

**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023 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 (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Kyle Heppner, Undersheriff, was in to provide updates to the Commissioners for the Sheriff Department. There were a few events over the weekend that he wanted to update the Commissioners on. Sheriff and Fire Marshall Nick Erickson was in to discuss the fire restrictions with the Commissioners. The Commissioners and Fire Marshall decided that stage 1 fire restrictions are appropriate at this time. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve stage 1 fire restrictions. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**DROUGHT**

Ed Diemert called the Commissioners to request that they contact Governor Gianforte and request that Liberty County be designated a drought area. Commissioner Wickum typed a letter to the Farm Services Agency requesting the official rainfall amounts to determine if this is a possibility. The Commissioners will then send a letter to the governor to formally request that he designate Liberty County to be a drought county.

**ARPA**

The Commissioners received a request from ARPA for another letter pertaining to the Joplin Sewer project. This is for field surveys and other water wells in the surrounding area.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to let the Commissioners know she continues to keep up and try to get answers from School District 10. Kathy has been requesting itemized invoices from them to see where the taxpayer money they received from the state and county is going.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to visit with the Commissioners about School District 10, and provided a couple of updates on juvenile situations. He also raised a few technicalities about the Joplin sewer project.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to discuss the 4-H animals at the fair. He was pleased with the turn out and said the kids did very well. Jesse also provided the Commissioners on a legal matter going on with the Cemetery Board.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on the Senior Center. She is down a couple of bus drivers and one kitchen employee is on vacation. She is waiting on some grant funding, and may not receive all that is expected.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, Weed/911, was in to discuss his budget with the Commissioners. It looks like he may have to reduce seasonal help due to a drop in federal and state grants.

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 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2023 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 (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Commissioners interviewed Kim Anthony for a road department job. It was explained to her that the road department is part of an optional union and that she would have some office duties. Kim is currently a temporary employee with the Weed Department so she will provide notice and will start on August 14th.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz were in to discuss their budgets for Public Health, Disaster Emergency Services (DES), DI, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP). Grant money availability is down, so the Commissioners are working with them to find alternative funding sources.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to update the Commissioners on a letter from the Sheriff Department School District 10.

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 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 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 (Chair) and Commissioner Justin Wickum (via phone), and Commissioner Joette Woods in person.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed Dept, was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on the end of summer wrap-up at the weed department. His summer help is leaving, and a temporary employee (Kim Anthony) has made a lateral move to the road department.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Chris Case, Justice of the Peace, was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on his office. He also informed them that Bear Paw Recovery will begin providing anger management treatment through his court.

**CEMETERY**

Ted Zorn, Cemetery Sexton, stopped in to update the Commissioner on what his cemetery duties. He has been maintaining and keeping the grounds tidy.

**TREASURER**

Denise Wanken, Treasurer, let the Commissioners know her department is being audited on the 2290's; these forms are for heavy highway vehicle use.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to update the Commissioners on a tax deed document that he will have done for next week. He is also working on a letter about a road that does not belong to the county for a farm that is inquiring.

**TAXABLE VALUES**

The county received the certified taxable values from the Department of Revenue. The Commissioners and Clerk & Recorder have emailed them and are asking for a re-evaluation.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Wille Miller, Game Warden, was in to ask for a copy of the road abandonment resolution 23-07 for road 5150 that was petitioned by the land owner to be abandoned by the county.

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 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023 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 (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum (via phone), and Commissioner Joette Woods.

**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

**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

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, came in to update the Commissioners on the Town of Chester sewer project to retrieve a copy of the resolution for the town attorney.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie was in to update the Commissioners on a payroll question. He will be finishing up the weed season with minimal help.

**RESIDENT QUESTION**

Dean Hayden, Joplin resident, was in to ask the Commissioners if he could redirect water through his driveway in Joplin. Dean claims it will be a better way to rid run-off after winter. The Commissioners will post this on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

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 15<sup>TH</sup> 2023 TUESDAY  
COMMISSIONERS NOT IN OFFICE**

**AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> 2023 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 (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to discuss the beaver problem at the 4-H campground. The Commissioners will look into further solutions.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, Weed Dept/ 911, was in to visit with the Commissioners and catch them up on the Weed Department and budgets.

**PUBLIC HEALTH/DES**

Public Health and DES Departments came in to discuss final budget numbers. The Public Health Office is short around \$9,000. They believe they can make that up with minimal vaccine replacement. They are applying for more grants, hoping to glean extra money going into next year.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Chris Case, Justice of the Peace, was in to provide updates on his office to the Commissioners.

**RESIDENT**

Dean Hayden, stopped in to follow up on a water mitigation program he discussed with the Commissioners on August 9<sup>th</sup> that he wants to do with the water in Joplin that runs by his place. The Commissioners explained that the timing for this is not going to work with the road department, due to the fact new road crew are being trained.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Nick Erickson, Sheriff, was in to discuss CJI School wanting an officer to be placed at the school. He also updated the commissioners on some issues in the Sheriff's office.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to provide an update to the Commissioners on the CJI Board Meeting that she attended about the Colony schools.

**AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the airport 5 year capital improvement plan. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, was in to discuss the 8% COLA for the library staff. The Commissioners are asking her to use coffee bar revenue to use for the COLA increases.

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 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 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 (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, wrote a letter of support to State Attorney General Austin Knudsen for a request of opinion on mill levy's affecting the mills for schools.

**COMPENSATION BOARD**

The compensation board met at 9:45. In attendance were: Nick Erickson, Julie Erickson, Denise Wanken, Robert Padmos, Davin Buffington, Joette Woods, Justin Wickum, Larry Hendrickson, Ann Melton, Chris Mattson, Gina Allen (phone), and Britney Tempel (phone). There was a motion to table the discussion until 2 pm this afternoon, by Chris Mattson. Britney Tempel seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, updated the Commissioners on the cost of living increase that the Library Board decided on should the Compensation Board and Commissioners agree to the county wide COLA increase.

**COUNTY TECH SUPPORT**

MACo IT was in to assess the computers and security programs for the county. The commissioners are looking to switch from DIS to MACo.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public Health/DES came in to update the Commissioners on their budget and how they will cut wasteful costs on vaccines and the different ways they can improve their budget. They will come in quarterly and see where they sit on revenue and expenditures.

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

**COMPENSATION BOARD**

The Compensation Board reconvened at 2 pm. They decided to go forward with the recommendation to the Commissioners for an 8% COLA increase for elected officials. Chris Mattson made the motion to approve the 8% COLA increase for elected officials. Gina Allen seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to accept the recommendation for the 8% COLA for elected officials. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Commissioner Woods abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to extend the 8% COLA to all county employees. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on transit issues. She also recommended in light of rising costs that the price of the meals provided by the Senior Center go up by one dollar. Commissioner Woods made a motion for freezer meals to go from \$3 to \$4, meals for those under 60 years of age go from \$10 to \$11, and for those age 60+ go from \$7 to \$8. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This will take effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, Weed/911, informed the Commissioners that a grant he applied for was approved for the Joplin/Chester Fire Departments.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Nick Erickson, Sheriff, was in to let the Commissioners know that the humidity in the basement of the Sheriff's Office by all the radio and 911 equipment is causing problems. He is going to have to call a heating/cooling company to come and vent the basement where the radio boards are. He will get a couple of bids and then get this done.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman