

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, was in to let the Commissioners know his crew is preparing the graders for winter maintenance.

**LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

The Commissioners attended LEPC this morning at the firehall. There were 10 people in attendance. Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz lead the meeting as our Disaster and Emergency Services coordinators.

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACo)**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the MACo board meetings in Helena yesterday. MACo will be changing some things, and updates will be available at the winter conference.

**INMATE EXCESS MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Inmate Excess Medical Insurance protection for inmates while in County custody was discussed. This would cover inmates for medical, mental health, substance use disorder, pregnancy or HIV/AIDS treatment. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

Montana Association of Counties  
Correctional Risk Services, Inc. CRS

**2021 - 2022 AGREEMENT**  
Inmate Excess Medical Insurance and/or Claims Administration Management

The Montana Association of Counties (MACo) makes available, and acts as administrator for, programs operated by Correctional Risk Services, Inc. (CRS) that offers certain insurance for covered medical expenses for inmates that are a County responsibility, and as a separate option, offers claims administration for medical services provided to detention center/jail inmates.

Correctional Risk Services, Inc. (CRS) will provide the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) and the County, inmate excess medical insurance for those county jail inmates that the County is directly responsible for payment of medical costs, subject to the terms and conditions of the Participation Agreement and the Statement of Inmate Benefits, and/or provide for claims administration management for all of its county jail inmates.

Effective dates of coverage: November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022

Please check the boxes next to the programs offered to designate which program(s) you are joining.  
Note: Inmate Excess Medical Insurance must be purchased to be eligible for national coverage.

- Inmate Excess Medical Insurance (Includes Claims Administration)  
Cost = \$95 per inmate per day
- Optional Coverage for treatment of Mental or Nervous Disorders:  
Cost = \$03 per inmate per day
- Optional Coverage for treatment of Substance Abuse:  
Cost = \$03 per inmate per day
- Optional Coverage for treatment of Pregnancy (Maternity):  
Cost = \$02 per inmate per day
- Optional Coverage for treatment of AIDS, ARC, or HIV:  
Cost = \$03 per inmate per day
- Optional Coverage for Security and Guarding: Once combined \$10,000 medical and guarding deductible is met, coverage pays 50% of the cost of guarding an inmate by a Sheriff's deputy during covered medical treatment, when guarding is required by the Inmate's behavioral and medical circumstance. Cost = \$06 per inmate per day
- Claims Administration Only (Automatically included in Medical Insurance Coverage)  
(For stand-alone coverage, contact CRS for terms and conditions and applicable fees).

Accepted: Liberty County, Montana Date: 12/7/21

By: [Signature] Title: Presiding Officer,  
Board of County Commissioners

**TIBER WATER MEETING**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Tiber Water meeting. It was brought up after the Denton fire that there are hydrants that can be turned on south of town by Tiber. There is a number available to call and get access to those hydrants for any major fire events.

**EAGLE CREEK COLONY**

Eagle Creek Colony called the Commissioners about Kathy Armstrong, Superintendent of Schools, and the contract the County has signed with them. The Commissioners will be connecting with the colony to discuss any issues they are having.

**WEEDS/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere, 911 Program and Weed Department director, was in to update the Commissioners on the antenna that was knocked down on Mount Royal. The weather was a direct cause of this blowing down.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, went to look at a shooting sports building across from the courthouse. They are looking to move into a new place so kids can continue the sport.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

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

**BRIDGE AND ROAD SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (BaRSAA)**

Commissioner Woods was on line to complete the BaRSAA annual report. This is to finalize the grant received from the Department of Transportation every year. Liberty County usually uses this for gravel and road maintenance.

**CPR TRAINING**

CPR training for county employees has ended.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Christmas Stroll, and her new hired help.

**DEPUTY CLERK AND RECORDER**

Today was Sarah Horel's last day. She was the Deputy Clerk and Recorder.

**COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 15**

On Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners will have hospital board meetings most of the day, and will not be present in the courthouse.

**CHRISTMAS STROLL**

The annual Christmas Stroll for the Town of Chester will be held on the evening of December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**SHERIFF**

The Sheriff's office has been trying to find a place for a female inmate, they were able to place her in Fort Benton.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**BNSF**

On Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>, BNSF met with the Commissioners, along with Judy Tempel who represented the Hospital Guild, to gift Liberty County with \$50,000. The Hospital Guild received \$25,000.00. Senator Russ Tempel also was there. The County will be splitting the money between EMS, Sheriff, and the Joplin and Chester Fire Departments.

**SAFETY MEETING**

The quarterly Safety Meeting was held in the Commissioner's office today at 10 am. In attendance were: Joette Woods, Jesse Fulbright, Julie Gagnon, Denise Wanken, and Kyle Heppner. Among the issues discussed was the fact that the safety meetings are beginning to have a drop in attendance. The Commissioners will find a solution to encourage department heads to attend and will send a letter out in April. Julie also brought up the carpet transition strip upstairs which needs some attention. She will call McNairs and schedule them to come out. There is also a need for carpet for the front entryway to the Courthouse.

**PAYROLL**

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

**NEW COPY MACHINE**

A tech came out to fix the copy machine, however there are no guarantees about how long it will last. The price of a new copier with a discount is \$7000. A motion was made to go forward with the purchase of a new copy machine by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners about the skid steer the county purchased that needs a little bit of work. It is currently in Helena, and will go to Spokane from there. He was headed to Helena to pick up the trailer it was on and bring it here.

**ALCOHOL AND TAX WARRANT**

A phone call was made to DPHHS to notify them of the changes made with the earmarked alcohol and tax warrant, letting them know that "Living Alternative Choices" has been removed from the 2022 grant funding. The money will now go to Bullhook Community Health Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Wicks to sign the Service Provider Designation Form for Bullhook Community Health Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**ROAD QUESTION**

A call came in to the Commissioners about a getting an access road and a possible culvert to keep water from going over the road. Commissioner Woods let the person know that there are forms in the courthouse that must be filled out and submitted, and they will then need to call Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, about the culvert.

**CLAIMS**

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Davin Buffington. 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.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, updated the Commissioners on the local TAC and Council on Aging meetings. The Annual meeting will be in January.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**December 21st, 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 Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

**BLACK MOUNTAIN CLOUD STORAGE**

The Commissioners will be visiting with Black Mountain about cloud back-up. The Commissioners have decided to move forward with this, as it saves information that is easily lost. There will be an initial three-month trial beginning in February and then the service will be reviewed to ensure it is a good match for the needs that the County has.

**CLAIMS**

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Davin Buffington. 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.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington was in to let the Commissioners know she filed the annual financial report.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss the rising inflation prices on parts for equipment. He will be trying to fix things himself due to no inflation figured into his budget. Justin ordered extra filters due to this issue.

**PRISONER PHONE CALLS**

There is a prisoner calling various offices in the courthouse. Under the advisement of the County Attorney, county staff are being informed to keep their response professional and only answer questions that pertain to their offices.

**TREASURER**

Denise Wanken, County Treasurer, was in to ask the Commissioners about the Tiber Townsite and how to abandon it. We will look into this request with the Department of Revenue (DOR).

**SHERIFF**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to discuss the dispatch center and scanner and that DIS Technologies is not fixing these issues. The Commissioners will continue to contact them and get this done. The 911 mapping system is also glitching, there may a need to shop around for a better system.

**PLANNED POWER OUTAGE**

The courthouse will be having a planned power outage to check the generators. This will be conducted after-hours, so no information will be lost.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

Eric Eneboe and his new employee McKayla from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation were in to visit with the Commissioners about the fires and restrictions that were in place this summer.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) PROGRAM**

The VOCA program is looking to be underfunded in the next grant cycle. The Commissioners are looking for a solution to keep the program running.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**December 28<sup>th</sup> 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).

**DIS TECHNOLOGIES**

The Commissioners have set up a meeting with DIS Technologies on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. The Sheriff Office cannot get certain computer to do what they need, and the mapping system will not connect to the internet.

**OPEN DOOR WELLNESS CENTER**

The Commissioners had a call from Josh Holloway from Open Door Wellness Center in Great Falls. Open Door has not been paid from the county for employee sessions. The Commissioners will review the contract and get them a list of employees so they can correctly bill the county.

**AGRICULTURAL COVENANT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wicks to accept and sign an agricultural covenant for the Doug Demarest Living Trust Agreement. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington has hired a new claims clerk.

**WEST RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fred Skierka, resident, called in and requested to be back on the West Rural Fire Department. The Commissioners encouraged him to address the West Rural Fire Board and see if they can make it work without going through an election process.

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Sue Bender, North Central Montana Council on Aging Director, called to let the Commissioners know that the next Council on Aging Regional Meeting will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> in Conrad.

**COURTHOUSE FURNACE**

The Commissioners called Cory Conant to come look at the furnace in the courthouse. He will stop in this evening and look at it.

**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.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to let the Commissioners know the new Senior Center transit van has arrived. It is a hybrid and runs on both electric and gas. They are really happy with it so far, and believe it will get a lot of use.

**WEED DEPARTMENT/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere, 911 Program and Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners on his departments and the new year prospects for both. The County will be re-posting the sexton position next week and also adding weed department employment with it.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to discuss the hospital/ Open Door Counseling contract.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, called in to let the Commissioners know that he responded to an email about finishing up the 2018 FEMA flood project. The numbers will be finalized next week.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**