

**DECEMBER 5<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 Larry Hendrickson (chair) and Joette Woods (by phone), and Justin Wickum (in office).

**TREASURER**

County Attorney Robert Padmos and Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos would like the Treasurer's position to be posted in the local newspaper to try to reach more people. Davin will reach out to the paper and ensure it gets in the next edition.

**LEPC**

Commissioner Wickum attended the LEPC meeting at the firehall today.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners had a conversation with Austin Wargo from Robert Peccia and Associates about a recommendation for an award for the Joplin Sewer Project with Western Municipal Construction. Further discussion scheduled for tomorrow when Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Woods return from MACo in Helena.

**LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber President Patty DeVries and Chamber Member Jenny Chelmo came in to discuss opportunities and suggestions for Senior Center building events and functions that may be held there. As Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson was unable to attend this meeting, a meeting has been added to the agenda for December 12, 2023 at 10 AM discuss further.

**ROADS**

Patrick Wicks called with a concern of a wet spot in front of his property on School Drive Rd. After further review and investigation it was determined that it was just a patch of ice melting that has been in the shade of trees.

Commissioner Wickum contacted John Deere Financial to get proof of lease purchase payoff on the 2014 John Deere 310 SK backhoe.

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

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

Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

**DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**WEED DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, Weed/911, was in to discuss the quote he has received from the radio tech in Cut Bank.

**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.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Game Warden Willie Miller stopped in to provide an update on the fire down by the lake yesterday.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve a wire transfer in the amount of \$ 9100.00 for a vibrating roller bought from an auction firm for the Road Department. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on some Sheriff Department issues.

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

## **DECEMBER 12<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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

### **MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to discuss some 4-H updates and an upcoming seminar for crops. Jesse also provided updates to the Commissioners on the pending lawsuit against the Cemetery Board.

### **CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to discuss an FMLA option for an injured employee.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to discuss a grant funding opportunity.

### **TREASURER**

Treasurer Denise Wanken was in to discuss the spending of a local school in the district that is starting out in the negative for January. She will email the clerk for the school and see if they realize there is no money.

### **WEED/911**

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed department, was in to discuss the radio grant opportunity with the commissioners.

### **ROAD**

The road department has a vehicle out of service for a couple weeks.

Gerald Fenger was in to let the Commissioners know that the cattle guard north of Fritz's was not done well. Also, he is not happy about Lothair Road, as it has large rocks on the road. The graders are pulling them out because they are a hazard to vehicles.

### **LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

A meeting was held in the Commissioner's office with members of the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce and Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, about the Senior Center rental prices and uses. The members from the Chamber of Commerce would like to use the building, however they feel that the prices are steep and they would like us to reconsider the price and make it a deposit situation.

### **GRANT FUNDING**

A meeting with Victim Advocate Amy Jacques, County Attorney Robert Padmos, Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos, and the Public Health staff was held to discuss grant funding opportunities to create a board for a local drug task force.

### **COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on the continuing District 10 issues.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public Health Nurse Melissa Kantorowicz was in to update the Commissioners on her updated pandemic response plan, communicable diseases, and other policies and procedures. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve and sign these updated documents. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

### **JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners had a conversation with Austin Wargo from Robert Peccia and Associates about using up the rest of the ARPA grant monies by rebidding the job to add a task. Rob Moog also came in and was part of the idea conversation. Rob would like to put any extra money towards some man holes all up on 3rd Avenue that have been causing problems. Rob explained not much has been done since 1966 when the water and sewer were put into Joplin. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve and sign the Western Municipal Construction award letter. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

### **NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**

After reviewing the minutes from November, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the November minutes. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

### **SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to let the Commissioners know that Deputy Bruce Tempel is resigning to go full time with the US Air Force, resulting in an opening for Deputy in 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

**DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Road Crew will be out maintaining roads as the weather allows. The crew will blade where it is not yet frozen. A couple of crew members will be hauling gravel up to Flat Coulee, north of Chester.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on issues happening in his office.

**4-H SHOOTING SPORTS**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the 4-H shooting sports meeting last night and shared that the 4-H group will be looking to find a parcel of land and put a shooting sports building up.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

Department Head Meeting was held in the Commissioner's office at 9 AM. In attendance were: Jesse Fulbright, Kayla Johnson, Melissa Kantorowicz, Jim Ghekerie, Anne Melton, Nick Erickson, Kyle Heppner, Chris Case, Davin Padmos, Denise Wanken, Julie Gagnon, Robert Padmos and the three Commissioners. This monthly meeting is to provide updates to and among the departments on the goings on in the County.

**JOPLIN ROADS**

The Commissioners took a drive through Joplin today to look at street maintenance and sewer manholes for the upcoming project. The streets looked good as far as the blading went. The manholes were marked onto a map for future reference.

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

**KAREN GRAHAM RETIRES**

Karen Graham's last day of service to the county was today. Karen has worked as a part-time employee for the County Attorney's office for many years. Karen's replacement is Jenna Hicks.

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

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

Clerk

Chairman

**DECEMBER 19<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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

**FAIR BOARD**

Adrian and Janet Hawks stopped in to update the Commissioners on the Tri-County Fair Board.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on what's been happening in his office. He has a new secretary, Jenna Hicks. He also provided an update on the search for someone to fill the Treasurer position.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on policies involving the use of the buildings. The Commissioners had to approve her Coordination Plan and Preventative Maintenance Plan. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the Coordination Plan. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the Preventative Maintenance Plan.

Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **SAFETY MEETING**

The quarterly safety meeting was held in the Commissioner's office. In attendance were: Glenda Hanson, Melissa Kantorowicz, Kayla Johnson, all three Commissioners, Chris Case, Jesse Fulbright, Nick Erickson, and Julie Gagnon. The next meeting is set for March 19th at 9 am.

#### **JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his office.

#### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

The Commissioners participated in a zoom meeting for the Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project (REMCDP) Operational Rapid Assistance Program (O-RAP) kick off call for grant funding opportunities for EMS and Fire. The onsite visit will be January 16th. The program managers will come to Liberty County and assess for communication deficiencies. When they figure out the inconsistencies, they will encourage applications for grant funding.

#### **SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Nick Erickson was to update the Commissioners about the radio grants they are seeking. The Liberty County Deputies have invested in Go-Pros for recording stops, this will be beneficial for anything questioned during an altercation.

#### **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

#### **EAGLE CREEK COLONY**

The Commissioners received a phone call from Dave Hofer of Eagle Creek Colony referring to our agenda and the fact that District 10 discussion is on it. It was explained to him that will continue to stay on the agenda due to conversations with the county superintendent and her concerns about some issues with budgets.

#### **JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners put in a call to Robert Peccia and Associates about the Joplin Sewer updates.

#### **OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

MACo called the Commissioners about the opioid settlement interlocal for our region.

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

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

Clerk

Chairman

#### **DECEMBER 26<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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

#### **WEED/911**

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners on some things he has going on.

#### **OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

The Commissioners approved an interlocal region opioid agreement for the opioid settlement monies granted in national lawsuits. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve and sign the agreement. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **CUSTODIAN**

The Commissioners will be looking for a temporary custodian to help at the Courthouse and library while Deb Peet is healing from a knee injury. The Commissioners have discussed this with Deb.

#### **TREASURER**

The Commissioners received a resignation letter from Denise Wanken, Treasurer. Denise has shown interest in an interim position through January only.

**SUBDIVISION HEARING**

There will be a public hearing about a subdivision on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. The Commissioners have emailed a notice to the newspaper to have it printed, it is also being posted on the county website and on social media.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the center and any events that will be going on in the coming months.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his court proceedings.

**ROAD**

The road crew will be putting gravel on the problem spots on Little Sage Road to Windy Ridge Road.

**SANITARIAN**

County Sanitarian Sarah Robbin and her husband Dave were in to update the Commissioners on license renewals, upcoming trainings and the local level licenses she is working on.

**RESIDENT VISIT**

Ken Snider, Joplin resident, was in to ask if an alley way is a public access thoroughfare and it is. Blocking alley ways is not permitted in Joplin.

**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.

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