palagi, Administrator Date

LIBERTY COUNTY

By: Liberty County Commissioner Date 8/17/2021

WEEDS

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners on 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

August 24, 2021 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)

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on the mental health program for the school year.

AMERICA RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

The Commissioners filled out ARPA reports for audit and accountability reasons. The reports will be finished by August 31.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington, was in to finalize the 2021-2022 budgets.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Liberty County received a mini-grant in the amount of \$1500 to be put towards community outreach.

SCHOOL CONTRACT

The Commissioners will be working on the Liberty County contract with Liberty Elementary School District #10 for the 2021-22 school year.

ROAD

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to ask the Commissioners to contact a resident who had emailed about bridge work in this jurisdiction. There are currently no bridge repairs that need to be done.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to discuss the purchase of fire arms. He recommended that all deputies have the same caliber weapons for safety and legal purposes.

WEEDS

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners on weed grants. He also informed the Commissioners that Jim Briden is retiring from spraying weeds at the airport. The Airport Board will need to discuss how to manage this change.

911 PROGRAMMING

Jim Ghekiere also provided updates to the Commissioners on the 911 Programming.

CLAIMS

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Sarah Horel. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PAYROLL

Employee payroll was submitted for approval by Jordan Miller. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Woods seconded. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

A motion was made to go back to Stage I fire restrictions by Commissioner Wicks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. 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

August 31, 2021 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.

TREASURY

Denise Wanken, Treasurer, was in to let the commissioners know that she will be out of the office September 13th through September 27th. Taylor will be handling the office.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson and Undersheriff Kyle Heppner were in to discuss grant ideas and the continued needs at the Sheriff’s Office. The Commissioners let them know the amounts in their Capital Improvement Funds, and line items totals so that they could better prioritize their biggest needs.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Senior Center and the options she has with Sysco in regards to having food delivered.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DES)

The Liberty County DES program was awarded a grant for \$8160.61. The County will match this making the total amount for this position \$16,321.22. A motion to sign the acceptance letter was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The next Board of Health meeting will be on September 1st, whatever recommendations the Board makes will need to be approved by the Commissioners.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Commissioners reviewed the conservation easement for George Mattson Farms Inc. and determined that it does not infringe on any planning that the county would have in that area. A letter will be sent to MT Land Reliance and Lois DeMars.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to discuss the budget and finalize it. There are 16 grade school students that will be coming to Liberty County. A motion to accept the Superintendent budget for the 21-22 fiscal year was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BUDGET HEARING

The budget hearing was called to order by Commissioner Woods, (Chair) at 3:01 pm. All present were: Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Wicks, Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder, and Dan Frederickson, resident. A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor. The hearing was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson, Justice of the Peace, was in to update the Commissioners on what is happening in that office.

ROADS

Jim Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on one of the crew members who has been released this week to come back to work. He also informed the Commissioners where the road crew was currently spraying.

EMPLOYEE PAYOUT

A motion was made by Commissioner Wicks to approve an employee payout. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.