

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. They will be working throughout the county grading roads before they freeze.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Nick Erickson informed the Commissioners that there had been a sewer issue in the basement of the Sheriff office and they had to replace some of the pipe.

**COUNTY RESIDENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Joplin resident Amy Thackary had some questions about property lines and easement issues, so the Commissioners drove to Joplin to see the area in question and answer her questions.

Another Joplin resident, Ken Snyder, thanked the Commissioners for the letter they sent out asking residents to move their campers and seasonal vehicles off the side of the streets for the snow plows. He informed them that some had not moved yet and he was concerned for some of the elderly residents getting snowed in if they aren't moved soon.

Some members of Sage Creek Colony let the Commissioners know that Laird Road looked very nice after the road crew graded it and expressed their appreciation.

Julie Meissner stopped by to discuss land access for hunters as they seem to be using access roads that they aren't supposed to. She wanted to understand how these roads are on the county map yet not maintained by the county. The Commissioners explained that they are there because they run through Bureau of Land Management land.

**PAYROLL**

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

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed/911 department, discussed digitizing a map for roads. He is also hoping to pick up a wheelchair lift for 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

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Chairman

**November 2<sup>ND</sup>, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**GREEN LIGHT PROJECT**

The Commissioners installed the green light on the light that shines on the flagpole in to honor veterans for the Green Light Project.

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT**

The Commissioners spoke with Lance Bowser from Robert Peccia & Associates about an FAA grant to fund the extension of the runway to the west. Lance informed the Commissioners that the first step would be to hire an appraiser. The grant requires a 10% match on funds.

**ROADS**

Road Foreman Justin Wickum updated the Commissioners on the last of the roads that his crew is trying to get graded before the freeze hits. South Joplin should be done today and the maintainers will be parked until after the freeze.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, discussed hosting the Sheriff Department's Christmas party at the library. The Commissioners are fine with this; Julie will check with the Library Board as well. One of the furnaces at the library is not working, she is going to call Rusty in Rudyard to see if he can come look at it.

**RESIDENT REQUESTS**

Residents Jeffrey and Marsha Peterson reached out to the Commissioners about 1700 Road extension east of Highway 223. They are asking for maintenance on this road. Although this road is on the county map, it is not a road that is maintained by the county as it is only an access road to their property and not a public access road. The Commissioners wrote a letter explaining this.

Resident Rori Seidlitz was in to ask about support maintaining a private road if he were to purchase and haul the gravel. He asked if the county could just spread the gravel for him. The Commissioners explained that in addition to not having the manpower available, the high cost of fuel and labor would prohibit the road department from being able to provide this service for individuals.

**OPIOID CRISIS SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

County Attorney Robert Padmos explained more details about the Opioid Crisis Settlement funds that the State of Montana is receiving and distributing to Montana counties. Liberty County will not be awarded enough funds to justify the time it takes to fill out all the paperwork required. They discussed returning the money to the state for reallocation.

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

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

Clerk

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Chairman

**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 TUESDAY**

The Commissioners Office was closed for Election Day

**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**CLAIMS**

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public Health had an opportunity to extend some grant funding, they just needed the Commissioners to sign off on the paperwork. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to sign the paperwork. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SAM (SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT) UPDATES**

Jim Ghekiere has been working to renew the County's SAM number, which requires some paperwork with specific wording in order to complete the process. The Town of Chester will send a new bill with the correct wording to meet the requirements for the renewal process.

**VOCA/SHERIFF**

Amy Jacques, VOCA advocate and Sheriff liaison, updated the Commissioners on grants she has been researching for the Sheriff Department to help meet some of their more urgent needs, including body cameras, dash cameras, and a security window for the dispatch office. The Commissioners asked her to also look into a mobile generator.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos brought in a draft resolution about private burials. The Commissioners and the Board of Health have asked about this. The Commissioners will advertise before any decisions are made.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, updated the Commissioners on the role that the Senior Center will be taking in the upcoming Christmas Stroll. They will serve soup and pie. She also shared that her transit manager will be gone for the next two weeks which leaves her short-handed. They are also waiting for the lift on the bus to be fixed. The recent cold snap has her staff delivering most of their meals each day to homebound seniors.

**ROADS**

Road Foreman Justin Wickum reported to the Commissioners that the extreme cold this week has made road maintenance impossible.

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

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

Clerk

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Chairman

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 via phone, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**MEETINGS**

Commissioners Hendrickson and Gagnon attended the LEPC meeting at the firehall. Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Council on Aging meeting.

**LEASE BUYOUT**

Commissioners met with First Bank of Montana representatives to finalize the buyout of the leases of the John Deere Graders. The final amount is for \$512,337.00 with an interest rate of 6% for a 7-year note. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the buyout. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson updated the Commissioners on the transit buses- one is still getting repaired while the other has been heavily used both around town and to and from Havre.

**WEED/911**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department Head, came in to discuss seasonal help- they've been notified that spray season is over and all sprayers have been winterized.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Gagnon 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

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Chairman

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**COUNTY ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC LAND**

Montana Association of Counties has sent a bill for Liberty County's portion for a pool of money for the County Assessment for Public Land. If the pool doesn't generate enough money from the counties, the money will be returned. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve paying the bill. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Game Warden Willie Miller updated the Commissioners on grizzly bears up in the hills. They have been venturing down from the Sweetgrass Hills into the prairie.

**SHERIFF**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner updated the Commissioners on happenings in the Sheriff's Department.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson asked the Commissioners if the ancillary curb entrance at the hospital could be expanded, as it is difficult for the bus to drop off and pick up seniors there. Commissioners Hendrickson said that he would raise this issue with the hospital board. Glenda informed the Commissioners that while she is still able to get supplies from Sysco, the prices are increasing.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos shared updates on a juvenile situation with the Commissioners. A placement has been found for a minor in Utah.

**SANITARIAN**

Sanitarian Sarah Robbin called in to ask the commissioners about Colony burials. The County will discuss a resolution or formal agreement moving forward for new colonies when it comes to burials.

**FUEL SPILL**

A fuel spill at the Airport requires special cleanup. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to have WWC Engineering work through the mitigation process for the fuel cleanup. Commissioners Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Denise Wanken asked the Commissioners about the light and sewer district in Joplin. They agreed to revisit after the new year.

**WEED/911**

Jim Ghekerie informed the Commissioners that he is finishing up some grant applications.

**SIGN INQUIRY**

Sue Smith from Galata called the Commissioners to discuss placing a sign in Liberty County that advertises their grocery store. The County Airport owns the property that she is looking at. She was informed that they should call before they dig and that a temporary sign can go in until the spring when they can redo the large highway sign. It was explained that the sign must be no more than 20 feet and no less than 5 feet off the ground for maintenance.

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

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

Clerk

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Chairman

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 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, Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**ROADS**

Road Foreman Justin Wickum updated the Commissioners on the old wings off the graders. Commissioners Hendrickson made a motion to deem the wings obsolete to the county. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. They will be put out for bid, advertised for two weeks (all 3 wings).

**MARIAS RIVER ELECTRIC**

Marias River Electric has requested to be able to put in an overhead line at 260 2800 Road South. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve their request. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**TIBER TOWNSHIP**

Resident Chris Kolstad had requested to stop in and visit about dissolving the Tiber Township. County Attorney Robert Padmos explained that he would need to go through a lawyer and file a petition with the other landowners in order to dissolve the township.

**PRIVATE BURIALS**

There will be a public meeting held by the Commissioners on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm for people to provide input about private burials. After this meeting, the Commissioners will put together an official resolution. A notice will be put in the paper and on the website to advertise the meeting.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Game Warden Willie Miller was in to inform the Commissioners that hunting season is officially closed. There were several cases of poachers and trespassers this year that he dealt with.

**LYDERS LEASE**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the renewal of the Lyders lease. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. A renewal notice was hand-delivered.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson called in to update the Commissioners on her schedule- she has been holding her hearings via Zoom due to the weather. She asked the Commissioners to try to replace her on the Foster Care Review Board for Liberty, Hill, and Blaine Counties.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos informed the Commissioners that he will be gone for the week to attend the State of Montana County Attorney Conference in Billings.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Gagnon 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

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Clerk

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Chairman